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The biggest problem I have is nobody knows who the hell is running the country.

DONALD TRUMP
on Iran



Cancer queues long, families stretched

A surge in cases collides with a health system that has too few machines

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

On a September midday, Sabuj Mia dozed on a bench on the ground floor of the National Institute of Cancer Research and Hospital (NICRH) in Mohakhali, the country's only public specialised cancer hospital. The 42-year-old was waiting for his radiotherapy session. His wife, Nurunnahar, in her late 30s, sat beside him clutching a small bag, anxiety etched on her face.

More than 100 people, mostly patients, crowded outside the radiotherapy rooms. With too few seats, some slept on the floor, waiting for treatment, a consultation or a test. At NICRH, this is a regular scene.

Bangladesh's cancer cases are growing, but no one can say precisely how fast. The country has no population-based cancer registry, according to Johirul Islam, an associate professor who heads NICRH's cancer epidemiology department and edits its cancer registry reports.

The hospital's own figures cover a single institution, not the country. Last year, 42,494 patients attended its outpatient department, 31,046 of them newly diagnosed with cancer.

In 2020, the department saw 26,202 cancer patients, new and existing. Set against that, the 2025 count of new diagnoses alone is about 18 percent higher. The true number of new diagnoses may be higher still, since some patients confirmed through tests at the hospital never enter the registry.

Johirul urges caution about what the rise means. "It could be because public awareness and access to cancer services have improved. But it could also indicate an actual increase in the number of cancer cases. To determine that accurately, we need a population-based study," he said.

Lacking one, Bangladesh leans on GLOBOCAN, the estimates published by the International Agency for Research on Cancer, the WHO's specialised cancer research arm. These are extrapolated from limited Bangladeshi data and from other countries, so they may not fully capture reality.

Even so, they are sobering. New cases rose to 1,87,263 in 2024 from 1,67,256 in 2022, an increase of about 12 percent. Cancer deaths climbed faster, to 1,38,906 from 1,16,598, or about 19 percent, over the same period.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

- Cancer cases rose 12% between 2022 and 2024; cancer deaths 19%
- Bangladesh has only 30 radiotherapy machines
- Only seven public-sector radiotherapy machines are functional
- Govt plans to install 17 therapy machines



People place their belongings on the floor to hold their places in chemotherapy token queue at NICRH in Mohakhali. FILE PHOTO



AD10S, LEO

Lionel Messi waves to the monumental crowd after his final international appearance for Argentina, following a 3-0 victory over Benin in Buenos Aires yesterday. After 21 years, 208 appearances and 126 goals, the 39-year-old brought his international career to an emotional close, scoring from the penalty spot and providing two assists in front of more than 85,000 spectators and millions watching worldwide. PHOTO: REUTERS

Talks with IMF for new loan to continue in Bangkok

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Talks with the International Monetary Fund on a new loan programme worth up to $5 billion are set to continue next week in Thailand on the sidelines of the 2026 annual meetings of the IMF and the World Bank.

There would be several meetings on the size of the loan and the associated policy conditions on the sidelines of the annual meeting, which is hosted outside the multilateral lenders' Washington headquarters every three years.

Bangladesh could access between $4.5 billion and $5 billion based on its IMF quota.

Negotiations are expected to revisit carryover conditions from the previous programme, focusing primarily on exchange rate management, banking sector reforms, subsidy cuts in electricity and fertiliser, and domestic revenue mobilisation.

If the talks in Thailand make sufficient headway, an IMF mission is expected to visit Dhaka later this month, The Daily Star has learnt from finance ministry officials involved with the proceedings.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 3

Biman places order for 10 Airbus planes

Seeks delivery of at least one aircraft by 2026-27

TASNEEM TAYEB

Biman yesterday ordered 10 Airbus aircraft.

The order for four A350-900s and six A321neos brings Airbus planes into a fleet that is mostly Boeing. It comes on top of orders for 25 Boeing aircraft, thirteen 787-10s, two 787-9s, and ten 737 Max8s.

Rumee A Hossain, chairman of Biman, and Jürgen Westermeier, president and managing director of Airbus India and South Asia, signed the purchase agreement at the Radisson Blu Dhaka.

The value of the order and its delivery schedule were not disclosed.

Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister M Rashiduzzaman Millat asked Airbus to deliver at least one aircraft by 2026-27, saying Biman was struggling to meet passenger demand.

Biman carries about 20 percent of the country's passengers, and the government wants to raise the share to at least 50 percent, Millat said.

Biman's current fleet has 19 aircraft.



Four Airbus A350-900s, six A321neos have been ordered. Biman also has thirteen Boeing 787-10s, two 787-9s, ten 737 Max-8s on order.

As the existing fleet reaches the end of its life cycle, the new aircraft will seamlessly replace them to ensure operational continuity, Rumee said.

He said the expansion programme was a "data-driven modernisation strategy", aimed at meeting growing international travel demand. He noted that Bangladesh has a global diaspora of about 15 million people.

NEW MARKETS

Millat described the Airbus deal as a "significant step towards building a sustainable mixed Biman fleet".

Rumee said the A350-900s would be deployed on high-demand routes across the Middle East, Europe, North America and Australia, and the narrowbodies on regional and medium-haul Asian routes.

Westermeier said more than 7 lakh passengers travel annually between Dhaka and 10 global cities, with no direct flights on those routes. Airbus expects another 5 lakh passengers a year to enter those markets by 2030.

"These untapped passenger flows represent prime, high-yield route opportunities that are really waiting to be captured by Bangladeshi carriers," he said.

He said the A350s could support connections to the US East Coast, Canada, Europe and Australia, while the A321neos could underpin expansion across South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Middle East.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



Russia decries 'false' info as second plague case reported

AFP, *Moscow*

Russia yesterday warned against "false" information as reports emerged of a second suspected case of plague in Siberia, with Washington and Brussels calling for transparency and neighbouring Mongolia tightening health surveillance.

Russian news outlet People of Baikal reported last Friday that a 28-year-old woman employed at a plague research institute in Siberia's Irkutsk region had died of the disease, possibly after contracting it from a broken test tube.

International concern has meanwhile grown over the death and suspicions that a second employee at the institute fell ill.

Russian authorities have played down the reports, determining the woman died of pneumonia and insisting there was no risk of an outbreak.

Asked about reports of a second case, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters that "the vast majority of what the media is reporting regarding this situation is false information".





Indian police detain lawmaker Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and opposition leader Rahul Gandhi during a protest in New Delhi yesterday. Several lawmakers, including Rahul and Priyanka, were detained for the third time in two days yesterday as they staged an unannounced protest demanding the election chief's resignation over a controversial revision of voter lists that excluded 130 million citizens. PHOTO: REUTERS

Trivedi meets Modi, 'talks about Tarique's possible visit'

STAR REPORT

Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Dinesh Trivedi met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Tuesday, the high commission confirmed yesterday.

Diplomatic sources said that alongside various issues concerning relations between the two neighbouring countries, Modi and Trivedi discussed Dhaka's current position on Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's possible visit to India.

However, there has been no official statement regarding this visit from the Indian High Commission in Bangladesh, Ministry of External Affairs, or the Office of India's Prime Minister.

On Monday, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Humaiun Kobir said the visit of Tarique Rahman would take place at a conducive time.

Besides, Trivedi sat with Indian Chief of Army Staff General Dhiraj Seth in New Delhi. The interaction focused on issues of Bangladesh-India bilateral cooperation and measures to strengthen defence ties, according to the Indian Army.

Chemistry Nobel awarded for solving 'life's asymmetry'

Japanese, French scientists receive award

REUTERS, *Stockholm*

Scientists Henri Kagan and Kenso Soai won the 2026 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for solving a long-standing riddle of asymmetric "mirror image" molecules, a discovery hugely important for pharmaceutical manufacturing, the award-giving body said yesterday.

Soai, 76, is Japanese, and Kagan, 95, is French, and their work built on a discovery by the 19th-century French chemist Louis Pasteur.

"This is the most exciting day in my life; I am very glad to share this prize with Professor Henri Kagan," Soai said, speaking by phone to the Nobel Prize press conference, adding he had been out shopping when receiving the news.

The Nobel committee was still trying to contact Kagan, the third-oldest person to be awarded a Nobel Prize, to inform him.

French President Emmanuel Macron congratulated the laureates on X, calling it an immense honour for the country. "A recognition suited to a lifetime of research," he said.

In fact, Kagan's work has long been seen as influential in the field, and the then-French research minister complained to the Nobel Foundation in 2001 when Kagan was left out that year. The prize instead went to two American and one Japanese scientists for work in the same field.



Henri Kagan



Kenso Soai

The chemistry Nobel, always the third prize to be awarded during Nobel week, followed those for medicine and physics announced on Monday and Tuesday.

Many of the molecules essential to life exist in two forms that are mirror images of each other, like left and right hands. Yet living organisms almost exclusively use only one version, a phenomenon known as "homochirality" – from the Greek word for hand – that has puzzled chemists for more than a century.

This year's prize was awarded for discoveries that showed how chemical reactions can be driven to favour a single molecular mirror image, work that has been key for chemists who design reactions for the manufacture of pharmaceuticals.

"The left-handed version of the drug can have one effect, and the right-handed version can have another effect, and then we need methods for selectively preparing them," Peter Somfai, a member of the Nobel Committee for Chemistry, said.

Biman places order for 10 Airbus planes

FROM PAGE 1

'HARD DECISION'

Biman Managing Director and CEO Kaizer Sohel Ahmed said,"This decision was not made lightly. It followed a rigorous evaluation of our fleet, our network and our financial strategy, under the guidance of our board and with independent expert advice.

"It is an investment in efficiency. It is an investment in sustainability, and it is an investment in the future of our national carrier."

Rumee said Biman was investing in engineering and maintenance capabilities and expanding training for pilots, cabin crew and ground staff.

"Our contract with Airbus extends their specific commitments to support all these goals," he said.

Acknowledging that aircraft purchases alone would not transform the airline, he said, "We are not just acquiring advanced hardware. We are preparing our human capital to operate it safely and efficiently well before the ordered aircraft start arriving."

Westermeier said Airbus's involvement would extend beyond deliveries to areas including air traffic management, flight-operation services, performance-based navigation and data integration.

Millat said the government was also seeking investors to set up a maintenance, repair and overhaul facility under a public-private partnership, as part of its ambition to make Bangladesh a regional aviation hub.

FINANCING

Rumee said the procurement programme was based on financial calculations. "Biman finances its growth as a self-sustaining and viable business enterprise," he said.

British High Commissioner Sarah Cooke said European export credit agencies, including those of the UK, France and Germany, had also backed the agreement.

She said up to £2 billion was available through UK Export Finance to support UK goods and services in Bangladesh, including in aviation. The £2 billion was not specified as financing for Biman's order.

BEYOND AIRCRAFT

EU Ambassador Michael Miller told The Daily Star that the agreement could open new opportunities in Bangladesh-EU relations.

"This is much more than a purchasing decision. We see this as a strategic step to integrate more with the European Union," he said.

Asked about a potential free trade agreement (FTA), he stressed that the FTA and the Airbus purchase were separate processes but confirmed that exploratory talks were under way.

"We are looking for those exploratory talks to be successful in as short a time as possible," he said.

"The message from us is that we are ready to go as fast and as far as your administration will take us on the FTA."

Speaking separately to The Daily Star, French Ambassador Jean-Marc Séré-Charlet called the Airbus purchase a business-to-business transaction based on Biman's requirements.

He said European companies also needed a level playing field in Bangladesh, and 61 areas for improvement, including non-tariff barriers, had been identified for discussion with the commerce ministry.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Humaiun Kobir, however, said Bangladesh made commercial decisions according to its own needs rather than to favour any partner.

Cancer queues long, families stretched

FROM PAGE 1

Five-year prevalence, the number of people living with a diagnosis, grew to 3,58,818 from 3,46,373, though Johirul says it is often said that Bangladesh has between 1 million and 1.5 million cancer patients.

The age-standardised incidence rate, which adjusts for differences in population age structure so that rates can be compared across populations and over time, reached 117.5 per 1 lakh people in 2024, up from 105.6 in 2022, a rise of about 11 percent. Among South Asian countries, only Sri Lanka's is higher.

"These are certainly alarming figures," Johirul says.

COST OF DIAGNOSIS

For Sabuj, a mason from Karimganj in Kishoreganj, life was modest but stable until about 10 months ago, when his voice suddenly changed. Treatment in Kishoreganj did not help, and as he worsened, he went to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital. Tests there pointed to cancer, and doctors sent him to Ahsania Mission Cancer and General Hospital in Dhaka's Uttara, where he was diagnosed with tracheal cancer.

Two rounds of chemotherapy there cost more than Tk 1 lakh. Back home, three more rounds at a private hospital cost another Tk 36,000. As the bills mounted, the family sought an appointment at NICRH. He was lucky that the wait for a spot in the queue was only three months.

By mid-September, Sabuj had received 15 of 35 planned radiotherapy sessions and three of seven rounds of chemotherapy. The radiotherapy course has cost the family Tk 37,000, and a surgery after the first round of chemotherapy cost him more than Tk 60,000. They now rent a house in Mirpur-14 for Tk 7,000 a month and travel to the hospital five days a week.

They are paying for it with Tk 5 lakh they got after selling their homestead, their only land. "I don't know where we will live going home," Nurunnahar says.

Nur Ahmed's story follows a similar arc. The 60-year-old from Patuakhali Sadar earned Tk 12,000 a month as a cook at a local madrasa and had long suffered from pain in bones. Treatment at public and private hospitals in Patuakhali and Barishal failed, and he spent as much as Tk 4 lakh, selling off a piece of land. About four months ago, doctors at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital in Dhaka found cancer that had spread to at least four parts of his body.

The family had no money and went home. The madrasa gave them Tk 25,000, which brought them to NICRH, where Nur waited for a test, accompanied by his wife, Rahela Begum.

Then there is Tanisha, aged one and a half. She walks and talks like any child her age, though a closer look shows that one eye is slightly abnormal. About four months ago, doctors at Lions Hospital in Dhaka removed her left eye, replacing it with a prosthetic, after detecting cancer.

Her path there was circuitous. Doctors at an eye camp near the family's home in Kishoreganj Sadar referred her to Lions Hospital, which in turn referred her to NICRH. She received chemotherapy there, but doctors later advised surgery at the National Institute of Ophthalmology and Hospital in Dhaka, having found no cancer in the eye at that point.

The institute declined to operate because of other health problems, including fever and coughing. Several months passed. When the family returned to Lions Hospital, cancer was detected again, and the eye was removed. "The delay in the operation might have caused the harm," says her aunt, Sharmin Akhter.

Tanisha has had 23 sessions of radiotherapy and three cycles of chemotherapy, with six more cycles to come. Her father, Golap Mia, was paralysed from the waist down by a stroke around four years ago and cannot move without assistance. The family spent Tk 5 lakh on his treatment and has already spent at least Tk 3 lakh on Tanisha's.

SHORTAGE OF FACILITIES, DOCTORS

Behind these stories lies a shortage of capacity. Citing the WHO, cancer specialists say a country needs at least one radiotherapy machine per 1 million people, which would require Bangladesh to have at least 170. It has 30, public and private combined.

As per recent NICRH document, public hospitals under health ministry had 23 radiotherapy machines or arrangements for setting up machines, but only seven are functional. Of the seven, four are in Dhaka and one each in Chattogram, Sylhet and Rajshahi.

Besides, there are one radiotherapy machine each in Combined Military Hospital in Dhaka and Institute of Nuclear Medical Physics in Savar.

On the other hand, among 21 functional radiotherapy machines under private management, 14 are in Dhaka and the others are in Chattogram, Sylhet, Bogura, and Sirajganj.

The shortage of trained staff is stark too. The International Atomic Energy Agency recommends one radiation oncologist for every 250 to 350 cancer patients, implying a need for 700 to 800 in Bangladesh against roughly 260 today. The WHO recommends five technologists per 1,000 patients; the country has around 200 against a need of about 1,000. Medical physicists and oncology nurses are also in short supply.

The result is a vast backlog. NICRH receives up to 100 new patients seeking radiotherapy a day, while as many as 8,000 are already waiting, some for as long as a year.

"The reality is that even by 2028, we will not be able to provide radiotherapy to all patients who need it," Prof Mostafa Aziz Sumon, director of NICRH, told The Daily Star.

The hospital runs two radiotherapy machines from 8:00 am to midnight, treating around 250 patients a day. But a course of treatment takes about six weeks, so the machines are tied up for long stretches. At that pace, he says, clearing the backlog would take a "very long time".

And the queue keeps growing, as new patients arrive from across the country every day. "As a result, patients' conditions deteriorate further while they wait for treatment," he says.

Each 4-week delay in radical head-and-neck radiotherapy was associated with nine percent higher mortality hazard, according to research.

Health Minister Sardar Md Sakhawat Husain yesterday at a press briefing said that the government plans to install 17 new radiotherapy machines at public hospitals by June next year.

Six of them, all linear accelerators, will go to hospitals in Dhaka and the rest to hospitals outside the capital.

"The number of cancer patients is rising sharply, so we have taken steps to ease people's suffering," the minister said.

Four of the 17 machines will be installed at NICRH. The hospital has seven bunker facilities, of which two hold working machines. A third machine is being procured and installed.

WORLD 2026 SIGHT DAY

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DISTANCE VISION TEST

Cut and tape this chart to a wall at eye-level in a well-lit hallway or room and step exactly 10 feet back. Read the lines below with both eyes open, then cover your left eye, read the lines below, then switch to your right eye. If you're unable to read the 20/20 line clearly from 10 feet away, please consult an eye specialist.



NEAR VISION TEST

Hold this chart exactly 14 inches away from your face in a well-lit room. Read the lines below with both eyes open, then cover your left eye, read the lines below, then switch to your right eye.

