DHAKA MONDAY OCTOBER 19, 2026




YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

# The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION




REGD. NO. DA 781 | VOL. XXXVI NO. 264 | KARTIK 3, 1433 BS | www.thedailystar.net | JAMADIUL AWAL 7, 1448 HIJRI | 16 PAGES: TK 15.00

## Resorts 'built to burn' dot Marine Drive

### Most so-called eco resorts are made with wood, bamboo, other combustible materials

**MOKAMMEL SHUVO,** *Cox's Bazar*

The deadly fire at Tup Tup Resto & Resort in Inani has exposed the dangers of unapproved resorts mushrooming along Cox's Bazar Marine Drive. Many of these so-called eco-resorts are built with combustible materials but have inadequate fire safety measures.

Tup Tup had concrete pillars but wooden floors, walls and staircases, while bamboo and timber were also used, said Dolon Acharya, senior station officer at Cox's Bazar Fire Service Station.

- Probe team inspects Tup Tup resort site
- 11 remain missing against 10 unidentified bodies
- Owners accused in case
- Manager arrested

"These structures were not built in compliance with fire safety requirements," he said. Many guests became trapped because they could not escape down the stairs, which contributed to the high number of casualties, he added.

Many other establishments along Marine Drive have similar structures, leaving guests vulnerable to fire, while hotels, motels, and resorts have sprung up haphazardly, often without government approval.

Mohammad Shafiqul Islam, a warehouse inspector at the fire station, questioned how a three-storey building could operate as an eco-resort.

"These are not eco-resorts by any means," he said. "An eco-resort should have adequate open space, and its accommodation units should be single-storey."

Despite the proliferation of such establishments, government agencies could not provide an accurate count or comprehensive list of those operating without approval.

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'THEY PERISHED WHILE TRYING TO SAVE A CHILD' -- PAGE 2



**Students of Nimtala Chakpara Government Primary School in Rajshahi's Godagari upazila risk falling into the Padma as they cross an eroded riverbank on their way home. Recent flooding submerged homes and the school, while receding waters have triggered riverbank erosion. The photo was taken last week.** PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

## Ishraque's fate up in the air

### Reports say PM asked him to resign over firearm incident

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**



The fate of State Minister for Liberation War Affairs Ishraque Hossain appeared to be hanging in the balance late into last night.

Several media outlets reported last night that Prime Minister Tarique Rahman had asked Ishraque to resign from the cabinet following public outrage over his display of a firearm during an "anti-drug operation" in the capital's Gandaria on Saturday.

Citing sources close to the government, the reports said Tarique summoned Ishraque after a cabinet meeting at the

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## Migrants under trial abroad, what's Bangladesh's duty?

**TASNEEM TAYEB**

Bangladesh's laws recognise a right to legal assistance for migrant workers abroad. But what happens when a worker is arrested and prosecuted under another country's criminal laws? Who decides whether Bangladesh will help, and how?

**EXPLAINER**

These questions have surfaced following the execution of two people identified as Bangladeshis in Saudi Arabia on October 14.

Speaking on Saturday, State Minister-2 for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam said there was little she could do when a Bangladeshi citizen violated another country's laws. She also suggested the executions could serve as a lesson for Bangladeshis overseas.

Bangladesh cannot overturn a foreign court's judgment. But its own laws provide for assistance to citizens facing difficulties abroad, including migrant workers in detention.

Section 27 of the Overseas Employment and Migrants Act, 2013 recognises the right of migrant workers and victims of migration-related fraud to reasonable legal assistance.

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## Ensure safeguards for journalists in cyber law

### Says Editors' Council, places 12-point recommendation

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The Editors' Council yesterday said the amendment to the Cyber Security Act, 2026, must ensure effective measures against cybercrime and clear safeguards for independent journalism, disclosure of information in the public interest, lawful expression, and the professional independence of the media.

It submitted a 12-point recommendation to the office of Principal Information Officer Syed Abdal Ahmad for forwarding to Information and Broadcasting Minister Andaleeve Rahman.

The organisation issued a press release signed by its President Nurul Kabir,

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# Alif's killing an attack on press freedom

## Says Editors' Council; one suspect held

STAR REPORT

The Editors' Council has strongly condemned the killing of journalist Lutfuzzaman Fakir Alif, calling it a grave attack on press freedom, freedom of expression, and the public's right to information.

"Ensuring the safety of journalists is one of the foremost responsibilities of a democratic country. Acts of brutality such as attacks on and the killing of journalists are in no way acceptable," said the council in a statement signed by its President Nurul Kabir and General Secretary Dewan Hanif Mahmud yesterday.

The organisation extended its condolences to the bereaved family and expressed solidarity with the victim's colleagues.

It also urged investigators to

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An auto-van driver talks on his mobile phone while driving along the Dhaka-Aricha Highway in Savar, carrying a heavy load of goods yesterday. Despite being banned from highways, three-wheelers continue to ply the busy road, raising concerns over road safety and the risk of accidents.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

# Mob kills man after alleged knife attack on BNP leader

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Barishal*

A man died while undergoing treatment after a mob beat him following an alleged knife attack on a local BNP leader in Rajapur union of Bhola.

Deceased Md Asif, 25, was the son of Md Dhalu Howlader of Medua in Rajapur.

According to eyewitnesses and locals, Asif, a BNP activist, had an altercation with Md Hossain Majhi, president of the BNP's Ward-7 unit, during a local arbitration at Ananda Bazar in Rajapur on Saturday evening.

At one stage, Asif stabbed Hossain and fled the scene.

Injured Hossain was rushed to Bhola Sadar Hospital. Following primary treatment there, he was referred first to Barishal and later to Dhaka for advanced treatment.

Following the alleged attack, rumours spread in the area that Hossain had died. Locals then beat Asif at Janata Bazar before police rescued him and admitted him to Bhola Sadar Hospital.

Asif was admitted to the hospital around 8:45pm on Saturday and later died, said on-duty police official Mohammad Mamun.

The president of Rajapur Union BNP Md Shajahan Bepari said he had learned that locals had beaten up Asif.

No case had been filed in connection with the incident, Bhola Model Police Station Officer-in-Charge Monirul Islam said.

# Ex-air force chief Hannan held in Qatar

## ACC seeks to bring him back

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former air force chief Sheikh Abdul Hannan, who faces corruption and money laundering charges, was arrested in Doha, Qatar, on October 15, the Anti-Corruption Commission said yesterday.

Steps will be taken to bring him back to face the country's law, ACC Secretary Saidur Rahman Khan told reporters at the graft watchdog's headquarters.

He said the ACC received informal information about the arrest of Air Chief Marshal (retd) Hannan on Saturday and officially confirmed it yesterday through Interpol via the National Central Bureau (NCB) of Bangladesh Police.

Asked about efforts to bring Hannan back, Saidur said the authorities concerned already sought information from the ACC, and the commission was taking steps to provide it. He expressed hope that Hannan could be brought back home and held accountable with the necessary cooperation.

According to the ACC, an inquiry into Hannan began over allegations of abuse of power, losses to the state exchequer, bribery, recruitment irregularities, embezzlement, and money laundering abroad. Allegations of acquiring assets beyond his known sources of income in his name and those of family members were also investigated.

On February 6, 2025, the anti-graft body formed a three-member inquiry committee. The inquiry found evidence that Hannan had acquired assets worth Tk 3.28 crore beyond his known sources of income. It also uncovered suspicious transactions worth Tk 14.08 crore through various bank accounts and evidence of money laundering, the commission said.

On July 27 that year, the ACC filed



a case against him with its Integrated District Office-1 in Dhaka.

ACC Assistant Director Mahmudul Hasan has been assigned to investigate.

ACC Secretary Saidur said they wrote to the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit on May 23 this year, seeking information about Hannan's assets in Qatar, Canada, and other countries.

On June 21, the commission also wrote to the NCB of Bangladesh Police seeking information on his overseas assets. With the court approval, movable and immovable assets held in the names of Hannan and his wife were attached or frozen. A receiver was also appointed to oversee the assets, he said.

A travel ban has been imposed on Hannan and that the investigation is underway, he added.

Hannan joined the air force in 1984 and became its 16th chief on June 12, 2021. He retired on June 11, 2024.

At the briefing, reporters also asked about progress in repatriating other accused living abroad, including former land minister Saifuzzaman Chowdhury and former IGP Benazir Ahmed.

Saidur said the ACC was working with the ministries and other agencies to bring them back. The commission was providing information requested by the authorities concerned, he added.

The ACC secretary said letters were being sent to the relevant authorities in Qatar, Switzerland, and other countries based on information gathered during probes.

Regarding the repatriation of the accused individuals staying in India, he said he could not provide an update at that moment and would comment on the matter later.

# 'They perished while trying to save a child'

## Fireman recounts finding charred bodies of woman clutching child, man apparently shielding them at Inani resort

MOKAMMEL SHUVO

A woman was found clutching a child in her arms, while a man appeared to have tried to shield them with his own body. The three were among the charred bodies recovered after a devastating fire swept through Tuptup Resort in Cox's Bazar's Ukhiya.

Dolon Acharya, senior station officer at the Cox's Bazar fire service, described the heartbreaking scenes firefighters encountered during the rescue. The identities of the deceased have yet to be confirmed through DNA testing.

"We had brought the fire under control by around 8:30am on Saturday. Only then did some people inform us that several people might still be inside the resort," he said.

Dolon said they found five charred bodies inside a room on the resort's first floor.

They later found the charred body of a man inside a bathroom in an adjacent room. On the second floor, they recovered four bodies from a bathroom.

**Only the bathrooms were made of concrete and fitted with tiles. Dolon believes some of the victims took shelter there to escape the flames.**

"One of the women appeared to have been holding a child close to her. A man appeared to have shielded them both with his body. All three were burnt almost beyond recognition. The charred body of another woman was found beside them," he said.

Dolon said the building's construction posed serious fire safety risks. The columns were made of concrete, while the beams were constructed using wood. The walls and staircases were also made of wood and bamboo, he said.

Only bathrooms were made of concrete and fitted with tiles. Dolon believes some of the victims took shelter there to escape flames.

Jahidur Rahman Prince, elder brother of Tuhin who likely perished in the flames, told The Daily Star they suspect the couple and child was their family members.

The missing family members are Nahidur Rahman Tuhin, 41, his wife Afsana Matin Tanji, 36, and their daughters Rujaina Inaya, 7, and Sunaina Ihana, 3.

# Resorts 'built to burn' dot Marine Drive

FROM PAGE 1

Engineer Mohammad Jasim Uddin, chairman of the Cox's Bazar Development Authority (CoxDA), estimated that around 2,500 temporary and permanent structures stood along the 80-kilometre long Marine Drive, including 200-250 permanent ones.

A 2013 master plan prohibits construction within 300 metres of the shoreline inside the municipality and 500 metres outside it.

Consequently, no hotels or resorts have been approved along Marine Drive, Jasim said, although many have been built.

Eco-resorts must have adequate open space, firefighting systems compliant with fire service regulations, and a pond or other water source connected to a hydrant line, he said.

Building materials must also meet fire safety standards, and approval from CoxDA alone is insufficient; clearances from other relevant agencies are required.

Jasim said the authority would soon take action against illegal structures built along Marine Drive in the name of eco-resorts.

The fire service has issued notices to around 500 hotels and other residential establishments to improve fire safety, Shafiqul said, though he could not specify how many were hotels or resorts, or how many eco-resorts along Marine Drive had received notices.

Of the 53 hotels and resorts that applied for fire safety licences this year, 23 received them, while around 30 applications were being processed, he said.

Fire service's Dolon said establishments that fail to comply after receiving notices can be fined through mobile courts. But enforcement has weakened in recent years, with only a few establishments fined over the past two years.

In Tup Tup's case, only a warning notice was served and no further action was taken, a fire station official said.

Mokim Khan, general secretary of the Cox's Bazar Hotel Owners Association and the Marine Drive Hotel Owners Association, said at least 40 establishments used the eco-resort label, many built on purchased or rented land with bamboo, timber or a mix of wood and concrete, often without the necessary approvals.

His association requires members to have trade licences, fire safety certificates and land ownership documents.

Owners of many of the eco-resorts did not seek membership, and the others had no affiliation, he said.

At the site of Saturday's fire, the search for victims resumed yesterday as families reported 11 people missing against 10 unidentified bodies recovered.

Families initially reported 13 people missing, said Ukhiya UNO Panna Akter, but locals said two young men, Jihad Hawladar and Abedul Islam, might have escaped. Their whereabouts have not been confirmed. Additional Deputy Commissioner Tasnim Jahan, who is heading a district administration probe team, said the authorities were using information technology and would resolve the discrepancy after DNA tests. DNA samples from the recovered bodies have been sent to Dhaka for matching with relatives, said police.

Cox's Bazar Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Abdul Mannan said the administration was collecting lists of missing relatives from families. The bodies would be handed over after DNA tests confirmed their identities.

Six members of one extended family remain missing: Mithila Mehzabin Alvi; her maternal cousins Lalia Jahan Nabila and Israt Jahan Maliha; another maternal cousin, Fariha Kabir Sabrin; Fariha's brother, Nafis Tehami Zafri; and Fariha's son, Faizan Nur.

Four members of another family are also unaccounted for: Nahidur Rahman Tuhin, an official of Grand Power Limited in Dhaka's Shyamoli; his wife, Afsana; and their daughters, seven-year-old Rubaina and three-year-old Sonaina.

Nasrin Akter Mukta, wife of Faisal, a former joint secretary of the Dhaka district unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, is the 11th person on the list.

During its visit yesterday, the five-member probe committee questioned eyewitnesses and inspected the damaged structure.

The committee is investigating the cause of the fire, possible negligence by the resort authorities, the resort's registrations and other required documents, and whether structural defects contributed to the deaths.

The district administration formed it on Saturday and gave it five days to submit its findings.

Police filed a case on Saturday night against 23 people over the fire, naming resort owner Mohammad Tanvir as the prime accused. Three other people were named, including co-owner Newaz Morshed, said Ukhiya Police Station Officer-in-Charge Atikur Rahman.

Resort manager Zahidul Islam Sumon was detained at the scene on Saturday afternoon and later shown arrested in the case, the OC said.