This chart is only for an eye test, if you can read this easily

then your eyes are fine. But if you have difficulty reading this

paragraph till the last few lines, no need to worry as you may need to

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PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

A farmer harvests early-maturing varieties of Aman paddy as fields across Naogaon bustle with harvesting, threshing and cleaning activities. The photo was taken in the Deluabari area of Manda upazila yesterday.

JS body puts women athletes' safety first

Committee seeks stronger safeguards amid repeated harassment complaints

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Youth and Sports at its maiden meeting yesterday placed the highest priority on ensuring the safety of women athletes and preventing all forms of harassment against them.

The committee recommended adopting a zero-tolerance policy in this regard.

The meeting, chaired by committee chairman Abul Khair Bhuiyan, was held at the parliament complex. State Minister for Youth and Sports Md Aminul Haque attended as a special guest at the chairman's invitation.

The parliamentary watchdog made the recommendation amid frequent reports of harassment and obstruction faced by women athletes.

On October 5, a friendly football match between two women's teams was postponed at Derai Upazila Stadium in Sunamganj after local clerics objected to the event.



PHOTO: AYSHA SIDDIQUA

In the first week of February 2025, an inter-district girls' football match in Rangpur's Taraganj was called off following protests led by an Islami Andolan leader who opposed the event on religious grounds.

Earlier, on January 28, two football matches, one in Hili in Hakimpur upazila of Dinajpur and another in Akkelpur upazila of Joypurhat, were suspended after the venues came under attack by religious groups. Both matches were later held following intervention by local administrations.

An independent inquiry committee formed to examine allegations raised by former Bangladesh women's team captain Jahanara Alam found prima facie evidence of inappropriate conduct by former selector and team manager Monjurul Islam.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board had formed a three-member

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

Climate resilience hinges on investment, coordination

Say speakers at two-day conference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lawmakers and stakeholders yesterday called for stronger coordination, greater climate investment and more international support to help Bangladesh build resilience against the growing impacts of climate change.

Speaking at a conference, they stressed effective implementation of national climate plans, greater access to concessional finance, wider community participation and stronger accountability to ensure climate initiatives deliver tangible benefits for vulnerable communities.

The two-day Bangladesh Climate Development Partnership (BCDP) Knowledge Conference was organised by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change with support from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) at a city hotel.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Stronger climate-plan implementation
- Better climate projects
- Easier access to finance
- Greater community participation
- Stronger accountability

Speaking as chief guest, Environment Minister Abdul Awal Mintoo said, "Bangladesh was pursuing climate

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4

Ecnec okays Rampal solar power plant

Clears 13 projects worth Tk 16,208cr

AGENCIES

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council yesterday approved 13 development projects, including the Rampal solar power plant, involving Tk 16,207.55 crore.

The projects include 10 new schemes, two revised ones and one involving an extension of the project period, reports UNB.

Of the total cost, the government will provide Tk 10,600.80 crore from its own funds, while Tk 4,081.85 crore will come as project loans and Tk 1,524.91 crore from the own funds of the organisations concerned.

The "Rampal 442 MWp Solar Power Plant Construction

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

'Don't cry, or we'll make the body disappear'

July martyr's mother alleges threat by AL supporter at ICT

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The mother of a 14-year-old July martyr yesterday told the International Crimes Tribunal-1 that an Awami League supporter threatened to make her son's body disappear if she cried after it was brought home.

Kulsum Begum said her son Emon was shot dead in Badda on July 20, 2024, while taking part in the July uprising.

She did not identify the AL supporter.

Testifying as the fifth prosecution witness in the crimes against humanity case against former ministers Qamrul Islam and Rashed Khan Menon and others, Kulsum described how her son was killed during the protests in Rampura-Badda, where 23 people were allegedly killed.

She said her daughter's brother-in-law was also killed while taking part in the protests a day before Emon's death.

"I asked Emon not to go outside after the curfew was imposed. But he showed me a video of July uprising victim Yamin and said, 'You see how boys of my age are being killed. Why shouldn't I join the movement, Ma?'"

The following day, Emon left home with his friends Nayeem and Shaheen and went to Tetultala intersection in Badda, where he was shot.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 3

Dhaka, a city growing without a plan

Speakers call for integrated measures, stricter enforcement of building rules

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka's rapid and largely unplanned growth is making it increasingly difficult to provide housing, transport, drainage, waste management and other essential services, speakers said yesterday.

Population growth is putting pressure on housing and driving the expansion of informal settlements, while weak enforcement of urban plans has allowed unauthorised buildings to emerge even on designated water bodies, they said at the "Smart City Conclave 2026", organised by Bonik Barta at a city hotel.

Reazul Islam, chairman of Rajuk, said Dhaka's urban problems could not be solved by addressing individual sectors separately. "Housing, transport, drainage, waste management and other services have to be planned together," he said, calling for stronger enforcement of planning and building regulations.

Adil Mohammed Khan, professor of urban and regional planning at Jahangirnagar University, said Bangladesh has prepared master plans for Dhaka, Chattogram, Rajshahi and Khulna over the past five decades. But many of these plans have failed to produce the intended results because authorities did not enforce them properly and frequently deviated from them under pressure.

Nasimul Baten, CEO of DBH Finance PLC, said around 70 percent of Dhaka's residents live in rented housing, underscoring the difficulties many face in becoming homeowners.

He proposed using government-owned land through public-private partnerships to reduce land costs and expand affordable housing, alongside targeted interest subsidies and refinancing schemes for middle- and lower-income households.



KEY ISSUES

- Housing affordability crisis
- Informal settlement expansion
- Construction safety gaps

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Use public land for affordable housing
- Offer targeted interest subsidies
- Expand zoning, green-building standards

Istiaque Ahmed, professor of civil engineering at Buet, said Bangladesh still could not guarantee the safety of newly constructed buildings, despite having updated building codes, because of weak enforcement during construction.

Srabani Datta, managing director of ABC Real Estate, said Bangladesh needs cost-effective green building standards suited to its own conditions instead of expensive models developed in richer countries.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

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তারিখ: ২২ আশ্বিন ১৪৩৩ বঙ্গাব্দ / ৭ অক্টোবর ২০২৬ খ্রিস্টাব্দ

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

অর্থ মন্ত্রণালয়, অভ্যন্তরীণ সম্পদ বিভাগ, কর-১ শাখা এর স্মারক নম্বর ০৮.০০. ০০০০.০০০. ০৩৭.১১. ০০০১.২৪.২৯২, তারিখ: ১৯ আগস্ট ২০২৬ খ্রি. অনুযায়ী প্রাপ্ত ছাড়পত্রের ভিত্তিতে কর অঞ্চল-২২, ঢাকা এর অধীনে গ্রেড-১৩ হতে গ্রেড-২০ পর্যন্ত বিভিন্ন ক্যাটাগরিতে মোট ৬৯ (উনসত্তর) টি শূন্য পদে সরাসরি কোটায় অস্থায়ী জনবল নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে ঢাকা জেলার প্রকৃত স্থায়ী বাসিন্দাদের নিকট হতে পদের পার্শ্বে বর্ণিত যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন প্রার্থীদের শর্তসাপেক্ষে অনলাইনে https://tax22.teletalk.com.bd ওয়েবসাইটের মাধ্যমে আবেদনপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে। উল্লেখ্য, **অনলাইন ব্যতীত অন্য কোন উপায়ে আবেদন গ্রহণ করা হবে না।**

ক্রমিক	পদের নাম ও গ্রেড (জাতীয় বেতনস্কেল, ২০২৬ অনুযায়ী)	পদের সংখ্যা
১.	কম্পিউটার অপারেটর (গ্রেড-১৩)	০১ (এক)টি
২.	ব্যক্তিগত সহকারী (গ্রেড-১৩)	০৪ (চার)টি
৩.	প্রধান সহকারী (গ্রেড-১৩)	১২ (বারো)টি
৪.	উচ্চমান সহকারী (গ্রেড-১৪)	০৭ (সাত)টি
৫.	সাঁটমুদ্রাক্ষরিক-কাম-কম্পিউটার অপারেটর (গ্রেড-১৪)	২০ (বিশ)টি
৬.	অফিস সহকারী-কাম-কম্পিউটার মুদ্রাক্ষরিক (গ্রেড-১৬)	১৩ (তেরো)টি
৭.	অফিস সহায়ক (গ্রেড-২০)	১২ (বারো)টি

২. পূর্ণাঙ্গ বিজ্ঞপ্তিটি কর অঞ্চল-২২, ঢাকার ওয়েবসাইট https://taxeszone22dhaka.gov.bd এবং https://tax22.teletalk.com.bd অথবা QR Code স্ক্যান এর মাধ্যমে বাংলাদেশের একমাত্র রাষ্ট্রীয় মোবাইল অপারেটর টেলিটকের জব পোর্টাল https://alljobs.teletalk.com.bd ওয়েবসাইটে সরাসরি প্রবেশ করে পাওয়া যাবে। নিয়োগ পরীক্ষার তারিখ, সময় ও অন্যান্য তথ্য https://taxeszone22dhaka.gov.bd ওয়েবসাইট হতে জানা যাবে।

৩. উল্লেখ্য, আবেদনপত্র পূরণ ও পরীক্ষার ফি জমাদান **শুরুর তারিখ: ১১ অক্টোবর ২০২৬ খ্রিস্টাব্দ, সময়: সকাল ১০:০০ ঘটিকা** এবং আবেদনপত্র জমাদানের **শেষ তারিখ: ৩১ অক্টোবর ২০২৬ খ্রিস্টাব্দ, সময়: বিকাল ৪:০০ ঘটিকা** পর্যন্ত।

*** **Online** এর আবেদন ও নিয়োগ পরীক্ষা সংক্রান্ত যে কোন বিষয়ে নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।
*** শেষ তারিখ ও সময়ের জন্য অপেক্ষা না করে হাতে যথেষ্ট সময় নিয়ে অনলাইন-এ আবেদনপত্র পূরণ ও আবেদন ফি জমাদান সম্পন্ন করতে পরামর্শ দেওয়া যাচ্ছে।

স্বাক্ষরিত: ০৭-১০-২০২৬
(এস.এম.গাউস-ই-নাজ)
সদস্য সচিব
বিভাগীয় নিয়োগ কমিটি
কর অঞ্চল-২২, ঢাকা
ও
উপ কর কমিশনার
সদর দপ্তর (প্রশাসন)
কর অঞ্চল-২২, ঢাকা।

কর অঞ্চল-২২, ঢাকার ওয়েবসাইটে প্রবেশ এর QR code
কর অঞ্চল-২২, ঢাকার টেলিটক পোর্টালে প্রবেশ এর QR code

A legacy carved in clay

Paul family keeps generations-old idol-making tradition alive in Chattogram

ARUN BIKASH DEY, *Chattogram*

Inside Rupashri Shilpalay in Chattogram city's Dewanji Pukur Par area, rows of half-finished frames surround a towering idol of Goddess Durga.

Standing before the idol with a paintbrush in hand, Sunil Chandra Paul, a retired professor of zoology at Chittagong College, carefully applies steady strokes to bring its expression to life.

With just days to go before Sharadiya Durga Puja, the largest religious festival of Bangalee Hindus, the workshop is abuzz with activity, its air thick with the earthy scent of drying river clay, varnish and acrylic paint.

For Sunil, however, making idols is not a commercial pursuit but an inherited passion that has drawn him back to the artisan's bench after retirement.

The Paul family's tradition of idol-making dates back to the mid-20th century and has been passed down through generations.

Sunil's father, late Radha Shyam Paul, began crafting idols in Chattogram in the 1950s.

"I was born in 1955, and since my childhood, I saw my father working passionately and professionally in his workshop," Sunil recalled. "My brothers and I used to assist him during our pastimes."

Sunil's second brother, Ratan Krishna Paul, carried on the family tradition as a full-time artisan, fulfilling his father's wishes.

Although Sunil and his other brothers pursued higher education and different professions, they continued to help at the workshop whenever possible.

"Ratan is very busy now and has to frequently travel to different upazilas with his team ahead of Durga Puja. So, we assist him whenever we can," Sunil said.

"We focus on the quality of work rather than quantity," Sunil said. "During Durga Puja, we take orders for 30-35 sets of idols, even though the demand is much higher. This year, we stopped taking orders two months ago once our limit was filled."



Sunil Chandra Paul, a retired professor of zoology at Chittagong College, applies steady strokes of paint to an idol.

PHOTO: **STAR**

A specialised team of three artisans needs at least three days to shape the clay structures for a set of idols, followed by another day of painting. Sunil and his artist brother Arun help with the latter stage.

The craft, however, faces growing challenges, including rising costs of raw materials and artisans' wages and difficulties in sourcing traditional river clay from the Karnaphuli river, sometimes complicated by local extortion.

Many traditional artisans are also moving to other professions because of a lack of year-round work.

Despite the challenges, the Paul family tries to keep its work affordable.

"We try to limit the budget so it remains within the reach of worshippers," Sunil said.

A complete set of handcrafted idols from their workshop costs between Tk 50,000 and Tk 1,00,000.

As the idols receive their final coats of paint, drapery and ornaments, Sunil steps back to inspect his work, recalling a childhood spent watching his father shape figures of divinity from clay.

35 lakh more children to get measles vaccine

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government plans to vaccinate another 35 lakh children against measles, State Minister for Health and Family Welfare MA Muhith said yesterday.

Around two crore children have already been covered under the immunisation drive, he said while addressing a measles-rubella vaccination drive in Dhaka's Korail area.

UNICEF organised the campaign with support from the US Embassy in Dhaka, GAVI, and the Dhaka North City Corporation.

The state minister said the government was working to contain the measles outbreak and expected measles-related deaths to decline soon.

"Unlike previous years, we began preparations four months in advance based on data and projections, including warnings of a possible October peak," he said.

"To strengthen prevention efforts, we have trained 2,000 doctors, and issued treatment guidelines," he added.

Charge d'Affaires at the US Embassy in Dhaka, Eric Geelan, said, "We are supporting Bangladesh's efforts to protect at-risk children with life-saving vaccines and strengthen the country's capacity to prevent and respond to future disease outbreaks."

Miguel Mateos Munoz, chief of communication and advocacy at UNICEF, said around 3.4 million children in Bangladesh still need to be vaccinated to close the immunity gap and prevent further illness and deaths from measles.

"Our priority now is to reach every vulnerable child, strengthen routine immunisation through the programme, and continue supporting the government's efforts to end the outbreak," he added.

"All children who were left out of previous MR vaccination drives will be covered under the ongoing campaign through targeted outreach, including ambulance services," said DNCC Administrator Md Shafiqul Islam Khan.

Campaign for family planning begins Dec 1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will launch a year-long nationwide family planning campaign from December 1 to bring back the momentum and encourage people to adopt birth control measures, Health Minister Sardar Md Sakhawat Husain said yesterday.

The minister announced the programme at a press conference at the Secretariat.

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman will inaugurate the campaign which will run till November 30, 2027, he also said.

The move came as the government's family planning programme lost momentum in recent years.

PRAYER TIMING

OCTOBER 8

	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	4-45	12-45	4-15	5-53	7-30
JAMAAT	5-20	1-15	4-30	5-56	8-00

SOURCE: **ISLAMIC FOUNDATION**

Ecnec clears 13 projects

FROM PAGE 3

These include improving road infrastructure and drainage systems in 18 wards of five newly incorporated regions of Dhaka South City Corporation; infrastructure development in important areas of Rangpur City Corporation; rehabilitation of damaged roads in Rangpur City Corporation; and construction of roads, drains and footpaths in zones 1 to 8 of Gazipur City Corporation.

Ecnec also approved a project to construct the 442MW peak solar power plant at Rampal under the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources.

Advertisement



TOYOTA BANGLADESH

REAFFIRMS LONG-TERM COMMITMENT TO BANGLADESH'S AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY

Toyota Bangladesh Limited has reaffirmed its long-term commitment to Bangladesh and its plans to explore opportunities for job creation, technology transfer and further development of the country's automotive industry.

A high-level delegation from Toyota Tsusho Corporation and Toyota Bangladesh Limited met with **Prime Minister Tarique Rahman** to share Toyota's plans and future vision for Bangladesh. The delegation included **Mr. Ichiro Kashitani**, Vice Chairman and **Mr. Shigeru Harada**, CEO, Mobility Division, Toyota Tsusho Corporation; **Mr. Akio Ogawa**, Senior Vice President, Toyota Tsusho Asia Pacific; and **Mr. Premmit Singh**, Managing Director, Toyota Bangladesh Limited, discussed Toyota's future plans for the country.

Toyota Bangladesh Limited is exploring opportunities to expand its presence in Bangladesh, with a focus on creating more jobs, enabling technology transfer and developing local talent. Toyota also shared its future plans for Bangladesh, which were positively welcomed by the government. The government expressed its readiness to provide the necessary policy support and create a favourable environment for Toyota's future investments and initiatives.

Toyota Bangladesh Limited looks forward to working closely with the government and relevant stakeholders to explore these opportunities and contribute to the development of Bangladesh's automotive industry.

TOYOTA | TOYOTA BANGLADESH LIMITED

RUNNING GAS GENERATOR FOR SALE

Section	Machine Name	Origin	Model	Qty
Generator	Generator 2000 KVA	USA	Caterpillar-3516H	1 Set
Generator	Generator 1025 KVA	USA	Caterpillar-3516A	1 Set

Please Contact: 01711527294

Government of The People's Republic of Bangladesh
Bangladesh Police
Office of the Superintendent of Police, Natore
www.police.natore.gov.bd
Memo No.44.01.6900.006.07.01.26- 4880 Dated: 06-10-2026

e-Re-Tender Notice
Tendering Method: NCT-OTM

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

SL. No	Re-Tender ID	Procurement Nature Title	Last date & time of tender document purchasing	Last date & time of tender Submission opening
1.	1348136	Soybean oil	15-10-2026 11:00	15-10-2026 12:00

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

(Mohammad Shariful Haque)
BP-7806119774
Superintendent of Police, Natore.
Phone:025888-73731
Email. spnatore@police.gov.bd

GD-2430

NOTICE
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO. 1235 OF 2026
IN THE MATTER OF:

An application under Section 233 of the Companies Act, 1994.
AND
IN THE MATTER OF:
Sowhan Chowdhury and others
... **Petitioners**
-Versus-
Bengal Hotel & Hospitality Ltd. and others
... **Respondents**

Notice is hereby given that on 27.09.2026, an application under Section 233 of the Companies Act, 1994 was filed by the Petitioners before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. Upon hearing the learned Advocate for the Petitioners and upon perusal of the application and the annexures thereto, the Hon'ble Court was pleased to find that the Petitioners had made out a prima-facie case for admission and accordingly admitted the application for hearing and directed that the same be registered.

The Hon'ble Court was further pleased to restrain the Respondent Nos. 1-3 and 5-7, by an order of injunction for a period of 2 (two) months from the date of the order, from allotting, issuing, transferring, encumbering or otherwise dealing with the shares of Respondent No.1-Company, or from altering its existing shareholding position, on the basis of the Agreement dated 01.09.2023 (Annexure-H), purported Board Resolution dated 17.12.2023 (Annexure-C), purported EGM dated 10.01.2024 (Annexure-F), and purported Share Certificate Nos. 009 and 010 (Annexure-D and D-1) and passed other directives and injunction.

Any person interested in the aforesaid matter may appear before the Hon'ble Court either in person or through his/her engaged Advocate at the time of hearing of the matter.

A copy of the application may be obtained from the concerned section of the Hon'ble Court upon payment of the prescribed fees.

Mustaque Ahmed Chowdhury
Advocate
Supreme Court of Bangladesh

পাওয়ার গ্রিড বাংলাদেশ পিএলসি
POWER GRID BANGLADESH PLC
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)
Grid Bhaban, Avenue-3, Jahurul Islam City, Aftabnagar, Badda, Dhaka-1212 Web: www.powergrid.gov.bd
স্মারক নং: ২৭.২১.০০০০.৪৬৫.১৪.১২২.২৬.২৯১ তারিখ: ০৫/১০/২০২৬খ্রিঃ

e-Tender বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পাওয়ার গ্রিডের "পাওয়ার ট্রান্সমিশন স্ট্রেনথেনিং এন্ড ইন্টিগ্রেশন অফ রিনিউয়েবল এনার্জি", শীর্ষক প্রকল্প দপ্তরের আওতাধীন নিম্নলিখিত দরপত্র e-GP পোর্টালে প্রকাশিত হয়েছে।

ID	Reference	Title of Works
1323644	eTENDER/powergrid/ptsirep/S1	Procurement of 03 Nos. Office attendant through Outsourcing Method for PTSIRE Project Office, Head Office Building, Power Grid Bangladesh PLC, Aftabnagar, Badda, Dhaka-1212.

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

মোঃ শাহাদৎ হোসেন
প্রকল্প পরিচালক ও প্রধান প্রকৌশলী
পাওয়ার ট্রান্সমিশন স্ট্রেংথেনিং এন্ড ইন্টিগ্রেশন অব রিনিউয়েবল এনার্জি প্রকল্প

জনতা ব্যাংক পিএলসি.
এ্যাকাউন্টস ডিপার্টমেন্ট
জনতা ভবন, প্রধান কার্যালয়, ১১০, মতিঝিল বা/এ, ঢাকা-১০০০।

বহিনিরীক্ষক (External Auditor) নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে Expression of Interest (EOI) আহবান

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক কর্তৃক গঠিত ARTF (Asset Recovery Task Force) এর তত্ত্বাবধানে Overseas Stolen Asset Recovery Strategy - Civil Proceedings সংক্রান্ত কার্যক্রম সম্পাদনের নিমিত্ত জনতা ব্যাংক পিএলসি.-এর কতিপয় খেলাপী ঋণ হিসাবের উপর ফরেনসিক অডিট পরিচালনার জন্য বহিনিরীক্ষক (External Auditor) নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে নিম্ন বর্ণিত যোগ্যতা সম্পন্ন নিরীক্ষা ফার্মের নিকট হতে Expression of Interest (EOI) আহবান করা যাচ্ছে:

ক) অডিট ফার্মকে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের সর্বশেষ তালিকাভুক্ত ফার্মের অর্ন্তভুক্ত হতে হবে।
খ) অডিট ফার্মের অংশীদারগনের জনতা ব্যাংক পিএলসি-এর নিকট কোনরূপ দায়-দেনা অথবা ঋণ নেই।
গ) অডিট ফার্মের অংশীদার জনতা ব্যাংকের পরিচালক কিংবা জনতা ব্যাংকের ঋণ গ্রহীতা প্রতিষ্ঠানের পরিচালক হিসাবে নিয়োজিত নহে।
ঘ) জনতা ব্যাংকের পরিচালনা পর্ষদের সদস্য অথবা ঊর্ধ্বতন নির্বাহী কিংবা তাদের পোষ্যদের সাথে অডিট ফার্মের কোন সংশ্লিষ্টতা নেই।
ঙ) অডিট ফার্মের অংশীদারগনের নিরীক্ষাতব্য খেলাপী ঋণ হিসাবের সাথে কোন ধরনের সংশ্লিষ্টতা নেই।
চ) অন্য কোন ব্যাংকে ফরেনসিক অডিটর হিসেবে নিরীক্ষা কার্য পরিচালনার অভিজ্ঞতা থাকলে অগ্রাধিকার দেয়া হবে।
ছ) যে সকল অডিট ফার্ম আইসিএবি/বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক/ অন্য কোন নিয়ন্ত্রক সংস্থা কর্তৃক কালো তালিকাভুক্ত (Black listed) নহে।

আগ্রহী ফার্মসমূহকে প্রক্রিয়ায় বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তারিখ হতে ১৫ দিনের মধ্যে নিম্নে উল্লিখিত ঠিকানায় Expression of Interest (EOI) (Audit Methodology, Firm Profile Ges Financial Proposal সহ) পাঠানোর আহবান করা হচ্ছে।

Firm Profile এর নমুনা এবং ফরেনসিক অডিটের TOR ব্যাংকের ওয়েবসাইটে (ওয়েব লিংক https://www.jb.com.bd/>Forms->Files অথবা https://jb.com.bd/about_us/download) পাওয়া যাবে। উল্লেখ্য, আগ্রহী নিরীক্ষা ফার্মের উপযুক্ত প্রতিনিধি কর্তৃক নিম্নে উল্লিখিত ঠিকানায় যোগাযোগ করা হলে নিরীক্ষাতব্য খেলাপী ঋণ হিসাবের তথ্যাদি যথাযথ প্রক্রিয়ায় সরবরাহ করা হবে।

উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক
এ্যাকাউন্টস ডিপার্টমেন্ট

GD-2434

বাংলাদেশ কৃষি ব্যাংক
হিউম্যান রিসোর্স ম্যানেজমেন্ট বিভাগ
প্রধান কার্যালয়
৮৩-৮৫ মতিঝিল বা/এ, ঢাকা-১০০০।
ফোন: ০২২৩৩৩৬৬৩৩
ই-মেইল: dgmpd2@krishibank.org.bd;
https:/krishibank.gov.bd

প্রকা/এইচআরএমডি/সেকশন-২/৯৫(১)/২০২৬-২০২৭/৮৫৫ তারিখ: ৩০ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২৬

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ কৃষি ব্যাংক, প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা এর জন্য নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্তাবলিতে চুক্তিভিত্তিক সহকারী আইন উপদেষ্টা (সার্বক্ষণিক) নিয়োগের নিমিত্ত বাংলাদেশের নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে:

পদবি	বয়স	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা	বেতন ভাতাদি	চুক্তির সময়কাল
সহকারী আইন উপদেষ্টা (সার্বক্ষণিক)	আবেদনের শেষ তারিখে সর্বোচ্চ ৬২ (বাষট্টি) বছর	(ক) আইন বিষয়ে স্নাতক (সম্মান)/স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রী। শিক্ষার্থীদলের কোন পর্যায়েই ৩য় বিভাগ/শ্রেণি গ্রহনযোগ্য নয়। (খ) জেলা জজ (সমমান)/অতিরিক্ত সহকারী জেলা জজ হিসেবে অবসরপ্রাপ্ত বিচারক অথবা সুপ্রীম কোর্টের হাইকোর্ট বিভাগ অথবা আপিল বিভাগসহ অন্যান্য আদালতে মোকদ্দমা পরিচালনার কাজে আইনজীবি হিসেবে কমপক্ষে ১২ (বারো) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা (তন্মধ্যে সুপ্রীম কোর্টে সুনূন্যতম ৫ বছর হতে হবে)। বিশেষত: অর্থ ঋণ আদালত, দেওয়ানী ও ফৌজদারী মোকদ্দমা পরিচালনার বিষয়ে বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন।	আলোচনা সাপেক্ষে	০২ (দুই) বছর

০২। আগ্রহী প্রার্থীদেরকে শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা, অভিজ্ঞতার সনদ, দুই কপি সম্প্রতি তোলা পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ছবি, জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের কপি এবং জীবন বৃত্তান্তসহ আবেদন উপমহাব্যবস্থাপক, হিউম্যান রিসোর্স ম্যানেজমেন্ট বিভাগ, বাংলাদেশ কৃষি ব্যাংক, প্রধান কার্যালয়, ৮৩-৮৫, মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-১০০০ এই ঠিকানায় আগামী ৩১-১০-২০২৬ তারিখের মধ্যে পৌঁছাতে হবে। অসম্পূর্ণ বা নির্ধারিত সময়ের পরে প্রাপ্ত আবেদন বিবেচনা করা হবে না।

স্বঃ
উপমহাব্যবস্থাপক

GD-2442

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society
National Head Quarter (NHQ)
684-686, Red Crescent Sarak, Bara Meghbazar, Dhaka 1217.
PABX: +88-02-48310188-9, Ext: 222, 108, Direct: +88-02-48312436, web: www.bdrcs.org

INVITATION FOR TENDER

1. Invitation Reference, Tender ID No and Date	Pro. (Leg.)/456/2026, date: 07/10/2026, Tender ID no. 53/2026
2. Procuring Entity Name	Secretary General, BDRCS
3. Name of Requisition Department	DR Department, National Headquarters, BDRCS,684-686 Red Crescent Road, Bara Meghbazar, Dhaka-1217
4. Procurement for	Poor people during cold wave in Bangladesh.
5. Procurement Category	Supply of Goods
6. Description of Tender	Framework Agreement for supplying of 30,000 Pcs Blankets
7. Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)
8. Source of Funds	BDRCS/IFRC/QRCS and Others PNSs
9. Purchase of Tender document	Tender documents and schedules with detailed information are available at the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) website: www.bdrcs.org Tender Schedule Download Link: https://bdrcs.org/tender/ **Tender Schedule Purchase Process:** • Interested bidders are requested to collect the tender documents within the stipulated timeframe from the mentioned link/BDRCS website. • A Tender Schedule purchase fee of **3,000/-** is applicable. This fee is non-refundable. • To Purchase Tender Schedule, Please make PAYMENT to BDRCS bKash Merchant Account No: **01854886393** • Please insert the reference number **Pro.(Leg.)/456/2026** while making bKash Payment. • Please mention the bKash transaction reference number on top **Table-1** in tender schedule. Failure to include the bKash transaction reference number may result in the disqualification of your bid.
10. Tender Schedule available	From 11-10-2026 to 25-10-2026
11. Tender Submission Date and Time	25-10-2026 at 12:00 pm (If not possible for any unavoidable circumstance tender will be opened next office day at the same time & venue.)
12. Tender Opening Date and Time	25-10-2026 at 12:15 pm
13. Address of Tender Submission & Opening	Logistics Department, National Headquarters, BDRCS, 684-686 Red Crescent Road, Bara Meghbazar, Dhaka-1217
14. Place/Date/Time of Pre-Tender Meeting	**11:00 AM on 18 October 2026** in the Logistics Department Meeting Room, NHQ, BDRCS, 684-686, Red Crescent Sarak, Bara Meghbazar, Dhaka 1217.
15. Eligibility of Tenderer	Experienced Supplier/Importer/Manufacturing Company
16. Brief Description of works/ Related Services	Framework Agreement for supplying of 30,000 Pcs Blankets
17. Tender Security Amount	BDT. 3,00000 (Three Lac)
18. Completion Time in days	21 Calendar days

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender or split the order without assigning any reason whatsoever and will not be bound to accept the lowest bid.

Size: 3 col x 5"

Md. Habibur Rahman Khan
Secretary General

Houthis again hit Saudi airports

AFP, *Riyadh*

The Houthis claimed a flurry of attacks on Saudi targets yesterday, including firing a ballistic missile at Riyadh airport, as the group battles for territory in Yemen against government forces supported by the kingdom.

Yemen's internationally recognised government this week declared a counter-offensive and claims to have uprooted Houthi fighters from strategic areas on the Red Sea and the port city of Mocha.

But the Iran-backed Houthis say they are holding their territory. Saudi government officials said an Egyptian and an Algerian national were killed at Abha airport and a Sudanese national was killed at the airport in Riyadh.

In a separate post, the Houthis also said they targeted a military supply convoy near the airport in the Yemeni city of Aden, the interim capital for the government.

The agency cited transport authorities as saying one of the missiles landed near the runway minutes before the scheduled arrival of a flight from Cairo, which was forced to divert to Jeddah in Saudi Arabia.

It is the second time this week that the Houthis claimed to have attacked the main airport in the Saudi capital.

It is facing frequent temporary closures of its airspace, according to tracking website Flightradar24, but Saudi authorities have not publicly acknowledged the closures or confirmed any strikes targeting the airport.



A displaced Palestinian boy plays amid stacked damaged cars against the backdrop of destroyed buildings in Gaza City yesterday. Since October 7, 2023, Israel's offensive has destroyed much of the territory and killed more than 74,200 people. PHOTO: AFP

Israel strikes kill 3 more in Gaza on war anniversary

AGENCIES

Israel carried out new strikes in Gaza yesterday on the third anniversary of Israel's war on Gaza, killing three.

Though a ceasefire, brokered by the US, is in place since last year, Israeli violence and almost daily strikes have killed more than 1,400 people in the tiny strip, where Israel now occupies two-thirds of the territory.

Hundreds of thousands of displaced people now live in tent cities and makeshift shelters next to piles of rubble from bombed-out residential buildings.

Meanwhile, a Palestinian was killed yesterday during an Israeli settler attack while Palestinians were harvesting olives near the village of Burqa in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Russian strikes kill 20 in Ukraine

REUTERS, *Kyiv*

Russia pounded Ukraine with waves of missiles and drones in one of its most "vile strikes" yesterday, President Volodymyr Zelensky said, killing at least 20 people, including children, and damaging industrial facilities and energy infrastructure.

Zelensky said the strike coincided with Russian President Vladimir Putin's birthday.

The heaviest death toll was in Pryluky in the northern Chernihiv region, where a Russian missile obliterated a five-storey residential building. At least 14 people, including four children, were killed there, local officials said.

"Today, as a birthday 'gift' to Putin, the Russian army destroyed a residential building in Pryluky...," Zelensky said.

"The Russians wanted to strike painfully and demonstratively. This was one of the most vile strikes: 70 missiles in total, many of them ballistic."

An excavator and dozens of rescuers with shovels sifted through rubble at the site where several sections of the five-storey building collapsed.



Emergency workers used ladders to get to the upper floors of what remained of the building. Around 50 people were wounded, including seven children, regional officials said.

Zelenskiy said six other people were killed in Kyiv, Oleksandria and Kremenchuk during the heavy overnight attack.

Russia's defence ministry said its forces had carried out a "massive strike" on military-industrial facilities in Kyiv and other Ukrainian regions, using high-precision land-, sea- and air-launched weapons, as well as drones.

Ukraine's air force said it had downed just over 80 percent of the 46 jet-powered drones launched by Russia -- a sharp increase from recent weeks when, on average, air defences took down 50% to 60%.

Since the summer, Russia has used increasing numbers of the new high-velocity drones in round-the-clock attacks on Kyiv and other cities, with Ukraine's air defences struggling to cope with their speed.

The air force did not explain the jump in the interception rate and did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Ukraine received a new €1.2 billion ($1.34 billion) tranche from the European Union yesterday and will channel the funds towards defence needs, Prime Minister Sergii Koretskyi said.

IN BRIEF

'Iran lost complete control' of Hormuz'

AFP, *Athens*

Iran has "lost complete control" of the Strait of Hormuz, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said yesterday, adding that Tehran's economy was "in total and complete freefall".

"The Straits of Hormuz are open. There's almost as much oil flowing out now as there was before this conflict began. So, they've lost complete control of the Straits," Rubio told reporters during a visit to Athens.

Meanwhile, an adviser to the Revolutionary Guards' Commander, referring to an alternative route close to Oman coast, said transit routes in the strait deemed illegal by Iran will soon be closed.

US woman 'awake' after failed execution

AFP, *Washington*

The woman who survived a failed execution in a US prison last week is now conscious and speaking, but her prognosis remains unclear, her lawyers said on Tuesday.

Christa Pike, 50, who was sentenced to death for a murder she committed when she was a teenager, received two supposedly lethal doses of the drug pentobarbital at a Tennessee prison a week ago.