Six people were injured and taken to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital on Saturday: Shihab Uddin, 31, a physician at Dhaka's Mugda Medical College Hospital; his wife, Dr Nafiza Newaz Khan, 29; Mannan, 34; Meherunnesa, 30; Masud, 30; and Samida, 32. Four were flown to Dhaka for advanced treatment that afternoon.

The other two returned to Dhaka after initial treatment, obtaining discharge voluntarily.

# Mine explosion kills eight Nigerian troops

AFP, *Kano*

A Nigerian army patrol vehicle hit a landmine planted by Islamic State group-aligned jihadists near the border with Cameroon, killing eight soldiers, defence sources told AFP yesterday.

The attack happened in the northeastern state of Borno on Saturday, the same day the Nigerian army chief, Lieutenant General Waidi Shaibu, was visiting the state capital, Maiduguri, over an attack on a base days earlier that killed 15 soldiers and five anti-jihadist militia members.

Jihadist violence in Nigeria which erupted in 2009 has eased since its peak a decade ago, but violence has been on the rise in the last two years.

In the latest attack, troops were inspecting anti-jihadist militia members who were clearing thickets along the highway outside the town of Gamboru when their vehicle rolled over the mine and exploded, killing all eight on board, the sources said.

The sources blamed the attack on Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP), which is active in the area.

Jihadists use thickets along the highway as cover to ambush troops and motorists.

"All eight soldiers in the vehicle were killed in the explosion," which happened in Kinuba village, 25 kilometres (15.5 miles) from Gamboru, a military officer in the region said.

Ibrahim Liman, an anti-jihadist militia member assisting the military against jihadists, gave the same toll.

"The explosive was planted on the dusty road and remotely detonated by a detonating cord," Liman said.

A militia member supervising the thicket clearing was injured by shrapnel, said Liman.

ISWAP and rival jihadist group Boko Haram have increasingly resorted to planting mines on highways against military and civilian targets.

# Migrants under trial abroad, what's Bangladesh's duty?

FROM PAGE 1

Section 29 refers specifically to migrant workers who are detained, stranded or distressed abroad and provides for assistance from Bangladesh missions. However, the section mainly concerns their right to return home. It does not entitle someone facing criminal proceedings to leave the country where they are being prosecuted.

The Act also provides for Labour Welfare Wings at Bangladesh missions to look after workers' rights and welfare.

Under Section 8(6) of the Wage Earners' Welfare Board Act, 2018, the board's responsibilities include rescuing and repatriating workers facing abuse, illness, injury or other difficulties, as well as providing legal and medical assistance where necessary.

Section 9 provides for special assistance to female migrant workers in specified circumstances. Section 11 allows the Board's chairperson to take reasonable decisions in emergencies, subject to subsequent approval.

The Legal Aid Services Act, 2000, amended in 2026, assigns the Bangladesh Legal Aid Directorate responsibility under Section 7(1)(e) for taking necessary measures to provide legal assistance, according to need, to expatriate citizens or migrant workers overseas.

Section 7(1)(c) also concerns emergency legal support and advice, while Section 5(4) provides for recommendations on posting legal aid officers at Bangladesh missions.

These provisions cover expatriate citizens as well as migrant workers.

The Wage Earners' Welfare Board allows applications for legal assistance through district expatriate-welfare offices, District Employment and Manpower Offices or directly to the board. Requests are forwarded to Bangladesh missions or local authorities.

The government's myGov platform also offers a free application service, with a stated processing time of 20 working days.

But a prisoner may have no way to apply. Families may not know where their relative is detained, or even that an arrest has taken place.

There is also the question of responsibility.

The foreign ministry handles consular matters through Bangladesh missions. The expatriates' welfare ministry oversees the Welfare Board and Labour Welfare Wings. The Legal Aid Directorate falls under the law ministry.

In this backdrop, who decides whether a prisoner qualifies for legal assistance? Who pays for it? Does a possible death sentence trigger any special procedure?

The publicly available procedures do not provide clear answers.

Article 36 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations requires a country to inform detained foreign nationals without delay of their right to consular notification.

If a detainee requests it, the authorities must notify the relevant consulate without delay. Consular officers have rights to communicate with and visit detained nationals and arrange legal representation, subject to the Convention's conditions.

But the Convention does not expressly require advance notification of every death sentence or execution.

A mission may know that someone is imprisoned without knowing that the person faces capital punishment.

Indonesia restricted the deployment of domestic workers to Saudi Arabia after the execution of Ruyati binti Satubi in 2011. In 2015, following two further executions, it imposed wider restrictions on sending domestic and informal-sector workers to 21 Middle Eastern and North African countries.

After Saudi Arabia executed domestic worker Rizana Nafeek in 2013, Sri Lanka raised the minimum age for women seeking domestic employment there from 21 to 25 and announced plans to gradually phase out such placements.

Before her execution, Sri Lanka had arranged an appeal, sought clemency and sent ministerial delegations to Saudi Arabia.

More recently, Saudi Arabia's Supreme Court overturned the death sentence of Sri Lankan migrant worker Anojan Sivarasa on October 13, although the case was returned for further proceedings.

Sri Lanka had sent a legal delegation to assist with the appeal. Its foreign minister also told Parliament that the government would bear the legal expenses.

In the two recent Saudi executions, whether the Bangladesh Jeddah consulate had sufficient information or opportunity to intervene remains a separate question.

But the legal question raised by Shama's remarks is broader than these two executions.

The state minister's warning about respecting foreign laws addresses the conduct expected of Bangladeshis abroad, but it fails to address the responsibilities Bangladesh has undertaken towards them.

If there is a lesson to be drawn from this case, it is for the government about their legal obligations to the protection of migrant workers as stipulated by given laws.

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**The central message of Durga Puja is to stand against and defeat injustice, oppression, dishonesty and persecution. I can say with great conviction that I know of nowhere else in the world where communal harmony exists as it does in Bangladesh.**

**PRESIDENT MIRZA FAKHRUL ISLAM ALAMGIR** said while visiting Ramna Kali Mandir in Dhaka on the occasion of Durga Puja yesterday



**A bond with the soil, passed down through generations. As a farmer prepares his land for winter crops, his young grandson lends a hand with a plough. Together, they carry on a farming tradition deeply rooted in rural Bangladesh. The photo was taken in the Borochar area of Sylhet Sadar upazila on Saturday morning.**

PHOTO: **SHEIKH NASIR**

## IN FOCUS



**Prime Minister Tarique Rahman presents the National Standard to a Bangladesh Army unit at a ceremony at Savar Cantonment yesterday.**

PHOTO: **PID**

### Discipline, public trust key to armed forces' strength: PM

**UNB,** *Dhaka*

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman yesterday urged members of the armed forces to uphold the Constitution, laws, military regulations and humanitarian values while discharging their duties.

Speaking at a National Standard presentation ceremony for several battalions and regiments of the Bangladesh Army at Savar Cantonment, he also stressed the need to modernise the armed forces, strengthen domestic defence production and develop technological capabilities to meet emerging security challenges.

"An armed force's strength is not limited to weapons, equipment or manpower. Its real strength lies in discipline, skills, leadership, morality, training and public trust," he said, stressing the importance of maintaining the chain of command.

He said the government was working to make the armed forces more technologically advanced, skilled and professional, while prioritising a domestic defence industry to produce weapons, ammunition and other equipment.

However, technology could never replace people, he said, stressing the need for an integrated defence capability enabling the army, navy and air force to operate together effectively.

### Book fair to be held Jan 7-Feb 6 next year

**UNB,** *Dhaka*

The month-long Amar Ekushey Book Fair, traditionally held in February to commemorate the Language Movement martyrs of 1952, will begin on January 7 next year and run until February 6.

The decision was taken at a views-exchange meeting with representatives of publishers on October 13, according to a notice signed by Bangla Academy Director General Mohammad Azam yesterday.

According to the notice, the dates were finalised based on a unanimous decision by the publishers' representatives at the meeting.

Cultural Affairs Minister Nitai Roy Chowdhury chaired the meeting, while Prime Minister's Adviser on Cultural Affairs Dr Zahed Ur Rahman and Cultural Affairs Secretary Yasmin Begum were present.

## 'One company, one route'

### Trial bus services on 6 routes to begin Nov 1

**The six main routes are Gazipur-Dhakeshwari Temple, Gabtoli-Demra, Duaripara-Sadarghat, Ghatarchar-Demra, Ghatarchar-Kanchpur and Mirpur-12-Mawa.**

**SHAMIMA RITA**

Dhaka is set to launch trial company-based bus services on six routes from November 1 under the "One company, one route" initiative to streamline public transport.

The routes, operators, bus numbers and stoppages were discussed at a meeting held by Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) yesterday.

According to Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority (DTCA), the trial will initially cover five non-AC routes and one AC route, with three circular routes expected to be added two months later.

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## Freedom fighter, artist Saeeda Kamal passes away

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Freedom fighter and artist Saeeda Kamal Tulu passed away at a private hospital in Dhaka yesterday morning. She was 74.

She breathed her last around 7:15am, her elder sister, noted rights activist Sultana Kamal, confirmed.

During the Liberation War, Saeeda Kamal served at the Bangladesh Field Hospital on the war front alongside Sultana Kamal.

In recognition of her

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## DAP changes raise red flags

### Approval process comes under scrutiny; IPD demands withdrawal of amendments

Purbachal, Jhilmil plots get additional FAR of up to 0.5 | Three open-space plots reclassified for heavy industry | Rajuk source alleges procedural violations | Planners warn of environmental risks | Rajuk to clarify amendment process

**HELEMUL ALAM**

The government has amended three key provisions of the Detailed Area Plan (DAP) 2022-2035, allowing additional floor area ratio (FAR) for residential plots, changing the land-use classification of three plots and revising regulations for water-flow zones.

The amendments, published in a gazette by the Ministry of Housing and Public Works on October 14, have drawn criticism from urban planners over alleged procedural irregularities and potential environmental consequences.

The changes also faced criticism at a board meeting at the ministry, where it was decided that Rajuk would issue a statement clarifying the procedure, meeting sources said.

"Rajuk will issue a statement on this matter tomorrow (Monday)," said Md Alamgir Hossain, public relations officer at the ministry.

Rajuk Chairman Reazul Islam declined to comment.

Under the revised provisions, eligible residential plot owners in Purbachal and Jhilmil can receive an additional FAR of up to 0.5 if they apply for building-plan approval within six months from October 15. The incentive mainly applies to plots measuring at least five kathas.

Beneficiaries must complete

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

## 'Kill them and hide their bodies'

### Prosecution cites UN report on Hasina's alleged orders during July uprising

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The prosecution yesterday told the International Crimes Tribunal-2 that ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina had ordered senior officials to kill protesters and conceal their bodies during the July uprising, citing a UN fact-finding report.

The prosecution cited the report while seeking to frame charges against 19 people, including former Awami League lawmaker Saiful Islam, over the killing of Military Institute of Science and Technology student Sheikh Ashabul Yamin and the shooting of six others during the uprising.

Reading from the report titled "Human Rights Violations and Abuses related to the Protests of July and August 2024", Prosecutor Gazi Monawar Hossain Tamim said, "According to a senior official's testimony, the then prime minister personally ordered killings when she told senior officials present at a meeting on July 19 to 'arrest the ringleaders of the protests, the troublemakers, kill them and hide their bodies'."

During the hearing, Prosecutor Tamim referred to a recorded phone conversation between Hasina and the then DSCC mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh on July 18.

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**Risking their lives, passengers ride on the roof, engine and footboards of an overcrowded train near Khilgaon in the capital yesterday. The dangerous practice leaves them vulnerable to falls and collisions with overhead bridges and trackside structures, posing serious risks of injury or death.**

PHOTO: **RASHED SHUMON**

## BNP govt incapable of working with opposition

### Alleges Shafiqur Rahman

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Opposition Leader and Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman yesterday accused the BNP government of backtracking on its commitments to implement the July charter, saying it had failed to seek the opposition's cooperation.

"We have long been saying that we would cooperate with the government. From today, we declare that we will cooperate with the 18 crore people. This government has failed to take our cooperation," he said while speaking at a discussion, organised by the Amar Bangladesh Party (AB Party) at the Dhaka Reporters Unity auditorium in Segunbagicha.

Shafiqur alleged that the BNP had abandoned its earlier position on implementing the July charter and the referendum verdict after coming to power, forcing the opposition to launch a movement outside parliament.

"Had the BNP respected the mandate of both votes, we would not have needed to launch a movement outside parliament even for a second. They have pushed us onto the path of agitation," he said.

Opposition Chief Whip and National Citizen Party chief coordinator for the

SEE PAGE 9 COL 3

# Prime accused Amini confesses in Satkhira mob killing case

**OUR CORRESPONDENT,** *Satkhira*



Fazlul Haq Amini, the prime accused in the murder case filed over the mob beating of Wahiduzzaman Shamim in Satkhira's Debhata, gave a confessional statement before a court yesterday.

Senior Judicial Magistrate Nusrat Jahan of Satkhira Judicial Magistrate Court-3 recorded his statement.

According to court sources, Amini claimed in his statement that Shamim had "hurt religious sentiments", but said there had been no intention to kill him. He described the incident as "accidental". He also disclosed names of other alleged participants. Court Inspector Nazmul Haq said Amini was sent to Satkhira District Jail afterwards.

Earlier, Amini told journalists at Satkhira Sadar Police Station around noon that "Shamim was an atheist, but I had no intention of killing him. It happened accidentally."

Law enforcers arrested him on Saturday night from Faridpur village in Kaliganj upazila, where he had been hiding at a relative's house, said investigating officer Sub-Inspector Al Amin of Debhata Police Station.

Shamim was beaten in two separate attacks on October 13, including one at Debhata Upazila Health Complex, where police had taken him after rescuing him from the first assault.

His elder brother, Md Abdul Jalil, filed a murder case with Debhata police on Thursday, naming 10 people, including Amini, and 200 to 250 unidentified suspects.

# Govt clears draft ordinance to boost solar power

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The government is preparing a special ordinance to facilitate rooftop solar power installation, targeting 3,000-4,000 megawatts of capacity before next summer to reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels.

The cabinet yesterday approved the draft of the Special Solar Power Installation Ordinance, 2026, to address regulatory gaps in projects financed and operated by private investors.

Existing laws lack specific provisions on key issues, including long-term electricity pricing, rooftop rental payments, and maintenance responsibilities under two investment models, according to a cabinet division statement.

The cabinet approved the draft at a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman at the secretariat.

After the meeting, Cabinet Secretary Nasimul Gani said the recent war had exposed Bangladesh's vulnerability in the energy sector, making solar power more important than ever.

Solar systems can be installed on government and private buildings, as well as unused land, he said.

# Hill 'being razed' for resort in Sitakunda

## DoE finds evidence; company denies allegation

**SIFAYET ULLAH,** *Chattogram*

A hill in Khillapara area of Bhatiari union in Chattogram's Sitakunda upazila is allegedly being razed by Mir Group to build a resort, despite previous action by the Department of Environment (DoE) over hill cutting in the area.

A recent DoE inspection found that an estimated 1,750 cubic feet of soil had been removed over the past several days, said Ashraf Uddin, assistant director of the DoE's Chattogram district office.

On September 5, 2024, the DoE fined Mir Bricks Industries, a brick kiln owned by Mir Group beside the hill, Tk 2 lakh for hill cutting. A mobile court also sentenced a person to three days in jail, according to DoE records.

The hill is located near a protected forest area.

Ashraful Islam, deputy ranger of the Faujdar Beat under the Kumira Range of the Chattogram North Forest Division, said the hill was privately owned but adjacent to forest land. The Forest Department had warned those involved against entering the forest and informed the DoE for legal action.

Abdullah Ibn Zaid is allegedly supervising the resort construction on the instructions of Mir Group Managing Director Mohammad Abdus Salam.



**A hill is being illegally razed in Bhatiari union under Chattogram's Sitakunda upazila for constructing a resort.** PHOTO: COLLECTED

Contacted, Salam denied cutting the hill without permission.

"We are building a resort there because of the natural beauty of the hilly area. Construction work is underway, but no hill is being cut. The DoE has made false claims," he said.

He also disputed the earlier action against the brick kiln, claiming its workers had been engaged in agricultural activities, not hill cutting.

DoE Chattogram Regional Director Zamir Uddin rejected the allegations, saying the department had acted in accordance with the law after examining documents and evidence.

He said legal action would be taken against those responsible.

Under Sections 6(kha) and 12 of the Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act, 1995, cutting hills on private or public land without DoE permission is punishable by imprisonment and fines.

A study by Prof Edris Alam of the Department of Geography and Environment at Chittagong University found that Chattogram had lost more than 120 hills over the past 40 years.



# Tipu Sultan no more

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Prominent rights activist and former senior deputy director of Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) Mohammad Tipu Sultan passed away on Saturday. He was 68.

He breathed his last around 10:30am while undergoing treatment at a hospital in Bengaluru, India, said a press release by ASK.

An alumnus of Dhaka University's Department of Social Welfare, Sultan served in ASK's investigation unit from 1994 to 2016.

During his tenure, he led various initiatives to protect civil and political rights and played a key role in seeking justice for victims of rights violations, particularly college student Limon Hossain, who was shot and maimed by RAB personnel.

In a condolence message, ASK Executive Director Tahmina Rahman expressed deep sympathy to his bereaved family, colleagues and well-wishers.


**NOTICE**

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
**COMPANY MATTER NO. 1273 OF 2026**

**Md. Abul Fazal Mir** .....Petitioner
- Versus -
**Resilient Innovations Ltd.** and another
..... Respondents

Notice is hereby given to all concerned that we on behalf of Mr. Md. Abul Fazal Mir as petitioner filed and moved an application under sections 81(2) read with section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994 for condonation of delay in holding Annual General Meetings of **Resilient Innovations Ltd.** for 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026 Calander years in the Company Bench of the Hon'ble High Court Division. On 11 October 2026, upon hearing the learned Advocate for the petitioner, the Hon'ble Company **Judge Mr. Justice Syed Mohammed Tazrul Hossain** was pleased to admit the application, issue notices upon the Respondents. Any person interested in taking part in this matter may do so either personally or by appointing an Advocate. A copy of the application may be obtained from our office.

**Md. Mahmudul Hasan, Barrister-at-Law,**
Advocate, Appellate Division, Supreme Court of Bangladesh
SCBA building Room No. 403 (old) Cell: 01913-136704

**NOTICE**

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
**COMPANY MATTER NO. 1276 OF 2026**

**CG Runner BD Ltd.** .....Petitioner
- Versus -
The Registrar, Joint Stock Companies and Firms
..... Respondent

Notice is hereby given to all concerned that we on behalf of **CG Runner BD Ltd.,** represented by its Chairman, Registered Office at 138/1, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka, Bangladesh filed and moved an application under Section 151 read with Section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994 for condonation of delay in filing the Return of Allotment of Shares in the Company Bench of the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. On 13 October 2026, upon hearing the learned Advocate for the petitioner, the Hon'ble Company **Judge Mr. Justice Syed Mohammed Tazrul Hossain** was pleased to admit the application, issue notices upon the Respondents. Any person interested in taking part in this matter may do so either personally or by appointing an Advocate. A copy of the application may be obtained from our office.

**Md. Mahmudul Hasan, Barrister-at-Law**
Advocate , Appellate Division, Supreme Court of Bangladesh
SCBA building Room No. 403 (old) Cell: 01913136704

ইব্রাহিম কার্ডিয়াক হসপিটাল এন্ড রিসার্চ ইনস্টিটিউট
IBRAHIM CARDIAC HOSPITAL & RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(এ সেন্টার ফর কার্ডিওভাসকুলার, নিউরোসাইন্স এন্ড অরগ্যান ট্রান্সপ্লান্ট ইউনিটস)
বাংলাদেশ ডায়াবেটিক সমিতির একটি প্রতিষ্ঠান
১২২, কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম এভিনিউ, শাহবাগ, ঢাকা-১০০০
ওয়েবসাইট : www.ibrahimcardiac.org.bd ফোন: ৪১০৬০৪৫১-৫৮ এক্সটেনশন: ২০৬, ১০৮

**উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

**কাজের বিবরন ঃ** ইব্রাহিম কার্ডিয়াক হাসপাতালে ৩০ জুন, ২০২৭ খ্রীঃ সময়ের মধ্যে ০৬ টি গ্রুপের মেডিসিন ও এমএসআর আইটেম ক্রয় ।

**দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ ঃ** ১৯.১০.২০২৬ খ্রীঃ
দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির তথ্যের জন্য ইব্রাহিম কার্ডিয়াক হাসপাতালের ওয়েবসাইট: www.ibrahimcardiac.org.bd এবং https://backend.ibrahimcardiac.org.bd/storage/file_system/26-tender-1792209053.pdf দেখুন অথবা কিউআর কোড স্ক্যান করুন।

কিউআর কোড স্ক্যান করুন

**যোগাযোগ ঃ** ইব্রাহিম কার্ডিয়াক হাসপাতাল
১২২ কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম এভিনিউ, শাহবাগ, ঢাকা -১০০০
ফোন: ০২৪১০৬০৪৫১-৫৮ , মোবাইল: ০১৯১২৩৬৩৯৭০

প্রধান নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা
ইব্রাহিম কার্ডিয়াক হসপিটাল

Excellence in Health Care


# ACC approves charge sheet against Saima Wazed

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The Anti-Corruption Commission has approved the filing of a charge sheet against Saima Wazed, daughter of ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, over allegations that she provided false information in her CV to secure the post of regional director for the WHO's South-East Asia region, said ACC Secretary Saidur Rahman Khan yesterday.

According to the ACC investigation, Saima allegedly provided false information in the CV she submitted to the WHO, claiming that she had worked as an honorary specialist or expert at Bangladesh Medical University, formerly known as Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital.

The inquiry found that she used the information to obtain the WHO position through abuse of power, allegedly tarnishing the country's reputation.

The case was filed with the ACC's Dhaka-1 integrated district office on March 20, 2025. Tahasina Munabil Haque, deputy director of the ACC's Money Laundering-1 branch, investigated the case.

# 'Ensure fire safety within 7 days'

## Rangamati admin tells hotels, resorts

**OUR CORRESPONDENT,** *Rangamati*

The Rangamati district administration yesterday directed owners of hotels, restaurants and resorts to ensure fire safety measures within seven days.

The directive came at a meeting chaired by Rangamati Deputy Commissioner Nazma Ashrafi at the DC office, a day after 10 tourists died in a devastating fire at a resort in Ukhiya of Cox's Bazar.

"Following the devastating fire incident in Cox's Bazar, we held a meeting today [Sunday] with all relevant district departments and the owners of hotels, resorts, and restaurants. The safety and services for tourists visiting Rangamati were discussed at the meeting. In addition, establishments lacking fire extinguishing systems have been directed to take necessary measures within the next seven days," DC Ashrafi told The Daily Star.



**At least 10 people were killed when a fire burnt down the three-storey Tuptup Resto & Resort in the Patuartek area near Inani Beach in Cox's Bazar on Saturday.** PHOTO: STAR

"The owners have promised to take necessary measures, including fire extinguishing arrangements. Once the deadline ends, we will conduct mobile court drives and take legal action if any negligence or irregularity is found," she added.


Cowater

**ProNurse Project in Bangladesh**
**Cowater International Inc.**
**House-100 Road-25, Block-A**
**Banani, Dhaka-1213**

PRONURSE

**INVITATION FOR TENDER**

Memo No: PRN/GAC/Cowater Int/944/2026 Date: 18.10.2026

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 01. | Procuring Entity | ProNurse Project in Bangladesh, Cowater International |
| 03. | Procurement Method | Open Tendering Method (OTM) |
| 04. | Invitation for Tender | The Procuring Entity invites tender for procurement of items of following description in 3 (Three) separate tenders. |
| 05. | Tender Package | 1. Supply of Books<br>2. Supply of furniture goods and assembly<br>3. Supply, Installation and After Sales Service of Office Equipment |
| 06. | Time for Completion of the Works. | 60 (Sixty) days from the date of signing of contract |
| 07. | Eligibility of Tenderers: This invitation for Tender is open to all eligible Tenderers as per following criteria: | |
| | (a) Reputed firms who have minimum 5 (Five) years of general experience of (1) Import & supply of books (2) Supply of furniture goods and (3) Supply and installation of office equipment. | |
| | (b) Having experience in successful completion of 3 (Three) number of contract for each category of supply for Tk.20.00 Lac each in a single tender in Government/Semi-Govt/Autonomous Organization during last 5(five) years. Work Experience Certificate to be submitted along with the tender. | |
| | (c) The tenderers shall have a minimum average annual sales turnover of Tk. 20 Lac (Taka Twenty lac) during last 5 (five) years. | |
| | (d) The minimum amount of **liquid assets** or working capital or credit facilities of the tenderer shall be Tk. 20 Lac (Taka Twenty lac). Documents submitted along with the tender must be issued within **last three months** from the submission date of the tender. | |
| | Other required terms and conditions of the tender are mentioned in the Tender Data Sheet. | |
| 08. | Price of Tender Document | Tk. 1,000/- (Taka One thousand) only in cash for each package. The original money receipt must be enclosed with the tender. |
| 09. | Amount of Tender Security | Tk. 2 Lac for each package, to be submitted in the form of a Bank Draft/ Pay Order/Bank Guarantee. |
| 10. | Name and address of the Office Selling, receiving and Opening Tenders. | ProNurse Project, Cowater International, House-100 Road-25, Block-A Banani, Dhaka. |
| 11. | Tender submission and opening date and time.. | Submission: 10.11.2026 up to 11.AM<br>Opening: 10.11.2026 at 11.15 AM |
| 16. | Contact detail for tender clarification purpose. | Email: info@cowater-pronurse.com<br>01819245607 |
| 18. | The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all the tenders or annul the tender proceedings at any stage of the tendering process. | |

**Dr. Lubana Ahmed**
Project Director
ProNurse Project in Bangladesh
Cowater International

**Bangladesh Medical Studies & Research Institute (BMSRI)**
House # 33-35, Road # 14/A, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka

**Recruitment Circular**

**Chief Financial Officer (CFO)**
**Industry:** Healthcare
**Position**: Chief Financial Officer(CFO)
**Employment Type**: Full-time
**Location:** Dhaka, Bangladesh

**About the Role**

We are looking for an experienced and commercially driven **Chief Financial Officer (CFO)** to lead the finance function of a growing healthcare organization. The CFO will be responsible for strengthening financial management, ensuring regulatory compliance, supporting strategic decision-making, and building robust financial systems to support the organization's continued growth.
The ideal candidate will combine strong technical accounting expertise with strategic and commercial acumen, and will be comfortable working in a fast-paced healthcare environment.

**Key Responsibilities**

- Lead the organization's oerall **financial strategy, Planning, budgeting, and forecasting.**
- Oversee financial reporting, accounting, treasury, cash-flow management, and internal controls.
- Ensure compliance with applicable **tax, VAT, accounting, regulatory, and statutory requirements.**
- Lead the preparation and review of monthly, quarterly, and annual financial statement.
- Develop and monitor financial KPIs and provide management with actionable insights.
- Manage relationships with auditors, banks, regulators, investors, and other financial stakeholders.
- Strengthen financial controls, processes, policies, and reporting systems.
- Provide financial analysis and strategic guidance to support business expansion and investment decisions
- Optimize working capital and ensure effective management of the organization's liquidity.

**Requirements**

- CA qualification is mandatory.
- 0+ years of relevance experience, preferably in healthcare, pharma, hospital diagnostics, or healthtech establishments.
- Strong expertise in financial management, auditing, reporting, budgeting, tax affairs monitoring, and control.
- Excellent leadership and strategic decision-making skills.
- High level of integrity, ownership, and attention to detail.

Interested candidates are requested to submit their CVs along with a brief cover letter to:
**Honorary Secretary, BMSRI**
House # 33-35, Road # 14/A, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1209
Application should reach on or before **28-10-2026 at 2.00 PM.**
Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.
**Honorary Secretary,**
**EC, BMSRI,**

HIGH COST OF LIVING

# France reels from protest damage

## One dead ; 1,800 arrested; hundreds of police hurt

AGENCIES

France was reeling yesterday from widespread damage caused by violent protests over the high cost of living the previous day, which left one demonstrator dead, hundreds of police officers injured and nearly 1,800 people arrested.

A historic town hall was torched, and widespread looting was reported.