She survived the injections, however, and was rushed to hospital, where she had been unconscious and on a ventilator in critical condition. Pike's lawyers said on Tuesday that "against all odds" she was now "conscious, speaking, and continues to receive critical medical care."

Narayanganj City Corporation
Nagar Bhaban
10 B. B Road, Narayanganj.
www.ncc.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.16.0000.009.99.001.2025.1820 Date: 07/10/2026

Corrigendum

This is to inform all eligible contractors that the invitation of e-GP Tender Notice No-04/2026-27 (LTM) (Re-tender) vide Memo No. 46.16.0000.009.99.001.2025.1780, dated 30/09/2026 under "ADP and Own Fund" is hereby amended as follows.

Sl No	Description Items	Published	Amendment
01	Eligibility of Tenderer	e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for procurement of works under "ADP and Own Fund".	e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) from Enlisted Contractor of NCC (Renewed for the Year: 2026-2027) for procurement of works under "ADP and Own Fund".

All other terms & conditions of the above-mentioned Tender Notice shall remain unchanged.
This amendment shall be the part & parcel of the above Tender Notice.

8.10.26
(Md Asgor Hossain)
Superintending Engineer
Narayanganj City Corporation
e-mail: se@ncc.gov.bd

GD-2428

CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY OF BANGLADESH
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
E/M DIVISION- 3, KURMITOLA, DHAKA.

File No- 30.31.0000.432.07.001.25/192 Date : 07.10.2026

e-Tender Notice

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

Sl No	Name of Tender	Tender ID No	Last date & time of selling	Last date & time of closing
1	2	3	4	5
01.	Providing & Installation of Air condition and lighting system of Control tower at Cox's Bazar Airport.	1338104	18-Oct-2026 17.00	19-Oct-2026 12.00
02.	Renovation & Up-gradation lighting system of VVIP entry gate to carpark and adjacent area of VVIP complex at SAIA, Ctg.	1324689	18-Oct-2026 17.00	19-Oct-2026 12.00
03.	Providing & Replacement of Damage/Bumout HT cable from 11KV line for Old substation H-pole area & Rest house HT cable at Cox's Bazar Airport	1332416	18-Oct-2026 17.00	19-Oct-2026 12.00
04.	Renovation of Lighting system of VIP lounge, concourse hall, departure lounge old power house at Cox's Bazar Airport.	1333559	18-Oct-2026 17.00	19-Oct-2026 12.00
05.	Providing and replacement outdoor LT panel and security flood light with service cable of DVOR area i/c other related works at Cox's Bazar Airport	1338670	18-Oct-2026 17.00	19-Oct-2026 12.00

This is an online tender, where only e-tender will be accepted in the national e-GP portal and no office/hard copies will be accepted To submit e-tender, registration in the national e-GP portal 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 branches. Future information and guidelines are available in national e-GP system portal and e-GP help desk ((http://www.eprocure.gov.bd).

নং-৩০.৩১.০০০০.০৫১.১৯.০০১.২৬/৫৬১
তারিখ: ০৭/১০/২০২৬ খ্রিঃ

09/10/25
(Md. Al-Mamun)
Executive Engineer (E/M)
E/M Division-3, CAAB, Dhaka.

GD-2443



The Daily Star
FOUNDER EDITOR: **LATE S. M. ALI**

Migrant workers need stronger safeguards

Thousands are dying abroad, raising concerns about workers' safety

Remittances from Bangladeshi migrant workers have been one of the country's most successful economic stories. In the current fiscal year alone, between July 1 and October 6, the country received $9.22 billion in workers' remittances. Yet, for migrant workers whose arduous labour contributes so significantly to our economic growth, not enough has been done by successive governments to ensure their health and wellbeing when they are abroad. The result has been devastating: thousands of migrant workers coming back in body bags.

According to a Prothom Alo report, between January and September this year, 4,060 bodies of migrant workers have been brought back home—on average, more than 14 bodies daily. Most of them are young men and women. Such a shocking number is a wake-up call to the fact that our migrant workers are working under unusually harsh conditions, resulting in deaths.

The highest number of migrant deaths were in Saudi Arabia—almost 2,000 this year. Malaysia is second on the list. Recently, there have been reports of Bangladeshi migrant workers being tortured and even killed by cyber scam gangs in Cambodia. Many women migrant workers have come back after experiencing horrendous sexual and physical abuses; others have returned as corpses, their deaths unexplained. The official reason for migrant workers' deaths has been either "natural causes" or accidents.

Foreign employers, whether they are companies or individuals, must be held accountable when there is evidence of abuse.

According to migration-sector research organisations, many Bangladeshi workers in the Middle East work in construction, exposed to extreme heat, which leads to heat-related illnesses such as heat stroke, kidney damage, heart disease, and other serious health conditions. Therefore, it is imperative that workers are equipped with training and knowledge about the nature and environment of the work in their destination country. They must learn to acclimatise to the temperatures, protect themselves from extreme heat, stay healthy, and cope with the work hours and pressure.

In addition, Bangladesh must develop the negotiating power to demand health insurance, better working conditions with adequate breaks, nutrition, and protective gear where necessary. Foreign employers, whether they are companies or individuals, must be held accountable when there is evidence of abuse. The Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment must play a proactive role, maintain a database of all migrant workers that includes where they are working and install hotlines through which workers can get help when they fall sick or get entrapped in abusive conditions. The high commissions in the host countries must be active in getting help from local authorities to investigate cases of abuse, entrapment, and death of migrant workers.

The Wage Earners' Welfare Board insurance scheme that provides funds for death and injury of migrant workers should also include facilities for undocumented workers. The process of bringing back the bodies of deceased workers to their families should be made easier. These facilities are the bare minimum that migrant workers are entitled to. Giving our workers dignity and respect for their huge contribution to the country's development is the least we can do.

This is no way to run our universities

Forcing RMU VC to 'resign' through intimidation raises alarm

We are deeply concerned by the allegation that Rajshahi Medical University (RMU) Vice-Chancellor Prof Md Jawadul Haque was coerced into signing a resignation letter by a violent mob. According to reports, 20 to 50 people stormed his office on Tuesday, assaulted his personal secretary, and forced both of them to sign resignation letters, leaving with the letters, the VC's mobile phone and laptop. Later, the RMU officials found CCTV equipment had been removed and electricity and internet services disconnected.

There may be legitimate grievances against the VC. There have been protests following allegations of irregularities in university appointments and other activities, which he has denied. He also alleged that some of those who entered his office were linked to local contractors, while others were outsiders backed by political groups. He said they accused him of favouring Dhaka-based firms in university contracts and called him an "Awami League collaborator". These allegations, including any allegations against the VC, should be investigated properly. But nothing justifies forcing an official to resign through intimidation.

This incident follows a pattern we have seen before. In 2024, mobs of students forced teachers and university officials to resign from educational institutions around the country. At the time, we warned that such actions could create administrative and academic vacuums, undermine institutional discipline, and further damage teacher-student relations. Two years on, we are witnessing the same problem in a different form. This incident sets a dangerous precedent whereby anyone with enough supporters can attempt to remove an official they dislike.

As a case has been filed over the incident, police have arrested a local BNP leader who was present at the scene along with some other fellow party members. Hence, we urge the BNP to take appropriate action against any of its members found to have been involved. The ruling party must also ensure that their political influence is not used to intimidate university officials or anyone else. At the same time, the RMU authorities must conduct a proper and impartial investigation to identify everyone responsible and hold them accountable, regardless of their political affiliation or connections. Any genuine allegations of wrongdoing within a university campus should also be investigated with due diligence, followed by appropriate action if wrongdoing is proven.

Crackdowns alone cannot rein in teen gangs for long



Naznin Tithi is a member of the editorial team at The Daily Star.

■ **NAZNIN TITHI**

As a nation, we tend to address deep-rooted social problems only at the surface level. After 13-year-old Oprotim was murdered by members of a teenage gang in Cumilla, our immediate reaction was to blame the victim and his parents, particularly his mother, for what many described as her "failure" to raise him properly. Some even rushed to offer unsolicited parenting advice on social media. Few, however, seemed interested in asking the questions that actually matter: Why are our children getting involved with violent gangs during the years they should be focused on education and personal development? Who are patronising these groups? And what have we done to protect them from harm's way?

Over the past few years, reports of teen gang violence have surged across the country, spreading from Dhaka and Chattogram to districts like Manikganj, Khulna, Chandpur, and Noakhali. These groups of children are not only engaged in occasional street fights. Police and intelligence sources say they are increasingly involved in extortion, drug peddling, territorial control, and even land grabbing. In Dhaka alone, police have identified 127 teen gangs. In Chattogram, roughly 200 gangs with at least 1,400 members are active and are responsible for at least 548 criminal incidents over the last six years. The brutality of their actions is escalating to unthinkable levels. On September 29, in Chattogram, a 16-year-old boy named Hridoy was stabbed to death over an internal gang dispute. His ears were cut off before he was stabbed.

Faced with this growing challenge, the state's default response has been to conduct sweeping crackdowns. In Cumilla, teenage gangs emerged as a major problem around 2015 when only a few groups were active, but their number has grown exponentially since then. According to police, gang members have since been linked to numerous crimes, including at least 12 killings and more than 100 other incidents between 2017 and 2025, as well as at least 25 notable crimes in the first eight and a half months of this year. Their alleged activities include murder, extortion, drug dealing, mugging, motorcycle theft, and carrying weapons.



VISUAL: **ANWAR SOHEL**

Crackdowns are bound to fail when they only target the teenage gang members while ignoring their patrons. The chief whip of parliament recently declared that teen gangs would be eradicated within three months. But is it possible to do so if the political elites who actively use these teenagers to wield power are exempt from such crackdowns?

Recent drives in Cumilla saw at least 2,035 young people detained in just five phases. Of them, 1,409 were warned and released to their guardians, and 626 were sent to court.

As the crackdown on teenage gangs continues, we must ask if mass arrests are enough to stop these gangs. Experiences say they are not. Many of the gang leaders and members arrested recently have histories of committing serious crimes, including murder. Cumilla's notorious "R Squad" (or "Ratan Group") has made headlines for years over public displays of weapons and attempted murders. Its main organiser, 25-year-old Imran Hossain alias Ratan, has nine cases against him, including a murder case, while his close associate Saiful Islam faces 10 cases. They were out on bail before being arrested in Cox's Bazar. The impunity they enjoyed emboldened them further.

More importantly, crackdowns are bound to fail when they only target the teenage gang members while ignoring their patrons. The chief whip of parliament recently declared that teen gangs would be eradicated within three months. But is it possible to do so if the political elites who actively use these teenagers to wield power are exempt from such crackdowns? Furthermore, such rhetoric feels less like a solution and more like an attempt to appease the public.

While it is encouraging that police authorities have finally instructed field-level officers to investigate the influential individuals behind these gangs, law enforcement must follow through and keep the public updated. They must also monitor how new members are recruited and why those released on bail again return to crime.

In some recent violent incidents, including the hours-long attack on the Radda health centre, the presence of juveniles was noticeable—dozens among around 150 people involved in the attack. Teenagers were also involved in the recent Adabor attack. In Chattogram, police have identified 64 "big brothers" who provide patronage or protection to teenage groups. In Cumilla, Imran Hossain alias Ratan of the "Ratan Group" was seen walking closely behind the vice-president of the Cumilla city unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal in a procession. Such scenes exemplify how these gangs thrive on political patronage.

So, what happens after the mass arrests? Our justice and rehabilitation system for juvenile crimes seems largely unequipped to handle the influx. In Cumilla, at least 27 recently detained teenagers were sent to the Tongi Child Development Centre, which is already running beyond capacity, while the Cumilla Central Jail is currently housing 3,500 inmates against a capacity of 1,500. Furthermore, a recent investigation by The Daily Star revealed widespread abuse, severe overcrowding, and inadequate mental health support at these centres. Unless these facilities are transformed into safe spaces providing education, counselling, and vocational training, mass arrests will do nothing to rehabilitate juvenile offenders. Moreover, in case of those who were released to the custody of family members, is that the end of the state's responsibility? What, if anything, is done to rehabilitate them?

Research on juvenile delinquency worldwide has found that family problems, lack of parental supervision, delinquent peers, poor academic performance, school disengagement, substance abuse, and poverty can contribute to delinquent behaviour. However, these factors do not make criminal behaviour inevitable; they make children more vulnerable to it. A March 2024 survey by Chattogram city police found that 54 percent of students who were regularly absent from school were involved in criminal activities, including pornography, cybercrime, mugging, theft, drug use and dealing, and online gambling.

Besides education, other constructive activities are important. For many families, even providing for education is hard, let alone sports, music, art, or other activities for their children. How many of our neighbourhoods have safe playgrounds, libraries, youth clubs, or other spaces where teenagers can spend their time constructively? Psychologists say that these activities can help children develop social skills, confidence, and a sense of belonging. If we want children to stay away from gangs, we must also ask what meaningful alternatives the state is offering them.

Young people can achieve a lot when they have a sense of purpose. The students who took to the streets during the 2018 road safety movement demonstrated immense capacity for constructive social organisation. Young people were also at the centre of the 2024 student-led anti-quota movement that evolved into the July uprising. When children's energy and desire to belong are not channelled into constructive activities, they can be exploited. Should we leave our children vulnerable to such an outcome?

If we fail to address the underlying causes of growing teenage violence in the country, we will continue treating the symptoms while allowing the real problem to go unchecked.

Who pays for stability? A climate and feminist question



Farah Kabir is country director at ActionAid Bangladesh.

■ **FARAH KABIR**

In October, Bangkok is hosting two conversations about the future that are rarely held together. Climate Action Week will see the gathering of activists, communities, young people, and climate advocates. Days later, finance ministers, central bankers, economists, and civil society representatives will get together for the IMF and World Bank Annual Meetings.

The proximity of these two events is important to note, as it signifies that climate change is no longer an environmental crisis alone. It is also a debt crisis, a fiscal crisis, and a question of who carries the cost of adjustment. The feminist question in this regard is this: who pays for stability?

Macroeconomic policy is often presented in neutral terms. But budgets are lived differently. When governments cut spending, remove subsidies, or tighten fiscal policy, the costs can move from the treasury into households and communities. And it is women who frequently absorb them through unpaid care, additional work, and reduced access to essential services.

The IMF has moved in recognising this. Its recent work acknowledges that fiscal policy affects women and men differently, and that childcare, social protection, and public services impact women's economic participation. But recognition is only the first step towards genuine transformation.

An economist sees the removal of a subsidy as fiscal reform. But what does a woman see when transport, cooking fuel, or food become more expensive and her unpaid working day becomes longer? Research examining fuel-subsidy reform in Bangladesh, Egypt, and Kenya has found that adjustment can impose disproportionate costs on women and marginalised groups through higher household expenses, increased unpaid care, and weaker access to food, transport, housing, and essential services.

This is not an argument for preserving every subsidy. Some are poorly targeted, costly, or environmentally damaging. But reform cannot be judged only by what it saves for the state. It must also account for what it costs society, and who pays.

The same question applies to debt. ActionAid's latest "Debt Fuels the Climate Crisis: How the Finance Flows" report shows that across 65 highly climate-vulnerable countries, debt servicing absorbs around 65 percent of government revenue and is nearly 25 times higher than spending on climate action. Global South countries are projected to repay around 225 times more debt in 2026 than they receive in grant-based climate finance. This signals not a debt problem, but misplaced choices.

When debt service consumes scarce public resources, governments have less room to strengthen health systems, expand social protection, invest in resilient infrastructure, support locally led adaptation, or finance a just transition.

Climate-vulnerable countries are being asked to borrow to recover from and adapt to disasters, then find additional resources to repay those loans. When climate finance consists mainly of debt, adaptation efforts can deepen fiscal vulnerability.

When public services weaken, the task of care work falls on families. When food or energy costs rise, households have to adjust accordingly. When water becomes scarce or infrastructure fails, someone spends more time securing what the state or market no longer provides reliably. Much of that invisible work remains women's work. This is why climate change and debt cannot be treated as separate conversations.

Campaigners gathering in Bangkok are pressing for debt cancellation and a fairer debt architecture, including mechanisms to suspend debt payments after climate disasters; grant-based climate finance; progressive taxation; and a shift in financial flows away from fossil fuels towards a just transition. Their demands challenge a system in which countries facing the greatest climate risks can have the least fiscal space to respond.

Establishing fiscal justice means treating care, health, education, social protection, and climate resilience as economic infrastructure, rather than expenditure to be trimmed when budgets tighten. It means judging debt sustainability against a country's ability to protect its people and prepare for future shocks, not only its capacity to repay creditors. It also requires moving beyond gender mainstreaming. A gender statement attached to a budget is useful but a budget that changes who controls resources, performs care, and has economic opportunity can be transformative.

The real test of economic policy is whether it expands people's capabilities to withstand shocks—not merely whether it restores fiscal ratios. The questioning carried from Bangkok's climate gatherings into the IMF and World Bank meetings should be: what kind of stability are we building, whose resilience does it protect, and who is paying for it?

A stable economy cannot be one that balances its books by exhausting its people. Its ultimate measure is whether, when the next shock arrives, people have the resources, services, and choices to withstand it.

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Any cyber law reform must uphold digital rights, not undermine them



Mohammad Golam Sarwar, a Chevening and Commonwealth scholar, is doctoral fellow in law and alternative development at SOAS University of London. He is also an assistant professor of law at Dhaka University (on study leave).

■ **MOHAMMAD GOLAM SARWAR**

Bangladesh's cyber security laws have historically expanded the criminalisation of dissent and stifling of civic space, creating a culture of self-censorship. During past regimes, cyber laws prioritised the government's image over freedom of speech and the press. The misuse of such laws drew widespread criticism, relegating cybersecurity to secondary importance and fostering public mistrust in the governance of cyber issues. They were drafted using broad and vague terms and definitions which left ample room for biased and arbitrary interpretation as well as manipulation. In this context, misuse of law remains a concern, while the very "use" of a vaguely drafted law can inherently lead to harassment and suppression of dissent.