The convulsion, which officials described as of extraordinary intensity, raised the stakes for President Emmanuel Macron, who is in his final months in power before elections to replace him in six months' time. It followed weeks of student protests that had also turned violent at times.

Around "1,800 people




have been arrested and now investigations are under way to identify the perpetrators of these acts so they can be brought to justice", Interior Minister Laurent Nunez said on X yesterday.

"France is burning! The immigration of people from an entirely different world, people with hatred in their hearts, has shattered that once great country," US President Donald Trump said in a post on his Truth Social platform.

In Paris, where police said a "record" 855 people had been arrested, streets were littered with the burnt-out remains of barricades built by protesters using bikes and bins and other materials. Several streets had smashed shop windows and the remains of torched cars.

Paris and other cities, including Marseille, Bordeaux, Nice and Strasbourg, had scores of shops pillaged by masked youths during protests.




**Police officers confront protesters during an anti-government protest by students in Tirana, Albania, yesterday. Violent demonstrations have rocked the city since Tuesday, with thousands of protesters calling for Prime Minister Edi Rama to step down over poor university conditions, high tuition fees and corruption.** PHOTO: REUTERS

# 'Serious incident' at Canada base causes deaths, sparks fire

AFP, *Montreal*

A "serious incident" at a military base in western Canada killed and injured multiple people and sparked a huge blaze on Saturday, the government said.

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney posted on X that "a serious incident creating a major fire" had occurred at Canadian Forces Base Wainwright military base in western Alberta province.

There were "both fatalities and injuries" as a result of the incident, the country's defense minister, David McGuinty, said at a news conference. Neither offered details on number of casualties or the nature of the incident.

"We will have more to say in the coming hours and days," McGuinty added.

A doctor at a hospital in the city of Edmonton, about 200 kilometers (110 miles) northwest of the base, told public broadcaster CBC that Wainwright's health-care facilities were "completely overwhelmed" by the number of patients requiring care.

"It is more patients than any of us want to count right now," Warren Thirsk said. "It's a disaster. It's a one in every 15 to 25-year disaster."

The Municipal District of Wainwright posted on social media that the fire had "spread rapidly due to high winds."

It said later on Saturday that the blaze was "being held at this time," though firefighting crews would continue to monitor the area.

SAUDI-YEMEN BORDER

# Two pilots killed in helicopter crash

## Says Saudi-led coalition; two more drones downed near Riyadh

AGENCIES

The Saudi-led coalition fighting the Houthis yesterday said two pilots were killed when their helicopter crashed near the Yemen border, after the Iran-backed group said it shot the aircraft down.

The coalition blamed a "technical malfunction" for the incident, which inflicted its first military fatalities since the long-running war with the Houthis reignited in July.

"An AH-6i reconnaissance helicopter belonging to the Ministry of National Guard crashed inside Saudi territory in Najran Region due to a technical malfunction," coalition spokesman Turki al-Malki said, according to the official Saudi Press Agency.

"The accident resulted in the martyrdom of its aircrew, consisting of two officers."

Late on Saturday, Houthi spokesman Yahya Saree said the group had "downed an Apache helicopter belonging to the Saudi enemy" in the same area, reports AFP.

The coalition said overnight that it intercepted two drones in the Riyadh area and a third over the oil-rich Eastern Province. Threat alerts for Najran city and As Sulayyil governorate in Riyadh province were issued but quickly cancelled yesterday.

Riyadh's Kingdom Centre skyscraper, one of the city's major landmarks, ordered its office tenants to work remotely "until further notice" yesterday, after repeated Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia.

- Riyadh's Kingdom Centre orders office tenants to work remotely after Houthi attacks
- Gunmen fire on LNG tanker off Yemen coast: UKMTO

## IN BRIEF

### 8 militants killed in Balochistan

DAWN/ANN

Pakistan's security forces have killed eight "India-sponsored" terrorists during three intelligence-based operations conducted in the Quetta, Nushki and Khuzdar districts of Balochistan, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said yesterday.

The operations took place on Saturday on the "reported presence of terrorists belonging to Indian proxy Fitna al Hindustan", the military's media affairs wing said in its press release.

The state has designated Balochistan-based groups as Fitna al Hindustan to highlight India's role in terrorism and destabilisation across Pakistan.



### Iran urges US to accept Hormuz reopening plan

REUTERS, *Dubai*

Iran's offer to the US to reopen the Strait of Hormuz within seven days is still on the table, Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said yesterday.

Iran presented its proposal in mid-September. Tehran later acknowledged receiving a US response but Iran's security chief said negotiations have stalled because Washington failed to address all seven conditions for reopening the strait.

HINDU FESTIVAL

### Out-of-control truck kills 13 in India's Gwalior

AGENCIES

A speeding truck in India killed 13 people when it ploughed into a crowd at a Hindu festival, officials said yesterday, with President Droupadi Murmu describing the deaths as "heartbreaking".

The heavily loaded truck reportedly lost control in the early hours yesterday and hit devotees gathered at a temple in Gwalior of Madhya Pradesh. The PTI news agency cited hospital officials as saying 13 people had died. "I express my deepest condolences to the bereaved families and pray for the swift recovery of those injured," Murmu said on social media.


**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**
Ministry of Social Welfare
Department of Social Services
E-8/B-1, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
www.dss.gov.bd

Memo No.: 41.01.0000.000.013.30.0044.26 – 1305 Date: 17/10/2026

**e-Tender Notice**

The following e-Tenders are invited through the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd):

| Sl. No. | Tender ID No. | Package No. | Package Description | Tender Document Last Selling Date & Time | Tender Closing/Opening Date & Time |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1355954 | FY26-27-GR-003 | Procurement of Computer Supplies, IT Consumables and Networking Accessories | 04 November 2026 16:00 Hrs. | 05 November 2026 12:00 Hrs. |
| 2 | 1318277 | FY26-27-GR-07 | Procurement of Office Stationery and Miscellaneous Items | 04 November 2026 16:00 Hrs. | 05 November 2026 12:00 Hrs. |

This is an online tender. Only electronic tenders submitted through the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) will be accepted; no offline or hard-copy tender will be accepted. Registration in the National e-GP System is required for participation. Further information and guidelines are available on the e-GP portal and through the e-GP Help Desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

17.10.2026

**(Md. Shaiful Islam)**
Director (Administration & Finance)
Department of Social Services
Phone: 02-55007024

GD-2543



**বাংলাদেশ মেরিটাইম ইউনিভার্সিটি**
**রেজিস্ট্রার দপ্তর (সংস্থাপন শাখা)**
১৪/৬-১৪/২৩, পল্লবী, মিরপুর-১২, ঢাকা-১২১৬, মোবাঃ ০১৭৬৯-৭২১০১০
ই-মেইল: regoffice@bmu.edu.bd, ওয়েব: www.bmu.edu.bd

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নম্বর: বিএমইউ/রেজি-৩৩৬/২৬/০১ তারিখ: ১৮/১০/২০২৬

**নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের ২০১৩ সনের ৪৭ নং আইন দ্বারা প্রতিষ্ঠিত বাংলাদেশ মেরিটাইম ইউনিভার্সিটি-এর নিম্নবর্ণিত পদসমূহে শিক্ষক, কর্মকর্তা ও কর্মচারী নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের নিকট হইতে আবেদনপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে:

| ক্রমিক নং | পদের নাম ও পদসংখ্যা | গ্রেড ও বেতনস্কেল | সর্বোচ্চ বয়স | মন্তব্য |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ১. | সহকারী অধ্যাপক (জেনেটিক ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং এন্ড মেরিন বায়োটেকনোলজি) পদসংখ্যা: ০১ (এক) টি | (গ্রেড-৬, বেতনস্কেল-৭১০০০-১৩৪০০০/-) | প্রযোজ্য নয় | ১। শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা এবং আবেদনের শর্তাবলি সংক্রান্ত বিস্তারিত তথ্য বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েবসাইট (www.bmu.edu.bd)-এর Job Notice-এ দেখুন।<br>২। আবেদনপত্র জমাদানের শেষ তারিখ **০৯ নভেম্বর ২০২৬**।<br>৩। বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের স্থায়ী ক্যাম্পাস চট্টগ্রাম (৫নং মোহরা ওয়ার্ডের হামিদচর এলাকার মৌজা চর রাঙ্গামাটিয়া ও বাকলিয়া, থানা: বন্দর, জেলা: চট্টগ্রাম)-এ নির্মাণাধীন। বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় এপ্রিল/২০২৭-এ স্থায়ী ক্যাম্পাসে (চট্টগ্রাম) স্থানান্তরিত হতে পারে। |
| ২. | সহকারী অধ্যাপক (নেভাল আর্কিটেকচার এন্ড অফশোর ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং) পদসংখ্যা: ০২ (দুই) টি | | | |
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বাংলাদেশ মেরিটাইম ইউনিভার্সিটি

GD-2537

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



# An alarming misuse of authority

## A state minister's armed anti-drug operation raises serious questions

The sight of a state minister carrying a firearm while leading an anti-drug operation in his constituency raises serious questions about the rule of law in the country and the government's commitment to upholding it. On Saturday, State Minister for Liberation War Affairs Ishraque Hossain was seen in video clips posted on his Facebook page chasing people near Gandaria railway station in Dhaka, accompanied by armed bodyguards. The video clips, which have drawn widespread criticism, also show a bodyguard kicking a man. While the state minister says he acted after repeated complaints about drug trading in the area and alleged police inaction, this cannot justify a government representative taking the law into his own hands.

Ishraque claims that he repeatedly raised the issue with police but received no effective response. However, the OC of Gandaria Police Station has disputed the claim of inaction, saying a 300-member police team, along with other specialised units, conducted an operation in the area on October 11. While an impartial inquiry into the police response against the drug trade is necessary, it does not excuse the state minister's conduct.

Under Article 25 of the Firearms Licence, Renewal and Use Policy, 2025, a licensed firearm may be carried or used for self-defence but must not be displayed in a manner that causes fear or annoyance. A firearm licence is intended for personal protection, not for apprehending or punishing suspected offenders. The state minister's claim that he legally acquired the firearm does not mean he was permitted to carry and display it during the operation. The authorities must investigate the circumstances and take appropriate action in this regard.

**We urge the government to investigate the incident impartially, including the display of firearms and the alleged mistreatment of detainees. It must also find out whether the police responded appropriately to residents' complaints and ensure that suspected drug dealers are dealt with through lawful measures.**

More importantly, what message does such conduct send to the public? If a state minister feels compelled to lead an armed operation because the police cannot be relied upon, should citizens conclude that the police and the Department of Narcotics Control are incapable of doing their jobs? The government and its ministers should direct anti-drug efforts, while the police are responsible for carrying out operations. If a state minister has to personally lead an armed raid, what role are the police expected to play? Ishraque's actions also send the wrong message to the government and the ruling party about how public authority should be exercised. If elected representatives can personally pursue and detain suspected offenders, what prevents others from following their example? The government must not allow the fight against crime to become a justification for intimidation or arbitrary action.

We urge the government to investigate the incident impartially, including the display of firearms and the alleged mistreatment of detainees. It must also find out whether the police responded appropriately to residents' complaints and ensure that suspected drug dealers are dealt with through lawful measures. Police and narcotics control authorities must also demonstrate their ability to tackle illegal drug trade effectively. And if the government expects citizens to respect the law, its representatives must set an example and address institutional failures through proper oversight and accountability.

# Yet another preventable tragedy

## Fire at Cox's Bazar resort demand accountability

There is perhaps nothing more outrageous than entirely preventable deaths. Every year, Bangladesh sees thousands of deaths that could be avoided if only we had safer roads, better building codes, and proper enforcement of regulations. Unfortunately, that is not our reality. The latest incident occurred on Saturday when at least 10 people were killed in a resort fire in Cox's Bazar.

The resort, named Tuptup Resto & Resort, is located near Patuartek beach along the marine drive in Ukhiya. The fire broke out around 7:00am, but the fire service could not bring the blaze under control until 11:00am. By then, the blaze had claimed the lives of 10 tourists, six of whom were members of the same family. The three-storey resort, which was made of wood, was completely reduced to charcoal, and the deceased were burnt beyond recognition. Police have filed a case over the incident, accusing the resort owner, manager, and 21 others. While the manager has been detained already, the whereabouts of the owner remain unknown.

According to reports, the resort was declared "risky" during an inspection in June that found the establishment lacking in safety measures. Even if the owner had been warned about non-compliance during the inspection, it does not absolve the authorities of responsibility. Why was the resort not shut down immediately, with visitors warned of the potential risks? And even when the resort was allowed to operate, were there any follow-up visits to ensure compliance after the earlier inspection? These questions are particularly important to address in a climate where hundreds of hotels and resorts are sprouting up along our coast, with many having zero regard for safety protocols, the surrounding environment, or the locals.

The government, therefore, must not only investigate this particular resort's failure to meet safety requirements, but also look into the regulatory lapses that allowed it to operate despite the known risks. The relevant authorities must ensure that permits are issued only after proper safety checks, followed by regular inspections and strict enforcement. It's high time the government curbed the use of political patronage to shield businesses from accountability. Moreover, just arresting a few individuals and announcing compensation for the victims' families cannot be the extent of the authorities' response. After all, without accountability and preventive action, another tragedy is only a matter of time.

# We can't end child marriage without closing legal loopholes

**MIND THE GAP**



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**NOSHIN NAWAL**

Nearly a decade after the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2017 was enacted, its contradictions expose a deeper failure: the state punishes child marriage without guaranteeing children protection, justice or a way out. A girl can be married illegally in Bangladesh yet remain legally married. The people responsible may face punishment, but the marriage itself can survive. She may be recognised as a victim of child marriage without being given an effective legal route to leave it. This is not merely a loophole but a fundamental contradiction in how the country understands and protects children's rights.

A newly published Unicef-UNFPA review of the Child Marriage Restraint Act, also examined in a recent report by *The Daily Star*, exposes the troubling distance between legislative intention and lived reality. Almost a decade after the law's enactment, the country continues to maintain a legal framework that condemns child marriage while leaving significant avenues for its continuation. The consequences are measurable: according to the 2025 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, 47.2 percent of women aged 20-24 were married before turning 18, compared with 51.4 percent in 2019. Although this represents progress, nearly one in two young women still entered marriage as children (The Child Act, 2013 defines any person up to the age of 18 as a child). Bangladesh consequently retains the highest prevalence of child marriage in South Asia.