The interim government passed the Cyber Protection Ordinance, 2025 to address gaps and criticisms levelled at the previous versions of the law. Despite some loopholes in the text and processes, the ordinance dropped several controversial provisions from the earlier law. Recently, however, the government proposed some changes to the Cyber Protection Act, 2026 that raised concerns about digital rights, online freedom, privacy, and press freedom. The government justified the amendment as a way to address disinformation, rumours, AI-generated deceptive content, and online harassment. However, from a human rights perspective, it carries far-reaching risks.

The draft amendment includes provisions that define offences with vague terms, dismantle some of the previous safeguards, impose disproportionate penalties, grant excessive police powers, and reinstate executive overreach. It criminalises "defamation", "humiliation" and "bullying" and increases prison terms and fines. It defines defamation by reference to the definition provided under Section 499 of the Penal Code, 1860, while adding the digital aspects. The constitution, in Article 39, guarantees freedom of speech, expression, and the press. These rights are qualified and subject to reasonable restrictions, and defamation can be interpreted as a reasonable ground. But any such restriction needs to pass the test of precision and reasonableness under constitutional and international human rights principles, especially the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

The UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) requires the reasonable restrictions on the rights to freedom of opinion and expression to be narrowly tailored with precision, pursue a legitimate aim, and be necessary and proportionate. However, the provisions on defamation, humiliation, bullying, or rumours under the draft amendment of the cyber law reflect overly broad and vague language covering a plethora of expressions, clamping down on rights guaranteed under the constitution and international human rights laws.

Moreover, the proposed amendment increases the maximum penalty for defamation, humiliation, and bullying to five-year imprisonment, extending to 10 years in cases of spreading rumours and disinformation/"fake news". Such high penalties for speech-related offences contradict the proportionality and reasonableness test under international human rights instruments.



VISUAL: **SALMAN SAKIB SHAHRYAR**

The real concern here is the worrying history of the use/abuse of defamation provisions leading to arrests of numerous activists, journalists, and human rights defenders. Though defamation cases rarely result in conviction, the existence of criminal defamation provisions and the filing of cases threaten media freedom as the litigation process itself, with its wide and discretionary ambit, carries the penalty of intimidation and harassment.

The real concern here is the worrying history of the use/abuse of defamation provisions leading to arrests of numerous activists, journalists, and human rights defenders. Though defamation cases rarely result in conviction, the existence of criminal defamation provisions and the filing of cases threaten media freedom as the litigation process itself, with its wide and discretionary ambit, carries the penalty of intimidation and harassment.

The proposed amendment also criminalises "rumour", "disinformation", and "fake news" with vague and overly broad definitions and severe penalties. Without clear definitions, executive authorities have ample room for subjective interpretation and arbitrary enforcement of the legal provisions. This relates to the broad powers given to the cyber protection agency, law enforcement agency, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, or any other agency or force authorised by the government. The proposed changes allow the authorities to remove or block not only any data or information, but also "disinformation" or "rumour" published or disseminated in cyberspace or through a digital or electronic medium that poses the risk of undermining the country's integrity, security, defence, or public order, or inciting religious or communal hatred or ethnic violence.

The formulation of this provision in vague terms is open to excessive, unfettered and disproportionate exercise of authority that may lead to harassment and suppression. Notably, the proposed amendment removed the safeguards stipulated under the existing law. For example, it removed the requirement to make information about blocked content public in the interest of transparency and the requirement to obtain the tribunal's permission within three days of the removal or blocking of data. There remains reasonable doubt that blocking and removal measures by the executive, without oversight or limitations, may often affect a wider range of content or a larger number of users than necessary.

The proposed amendment also removed the chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) from the National Cyber Protection Council, which is entrusted to take necessary steps in fulfilling the proper implementation of the law. This move reflects weakening institutional human rights safeguards.

Against this backdrop, the following measures can be undertaken to help align the law with international human rights standards.

The provision criminalising defamation should be removed from the proposed amendment, as it is already an offence under the penal law of the country. Similarly, the government should gradually move towards decriminalising defamation under the penal law in light of the UNHRC recommendations, which repeatedly asked state parties, including Bangladesh, to repeal criminal defamation laws as they violate international standards and unreasonably restrict people's right to freedom of speech. Notably, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) reports that 15 participating states have already decriminalised defamation, and some members are considering additional repeal proposals on general criminal defamation and insult laws.

In line with this, the definitions of the offences, including rumours, disinformation, and bullying, should be precisely formulated in the definition clause of the proposed amendment in light of international human rights treaties. In defining such offences, an explicit exemption clause for publishing the truth for public good and in good faith should be included. This may safeguard journalists and media workers from speculative harassment.

The penalty for online speech-related offences, including rumours and disinformation, should be significantly reduced in compliance with the proportionality requirement of international human rights law. In such cases, a proportionate penalty structure may be introduced considering the nature of the speech, truthfulness of the information, unintentional error, or unverified information published in good faith and for public good, among others.

The provision allowing ample authority to block or remove information should be narrowly defined to check the arbitrary exercise of power. As per international human rights law, content removal and blocking should only be carried out based on a law clearly defining the circumstances in which these acts can be taken, based on the decision of an independent, ideally judicial body.

The law should specify objective criteria for the authorities before blocking content or information. The threshold test, as suggested by the OHCHR, may include the consideration of social and political context, status of the speaker, intent to incite the audience against a target group, content and form of the speech, extent of its dissemination, and likelihood of harm. It should require authorities to make a written order recording reasons for requesting the removal or blocking of certain content. It should also reinstate the requirement of publishing information about the removed or blocked content publicly available for the sake of transparency.

Finally, as journalists, including online journalists, engaged in professional duties are often victims or are at risk of violence, threats, and harassment under cyber laws, the government should immediately formulate and enact a rights protection law for journalists, as proposed by the Media Reform Commission. Once this law is passed, a new subsection can be added to the application of the draft amendment of the cyber law (Section 3). The new provision should assert that the application of the cyber law would be complementary to the journalism rights protection law. This added provision may help close the gap in press freedom and provide adequate legal protection for journalists, online human rights activists, and bloggers.

Saudi-bound workers deserve a fairer skills-testing system



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■ **MD ABBAS**

Saudi Arabia is Bangladesh's biggest labour market, which mostly recruits many semi-skilled workers to low-paid jobs, including cleaning, construction, and loading and unloading. However, the cost of entering this labour market is not low, as migrant aspirants, have to undergo mandatory skill verification processes among other things and the fees for those keep rising, making migration to Saudi Arabia almost unaffordable for low-income workers.

Last month, the Saudi Arabian government increased the fee for Takamol—a test foreign workers must take for skills verification—from $50 to $85, in other words, a 70 percent hike in test fees. The test was made mandatory for workers from Bangladesh in 2022. Since then, 4,47,572 migrant aspirants have taken the exam, and 1,22,909, or 27 percent, failed.

While there is no objection to the need to verify workers' skills through tests, as it helps employers ensure that workers have the required skills for the jobs, the structure, scope and cost of this exam often do not match the reality migrant workers face.

Saudi Arabia launched the skills verification programme in 2021 and the pre-arrival testing was rolled out in phases in labour-exporting countries from 2022 for technical professions such as plumbing, electrical work, welding, refrigeration, and automobile electrical work. Later, it was expanded to 73 other professions, including cleaning and loading. It is worth examining how effective a computer-based skills test can be for a cleaner or a general worker, and to what extent the test result helps secure a job or increase a worker's wages. So far, there is little evidence of significant wage increases.

According to workers and media reports, the monthly income of cleaners and construction workers ranges from Tk 25,000 to Tk 30,000. But a worker needs to pay Tk 3.5 lakh to Tk 5 lakh in migration costs to go to Saudi Arabia. The increase in test fees is adding to this cost. If a worker fails the exam, he has to retake the exam, paying $85 again.

If a certificate makes a worker more skilled, strengthens their ability to negotiate, and ultimately helps increase their wages, then the certificate certainly has economic value. But when a worker has to pay fees repeatedly for the same exam while their wages remain stagnant, the effectiveness and rationale of the entire process from the worker's point of view must be examined.

Last year in November, the Bangladesh government tried to push back against the fee. The then Secretary of the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Neyamat Ullah Bhuiyan, raised the issue during a meeting with Takamol officials in Riyadh. He requested that the $50 fee be waived for workers retaking the test as it places extra burden on low-income workers. A year later, the waiver did not come; a fee hike of 70 percent did.

A labour agreement was also signed between Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia last year. It stated that every worker would receive a written job offer and employment agreement through an approved digital system before travelling to Saudi Arabia. It also prohibited employers from deducting unauthorised fees or other charges from workers' wages and required wages to be paid through bank accounts.

It is crucial that this agreement is implemented properly because the cost of migration does not end with travelling from Bangladesh to Saudi Arabia. Visa fees, medical tests, training, biometric registration, skills tests and other mandatory processes all add to the total cost of migration. And to recover that cost, a Bangladeshi cleaner in Saudi Arabia, for instance, must work for more than a year.

Another important issue is the recognition of skills. According to some media reports, this year the Bangladesh government has proposed that the Saudi Arabian government directly recognise the national skills certificate conferred by the National Skills Development Authority. If the proposal is implemented, workers who have a skills certificate from Bangladesh may not have to sit for the pre-arrival Takamol skills test. This could reduce the additional cost of migration for workers.

The largest share of Bangladesh's remittances come from Saudi Arabia. According to Bangladesh Bank, Bangladesh received $35.59 billion in workers' remittances in FY2025-26, of which $5.85 billion came from Saudi Arabia. That means Saudi Arabia alone accounted for around 16 percent of Bangladesh's total remittance inflows. Therefore, it is crucial to examine how much these workers spend to enter the Saudi labour market and what they earn in return.

If migration is to become a means of improving a family's economic condition, then the process must be worker-friendly. Skill evaluation is obviously important, but if it places an additional financial burden on workers in the name of skills testing, while the financial value of those skills is not reflected in their wages, then there remains a gap between the intention of the tests and the outcome.

In the end, the value of a certificate for a worker does not lie in the paper itself. It lies in what that certificate does for his life. If it helps increase his wages, improve his job security, and create opportunities for better jobs, then it has a clear purpose. Otherwise, who really benefits from these tests remains unclear.

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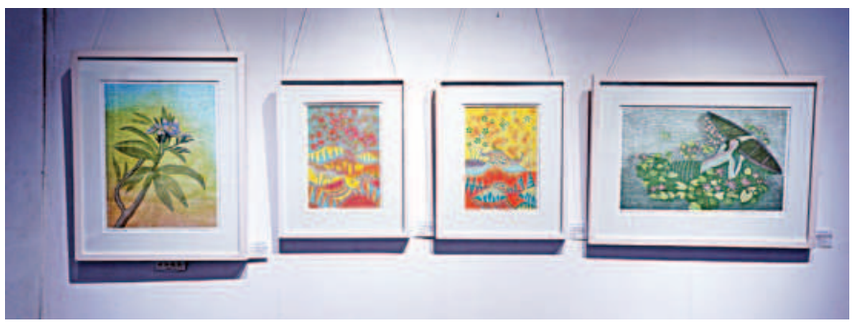
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e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of following goods (details are given below):

Sl	e-Tender ID No.	Brief description of goods	Tender/Proposal Publication Date & Time	Tender/Proposal Document Last selling Date & Time	Tender Opening & Closing Date & Time
1.	1346247 OTM (Framework Agreement)	Supplying of Training Materials	08 Oct. 2026 and 11:00	19 Oct. 2026 and 12:00	19 Oct. 2026 and 15:00

07.10.2026
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GD-2431





PHOTOS: **ABRAR FAIYAZ NILOY**

'AKASH MATI JOL' celebrates the ever-changing beauty of Bangladesh







AISHWARYA RAIHAN

The beauty of Bangladesh in the six seasons is unpredictable and forever-changing. Over time, due to seasonal and man-made changes in the environment, nature takes on its own forms, changing with the hours, days, and months of the year. And there is no end to painting these wonderful sceneries for artists and creative individuals because the hues change every second. Thus, each painting is a unique piece. Therefore, seven women artists of Bangladesh have come together at Bhumi Gallery to exhibit each of their special portrayals of nature in Bangladesh.

Bhumi Gallery inaugurated ***Akash Mati Jol*** – a group art exhibition featuring artists Jyoutsna Mahbuba, Hosna Banu Chotna, Zemrina Haque, Monidipa Dasgupta, Mukti Bhowmik, Fahmida Enam Kakoli, Nargis Akter Punam, and guest artist Kanak Chanpa Chakma. Art critic Moinuddin Khaled, eminent artist Kanak Chanpa Chakma, and the Trustee of Liberation War Museum, Gitanka Debdip Datta, attended the ceremony as guests. Hosted by the CEO of Bhumi, Saifur Rahman Lenin, the exhibition opened on October 2.

Bhumi Gallery is adorned with artwork from women artists, each with their distinctive art styles. The first line of work that caught my eyes belongs to Hosna Banu Chotna. She loves to paint old walls, creepers, leaves, vines, etc. She uses textures and mostly muted, earthy colours, which soothe the eyes, and her work looks like it is straight out of fairy tales. Nargis Akter Punam has filled her canvases with countless shades of blue in skies and waters, where she has shown some forms of human activities too. But her ***Pran Prokriti- 3*** is the most ethereal work she has ever produced. It looks like it descended from the heavens.

Bhumi Gallery is adorned with artwork from women artists, each with their distinctive art styles. The first line of work that caught my eyes belongs to Hosna Banu Chotna. She loves to paint old walls, creepers, leaves, vines, etc.

Zemrina Haque, along with her other pieces, painted a tiny, adorable image with breathing roots. But she also exhibits two large abstract paintings, one of which is filled with green and yellow. This particular piece represents the cycle of life, just like tree leaves turning yellow from green and going back to earth. As a person in love with life, she says that the colour of love should be green, as it is universal and represents our life force. Speaking of life, Mukti Bhowmik reminisces about her life as a little girl that still resides in her heart. Her attachment towards nature is depicted through her sculptures, where she is under a leaf-umbrella enjoying the rain, running with her neighbour's goats, or simply relaxing.

Monidipa Dasgupta, a former student of Graphic Design, worked with lines and shapes that resulted in a unique portrayal of nature. Her colours are bright and her lines are crisp. She painted stars as flowers in the sky. Fahmida Enam Kakoli too loves to use vibrant colours to depict emotions and innermost thoughts of people. But she has also applied similar hues and painted nature in her own unconventional way.

Kanak Chanpa Chakma's painting of an indigenous girl in her usual style is amplifying the beauty of the gallery space. The senior-most artist in this exhibition, Jyoutsna Mahbuba, worked with flowers, leaves, and birds. She explained her complicated printmaking process and how she enjoyed it. One of her loveliest pieces reminded me of our national Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam's song ***Bhore Jhiler Jole Shaluk Padma Tole*** (who picks waterlilies and lotus in wetlands at dawn).

In short, calling this exhibition magical would not be an exaggeration. Bhumi Gallery will run this till tomorrow, from 3:00pm to 8:00pm.

Emmy Awards to leave television for Prime Video from 2027

The Emmy Awards will move exclusively to Prime Video from 2027 under a six-year agreement with the Television Academy. The move will mark the first time in the awards' 79-year history that the ceremony will not air on traditional television.

The Emmys will be available globally on Prime Video and free to watch, including for viewers without a Prime subscription. Television Academy Chair Cris Abrego told The Hollywood Reporter that the agreement offered an opportunity to "rethink the model", adding that continuity was a key factor in the decision.

The ceremony previously rotated among ABC, CBS, Fox and NBC. The 2026 Primetime Emmy Awards aired on NBC on September 14, with Peacock serving as its streaming partner.



EVENTS

'Moonlit Melodies featuring Bappa Mazumder'



The acclaimed musician returns to the spotlight for a rare solo concert, showcasing the enduring melodies that defined a generation. The evening offers an immersive musical journey through the singer-composer's three-decade career, featuring his most cherished pop-rock classics and intimate compositions.

Date: Friday | October 09, 2026
Time: 4:30pm onwards
Venue: KIB Auditorium, Khamarbari

NEWS

BNP leader held for 'forcing RMU VC to resign'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Rajshahi*

A BNP leader was arrested yesterday in a case filed over the storming of Rajshahi Medical University (RMU) Vice-Chancellor Prof Md Jawadul Haque's office and forcing him to sign a resignation letter.

The arrestee was identified as Abdus Salam, 56, said Gaziur Rahman, spokesperson for Rajshahi Metropolitan Police.

Mizanur Rahman, president of Rajpara Thana BNP, confirmed to The Daily Star yesterday that Salam is the vice-president of the thana BNP unit.

He confirmed that Salam was present at the scene, along with some other BNP men, adding that their actions had now created trouble for the party.

The arrest came after Nazmul Hossain, personal secretary to the RMU vice-chancellor, filed a case with Rajpara Police Station on Tuesday night, against 50 to 60 unidentified persons. Police said the case was recorded the same night.

A group of 20 to 50 people allegedly stormed the VC's office around Thursday noon, while Prof Jawadul Haque was attending a virtual meeting with health ministry officials on ongoing construction projects.

RMU Deputy Registrar Md Mofakkharul Islam said the group ordered the VC to sign a resignation letter "without reading it". When the VC's personal secretary, Nazmul Hossain, intervened, he was assaulted and later allegedly forced to sign a separate resignation letter, despite telling the group he was a regular employee.

The group allegedly took both resignation letters, along with the VC's mobile phone and laptop. University officials later found that CCTV equipment had been removed, electricity, internet and other communication services disconnected, and several rooms locked, disrupting regular university activities.