The problem is not simply that the law is inadequately enforced. It is that the law itself does not consistently deliver the protection it promises. Consider Section 19, perhaps its most contentious provision. It permits marriages involving minors under special circumstances, subject to judicial approval and prescribed safeguards. Ostensibly intended as an exception, it introduces ambiguity into a prohibition that ought to be unequivocal. Where poverty, social stigma, sexual violence and family pressure influence decisions about marriage, how meaningful can a child's consent be? And whose interests are ultimately served when marriage is presented as the solution to circumstances that should instead trigger protection? Unicef and UNFPA recommend removing this exception entirely. The argument is compelling: a child's vulnerability should strengthen the state's protective obligations, not provide grounds for relaxing them.

Equally troubling is the 2017 law's failure to make child marriages automatically void or expressly voidable at the child's request. The overlapping statutory and religious personal laws in the country create a situation in which a marriage may attract criminal penalties while retaining legal recognition. The review proposes allowing those married as children to seek annulment until the age of 22, alongside compensation and safeguards for children born within such marriages.

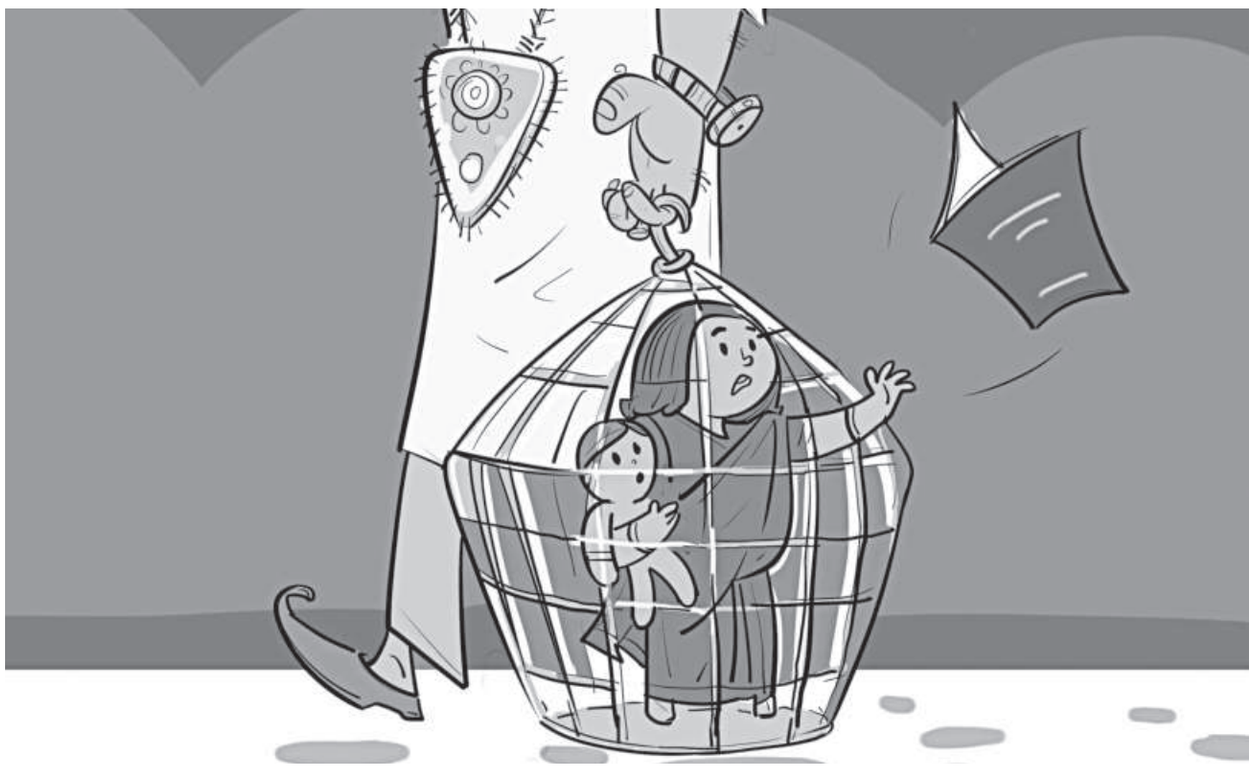
Moreover, annulment must be accompanied by accessible legal aid, safe accommodation and financial support. Otherwise, the right to leave may exist on paper while remaining practically inaccessible to a girl dependent on the very household she seeks to escape. Other contradictions reveal how insufficiently the legislation distinguishes protection from punishment. Section 7(2) permits penalties against minors themselves, while the statutory minimum marriage ages remain unequal: 18 for females and 21 for males. A protective law should not treat the child as an offender. Nor should it preserve gender distinctions that sit uneasily with the broader principle of equality before the law.

However, reforming these provisions alone will not address the social conditions that make early marriage appear inevitable. Child marriage and educational exclusion reinforce one another. Girls leave school because they marry, but they may also marry because remaining in school has become financially, geographically or socially untenable. Unicef's latest education indicators show that 33.9 percent of upper-secondary-school-age children are out of school, while the upper-secondary completion rate stands at just 43.9 percent. These figures concern all children, but the implications for girls facing marriage pressure are particularly serious.

The human cost is visible in the October 11, 2026 report on girls' education published by *The Daily Star*. It recounts the experience of Sumi Rani, married at 14 after schooling became increasingly difficult to sustain amid considerable travel and educational expenses. Her experience raises an uncomfortable question: what does the legal minimum marriage age accomplish when a family cannot afford to keep its daughter in school? The answer cannot be legislation alone. Secondary school retention must become a central pillar of child marriage prevention, supported by targeted stipends, safe transport, effective re-enrolment pathways, and financial assistance for vulnerable households.

The urgency is reinforced by reproductive health indicators. The Unicef-UNFPA review records an increase in adolescent births from 83 to 92 per 1,000 girls aged 15-19 between 2019 and 2025. Early marriage, therefore, has consequences for bodily autonomy, maternal health and intergenerational poverty. Recent incidents also demonstrate why prevention cannot depend exclusively on reactive enforcement. In September 2026, authorities intervened in the attempted marriage of an 11-year-old schoolgirl in Keraniganj, sentencing several adults involved. The intervention was necessary, but it illustrates a larger challenge: protecting children before arrangements reach the point of a wedding ceremony. Importantly, Bangladesh has not lacked reform discussions. In April 2025, the interim government's Women's Affairs Reform Commission proposed wide-ranging changes, including a uniform family code to address discrimination across marriage, divorce and other family matters. Such proposals speak directly to the legal fragmentation identified in the Unicef-UNFPA review. Subsequently, an October 2025 inter-ministerial dialogue supported by UNFPA identified reform of the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2017, digitised marriage registration, improved school retention, and stronger local accountability as priorities.

These initiatives demonstrated institutional recognition of the problem. What remains insufficiently established is whether that recognition has translated into binding legislative change, funded protection services, and measurable accountability. Bangladesh is also bound by international commitments, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Sustainable Development Goal 5.3 calls for elimination of child marriage by 2030.



FILE ILLUSTRATION: **BIPLOB CHAKROBORTY**

These commitments cannot be satisfied by criminal prohibitions that leave children without effective remedies.

Hence, a credible reform agenda must operate on three fronts: eliminate statutory exceptions and contradictions; guarantee survivor-centred legal, financial and social protection; and make keeping girls in secondary education an enforceable policy priority rather than an aspirational objective. This requires clear ministerial responsibility, functioning local prevention mechanisms, transparent implementation data, and dedicated public financing.

Ultimately, the measure of a child marriage law is not how many marriages it criminalises, but how many children it enables to remain safe, educated and free to determine their futures. Bangladesh does not need another declaration that child marriage is unacceptable—its laws already say so. What it needs is a legal system that stops making exceptions to that principle, and a state willing to make freedom from child marriage a practical reality.

# Our economic recovery must ease the burden of survival



*Farah Kabir is country director at ActionAid Bangladesh.*

**FARAH KABIR**

Bangladesh's economic crisis is not only about poverty. It is also about the growing fragility of households and an economy that increasingly depends on people exhausting themselves to survive. At the recent launch of the Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC) book *The Real State of Bangladesh's Economy: The Return of Poverty and the Dynamics of Resilience*, panellists expressed concern centred on the risk of more people falling into poverty and the vulnerability of those just above the poverty line. The World Bank's October 2026 assessment estimates that around 21 lakh more people fell into poverty in FY2025-26. Economic insecurity is spreading beyond the poorest households to those once considered relatively stable.

A household may be above the poverty line on paper and still struggle to afford food, safe water, electricity, transport, and healthcare. One illness, lost job or price increase can unravel its finances. Poverty is not simply a fixed category; for millions, it is the constant risk of falling backwards. This is where a feminist reading of the economy becomes essential.

One word used during the discussion captured the everyday burden of survival: "hoirani". Difficult to translate precisely, it conveys the harassment, hassle, and relentless weariness of navigating daily life: finding affordable food, managing shortages, negotiating inadequate services, and making insufficient money last. This is more than inconvenience. It is the cumulative cost of an economy that makes survival exhausting.

Women often carry a disproportionate share of this burden. When budgets contract, they stretch meals, absorb additional care work, and postpone their own needs. Bangladesh's unpaid household production account estimated that unpaid domestic and care work contributed Tk 6.7 lakh crore in 2021, almost one-fifth of GDP. Women performed 85 percent of it.

We celebrate resilience, but at what cost? When survival means working longer, eating less, borrowing more, delaying treatment, and providing ever more unpaid care, resilience becomes self-exploitation. Healthcare costs deepen this precarity. As the discussion highlighted, many families have a member living with chronic illness, bringing recurring expenses. These costs can consume money needed for food, education, and other essentials. Illness can become an economic crisis for an entire household.

Climate change compounds the pressure. Extreme heat threatens health and reduces working hours and earnings, particularly for people in informal employment. Water stress adds costs and labour as households struggle to secure enough safe water. Women frequently absorb this extra work alongside caring for family members. Climate vulnerability is therefore also an economic and care crisis.

According to the Labour Force Survey 2022, 84.9 percent of employed people worked in the informal sector, with the share rising to 96.6 percent among employed women. These workers sustain agriculture, transport, domestic services, and local markets, often without secure earnings, paid leave, or adequate social protection. For a street vendor, agricultural labourers or domestic worker, a day without work means a day without income. Food, rent, water, and medical bills, however, do not wait.

The ready-made garment sector presents a related challenge. Women have helped build Bangladesh's export economy, yet low wages, unequal care responsibilities and limited progression into higher-value work constrain their security. As automation and artificial intelligence reshape production, women must be equipped to lead technological change, not simply bear the costs of displacement. We must change how the economy distributes income, resources, risks, and power.

First, establish living wages which reflect the actual cost of living. This means fair wages for garment workers and a credible framework for reasonable daily wages for informal workers, backed by stronger labour protections and social security. Employment should offer a route out of insecurity, not merely a means of enduring it.

Second, treat care as public infrastructure. Affordable childcare, accessible healthcare, safe water, sanitation, and public transport reduce the burden on households. Stronger public health services and social protection must prevent illness and climate shocks from pushing families, including informal workers, into poverty.

Third, expand women's control over economic resources. Enforce property and inheritance rights, improve access to land and productive assets, and provide affordable capital for women-led enterprises and cooperatives. Public investment and gender-equitable financing should widen access to productive opportunities, rather than concentrate them among the already wealthy and well-connected.

Finally, reform the institutions that govern access to finance, markets, and decent work. Transparent banking, accountable regulation, representative worker organisations, and women's meaningful participation in economic decisions are not optional additions to growth. They are conditions for a fairer, more productive economy.

A country cannot build prosperity on the exhaustion of its people. The real measure of recovery is whether people can live with dignity without having to self-exploit. Transform the economy through systemic change, not patchwork fixes.

**The Daily Star** Reg. No. DA 781 | **EDITOR & PUBLISHER: Mahfuz Anam** Printed by him on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd at Transcraft Ltd, 229, Tejgaon Industrial Area, editor@thedailystar.net | **Registered & Head Offices:** The Daily Star Centre 64-65 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215 Phone: 09610222222 | **Newsroom:** Fax- 58156306 reporting@thedailystar.net | **Advertisement:** 01711623910 advertisement@thedailystar.net GPO Box: 3257 | **Subscription:** 01711623906 | thedailystar.net bangla.thedailystar.net/

# The economics of saying no in marriage

A CLOSER LOOK



*Tasneem Tayeb works for The Daily Star. Her X handle is @tasneem_tayeb.*

TASNEEM TAYEB



VISUAL: SALMAN SAKIB SHAHRYAR

A recent High Court judgment has brought an old question back into public discussion: when does a financial demand within a marriage amount to dowry? Upholding an acquittal in a case originating in 2016, the court distinguished between financial demands made in connection with marriage and those arising from other circumstances within a marital relationship. The case was governed by the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1980, which has since been repealed. Its successor, the Dowry Prohibition Act, 2018, expressly includes certain demands made as a condition for continuing a marriage.

These definitions need to be read with caution. Not every request for money between spouses is dowry, just as not every disagreement over household finances is evidence of abuse. Marriage involves shared expenses, financial obligations, assistance to relatives, and decisions about property. These arrangements cannot all be understood through the same legal or social lens.

But there is another question worth asking: what happens when one spouse makes a financial demand with which the other cannot, or does not wish to, comply? Consider two people discussing whether to contribute money to a business venture over a cup of coffee on a weekend. If both have independent incomes, savings, and control over their assets, either can decline without jeopardising their relationship. Now consider the same conversation in a household where one spouse controls the income, owns or controls the home, and makes most financial decisions, while the other has little money to fall back on.

This is where the economics of marriage becomes important. The nature of a financial demand cannot be understood solely by looking at the amount asked for or the relationship between the people involved. We must also consider the conditions under which the demand is made, the pressure that comes with it, and what the person being asked stands to lose. Economic coercion can happen through control over everyday necessities, restrictions on access to money, pressure to surrender earnings, or the possibility of losing dignity. In some households, the threat of being sent back to one's parental home may materialise into action. In others, the prospect of having to support children without adequate resources is enough to discourage resistance. None of these circumstances automatically establishes that a crime has been committed, but they do raise questions as to whether a financial decision is genuinely voluntary or forced.

**The nature of a financial demand cannot be understood solely by looking at the amount asked for or the relationship between the people involved. We must also consider the conditions under which the demand is made, the pressure that comes with it, and what the person being asked stands to lose. Economic coercion can happen through control over everyday necessities, restrictions on access to money, pressure to surrender earnings, or the possibility of losing dignity.**

For many women in Bangladesh, the ability to negotiate within marriage remains intricately tied to their economic position. A woman may earn an income without having complete control over how it is spent. She may contribute to a family business without holding any ownership interest. She may spend years managing a household, caring for children, and supporting her husband's employment, but have little in the way of savings or property in her own name. The economic value of this work is real, even when it does not translate into meaningful financial freedom for the woman doing it. In many cases, a marriage may be sustained by the labour of both spouses, while the financial security accumulated during that marriage may remain largely in the hands of one spouse.

This imbalance becomes particularly consequential when a disagreement escalates. A woman considering whether to resist a demand may have to weigh more than the amount involved. Can she continue living in the marital home? Does she have somewhere else to go? Can she support her children? Will her family be willing and able to accommodate her? Does she have savings of her own? These are not hypothetical considerations; they determine the range of choices available to a woman when a financial demand escalates.

The 2024 Violence Against Women Survey, conducted by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) with the support of United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), found that 7 in 10 ever-married women had experienced some form of violence in the hands of their intimate partners during their lifetime. Meanwhile, 41 percent reported experiencing violence in the preceding 12 months. These numbers were based on UN standard measures; when violence in the Bangladesh context was considered, the estimates rose to nearly 76 percent and nearly 49 percent, respectively. The survey also exposed the extent to which violence remains undisclosed: nearly 64 percent of survivors of intimate partner violence told no one.

While these figures don't tell us directly how many women face unlawful financial demands, they do highlight a wider problem of vulnerability and silence that shadows many women's lives in marriage in the country.

Pursuing a legal remedy also comes at a cost: legal fees, missed working days, and repeated visits to institutions. For a woman dependent on her spouse for accommodation or household expenses, filing a complaint may create further uncertainty.

Recent research by the Supreme Court and BRAC has highlighted the prolonged duration of proceedings in cases concerning violence against women and children. The average duration reported in the research was around 1,370 days. This figure does not show the duration of dowry cases specifically, but reflects how time-consuming and cumbersome the process can be.

Financial pressure may be negotiated within families, resolved through informal arrangements or endured without complaint. In some circumstances, mediation can provide an effective means of settling a dispute. In others, the outcome depends heavily on whether the parties are able to negotiate on equal terms.

This is why reductions in court filings, by themselves, require careful interpretation. A reported decline in dowry-related cases following the introduction of mandatory pre-filing mediation in certain districts may indicate that disputes are being settled earlier. But to understand what that means for the people involved, we would also need to know the terms of the settlements. Fewer cases reaching the court is not necessarily the same thing as fewer people experiencing coercion.

Families routinely share resources, help one another through financial difficulties, and make sacrifices for shared goals. And a woman's economic dependence should certainly not be taken to mean that she does not have any agency. However, the existence of agency does not remove the constraints under which it is exercised either. A woman who agrees to a financial demand because she fears losing her home is not in the same position as a woman who is making a long-term joint investment. This is where the difference lies.

It is also worth asking whether our understanding of women's economic empowerment has paid sufficient attention to what happens to their resources after marriage. While getting women into paid employment is important, ensuring that they can retain control over their earnings and build financial security is a different challenge. The same applies to unpaid work. A society that depends heavily on women's domestic labour while offering them limited economic recognition cannot ignore the implications when those women are required to negotiate financial demands from a position of dependence.

The recent court judgment has drawn attention to the legal boundaries of dowry. The social question extends further. Within a marriage, financial arrangements reflect who makes decisions, whose contributions are recognised, and who bears the greater risk when disagreements escalate. A person may have every legal right to refuse a financial demand, but whether that person can afford to exercise that right is a different question. Until we address the implication of this difference, we will continue to discuss marital financial coercion without fully confronting the economic conditions that allow it to persist.

# *Prepare our children for the world, not just exams*



*Kazi Liza is a doctoral student in early childhood education at Florida International University in the US.*

KAZI LIZA

Last year, while watching a news update about floods in Bangladesh, my kindergartener son asked me, "Does this happen because of the rising sea level?"

I paused. How could someone so young know about rising sea levels? I later learnt that his class had read *Hello, Mr World* by Michael Foreman, a children's book about global warming, and had done related activities. His question made me think about what children can learn when they connect their communities to the wider world. It also made me wonder whether the country's education system gives children enough opportunities to look beyond textbooks.

According to Unicef, Bangladesh has made significant progress in expanding access to education, particularly in primary school enrolment and girls' participation. However, access does not guarantee meaningful learning. Many children still struggle with foundational literacy and numeracy, while the demands of the 21st century continue to change.

Today's students will face climate change, migration, artificial intelligence, and rapid economic and technological changes. These challenges cross national borders, and for Bangladesh, they are not distant concerns. Climate-related disasters disrupt children's education, while the country's economy and communities remain closely connected to the wider world.

This is where global competence becomes important. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) describes it as the ability to examine local, global and intercultural issues, understand different perspectives, interact respectfully with people from different backgrounds, and take responsible action. Developing global competence does not mean replacing our national identity or local values with foreign ones. It means helping students understand their own communities while recognising their connections to the wider world.

What would this look like in a Bangladeshi classroom? A student in Khulna studying river erosion could investigate how climate change affects communities in the country and compare these experiences with those of children in other climate-affected regions. A student in Gaibandha studying migration could explore why people move and how migration affects families in different countries. In literature, students could compare stories from different cultures; in science, they could investigate clean water, pollution, or renewable energy.

Instead of simply asking students to remember facts, teachers could ask: why is this happening? Whose perspectives are missing? How is this connected to our community? What could we do differently?

Some may argue that global competence is a luxury when many children still struggle with basic reading, writing, and mathematics. But it should not compete with foundational learning. It can help students apply those skills to real world problems. The change does not necessarily require another subject or textbook. It can begin with how the existing subjects are taught.

However, changing classroom practice will not be easy. In Bangladesh, rote memorisation and examination results continue to shape much of school life. Research by Md Al Amin and Janinka Greenwood, published in Language Testing in Asia in 2018, found that examination pressure shaped teaching practices in secondary English classrooms in Bangladesh. Teachers reported pressure from students, parents, and school leaders for good results, while some acknowledged leaving out textbook sections they considered less likely to appear in examinations. This creates a serious obstacle to global competence. When success is measured mainly by examination marks, projects, discussion and open-ended inquiry can seem like distractions rather than essential parts of learning. Asking teachers to adopt new methods is not enough; schools must also reconsider what examinations reward and what is recognised as successful learning.

Students, teachers, parents and schools must all see a reason to embrace this approach. Teachers need practical training, time and support from school leadership. Students need opportunities to explore issues that matter to their lives and share what they discover through projects, discussions, and presentations. Schools could encourage participation through exhibitions, competitions, and recognition for innovative work. Parents also need to understand that these activities are not a distraction from academic achievement but they help children apply what they learn.

Assessment must also give greater value to critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and problem-solving skills. If examinations continue to reward memorisation alone, schools will have little incentive to prioritise these skills. Global competence must become part of what schools value and assess, not simply another expectation placed on already busy teachers and students.

These opportunities don't depend on expensive technology. A discussion about flooding, clean water, migration or community health can begin with a newspaper article, a story or a local experience. Teachers can encourage students to investigate why these problems occur, how they affect different communities, and what solutions might be possible. Where technology is available, students can connect with peers elsewhere and learn how others experience similar challenges. They can compare perspectives, recognise differences, and discover that many global problems require cooperation across borders. What matters most is creating classrooms where students are encouraged to ask questions, examine evidence, exchange ideas, and think beyond memorised answers. With the right guidance, even simple classroom activities can help students develop curiosity, empathy, critical thinking, and an understanding of their role in an interconnected world.

When my son asked whether floods in Bangladesh were connected to rising sea levels, he was asking a simple question. But it opened the door to bigger ones: who is affected, why this is happening, what we can learn from others, what we can do.

Our children deserve an education that helps them ask questions and seek meaningful answers. Moving beyond textbooks does not mean abandoning academic learning. It means preparing Bangladeshi children not only for examinations, but also for the world they will inherit.

**Some may argue that global competence is a luxury when many children still struggle with basic reading, writing, and mathematics. But it should not compete with foundational learning. It can help students apply those skills to real world problems. The change does not necessarily require another subject or textbook. It can begin with how the existing subjects are taught.**

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**
Office of the Divisional Forest Officer
Social Forest Division, Bagerhat.

**e-Tender Notice**

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

| Tender ID | Name of works | Last Selling Date & Time | Closing Date & Time | Opening Date & Time |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1357631 | Renovation of Residential Building at Khulna SFNTC. | 01-Nov-2026 16:00 | 02-Nov-2026 12:00 | 02-Nov-2026 12:00 |
| 1357629 | Renovation of Boundary wall at Shatgabmuj SFNTC. | 01-Nov-2026 14:30 | 02-Nov-2026 12:00 | 02-Nov-2026 12:00 |
| 1342092 | Uniform and other related materials Supply for staff at Social Forest Division, Bagerhat. | 01-Nov-2026 16:00 | 02-Nov-2026 12:00 | 02-Nov-2026 12:00 |

This is an online tender, where only e-tenders will be accepted in the National e-Gp portal and no offline/ hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System portal (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the national e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd)

**(Md. Shahin Kabir)**
Divisional Forest Officer
Social Forest Division, Bagerhat
Tel: 02477751524
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GD-2544



**Palestinian children wait to receive food from a soup kitchen funded by the World Food Programme in Deir Al-Balah, in the central Gaza Strip, yesterday.** PHOTO: REUTERS

## Ensure safeguards for journalists in cyber law

FROM PAGE 1

editor of New Age, and General Secretary Dewan Hanif Mahmud, editor of Bonik Barta.

Provisions concerning the removal or blocking of content, arrest, search, seizure, surveillance, and interference with digital data must ensure transparency, a specific legal basis, prompt judicial oversight, and effective remedies, it said.

The organisation also called on the government to make prior court approval mandatory before journalists can be arrested, searched or placed under surveillance over allegations arising from their professional work.

The draft, which has yet to be finalised, should enable effective action against cybercrime while protecting the media's professional independence and the public's right to information.

For allegations directly related to journalists' work, court approval should be required before seizing materials or accessing digital devices and data. Emergency action taken without prior approval must be reviewed or approved by a court within 48 hours. Such cases should be bailable.

News, investigative reports, analysis, and opinion published professionally or in the public interest should not be treated as cybercrimes merely because of their content or critical stance.

Fair criticism, satire, cartoons, parody, consumer complaints, political criticism, and unintentional errors should not be criminalised. Matters involving freedom of expression should not be made non-bailable.

Where the draft conflicts with laws protecting journalists and media outlets, provisions safeguarding press freedom and constitutional rights should prevail.

The organisation sought protection for reporting on corruption, abuse of power, financial irregularities, environmental damage, public health, consumer rights, government spending, and irregularities in public and private institutions.

Criticism of the government, state institutions, officials, public representatives, and policies, as well as political opinions, analysis, and satire, should not constitute cybercrime. Any prosecution must establish the elements of an offence clearly defined in law.

The council opposed vague expressions such as "disparaging the state" and sought precise definitions of statements deemed insulting to the state, threats to national security and harm to friendly relations with foreign countries.

Journalism, research, human rights monitoring, international cooperation, and public-interest disclosures should not be brought under such provisions or made non-bailable.

It called for separate definitions of incorrect information, disinformation, and rumours. Incorrect or incomplete information should not itself be criminalised, and information should not be treated as an element of an offence merely because it is unverified or unsupported.

Terms requiring clear definitions include bullying, defamation, disparagement, sexual harassment, and sextortion.

On removing or blocking news reports, posts, videos, and other digital content, the council sought a specific legal basis, written reasons, and an explanation of why action is necessary.

Except in emergencies, affected individuals or organisations should be allowed to present their views. Every order should be open to appeal before an independent authority or court within a specified period, with judicial review, according to the recommendations.

Emergency content blocking must receive court approval or review within 48 hours, while information on removal and blocking orders should be made public.

The council opposed making online defamation a new or more serious cybercrime, recommending that such complaints be referred to the Bangladesh Press Council under existing procedures.

Mobile courts and executive authorities should not adjudicate complaints involving news publication, expression, defamation or journalistic content. Arrests, fines, content removal, and other punitive measures in such disputes should be subject to judicial oversight.

No media organisation should be shut down, have its registration cancelled or face disproportionate punishment over an individual report or publication, the organisation said, proposing that such matters be referred to the Press Council.

It demanded legal protection for journalists' confidential sources, saying journalists must not be forced to identify them.

For disputes involving reporting, professional conduct, ethics or media responsibilities, it recommended using the Press Council's complaints and inquiry procedures before taking action, where appropriate. Its jurisdiction and effectiveness should be modernised, if necessary, to include relevant digital news outlets alongside newspapers.

The council called for an independent and accountable National Cyber Protection Council to oversee agencies empowered to investigate, arrest, search, seize materials, conduct surveillance or remove content.

It sought safeguards to ensure the independence of Protection Council members, limits on their powers and investigating officers, and accountability for their decisions. The body should include cybersecurity, legal and human rights experts, alongside experienced media professionals and editorial leaders.

Decisions affecting the public interest, policy recommendations, and the exercise of powers should be transparent and made public.

At a discussion on September 28, the government agreed to form two expert committees to review draft amendments amid concerns raised by journalists.

The draft did not adequately distinguish cybersecurity, cybercrime, and journalism in the digital sphere, which could undermine independent reporting and media freedom, the Editors' Council said in its release.

It urged the government to reconsider the draft after consulting stakeholders, saying that a secure digital environment and independent media were not mutually exclusive and both could be strengthened through appropriate laws and safeguards.

## Govt to buy 5,830 vehicles for police

FROM PAGE 12

According to Planning Commission proposals, obtained by The Daily Star, the stations have only 1,237 vehicles, 64 percent of which are more than 10 years old, hampering patrols, criminal investigations and emergency response.