Prof Jawadul Haque told The Daily Star that some of those who entered his office appeared linked to local contractors, while others were outsiders allegedly backed by political groups. He said they accused him of awarding university contracts to Dhaka-based firms instead of local contractors, and chanted slogans branding him an "Awami League collaborator".

Talks with IMF

FROM PAGE 1

In May, eight months before the expiry of its tenure, the new BNP-led government decided to exit the $4.7 billion loan programme signed by the previous Awami League government in January 2023 and later topped up to $5.5 billion by the interim government.

Bangladesh has so far received $3.8 billion in five tranches, with the sixth tranche delayed after the IMF suspended talks in November last year and decided to resume discussions with the new government following the election.

The government instead applied for a fresh package, according to a June 3 statement from Ivo Krznar, the IMF mission chief for Bangladesh.

"The authorities' request for a successor arrangement provides an opportunity for the Fund and the authorities to agree on a potential programme that both reflects the current challenges and incorporates the new authorities' objectives and priorities."

Any new arrangement would need to be based on Bangladesh's balance-of-payments needs and strong policy commitments anchored by a credible reform agenda, and would be subject to the IMF's policies and executive board approval, the statement added.

Subsequently, an IMF staff team visited Dhaka in July on a fact-finding mission.

15yr NCT deal with DP World to be signed today

FROM PAGE 12

operator will reduce vessel turnaround and container dwell times and lower logistics costs for importers and exporters, particularly benefiting sectors such as garment, agricultural products, processed goods and light engineering.

Asked about concerns over possible labour unrest following the deal, Zakaria said the government expected the agreement to bring positive changes to the port and the wider economy.

No existing worker would be laid off: they would be integrated into the new system and their wages and benefits would see no change, according to a summary of the agreement seen by The Daily Star.

The government also expects local workers to receive training in modern terminal management and technology, potentially creating new employment opportunities.

The deal was done on a government-to-government arrangement. DP World is wholly owned by the Dubai government.

The World Bank Group's International Finance Corporation was the transaction adviser for the deal.

The deal will follow a landlord-port model, with Chattogram Port Authority (CPA) retaining ownership and control of NCT while DP World operates it for 15 years and will be responsible for maintenance and repairs of equipment.

At the end of the deal, the terminal will be handed back to CPA along with technology and technical knowledge needed for continued operation.

While the feasibility study estimated the project cost at $205 million, the agreement provides for around $150 million in investment by the operator during the concession period, including terminal modernisation, equipment upgrades and technological improvements.

CPA will receive 40 to 67 percent of royalty or revenue per TEU, with the amount linked to the terminal's average income, according to the summary.

The Chattogram Bandar Rokkha Sangram Parishad has claimed that NCT generated around Tk 4,500 crore in revenue and Tk 2,500 crore in net income in fiscal 2025-26.

The agreement summary sets performance indicators, including gradually reducing truck turnaround time to 90 minutes, improving crane productivity from the second year and introducing paperless operations through automation.

The process to bring an international operator into NCT began in 2019.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs gave in-principle approval in March 2023 for appointing an international private operator under the public-private partnership framework.

The interim government revived the move and opted for DP World. But the process was stalled after strong opposition and a workers' strike earlier this year.

The new government later revived negotiations.

School textbooks to get new content on history

FROM PAGE 12

However, experts cautioned against allowing textbook accounts of history to change with governments, stressing that historical content should be based on evidence rather than political considerations.

CHANGES FOR 2027

A significant addition is what the document calls "Ziaur Rahman's 'We Revolt' rebellion and declaration of independence", which will be covered briefly in Classes 3-7 and in greater detail in Classes 8-10.

Biographies of Ziaur Rahman and Khaleda Zia will be added to the Class 5 Bangladesh and Global Studies textbook under "Our Memorable Leaders", while Zia's essay, "Memories of the War of Independence", will be included in the Bangla textbook for Classes 9-10.

Other Liberation War-related additions include a brief text on the seven Bir Sreshthos for Class 6 and another on the "Liberation War Brigade Forces" for Class 8. Classes 9-10 will cover the organisational phase of the war, including the Teliapara Meeting on April 4, 1971.

Several texts on Bangladesh's post-independence history will also be added.

Books for Class 6 and above will include progressively detailed accounts of the "Sipahi-Janata Revolution" of November 7, 1975, while "Khaleda Zia's contribution to the 1990 mass uprising" will feature in books for Class 8 and Classes 9-10.

Texts on the 2024 uprising, including "The Story of Martyr Anas" and "July Mass Uprising Memorial Museum", will be included in books for Class 4 and Classes 9-10.

REVISIONS THROUGH THE YEARS

Accounts of the Liberation War in school textbooks have repeatedly changed with governments.

After the Awami League came to power in 1996, new Liberation War material was added, including content on Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the four national leaders.

The BNP-led government revised the books after taking office in 2001, removing or reducing references to Sheikh Mujib and his March 7 speech while giving Ziaur Rahman greater prominence in accounts of the declaration of independence.

After the AL returned to power in 2009, an expert committee reviewed textbook accounts of the Liberation War. The revised books reinstated Sheikh Mujib's biography and his role in the declaration of independence, while Zia's name was removed.

After August 2024, the interim government discontinued the 2022 national curriculum and returned secondary education to the 2012 framework, changing accounts of the declaration of independence yet again.

The 2025 textbooks state that Zia declared independence on March 26, 1971, and made a second declaration on behalf of Sheikh Mujib the following day. Material on the July Uprising was also added during the interim government's tenure, while content on Sheikh Mujib and his family was revised or removed.

2028 CURRICULUM

Prof Mawla said the NCTB's Curriculum Development and Revision Core Committee would begin work on the 2028 curriculum this month.

"A curriculum cannot be changed in a day. It develops gradually," he said.

Before that, four new books will be introduced in 2027, two each for Classes 4 and 6. Class 4 students will get books on sports and Bangladeshi culture, while Class 6 students will receive one on technical education and another titled "Learning with Happiness".

Asked whether the additional books could increase students' academic burden, Prof Mawla said they were designed not to, adding that the subjects would not be assessed through conventional grading.

A new text titled "Third Language" will also be added to the Class 6 Bangla textbook, while ICT textbooks will be updated with material on artificial intelligence and emerging technologies.

THE PRINTING RACE

The NCTB plans to print around 31 crore textbooks for roughly four crore students at pre-primary, secondary and equivalent levels for 2027.

Production and delivery of primary-level books are comparatively well advanced, but secondary-level books lag far behind.

According to the latest figures from NCTB Member (Textbook) Prof Mohammad Abu Naser, 84 percent of pre-primary books had been printed and delivered, compared with 64 percent for Class 1, 63 percent for Class 2, 51 percent for Class 3, 26 percent for Class 4 and 21 percent for Class 5.

By contrast, only around 13 percent of secondary-level books had been delivered.

The figure stood at 41 percent for the ibtedayi level, 18 percent for Class 6, 17 percent for Class 7 and just 2 percent for Class 8, while none for Classes 9-10 had yet been delivered.

The four new books for Classes 4 and 6 have yet to enter the printing process as regular work orders have not been issued, Prof Naser said.

He said primary books were expected to reach the field by October 15-20.

"There is no concern over the primary books," he added.

For secondary books, the board is working to meet a November 30 deadline for delivery to every upazila across the country, he said.

'HISTORY SHOULDN'T CHANGE WITH GOVTS'

Prof Siddiqur Rahman, a curriculum specialist and former director and retired professor of Dhaka University's Institute of Education and Research, said textbook accounts of history should not change with the party in power.

"Today one party will come to power, tomorrow another, and they will arrange history in their own way. That cannot be history.... Whoever comes to power, we want the correct history presented to the new generation."

He said individual contributions to the Liberation War and subsequent political events should be presented based on evidence, without diminishing or exaggerating anyone's role.

"Distorting events people witnessed themselves would raise questions about the credibility of textbooks," he added.

Prof Siddiqur said neutral, qualified experts should write historical content based on documented evidence and, where relevant, accounts from those who directly witnessed the events.

He also opposed using a government's electoral pledge as the basis for determining historical content.

"The present generation does not belong to any one political party. They are citizens of Bangladesh who will take part in building the country in the future," he said, warning that deliberately presenting falsehoods as truth would be harmful.

Prof Siddiqur called for permanent NCTB rules ensuring that textbook and curriculum preparation follows the same principles regardless of which party is in power.

Drawing on his experience as an NCTB consultant and curriculum committee head, he said writers should be selected based on their subject expertise, with safeguards against lobbying that could allow unsuitable people into the process.

JS body puts women athletes' safety first

FROM PAGE 3

inquiry committee on November 8 last year to investigate Jahanara's harassment allegations.

Sharmin Akter Ratna, a gold-winning shooter at the South Asian Games and Commonwealth Shooting Championship, filed a case in November 2025 against former Bangladesh Shooting Sports Federation joint secretary GM Haider Sajjad.

The case was filed with Gulshan Police Station a day after national shooter Kamrun Nahar Koly lodged a general diary against the same official on behalf of Ratna and fellow shooter Tasmayati Ema.

Ratna alleged that Sajjad had harassed her for years, starting in 2012, including through proposals for physical relations, inappropriate touching, verbal abuse, obscene remarks, intentional hugs and other misconduct.

In May 2024, Rab [now SRB] arrested two individuals, including Rafiqul Islam Newton, former general secretary of the Bangladesh Ju-Jitsu Association, in connection with a rape case filed by a female athlete affiliated with the organisation.

At yesterday's meeting, the committee was briefed on the activities of the Ministry of Youth and Sports and its affiliated departments and agencies, as well as initiatives under the government's 180-day action programme.

It recommended extensive publicity for the Notun Kuri Sports 2026-27 programme across electronic, print and online media.

To protect young people from drug abuse and engage them in sports and employment-oriented activities, the committee also recommended bringing unemployed youths under various training programmes and organising annual sporting events at the upazila level.

It further recommended constructing at least one playground in every union in line with the prime minister's election manifesto.

Dhaka, a city growing without a plan

FROM PAGE 3

Azam J Chowdhury, chairman of East Coast Group, suggested reserving space for LPG storage and distribution facilities in housing sectors and promoting solar systems in houses and apartment buildings.

Housing and Public Works Minister Zakaria Taher said the government was working to strengthen urban planning through a roughly 10-year initiative, which will include zoning to determine where different types of development should take place.

Taher said regulations were being prepared for buildings constructed without approved plans or in violation of approved designs. "The draft rules could be placed before the Cabinet within a month," he said.

Don't cry

FROM PAGE 3

Kulsum said she found a small bullet wound at the back of his skull, another injury to his chest and the skin on his left cheek hanging loose.

After the funeral prayers, the family took Emon's body to their village home in Bhola. On the way, they were stopped at three places by AL activists and law enforcers, she said.

Emon was buried in his village home on July 21.

Kulsum demanded justice for her son's killing.

Climate resilience

FROM PAGE 3

adaptation and mitigation through coordinated policies, investments and partnerships guided by the National Adaptation Plan and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC 3.0)."

He said the government was prioritising resilient communities, sustainable water and agriculture systems, ecosystem protection, renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Reaffirming Bangladesh's commitment to climate justice, he said countries and communities with limited responsibility for global emissions continue to bear significant costs in protecting lives and sustaining development.

International cooperation must respond to these needs, including support for adaptation and addressing loss and damage, he added.

Mintoo outlined six priorities for advancing climate action: strengthening implementation of national climate frameworks, improving the quality of climate projects, mobilising accessible and appropriate financing, ensuring meaningful participation of local communities, enhancing the use of knowledge and innovation, and improving accountability through measurable results.

He also launched the BCDP web portal, a digital platform to check real-time climate investments.

State Minister for Environment Shaikh Faridul Islam called for greater attention to climate-vulnerable communities, particularly in coastal areas affected by river erosion, salinity intrusion and extreme weather.

He urged stakeholders to work together to improve livelihoods, healthcare, education and environmental protection.

He said the BCDP must accelerate its work and deliver tangible results, noting that progress since its launch in 2024 had been slower than expected.

Environment Secretary Fahmida Khanom, who chaired the event, stressed collective action and sustained partnerships with international development organisations, the private sector, academia and civil society.

Satya Srinivas Lolla, executive director of ADB, said, "Climate ambition must be matched by climate investment," adding that the success of climate initiatives would ultimately be measured by the actions and investments that follow rather than conference discussions alone.

He said the key policy challenge was designing development pathways that expand prosperity and opportunity while reducing vulnerability to climate change and limiting long-term environmental costs.

Saimum Parvez, special assistant to the prime minister for environment, forest and climate change, said Bangladesh remains highly vulnerable to climate change despite contributing little to global emissions, but has demonstrated resilience through disaster preparedness, early warning systems and community-based adaptation initiatives.

He called for fair climate finance, technology transfer and stronger international partnerships, while pointing to Bangladesh's experience in community-led adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

The first day featured three plenary sessions on climate resilience and low-carbon growth, implementation of the National Adaptation Plan (2023-2050), and financing mechanisms for delivering Bangladesh's NDC 3.0 through public and private investment partnerships.

In his keynote speech in the first session, Ahsan Uddin Ahmed, former member of the Independent Technical Advisory Panel at the Green Climate Fund, called for greater investment in adaptation, stronger policy support, improved knowledge-based planning and broader partnerships to safeguard Bangladesh's development trajectory.

BANGLADESH BANK
Human Resources Department-1
Head Office, Motijheel
Dhaka-1000

Circular No: 78/2026 Date: 06/10/2026

Tender Cancellation Notice

Invitation for Tender No: 76/2026 dated on 17/09/2026 for appointing a Service Provider/Manpower Management Contractor to supply manpower for the post of 01 Supervisor and 424 MLSS for 03(Three) years at Head Office and Chattogram, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barishal and Sylhet offices of Bangladesh Bank is hereby cancelled under the clause No.12 of the tender notice.

ডিসিপি: ৪৮/২০২৬-২৬৫১
তারিখ: ০৭-১০-২০২৬

(Md. Tariqul Islam)
Director (HRD-1) (Current Charge)
Human Resources Department-1
Phone: 02-9530492
E-mail: gm.hrd@bb.org.bd

ব্যাংকিং ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে, হয়রানির শিকার হলে কিংবা কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

GD-2440

BANGLADESH BANK
Human Resources Department-1
Head Office, Motijheel
Dhaka-1000

Circular No: 77/2026 Date: 06/10/2026

Tender Cancellation Notice

Invitation for Tender No: 75/2026 dated on 17/09/2026 for appointing a Service Provider/Manpower Management Contractor to supply manpower for the post of 01 Supervisor and 460 MLSS for 03(Three) years at Head Office and Motijheel, Sadarghat, Mymensingh, Bogura, Rangpur offices of Bangladesh Bank is hereby cancelled under the clause No. 12 of the tender notice.

ডিসিপি: ৪৮/২০২৬-২৬৪৫
তারিখ: ০৭-১০-২০২৬

(Md. Tariqul Islam)
Director (HRD-1) (Current Charge)
Human Resources Department-1
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ব্যাংকিং ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে, হয়রানির শিকার হলে কিংবা কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

GD-2439

বাংলাদেশ মাদ্রাসা শিক্ষা বোর্ড
২নং অরফ্যানেজ রোড, বখশিবাজার, ঢাকা-১২১১
Website: www.bmeb.gov.bd

Memo no: 57.16.0000.006.84.010.26-1758 Date: 07/10/2026

CORRIGENDUM NOTICE

Tender ID No	With reference to the Tender Document, the following corrections shall be made:
1344334	1. Under **Serial No. 1 of the Details of Technical Specifications and Standard Requirements**, the number of pages of the Answer Sheet has inadvertently been mentioned as **24 (Twenty-Four)** pages at one place. The correct number of pages shall be **16 (Sixteen)** pages. 2. Under **TDS Clause No. 30.1**, the amount of Tender Security has inadvertently been mentioned as **BDT 30,00,000 (Thirty Lakh) only**. The correct amount of Tender Security shall be **BDT 3,00,000 (Three Lakh) only**. All other terms and conditions of the Tender Document shall remain unchanged.

(Prof. S. M. Tohiduzzaman)
Registrar
Phone: 9612858
e-mail: registrar@bmeb.gov.bd

GD-2441

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Project Director
Conversion of Existing Chattogram-Dohazari Meter Gauge
Track into Dual Gauge Track Project
Bangladesh Railway, Rail Bhaban, Dhaka.

No: PD/CDRP/30 MG Loco/2024-578 Dated: 07.10.2026

CORRIGENDUM NO. 1

The following Corrigendum No. 1 to the Invitation for Bids (IFB) OCB No. BR/ADB/30 MG DE Locomotives/2026, Dated: 10.09.2026 for Package GD1: Procurement of 30 nos. Meter Gauge Diesel Electric Complete Locomotives including drawing, spare parts, tools and plants, catalogue, capital and maintenance spares, overseas training, service engineer, study tour etc. for the project "Conversion of Existing Chattogram-Dohazari Meter Gauge Track into Dual Gauge Track" is hereby issued:

Reference	Existing Detail	Detail as per Corrigendum No. 1
Section 2- Bid Data Sheet: ITB 7.4	Date: 14 October 2026 Time: 11:00 hrs. (Bangladesh Local Time) Place: Room No. 825, Rail Bhaban, 4/3, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.	Date: 03 November 2026 Time: 11:00 hrs. (Bangladesh Local Time) Place: Room No. 825, Rail Bhaban, 4/3, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.
Section 2- Bid Data Sheet: ITB 24.1	The deadline for bid submission is: Date: 03 November 2026 Time: On or Before the deadline 11:30 AM (Bangladesh Local Time)	The deadline for bid submission is: Date: 03 December 2026 Time: On or Before the deadline 11:30 AM (Bangladesh Local Time)
Section 2- Bid Data Sheet: ITB 27.1	The Technical bid opening shall take place at: Street address: 4/3, Abdul Gani Road, Rail bhaban, Dhaka-1000. City: Dhaka Country: Bangladesh Date: 03 November 2026 Time: 12:00 PM	The Technical bid opening shall take place at: Street address: 4/3, Abdul Gani Road, Rail bhaban, Dhaka-1000. City: Dhaka Country: Bangladesh Date: 03 December 2026 Time: 12:00 PM

Corrigendum No. 1 shall become a part of the Invitation for Bids (IFB).

07.10.26

(Md. Ariful Islam)
Project Director (addl.ch.)
E-mail: pdctg_dhz@railway.gov.bd

GD-2438

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
কর কমিশনারের কার্যালয়
কর অঞ্চল-২৫, ঢাকা
স্কাউট শতাব্দী ভবন, ৬০, আঞ্জুমান মুফিদুল ইসলাম সড়ক, কাকরাইল, ঢাকা-১০০০।
www.taxeszone25dhaka.gov.bd

নথি নং: জনবল সংক্রান্ত/কঃঅঃ-২৫/২০২৬-২০২৭/২২৪ তারিখ: ০৬/১০/২০২৬ খ্রি.

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

অর্থ মন্ত্রণালয় এর স্মারক নম্বর: ০৮.০০.০০০০.০০০.০৩৭.১১.০০০১.২৪.১৭২, তারিখ: ১০/০৫/২০২৬ খ্রি. অনুযায়ী প্রাপ্ত ছাড়পত্রের ভিত্তিতে কর কমিশনারের কার্যালয়, কর অঞ্চল-২৫, ঢাকা এর অধীন গ্রেড-১৩ হতে গ্রেড-২০ পর্যন্ত নিম্নোক্ত ৬১ (একষট্টি)টি শূন্য পদে সরাসরি কোটায় অস্থায়ী জনবল নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে ঢাকা মহানগর, ঢাকা জেলা ও মানিকগঞ্জ জেলার স্থায়ী বাসিন্দাগণের নিকট হতে নিম্নবর্ণিত পদসমূহের পার্শ্বে বর্ণিত যোগ্যতা সম্পন্ন প্রার্থীদের শর্তসাপেক্ষে টেলিটক বাংলাদেশ লিঃ এর ওয়েবসাইটের (https://tax25.teletalk.com.bd) মাধ্যমে অনলাইনে আবেদনপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। অনলাইন ব্যতীত কোন আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না।

ক্রমিক	পদের নাম ও গ্রেড (জাতীয় বেতনস্কেল, ২০১৫ অনুযায়ী)	পদের সংখ্যা
১.	ব্যক্তিগত সহকারী (গ্রেড-১৩)	০৪ (চার) টি
২.	প্রধান সহকারী (গ্রেড-১৩)	০৬ (ছয়) টি
৩.	উচ্চমান সহকারী (গ্রেড-১৪)	১৩ (তেরো) টি
৪.	সাঁট মুদ্রাক্ষরিক কাম-কম্পিউটার অপারেটর (গ্রেড-১৪)	১১ (এগারো) টি
৫.	অফিস সহকারী কাম-কম্পিউটার মুদ্রাক্ষরিক (গ্রেড-১৬)	১৪ (চৌদ্দ) টি
৬.	অফিস সহায়ক (গ্রেড-২০)	১৩ (তেরো) টি

Online-এ আবেদনপত্র পূরণ ও পরীক্ষার ফি জমাদান শুরুর তারিখ ও সময়:	০৮.১০.২০২৬ খ্রি. সকাল ১০:০০ টা।
Online-এ আবেদনপত্র জমাদানের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়:	২৫.১০.২০২৬ খ্রি. বিকাল ৪:০০ টা।

নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত পূর্ণাঙ্গ বিজ্ঞপ্তিটি দেখার জন্য কর কমিশনারের কার্যালয়, কর অঞ্চল-২৫, ঢাকার ওয়েবসাইট https://taxeszone25dhaka.gov.bd ভিজিট করুন অথবা নিম্নোক্ত কিউআর কোড স্ক্যান করুন। অনলাইন (Online) ব্যতীত কোনো আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না।

কর অঞ্চল-২৫, ঢাকা এর ওয়েবসাইটে প্রবেশ এর QR code

কর অঞ্চল- ২৫, ঢাকা এর টেলিটক পোর্টালে প্রবেশ এর QR code

০৬/১০/২৬

(মোঃ আহয়ুব আলী)
উপ কর কমিশনার
সদর দপ্তর (প্রশাসন)
কর অঞ্চল-২৫, ঢাকা
ও
সদস্য সচিব, বিভাগীয় নিয়োগ কমিটি
কর অঞ্চল-২৫, ঢাকা।
ই-মেইল: taxeszone25@gmail.com

GD-2427

INTERVIEW

Silence, faith, and the unseen: Jon Fosse in conversation

AHMED AHSANUZZAMAN



I don't think they are passive. They are searching. Action is not always movement. Sometimes action is staying, or refusing to leave, or enduring oneself. My characters act through endurance. They confront their fears by remaining with them. That is a kind of courage. Literature often celebrates dramatic action, but human life is mostly made of quiet decisions. I write about those.

DESIGN: MAHMUDA EMDAD

In early September, I met Jon Fosse, Nobel Laureate in Literature 2023, at Oslo's Kunstnernes Hus (Artists' House), a cultural landmark situated opposite the Royal Palace gardens. The quiet atmosphere of the building seemed fitting for a writer whose work has become synonymous with silence, repetition, and the unsaid.

Only a short walk away stands Grotten, the honorary residence granted by the Norwegian state to distinguished contributors to national culture and where Fosse now lives. The proximity between the writer's home and the symbolic centre of Norwegian public life reflects the place he occupies in the nation's cultural imagination.

Fosse's relationship with Norwegian theatrical tradition is both intimate and distinct. He has written "Suzannah" (2026), a play centred on Henrik Ibsen's wife, and translated "Peer Gynt" (1867) into Nynorsk for Robert Wilson's acclaimed production. Yet his own dramatic vision differs markedly from Ibsen's. Where Ibsen built drama through conflict and revelation, Fosse creates tension through silence, repetition, waiting, and what remains unspoken. His recent works—*Våim* (2025), *Våim Hotel* (2026), and *The Play* (2025)—continue this trajectory.

I first met Fosse in 2007 while pursuing an MPhil in Ibsen Studies at the University of Oslo. When we met again on September 4 of this year, he surprised me by recalling that encounter. Not the details, as he later explained, but its atmosphere. That distinction between fact and feeling, memory and mood, perhaps offers the clearest insight into Fosse's artistic world.

What follows is an edited excerpt from our hour-long conversation.

Your new work—*Våim*, *Våim Hotel*, and *The Play*—seem to form a progression: origin, transition, and distillation. What binds these books together?

They are connected by a movement toward simplicity. *Våim* is the beginning—not a narrative beginning, but an existential one. It is about the first gesture, the first awareness. *Våim Hotel* is a place of suspension, where characters linger between what they know and what they fear. And *The Play* is the most reduced of the three. It is an attempt to see how little language is needed for something essential to remain.

Silence is central in your writing, but it can also be evasive. In these works, is silence a refuge, a confrontation, or something else entirely?

Silence is not a refuge, and it is not a confrontation. It is a condition. It is the ground from which language emerges. When I write, I listen to the silence first. If the silence is closed, the writing becomes closed. If the silence is open, the writing becomes open. Silence is not passive; it is active. It shapes the rhythm, the breath, the pauses. Silence is the space where truth becomes audible. I listen to silence, to memory, to the unseen.

Some critics argue that your characters are passive—that they wait too much, hesitate too much, endure too much. Do you see them as passive, or is their stillness a form of action?

I don't think they are passive. They are searching. Action is not always movement. Sometimes action is staying, or refusing to leave, or enduring oneself. My characters act through endurance. They confront their fears by remaining with them. That is a kind of courage. Literature often celebrates dramatic action, but human life is mostly made of quiet decisions. I write about those.

You often describe writing as a spiritual practice. But spirituality is a contested word. What does spirituality mean in your work?

Spirituality, for me, is simply the awareness that something exists beyond what can be said. I am not interested in doctrine or theology. I am interested in the experience of the unseen – the sense that something is present even when it cannot be named. Writing is my way of approaching that presence. It is a form of listening. If spirituality appears in my work, it is because I write from that listening.

You have written "Suzannah", a play about Ibsen's wife, and you have engaged with "Peer Gynt". Yet you once said you were reluctant to write anything connected to Ibsen. Could you talk about that reluctance, and how you eventually approached these works? And how do you see yourself in relation to Ibsen and the Norwegian theatrical tradition?

Yes, I was reluctant—very reluctant, actually. When NRK first approached me about writing something related to Ibsen, I said no. I felt Ibsen was too monumental, too established, too present in Norwegian culture. I didn't want to add to the mountain of Ibsen commentary. And I didn't want to be trapped inside his world. I write from a different place. But eventually I agreed, because the challenge itself became interesting. I realised that if I were to write anything about Ibsen, it had to be from an angle that was not Ibsen's own. "Suzannah" is almost absent in the biographies, but she is present in the shadows. I wanted to bring her out of the shadows. I wanted to show Ibsen through her tone, her silence, her endurance. Her refrain, "I am Ibsen"—I had read it in one of the biographies. It struck me because it reveals something essential: she was not only his wife; she was part of his identity. She carried him, supported him, and in some ways, created the conditions for his genius. It stayed with me.

As for "Peer Gynt", I was again reluctant. I didn't want to touch Ibsen's language. But I was asked to translate it into Nynorsk, and the challenge was enormous. I had to strip Ibsen's Danish-Norwegian of its rhymes, its musicality, and yet keep it as close as possible to the original. It was like walking a tightrope: remove the ornamentation, but preserve the soul. That challenge—the difficulty of bringing Ibsen's text into my own linguistic world—was what convinced me to do it.

The Nobel Prize changed your visibility dramatically. Has it changed your writing or your relationship to your work?

No. Recognition is external. Writing is internal. The prize is an honour, but it doesn't enter the silence where the writing happens. That space remains untouched. If I allowed expectations to enter that space, I wouldn't be able to write at all.

You write often about fear—fear of loss, fear of disappearance, fear of the self. Are these your own fears?

Yes, of course. All writers write from their fears. Fear reveals what we care about. I write to understand my fears, not to escape them. Fear is a form of truth. It is a way of seeing.

This September, "Suzannah" will be staged in Bangladesh—translated into Bangla jointly by Subah Binte Ahsan and myself, and directed by me during the Henrik Ibsen–Jon Fosse Festival 2026 at Independent University, Bangladesh. This will be the first staging of a work by Fosse in Bangladesh. Is there anything you would like to say to the production team?

I hope everyone listens to one another—the director, the performers, and the audience—so that the performance comes together.

Ahmed Ahsanuzzaman *is professor of English and Director, Kazi Nazrul Islam and Abbasuddin Ahmed Research & Study Centre at Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB). Fosse's play* "Suzannah" *is set to premiere under his direction at IUB on 30 September. He can be reached at: ahsanuzzaman@iub.edu.bd.*

BOOK REVIEW: FICTION

Chasing myths before midnight

Review of 'Alchemy of Secrets' (Flatiron Books, 2025) by Stephanie Garber

TAHMINA HOSSAIN

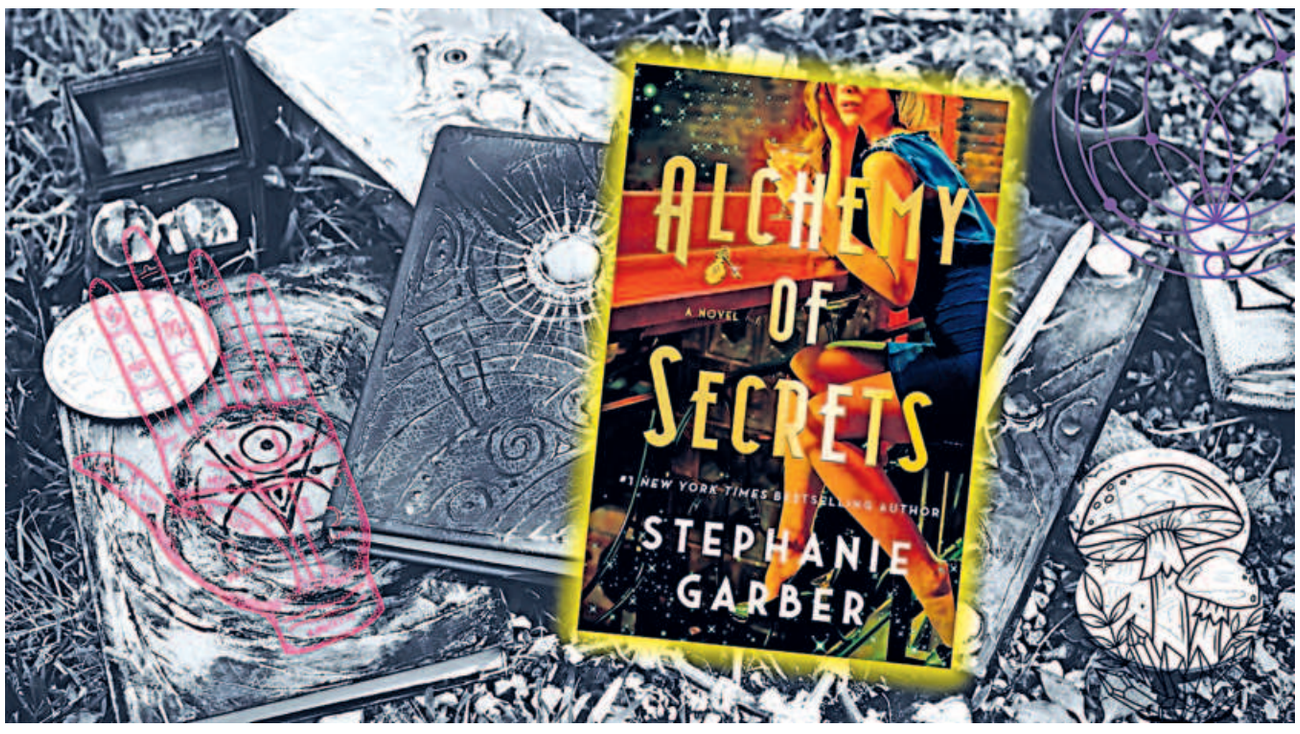


ILLUSTRATION: MAISHA SYEDA

Alchemy of Secrets is Stephanie Garber's first attempt at adult fantasy. The story follows Holland St. James and her obsession with folklore and magic. The voracious hunger for folklore and mythology compels Holland to enroll in a Folklore course titled Folklore 517: Local Legends and Urban Myths—taken by a woman whom everyone addresses as Professor. Interestingly, the real name of this Professor is not mentioned anywhere in the book. Every student who enrolled in her class is required to follow one rule: never to share the stories with anyone outside this classroom unless they want to end up dead themselves, or bring death to the person they share the stories with. It's a simple yet deeply unsettling rule, which makes many students drop the course immediately, except for a few exceptions. But out of nowhere, the Professor disappears without a trace, putting a stop to classes. And Holland, with her impulsive desire to check the validity of the myths, embarks on a quest to unearth buried truths and comes face-to-face with one of the folklore characters taught by the Professor in the class. This mythical entity is addressed as the Watch Man. According to the myth, the Watch Man tells everyone the time of their death and a way to cheat it. Staying true to the myth, the Watch Man tells Holland that she has 24 hours to live—exactly till 11:59 PM on the day of Halloween—unless she finds an object called the alchemical heart to bypass her untimely death. This is when all hell breaks loose, and the plot takes an accelerated momentum.

The first few chapters are chaotic, as Garber slowly feeds us little tidbits of Holland's past. Sometimes the urgency of the story and Holland's emphasis on the myth feel exaggerated, as Holland's occasional humour undermines many serious situations. Furthermore, the intersection between Holland's intense urgency.

The main character, Holland, is not a conventional main character. She is on a personal quest to uncover the murder mystery of her famous parents—who once used to be prominent stars of Hollywood—and many more loosely and similarly connected mysterious deaths of other Hollywood celebrities. Unfortunately, the murder investigation failed to instill any sense of detecting danger or steering clear of it in Holland. She appears delusional and impulsive, sprinting behind anything that seems mysterious and outlandish. One example of her impulsivity is that Holland rushes towards the mysteries behind the myths and the magic taught in the class, completely disregarding the warning previously pointed out by the Professor. Additionally, Holland is naive too and gets backstabbed multiple times—sometimes literally, sometimes figuratively—by her friends and family. Yet she repeatedly ends up trusting the questionable characters. However, one admirable quality of Holland is her resilience; she never gives up despite the continuous betrayals.

The first few chapters are chaotic, as Garber slowly feeds us little tidbits of Holland's past. Sometimes the urgency of the story and Holland's emphasis on the myth feel exaggerated, as Holland's occasional humour undermines many serious situations. Furthermore, the intersection between Holland's intense urgency and mystery was hard to connect with anything potent. From chapter 4, the novel becomes interesting as Garber—finally—spills substantial plot and connects all the dots. This is when the story adds up, starting a new rollercoaster of an adventure. One of the reasons contributing to the confusion is that Garber frequently switches point of view from second person to third person—in every alternate chapter—for the majority of the book. This creates confusion as the exact reason for the switch remains unaddressed, and Garber never describes why she decides to do so. However, at the end of the story, the readers can get a hint of the possible reasons behind this.