The procurement involves two projects: one for 4,829 operational vehicles costing Tk 4,328.9247 crore and another for 1,001 specialised vehicles costing Tk 2,280.1414 crore.

Both projects are scheduled to be placed before the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecnec) for approval at its October 25 meeting, according to a Planning Division notice.

Police officials said the shortage worsened after 1,074 police vehicles were damaged during the July-August 2024 mass uprising, including 455 that were burnt, according to the Police Headquarters database.

On March 30, Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed told parliament that many vehicles had been burnt or rendered unusable during the uprising, disrupting patrols and law enforcement activities. He said the government was taking steps to restore police capacity and replace damaged vehicles.

The proposed purchases, however, aim to address broader operational shortages and strengthen the force's specialised capabilities, beyond replacing damaged vehicles.

The projects, proposed by the home ministry, would be implemented by Bangladesh Police between October 2026 and June 2029, with the entire cost borne by the government.

According to the proposal, each police station generally covers several unions or wards and requires at least four to five pickups or patrol vehicles to cover different areas simultaneously. Densely populated and crime-prone areas may need more.

With only one or two vehicles at many stations, deploying a team for an operation can leave other areas without adequate patrol coverage or immediate police response.

Contacted by The Daily Star, Kamarum Munira, assistant inspector general (media) at Police Headquarters, said the procurement was primarily aimed at addressing the transport shortage and supporting police operations.

She said the force would assess its vehicle requirements in the coming days and submit further requests if needed.

The operational vehicle project aims to improve mobility for regular patrols, anti-crime and anti-narcotics operations, arrests and emergency response. The proposal also highlights the need for additional vehicles during national elections and major events, when police are required to operate simultaneously across the country.

The specialised vehicle project seeks to strengthen riot control, criminal investigations and operations in remote areas.

According to the proposal, riot control vehicles would help police respond to public disorder and emergencies, while all-terrain vehicles would enable officers to operate in areas inaccessible to conventional patrol vehicles.

Mobile command centres would serve as temporary control rooms, allowing police to monitor and coordinate operations using advanced communication systems. Crime scene vans would help investigators collect evidence immediately after incidents, facilitating criminal investigations and the identification of suspects.

The proposals also highlight the need for watercraft to conduct patrols, respond to emergencies and carry out rescue operations in riverine areas.

Besides the 639 administrative police stations, Bangladesh Police operates 24 railway and 73 highway police stations, according to the documents.

The operational vehicle project allocates Tk 15 crore for purchasing vehicle repair equipment and tools. It also proposes driving and mechanical training for 650 personnel handling light vehicles and 300 handling heavy vehicles, alongside separate mechanic training for another 50.

Under the specialised vehicle project, 910 personnel would receive driving and mechanical training, while another 50 would undergo mechanic training.

The Planning Commission's project evaluation committee reviewed both proposals on October 15, recommending that the projects ensure accurate cost estimates, compliance with government procurement regulations and adequate maintenance arrangements after completion.

It also sought detailed information on vehicles currently operational, repairable or beyond use, along with necessary adjustments to the police's approved vehicle establishment.

The commission subsequently recommended both projects for Ecnec approval, saying they would help address the transport shortage, improve police mobility and ensure faster responses to public needs.

## Alif's killing an attack on press freedom

FROM PAGE 2

examine whether any political, personal or journalism-related disputes, or previous threats, were linked to the killing.

Regardless of the perpetrators' political identity, social status or influence, they must be brought to justice, the statement said.

Any obstruction to the investigation by any influential quarter or impunity for the perpetrators would seriously undermine journalists' security and public confidence in the rule of law.

The Council also called on the government and law enforcement agencies to take immediate and effective measures to ensure journalists' safety.

"Journalists cannot be silenced from revealing the truth through intimidation, attacks or murder," the organisation said, urging democratic forces, civil society, and all parties concerned to unite in support of journalists' safety and independent journalism.

The statement stressed that justice must be ensured.

On Thursday night, Alif was shot dead by criminals when he was returning home in the Telanjia area of Durgapur upazila.

His wife filed a murder case with Durgapur Police Station, accusing seven to eight unidentified individuals on Friday.

Police arrested suspect Opurba, 22, in Durgapur shortly after midnight on Saturday, our Netrokona correspondent reports.

He was sent to jail after being produced before a court yesterday afternoon.

Police claimed that Opurba was present at the scene when Alif was killed and that he was carrying a bag containing firearms at the time.

Khondokar Shaker Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Durgapur Police Station, said Opurba is a nephew of the prime suspect in the killing.

## Draft amendment to CSA

FROM PAGE 12

and 64 arrested in 44 cases under the cyber law between March and September, he warned that passing the proposed law without consulting stakeholders would be harmful to the public and the media, and "suicidal" for the government.

Speakers strongly protested Section 29 of the draft, which allows cancelling an entire media outlet's licence for an employee's offence, alongside another provision that empowers investigating officers to indefinitely seize all devices and data centres of a media house based on mere suspicion.

"An entire newspaper cannot be shut down for a correspondent's mistake -- Manabzamin cannot be closed for my crime," said its Chief Editor Matiur Rahman Chowdhury, while opposing a provision that allows mobile courts to try journalists.

Terming mobile court trials for journalists unthinkable in a democratic society, he said: "Please do not tie our hands again -- tying our hands will only harm you."

Criticising the monopoly structure of the proposed "National Cyber Security Council" under Section 12, media committee member Sharifuzzaman Pintu pointed out that the prime minister-led council includes five influential ministers, nine secretaries, five agency chiefs -- including the DGFI and NSI directors general -- the IGP, the Bangladesh Bank governor, and the NBR and BTRC chairmen, while excluding the National Human Rights Commission chairman.

Warning that granting such unchecked power to the executive branch could become a dangerous tool for a future autocratic government, he proposed ensuring at least one-third representation from journalist bodies and human rights activists to maintain a balance of power.

Pintu also criticised section 52 for granting blanket immunity to government officials, a provision absent in previous laws, and section 8 for allowing content blocking without prior court permission.

Discussants also demanded the removal of terms like "defamation", "demeaning" and "bullying" from Section 25, "rumour" and "misinformation" from the newly proposed Section 26A, and the provision for warrantless arrests under Section 46.

At the meeting, Independent Television Chief News Editor Mostafa Ahmed called for a clear legal safeguard for public-interest investigative journalism, while Daily Waadaa Editor Shafiqul Alam proposed activating civil defamation laws with financial penalties instead of criminal punishment, alongside ensuring Meta's accountability.

## Secretariat moving

FROM PAGE 12

Sources at the meeting told The Daily Star that the PM wants to bring all ministries and divisions onto a single campus and make the new Secretariat operational before the next parliamentary election.

The Housing and Public Works Ministry presented the proposal to the cabinet. The total cost of the project has yet to be finalised, but the government is expected to finance it.

Once the Secretariat is relocated, the existing buildings may be used to accommodate government offices based in Old Dhaka or operating from rented premises elsewhere in the capital, ministry sources said.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, Cabinet Secretary Nasimul Gani said the new Secretariat would be an aesthetically designed complex built on a 31-acre site at the former Trade Fair grounds in Sher-e-Bangla Nagar.

Under the government's plan, the new Secretariat will have 33.16 lakh square feet of floor space, with 14 twelve-storey buildings, three basement levels and parking facilities for 3,800 cars.

The complex will also include a mosque, two multipurpose halls, a cafeteria, a gymnasium, a passport office and a post office. There will be surface parking for another 200 vehicles, while 30 percent of the site will be reserved for greenery and water bodies.

"A number of underground roads and underpasses will be built to ensure smooth traffic movement around the new Secretariat, while existing roads will be widened to improve traffic flow," Gani said.

Asked whether the relocation decision was justified given the country's current economic situation and public expectations following the mass uprising, he said, "Although the current Secretariat has 18.76 lakh square feet of space, it cannot accommodate 16 ministries. The prime minister wants all ministries and divisions in one place to speed up decision-making."

According to a Cabinet Division press release issued after the meeting, the existing Secretariat has 13 buildings on 17.57 acres of land, eight of which were built before independence.

Buildings 1, 2, 3 and 8 were constructed between 1937 and 1939, while Building 5 was built in 1947, it said.

Citing inadequate usable space in the buildings, the release added, "The shortage of toilets and overcrowding caused by staff numbers exceeding capacity make it impossible to maintain a hygienic working environment."

Yesterday's cabinet meeting also approved a proposal to rename the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, replacing "Mohila" with "Nari" in its Bangla name, the cabinet secretary said.

The cabinet also endorsed Bangladesh's accession to the Rotterdam Convention to strengthen international cooperation on the import, export and management of hazardous chemicals and pesticides.

Gani said the harmful effects of various toxic chemicals and pesticides needed to be assessed in advance.

Joining the convention would help Bangladesh make informed decisions on whether to import such chemicals after assessing their potential hazards, he said.

According to the United Nations Treaty Collection, the Rotterdam Convention currently has 169 parties and 72 signatories.

## Ishraque's fate up in the air

FROM PAGE 1

Secretariat yesterday afternoon and instructed him to step down.

However, no official statement had been issued by the time this report was filed at 2:00am today.

At 10:34pm, state broadcaster Bangladesh Television ran a news ticker reading: "Prime Minister orders Ishraque to resign from the cabinet."

The ticker was removed shortly afterwards.

At 11:22pm, BTV aired another ticker quoting Ishraque as saying the reports that he had been instructed to resign were "completely false".

Government and Prime Minister's Office officials said discussions had been underway since yesterday afternoon over whether Ishraque should step down.

The controversy has embarrassed the government and raised concerns at the highest levels about ministerial conduct.

Tarique also reportedly reprimanded Ishraque yesterday afternoon for brandishing a firearm, instructing him to apologise publicly and refrain from doing so again.

Asked about the government's position on Ishraque's conduct, Cabinet Secretary Nasimul Ghani told reporters after a cabinet meeting around 7:15pm, "I have no comment on this matter. There was no discussion in this regard."

Pressed on whether the government had taken note of the incident or launched an inquiry, he said, "I will make no further comment on this."

In a Facebook post around 12:35am today, Ishraque said any instruction from the prime minister to a cabinet member, whether to resign or on any other matter, "is conventionally binding and becomes effective immediately upon issuance".

He added, "Therefore, there is no need to verify such information through any third, fourth, or more distant intermediary.

"If any such decision is taken concerning the Liberation War Affairs ministry or myself, the nation will be informed in detail through a press conference at the earliest possible opportunity once the decision takes effect, Insha'Allah."

Earlier, contacted by The Daily Star around 11:00pm, Ishraque dismissed reports that he had been asked to resign, calling them "rumours".

At 10:30pm, his press officer Mahfuz Kabir issued a statement dismissing reports in the media and on social media that Ishraque had resigned or been asked to resign as "completely false, baseless, fabricated, and motivated".

"The truth is that the state minister continues to discharge his official and political responsibilities with dedication and distinction. No directive has been issued from the highest levels of the government asking him to resign, and there is no question of his resignation.

"At the same time, we call upon those who have published or broadcast these misleading reports to immediately withdraw them and present the correct facts. Otherwise, appropriate legal action will be taken against those responsible for spreading false information."

**PRIME MINISTER UNHAPPY**

Three government sources familiar with the matter said Tarique expressed strong dissatisfaction when he met Ishraque at the Secretariat around 2:00pm yesterday, questioning why the state minister had personally participated in the operation while carrying a firearm.

A government official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said, "His actions have embarrassed the government... If the government does not take strong action over the incident, it will create a negative impression among the people. That's why he has been asked to apologise publicly."

Ishraque's actions have also caused unease among BNP ministers, lawmakers and rank-and-file party members.

Five MPs and two ministers, requesting anonymity, said they supported anti-drug drives but objected to a state minister personally carrying out such an operation while armed. They said the incident had exposed the government to criticism.

Some lawmakers also feared the videos could damage the government's image among foreign diplomats.

The controversy erupted on Saturday when videos posted on Ishraque's verified Facebook page showed him stepping out of a vehicle with a pistol and directing his associates to apprehend several people near the Dayaganj Ghuntighar railway crossing, close to Gandaria Railway Station.

Two others accompanying the state minister were also seen carrying firearms. At one point, a member of his entourage threatened to shoot, while one of his bodyguards kicked a young man as the group attempted to detain several people.

The footage went viral, raising questions about the legality of a state minister personally conducting such an operation and displaying a firearm in public.

Under the home ministry's Firearms Licence Issuance, Renewal and Use Policy 2025, licence holders may carry or use firearms for self-defence but are prohibited from displaying them in a manner that causes fear or annoyance to others.

Meanwhile, Ishraque accused several media outlets in a Facebook post of exaggerating the incident.

He said the operation, carried out with assistance from Gandaria police, dismantled four to five makeshift drug dens and led to the detention of six suspected drug traders.

Suspected heroin, foreign liquor, drug paraphernalia, sharp weapons, cash and mobile phones were also seized, he added.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police has also launched an investigation into the incident.

Detective Branch Chief Shafiqul Islam told reporters around noon yesterday that the deputy commissioner of Wari Division had been assigned to investigate and submit a report.

Opposition Jamaat-e-Islami condemned the incident, describing the display of a firearm as an attempt to establish a "reign of terror".

In a statement yesterday, the party said Ishraque's conduct was unlawful, could embolden criminals and amounted to a breach of his oath of office. It called for action against those responsible.

Under Article 58 of the constitution, a minister other than the prime minister vacates office upon submitting a resignation to the prime minister for forwarding to the president.

The prime minister may also request a minister to resign at any time. If the minister fails to comply, the prime minister may advise the president to terminate the appointment.

# DAP changes raise red flags

FROM PAGE 3

construction up to the plinth level within one year of final approval or face a penalty equivalent to 20 times the approval fee.

Existing regulations on road width, setbacks, ground coverage and building height will remain unchanged.

The gazette also allows plots 1,047, 1,048 and 1,050 in Ailbahar mouza, under Shyampur and Kadamtali, to be reclassified from open space to heavy industrial use.

The reclassification requires clearances from the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority and Dhaka South City Corporation, compliance with river-foreshore regulations and Rajuk's approval for construction.