Moreover, the ending is abrupt and incomplete, as the whereabouts of many characters are left unmentioned. It is hard not to ponder about Gabe, Mason, Adam, January, and Chance, and what eventually happens to them. Perhaps Garber does this intentionally, as *Alchemy of Secrets* is part of a series, and wanted the first installment to focus exclusively on solving the murder mystery and how the magical world functioned here.

The story takes place at the heart of Hollywood, California, with all the aesthetics of the film world and glamour of the 1980s. Since the book takes place during Halloween, *Alchemy of Secrets* becomes an ultimate reading treat for anyone looking for a whimsical retreat.

Tahmina Hossain *is first and foremost a reader, a lover of literature, and then a writer. If you enjoy rambling about literature like her, then reach out at: literary.ramblings.by.t@gmail.com.*

DHAKA THURSDAY OCTOBER 8, 2026, ASHWIN 23, 1433 BS

SPORT



Time is inevitable, and here we are, trying to find words to write the end of a cycle. Not the end of the story. Because there are stories that, when they become eternal, no longer have an end.

AFA president **CLAUDIO TAPIA** on Messi.



A LIFETIME IN 90 MINUTES

- Messi finished with 126 international goals in 208 appearances for Argentina, averaging 0.61 goals per game. He is second only to Cristiano Ronaldo (146) on the all-time international scoring list.
- Most-capped Argentine player, finishing 61 appearances ahead of Javier Mascherano (147).
- Argentina's all-time leading scorer, with 70 more goals than Gabriel Batistuta (56).
- 21 World Cup goals, the most by an Argentine player, ahead of Gabriel Batistuta (10), Guillermo Stabile (8) and Diego Maradona (8). Messi is second only to Kylian Mbappe (22) on the all-time World Cup scoring list.
- With 12 assists, Messi holds the record for most goal contributions (33) in World Cup history.
- 34 World Cup appearances, the most by any player. Among Argentines, Diego Maradona (21) and Javier Mascherano (20) come next.
- Won three major international titles with Argentina -- the 2021 and 2024 Copa America, the 2022 World Cup and the 2022 Finalissima.
- Made his Argentina debut against Hungary on August 17, 2005, before ending his international career against Benin more than two decades later.

PHOTOS: **AFP**/**REUTERS**

TANVIR AHMED PRANTO

For a few seconds yesterday, Lionel Messi stood still. The Argentine anthem echoed around the Monumental, his three sons beside him, family watching from the stands and 85,000 people singing for a man who had given them so much to sing about. Visibly emotional, Messi looked towards the pitch, taking in a lifetime of memories before stepping into the final 90 minutes of his Argentina career.

Then the ball moved, and somehow, he was still Messi.

At 39, in his 208th and final appearance, he played the full match against Benin, assisting Nicolas Otamendi for the opener, setting up Nico Paz for the second and scoring the third from the penalty spot. Argentina won 3-0, Messi took his international tally to 126, and even on a night built around goodbye, he looked completely at home in the blue and white.

For almost half his life, Messi had been a constant for Argentina. His story had brought heartbreak and criticism, then triumph and glory. On Wednesday night, those two sides seemed to meet: the tears before kick-off and the football once the game began, followed by the gratitude after the final whistle.

The journey was anything but simple.

At 18, Messi inherited expectations that had little to do with the player he was and everything to do with the legends who came before him. Argentina had Alfredo Di Stefano and Diego Maradona. Messi was expected to follow them, and every failure was measured against a standard that seemed impossible at the time.

He was left on the bench during the 2006 World Cup quarter-final against Germany, watched a gifted generation fall apart in 2010 and then lost the 2014 World Cup final and the Copa America finals of 2015 and 2016. At the 2011 Copa America, he was booed in Santa Fe, in his own province. After the 2016 defeat to Chile, he walked away from international football.



There were years when Argentina seemed determined to ask why Messi could not be the player they wanted instead of appreciating the one they had. Yet he kept coming back.

Under Lionel Scaloni, the relationship began to change. The 2019 Copa offered hope; the 2021 Copa brought release as Messi finally won a major international title, beating Brazil at the Maracana. Then came the Finalissima, Qatar 2022 and another Copa in 2024. The player who had once been questioned became the captain who brought Argentina the World Cup.

By the time Argentina celebrated in Buenos Aires after Qatar, around five or six million people had poured into the streets. The country had gone from criticising Messi to embracing him with almost unimaginable force.

During the 2022 World Cup final, while his brothers celebrated wildly after Argentina's goals, Thiago was more restrained. He knew what his father had endured. At six, he had once asked Messi why people in Argentina wanted to kill him. Messi had no easy answer after losing final after final for his country. At the Monumental, he no longer needed one. Thiago stood beside his father while the stadium sang his name.

After the final whistle, Messi said leaving Argentina would hurt, but he was going with peace. He thanked his teammates for helping fulfil his childhood dream of becoming world champion, thanked the supporters and remembered his father Jorge, who died only two months earlier. There was no bitterness in his farewell, only gratitude for a story that had finally reached its end.

The match was an exhibition against Benin, but nobody inside the Monumental was there simply to watch a friendly. A giant Argentina shirt lay across the pitch, Messi's № 10 on the back and one word where his name should have been: Gracias.

Argentina took a remarkably long time to understand the gift it had been given. On Wednesday, with tears in his eyes, peace in his heart and his family beside him, Messi walked away knowing that, finally, his country understood.

The tears before kick-off belonged to the Messi Argentina had known until 2016. The boy who arrived carrying impossible expectations, the player who lost finals and was told he was never quite enough. The peace after the final whistle belonged to the Messi who returned, stayed, won and finally saw the sun begin to shine over his relationship with his country.

Nico Paz and the impossible task

STAR SPORTS DESK

The idea of replacing Lionel Messi, at least figuratively, naturally pops up after the 39-year-old hung up his boots from international football following Argentina's 3-0 win over Benin in a friendly at the Estadio Monumental yesterday.

Messi is arguably the greatest footballer to have graced the game, making the prospect of replacing him seem almost impossible. But, like everything else, life must go on. The baton, however indispensable a player may be to a side, must eventually be passed. Someone has to assume the mantle, even if they don't want to.

Naturally, Nico Paz has been tipped to take the torch and is the leading candidate among Alexis Mac Allister and Franco



Mastantuono for Messi's №10 shirt and the burden of scoring as well as playmaking that comes with it.

This FIFA window, the longest ever, has also helped Paz make his case. He has scored in each of Argentina's three friendlies, including Messi's farewell against Benin, where he scored the third goal from a Messi assist. It was his fourth goal for the Albiceleste.

Paz, who has 14 caps for Argentina, came on as a substitute and immediately combined with Messi on the right flank before curling a left-footed strike into the far corner -- a finish Messi would have had no hesitation acknowledging.

The 22-year-old certainly fits the profile Argentina may need. An elegant, left-footed playmaker who operates in the half-spaces, Paz possesses the guile of a № 10, while his 6'1" frame gives him a height and power advantage, along with the physicality and athleticism to dominate that area of the pitch.

While fans will inevitably look for similarities to Messi, Paz offers a very different physical package that could adapt well to the demands of modern football.

Argentina could also get more defensive work rate. Unlike late-career Messi, who naturally conserved energy out of possession, Paz presses, tracks back and tackles, giving Lionel Scaloni's midfield greater structural solidity without sacrificing creativity.

Rather than trying to be Messi, Paz can take the baton by becoming Argentina's hybrid engine, combining final-third vision with physical power. But expecting him to replace Messi rather than become himself would be unfair. Few, if any, can replicate what Messi has done.

'If all goes well, I'll continue'

STAR SPORTS DESK

Lionel Scaloni hinted that he will remain in charge of Argentina as the reigning world champions prepare for life without Lionel Messi following their 3-0 victory over Benin at the Monumental Stadium yesterday.

Scaloni's current contract expires in December, with the Argentine Football Association (AFA) keen to extend his deal for another World Cup cycle.

"If all goes well, I'll continue coaching, and the legacy Messi leaves behind is incredible. That's what I'll take away from it. There will never be anything like it on the pitch, and we are eternally grateful to him," Scaloni said.

Asked about his future, he added briefly: "There are still no updates."

Since taking charge in 2018, Scaloni has led the Albiceleste in 104 matches, registering 80 wins, 10 losses and 14 draws -- a win percentage of almost 77 percent, the highest among Argentina coaches. He ended Argentina's trophy drought by winning the 2021 Copa America, then clinched the 2022 World Cup in Qatar and the Finalissima that same year, before adding the 2024 Copa America. The 48-year-old is the only Argentina coach to have won both the World Cup and the Copa America, making him the country's most successful coach.



Enzo's tearful tribute

STAR SPORTS DESK

Enzo Fernandez struggled to hold back his tears as Lionel Messi addressed thousands of Argentina supporters at the Monumental following their 3-0 victory over Benin.

For Fernandez, Messi's farewell was more than the end of another international appearance. It marked the departure of the player he had admired since childhood and once dreamed of playing alongside.

That dream began when Fernandez was 15. In 2016, when Messi briefly stepped away from international football, Fernandez wondered whether he would ever get the chance to share a pitch with his idol. He even calculated their respective ages and how much time he might have to reach the senior team before Messi's international career ended.

The prospect seemed remote at the time. Messi returned, however, and Fernandez eventually made it to the Argentina team. The two went on to train together, share dressing rooms and celebrate major victories, including Argentina's 2022 World Cup triumph.



That dream began when Enzo Fernandez was 15. In 2016, when Lionel Messi briefly stepped away from international football, Fernandez wondered whether he would ever get the chance to share a pitch with his idol. He even calculated their respective ages and how much time he might have to reach the senior team before Messi's international career ended.

Fernandez has often spoken about how Messi treated him when he joined the national team, something that made their relationship particularly meaningful to him.

"I will always be grateful for how you treated me from the moment I arrived," Fernandez had written on social media after Messi had announced his retirement in August. "I came here with the hope of sharing the pitch with my idol, and instead I found someone who, from the very first moment, made me feel like one of the team."

While speaking to local media after the Benin match, Fernandez acknowledged the significance of the night.

"A very emotional day, to be honest, a lot of mixed feelings. I hope Leo enjoyed it. We're going to miss him a lot," he said.





School textbooks to get new content on history

Additions for 2027 cover Liberation War, Zia, Khaleda, July uprising

- 14 additions/ revisions to Liberation War and political history content for Classes 3-10
- 30.92 crore books planned for around four crore students
- Primary book delivery at around 44%; secondary at only 13%
- No Classes 9-10 books delivered yet

ARAFAT RAHAMAN

School textbooks will be revised for the 2027 academic year, with new content on the Liberation War, post-independence political history and the July Uprising.

The National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) has taken the initiative as part of the government's electoral pledge to present what it calls the accurate history of the Liberation War.

Students of Classes 3-10 will study new material on Ziaur Rahman, Khaleda Zia, the events of November 7, 1975, the 1990 mass uprising and the July 2024 uprising.

An NCTB document obtained by The Daily Star lists 14 additions or revisions to Bangla Literature, Bangladesh and Global Studies, and History of Bangladesh and World Civilisation textbooks.

NCTB Chairman Prof Mohammad Fakhrul Mawla said the 2027 changes mainly involve additions and revisions to existing books.

"There has not been much change. The major change, if there is to be one, will come with the 2028 curriculum," he told The Daily Star.

On September 8, Education Minister ANM Ehsanul Hoque Milon told parliament that the causes and course of the July uprising, killings during the movement, sacrifices of those killed, the role of women and the uprising's historical significance would be included in age-appropriate form in the national curriculum.

He also said the Classes 9-10 history textbook would cover disappearances, killings, money laundering, the electoral system, the Pilkhana tragedy, killings of journalists and media interference during the previous Awami League government.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

15yr NCT deal with DP World to be signed today

JAGARAN CHAKMA

Bangladesh and the UAE will at last sign a 15-year deal today for the operation and maintenance of the New Mooring Container Terminal (NCT) and its overflow container yard at Chattogram Port.

The NCT, built in 2007 at a cost of about Tk 2,000 crore, has five jetties and 14 of Chattogram Port's 18 quayside gantry cranes. It handles more than 40 percent of Chattogram Port's container throughput.

The deal, which marks a major shift in the management of Bangladesh's port infrastructure, comes at a time when a movement is underway opposing the handover of the key terminal to a foreign operator.

DP WORLD

The terminal was long operated by local Saif Powertec Limited. After its contract expired on July 6 last year, operations were taken over the following day by Chittagong Dry Dock, a Bangladesh Navy-run entity.

Demanding the cancellation of this process, Chattogram Bandar Rokkha Committee staged a sit-in protest in front of the Port Building on October 5 and has warned that they will halt port operations if the agreement with the foreign operator is finalised.

"We expect the agreement to create new opportunities for businesses and help them expand," said Shipping Secretary Md Zakaria.

The government says a global

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

B1 INFLATION EDGES UP ON FOOD COSTS AFTER FUEL PRICE HIKE

P4 22-DAY HILSA BAN BEGINS

P6 CRACKDOWNS ALONE CANNOT REIN IN TEEN GANGS FOR LONG

তিতাস গ্যাসট্রান্সমিসন এন্ড ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন পিএলসি
(পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানি)
কলসেন্টার-১৬৪৯৬
গ্যাস আইন মেনে চলুন
অবৈধভাবে গ্যাস ব্যবহার হতে বিরত থাকুন
গ্যাস ব্যবহারে সাশ্রয়ী হোন এবং
সময়মত গ্যাস বিল পরিশোধ করুন

অবৈধভাবে গ্যাস চুরি রোধে তিতাসের জিরো টলারেন্স :
মামলা, কারাদন্ড ও অর্থদন্ড

কোম্পানির আওতাধীন এলাকায় জ্বালানি ও খনিজ সম্পদ বিভাগ এবং সংশ্লিষ্ট জেলা প্রশাসনের নির্বাহী ম্যাজিস্ট্রেট-এর মাধ্যমে মোবাইল কোর্ট এবং কোম্পানির জনবল দ্বারা অবৈধ গ্যাস সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্ন অভিযান চলমান রয়েছে। উক্ত অভিযান পরিচালনাকালে অবৈধভাবে গ্যাস গ্রহণকারী ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানের বিরুদ্ধে মোবাইল কোর্টের মাধ্যমে বাংলাদেশ গ্যাস (সংশোধন) আইন, ২০২৬ অনুযায়ী মামলা দায়ের -এর পাশাপাশি বিভিন্ন মেয়াদে কারাদন্ড/অর্থদন্ড আরোপ/জরিমানা আদায়/মালামাল জব্দ করা হচ্ছে।

ইতোমধ্যে জুলাই, আগস্ট ও সেপ্টেম্বর' ২০২৬ মাসে ১৩৪টি মোবাইল কোর্ট ও কোম্পানির নিজস্ব অভিযান ৭৭২টি সহ সর্বমোট ৯০৬টি অভিযান পরিচালনা করে ২৪,৩১৫টি আবাসিক চুলা, ১৭০টি বাণিজ্যিক ও ১৪৬টি শিল্প গ্রাহকের সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্ন করা হয়েছে। এছাড়া, উক্ত সময় প্রায় ৪৭ কিলোমিটার এলাকায় গ্যাসের অবৈধ সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্ন করার ফলে দৈনিক প্রায় ১০.৮ মিলিয়ন ঘনফুট গ্যাস এর বিপরীতে আনুমানিক ১ কোটি টাকা সাশ্রয় হয়েছে। উল্লেখ্য, অবৈধ গ্যাস সংযোগ গ্রহণের দায়ে সংশ্লিষ্ট থানায় ১২টি মামলা ও ১টি FIR দায়ের এবং ৯ জনকে বিভিন্ন মেয়াদে কারাদন্ড প্রদান করা হয়েছে। অধিকন্তু, অবৈধভাবে গ্যাস সংযোগ প্রদানের সাথে জড়িত থাকার অভিযোগে কোম্পানির ১৭ জন কর্মকর্তা ও ১৯ জন কর্মচারীর বিরুদ্ধে ইতোমধ্যে বিভিন্ন ধরনের বিভাগীয়/প্রশাসনিক ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণসহ অবৈধ কার্যক্রমের সাথে জড়িত ৬ জন ঠিকাদারকে কালো তালিকাভুক্ত করা হয়েছে।

স্থানীয়ভাবে উৎপাদিত ও অতি উচ্চমূল্যে আমদানীকৃত প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাসের অপচয় রোধকল্পে এবং বৈধ গ্রাহক প্রান্তে সুষ্ঠু, নিরাপদ ও নিরবচ্ছিন্ন গ্যাস সরবরাহের লক্ষ্যে সম্মানিত গ্রাহক ও সচেতন নাগরিকের করণীয়ঃ

- গ্যাসের অবৈধ সংযোগের তথ্য তিতাস গ্যাস কোম্পানির সংশ্লিষ্ট দপ্তরকে জানানো;
- অভিযানকালে টিম'কে সঠিক তথ্য ও নিরাপদ পরিবেশ তৈরীর মাধ্যমে সহযোগিতা করা;
- অবৈধ সংযোগ থেকে বিস্ফোরণ ও অগ্নিকান্ডের ঝুঁকি সম্পর্কে নিজে সতর্ক থাকা এবং প্রতিবেশীদের সতর্ক করা;
- অবৈধ গ্যাস সংযোগ গ্রহণ হতে নিজে বিরত থাকা ও অপরকে বিরত রাখা;
- অবৈধ গ্যাস সংযোগের বিরুদ্ধে সামাজিকভাবে প্রতিরোধ গড়ে তোলা;
- অগ্নিদুর্ঘটনা প্রতিরোধে এবং গ্যাসের সরবরাহ স্বাভাবিক রাখতে অবৈধভাবে গ্যাস কম্প্রেসর/বুস্টার -এর ব্যবহার ও বিপণন হতে বিরত থাকা।

তিতাস গ্যাস কর্তৃপক্ষ

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