Another amendment revises Section 7.5.8(b) on water-flow overlay zones, allowing proposed land-use guidelines, including approved residential layout plans, to determine occupancy types where land-use designations conflict.

However, the provision excludes land recorded as canals, ponds, roads, pathways or other water bodies, as well as government khas land.

A Rajuk source on Saturday alleged that the amendments were issued without completing the required technical review and approval process.

The source said a nine-member government technical committee had recommended against changing the classification of the three Ailbahar plots without no-objection clearances from BIWTA and the relevant city corporation.

After obtaining the clearances, the committee was expected to inspect the site and assess potential impacts on the environment, ecology and local residents before making its final recommendation to the Rajuk Board.

Adil Mohammed Khan, executive director of the Institute for Planning and Development (IPD), criticised the amendments, saying they prioritised industrial and real estate interests over public welfare.

He said major development plans should be amended only after professional consultation and impartial assessment. He also questioned reports that planners and Rajuk officials had not been adequately informed of the changes.

Khan warned that weakening protections for open spaces, flood-flow zones and riverfront areas could worsen Dhaka's environmental conditions and waterlogging.

He raised particular concerns about allowing heavy industrial development in Jurain and Postogola and questioned repeated FAR increases in eastern Dhaka, saying they appeared inconsistent with original planning assumptions and population projections.

Dr Muhammad Ariful Islam, president of the Bangladesh Institute of Planners, said, "Changes should not be made in this manner. It is not appropriate to proceed without proper consultation and disclosure of the relevant information."

In a statement yesterday, IPD demanded immediate revocation of the third-round DAP amendment gazette.

It called for full disclosure of the amendments, a technical investigation into possible corruption or commercial influence, protection of floodplains and waterways, and FAR increases consistent with population projections and infrastructure capacity.

IPD also accused successive governments since 2022 of prioritising business interests over Dhaka's environment and liveability, warning that the latest changes could strain infrastructure and undermine public welfare.



**Traders travel precariously on the roof and rear of an overloaded pickup carrying containers of fish fry along the Khulna City Bypass Road in Arongghata area yesterday. With no safety barriers or restraints, a sudden brake or sharp turn could send them tumbling onto the road.**

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

# Kill them and hide their bodies

FROM PAGE 3

"I have given instructions; now I have given direct instructions; now they will use lethal weapons. Wherever they (state forces) find them (protesters), they will shoot directly," Hasina was quoted as saying.

Ashabul was shot during protests in Savar on July 18, 2024. Police personnel were seen throwing the critically injured student from an armoured personnel carrier, dragging him along a road and dumping him on a road divider.

Bystanders later took him to a hospital, where he died.

Tamim argued that the allegations constituted crimes against humanity and said the prosecution would prove the charges through evidence if they were framed.

The prosecution urged the tribunal to frame charges against all 19 accused, six of whom were present at yesterday's hearing. The others are absconding.

State-appointed defence counsel then began their arguments. Lawyers for the accused in custody will present their submissions on October 27.

# Freedom fighter, artist Saeeda Kamal passes away

FROM PAGE 3

contribution, she was awarded the Commander-in-Chief's Special Commendation.

Saeeda Kamal was the daughter of renowned poet Sufia Kamal.

Sultana Kamal said her sister had been suffering from pneumonia and kidney-related complications. She was admitted to a hospital in Dhaka on Saturday and had been on life support since that night.

Her body is being kept at the BIRDEM Hospital morgue. She is expected to be buried at Azimpur Graveyard in Dhaka on Tuesday, after her daughter arrives from the UK, she added.

Saeeda Kamal also made significant contributions to Bangladesh's fine arts through her creative work. After studying fine arts at Dhaka University, she received training in design at Kala Bhavana in Santiniketan.

Her artworks were featured in numerous solo and group exhibitions at home and abroad.

**PRAYER TIMING**
**OCTOBER 19**

| | Fazr | Zohr | Asr | Maghrib | Esha |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| AZAN | 4-50 | 12-45 | 4-00 | 5-38 | 7-15 |
| JAMAAT | 5-25 | 1-15 | 4-15 | 5-41 | 7-45 |

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

# BNP govt incapable of working with opposition

FROM PAGE 3

southern region Hasnat Abdullah alleged that the government had violated 17 provisions of the July charter over the past seven months.

He accused the government of failing to amend the ACC Act, establish an independent police commission, ensure judicial independence and introduce measures to disclose the assets of judges and court employees.

He also criticised the lack of progress on transparency in public procurement and investigations into officials accused of involvement in genocide and electoral fraud.

Hasnat said the BNP had accepted the February 12 election results but refused to recognise the referendum verdict or take the oath as members of the constitution reform council.

Bangladesh Khelafat Majlis Ameer Mamunul Haque accused the BNP of trying to divide the political unity forged during the July uprising by targeting Islamist parties.

"The BNP has moved to create a split in that unity. And, unfortunately, it has targeted Islamists first to bring about that division," he said.

Liberal Democratic Party Chairman Oli Ahmed said the July charter had been drawn up through political consensus and the BNP should honour its commitments.

AB Party Chairman Mojibur Rahman Monju urged the BNP to learn from the consequences Sheikh Hasina faced for failing to honour her promises.

He warned that failure to implement the July charter and address rising commodity prices and the energy crisis would trigger public protests.

AB Party General Secretary Asaduzzaman Fuad moderated the discussion.

# One company, one route

FROM PAGE 3

Dhrubo Alam, deputy transport planner at DTCA, said the implementation will begin shortly.

DTCA has identified six of 32 proposed main routes and five of 25 circular routes for the first phase.

The six main routes are Gazipur-Dhakeshwari Temple, Gabtoli-Demra, Duaripara-Sadarghat, Ghatarchar-Demra, Ghatarchar-Kanchpur and Mirpur-12-Mawa.

The Gazipur-Dhakeshwari Temple route will run from Shibbari via Tongi, the airport, Mohakhali and New Market. Bikash Paribahan, Bikash Sheba Transport and Device Paribahan have been asked to form a company.

The Gabtoli-Demra route will remain unchanged, passing through Shyamoli, Mohakhali, Gulshan-1 and Rampura. Alif Enterprise, Boishakh Paribahan and Roych Paribahan have been asked to combine operations.

The Duaripara-Sadarghat route will pass through Shyamoli, Science Lab and Azimpur. Dishari Paribahan, Tanzil Paribahan, Metro Link and Transsilva will coordinate services, including arrangements for proposed Route 16 extending to Kanchpur.

The Ghatarchar-Demra route will pass through Mohammadpur, Shahbagh and Rampura, while Ghatarchar-Kanchpur will run via Shahbagh, Paltan and Signboard.

Ramzan, Malancha Paribahan, Midline Paribahan and Rajnigandha Paribahan will coordinate operations on both routes.

The Mirpur-12-Mawa route will pass through Farmgate, Shahbagh, Gulistan and Keraniganj, with Swadhin Paribahan, Bihanga Paribahan, Bikalpa Paribahan and Shikor Paribahan jointly arranging services.

DMP and the two city corporations have been instructed to identify bus stops, install ticket counters, clear footpath encroachments and remove unauthorised battery-run rickshaws.

DTCA also decided to conduct mobile courts with police assistance from October 18 to 22.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
BANGLADESH TELEVISION
HEADQUARTERS BUILDING
RAMPURA, DHAKA-1219.
www.btv.gov.bd

**e-REoI Notice**

This is an online REoI; only e-REoI will be accepted on the e-GP Portal, and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit an e-REoI, please register on the e-GP System Portal (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd). For more details, please contact Support desk Contact numbers.

**e-REoI are invited on the e-GP System Portal (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd) by the Procuring Entity: Director General, BTV.**

| Proposal ID/ Package No | Name of Services | Proposal Method & Type | Proposal Publication Date and time | Tender Closing Date & Time |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Proposal ID: 1357477 Invitation Reference No.: BTV/APP/HQ/ Services/202 6-27/223 | Appointment of a Professional Consulting Firm to Conduct a Performance Audit of BTV: A 360-Degree Assessment for Institutional Revitalisation, Cost-Effectiveness, Quality Improvement and Audience-Centric Transformation | QCBS, OTM (NCT) | 18-Oct.-2026 01:00 BST | 02-Nov-2026 15:00 BST |

e-REoI details can be downloaded from e-GP System Portal (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for pursue. e-REoI will be accepted only as stated in the above list. Accepted tenders will be opened online immediately as stated in the above list.

17.10.26
(Md Manirul Islam)
Additional Chief Engineer, BTV
On behalf of Procuring Entity

GD-2540

**Government of the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh**
Office of the Executive Engineer
Health Engineering Department (HED)
Dinajpur Division
Sadar Hospital Campus, Dinajpur.
www.hed.dinajpur.gov.bd

Memo No: 45.02.5527.443.07.089.26-704 Date: 18.10.2026

**e-Tender Notice**

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP system portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of the works Details are given below:

| SL No. | e-Tender ID No. | Tender Method | Tender Publication Date & Time | Tender Last Selling Date & Time | Tender Closing Date & Time |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 02 | 1354694, 1354693, 1354692, 1354691, 1354690, 1354689, 1354688, 1354687, 1354686, 1354685, 1354679, 1354678, 1354677, 1354676, 1354675, 1354674, 1354673, 1354672, 1354671, 1354670 = 20 Nos. | OTM | 18.10.2026 17:00 PM | 01.11.2026 16:00 PM | 02.11.2026 10:00 AM |

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the national e-GP portal & no offline / hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP system portal have to be Free. Further information and guidelines are available in the national e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

18.10.26
(Md. Afsar)
Executive Engineer
HED, Dinajpur Division
e-mail: xenheddinajpur@yahoo.com

GD-2545

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**
Department of Fisheries, Bangladesh
Matshya Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka.
www.fisheries.gov.bd

Memo no: 33.02.0000.000.105.27.001.23.1252 Date: 18.10.2026

**e-Tender Notice**

The following Tender has been published through e-GP system:

| Sl. # | Tender ID # | Package Description |
|---|---|---|
| 01 | 1357354 | Supply of Office Stationary and Miscellaneous Goods for DoF Officials at The Department of Fisheries, Matshya Bhaban, Dhaka. Package No: FA/DoF/2627/OfficialsGoods/OTM |
| 02 | 1357182 | Procurement and Supply of Cleaning Materials for DoF Officials at The Department of Fisheries, Matshya Bhaban, Dhaka. Package No: FA/DoF/2627/CleaningMaterials /OTM |

All others information are available in www.eprocure.gov.bd.

18.10.26
(Dr. Fozlul Kabeer)
Deputy Director (General) (C. C.)
Phone: 02-223387217
Email: ddgeneral@fisheries.gov.bd

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

**Invitation for Tenders**

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Ministry/Division | Power Division |
| 2. | Name of Procuring Entity | Promoting Energy-Related Low Carbon Urban Development (LCUD) Bangladesh |
| 3. | Invitation for | Physical Services |
| 4. | Invitation Ref. No. | 27.02.0000.000.023.14.0007.26.**139**; 15 October 2026 |
| 5. | Date | 15 October 2026 |
| **KEY INFORMATION** | | |
| 6. | Title of Service | Open Tendering Method (OTM) |
| **FUNDING INFORMATION** | | |
| 7. | Budget and Source of funds | Development Budget |
| 8. | Development Partner | United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), GEF |
| **PARTICULAR INFORMATION** | | |
| 9. | Project/Programme Name | Promoting Energy-Related Low Carbon Urban Development (LCUD) Bangladesh |
| 10. | Project/Programme Code | 224417700 |
| 11. | Tender Package No. | SD-22 |
| 12. | Date of Publication | 17 October 2026 |
| 13. | Name of Tender Package | Hiring of 02 (Two) Air-Conditioned Microbuses |
| 14. | Tender Selling Date | 15th October 2026 (Office Hours) |
| 15. | Tender Submission Deadline and Time | 29th October 2026, Time: 11:00 (BST) |
| 16. | Tender Opening Date and Time | 29th October 2026, Time: 12:00 (BST) |
| 17. | Name and Address Office | Promoting Energy-Related Low Carbon Urban Development (LCUD) Bangladesh. Level 9 & 10, Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB), Ramna, Dhaka |
| 18. | Place of Seals Tender Documents | SREDA, Level 10, Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB), Ramna, Dhaka |
| 19. | Place of Receiving Tender | SREDA, Level 10, Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB), Ramna, Dhaka |
| **20.** | Place of Opening Tender | Mohanada, SREDA, Level 10, IEB, Ramna, Dhaka |
| **INFORMATION FOR TENDER** | | |
| 21. | Brief Eligibility and Qualification of Tender | Mentioned in the Tender Document |
| 22. | Brief Description of GOODS | Mentioned in the Tender Document |
| | Price of Tender Document (TK.) | **BDT 1000/-** |

| 23. | Package No | Description of Goods | Quantity & Specifications | Tender Security Amount (Refundable) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 24. | PS 2 | Hiring of 02 (Two) Air-Conditioned Microbuses | As mentioned, the Tender Document | BDT 200,000/- (Taka Two lac Only) in the form of Pay Order or Bank Draft in favor of the Project Director, LCUD Office |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS** | | |
| 25. | Name of the Official Inviting Tender | Engr. Md. Muzibur Rahman |
| 26. | Designation of the Official Inviting Tender | Project Director, LCUD Bangladesh |
| 27. | Address of the Official Inviting Tender | SREDA, Level 9 & 10, IEB, Ramna, Dhaka |
| 28. | Contact Details of Official Inviting Tender | 02-55110343, lcud2024@gmail.com |

**The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any all Tender(s).**

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

GD-2535

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**
Office of the Executive Engineer
Rajbari PWD Division, Rajbari
E-mail: ee_rjbri@pwd.gov.bd
Phone No: 02-478807642

Memo No. e-Tender/PWD/Raj/26-27/496 Date: 18-10-2026

**e-Tender Notice (OTM)**
**(Re-Tendered)**

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

| Tender ID No | Name of work | Last selling date & time |
|---|---|---|
| 1355997 | Supply and installation of a passenger lift with a capacity of 750-800 kg for the five-storey building of the NSI office in Rajbari district. | 29-10-2026 11:00 AM |

These are online Tenders, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP System Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration required in the National e-GP system.
The fees for downloading the e-Tender Document from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank.
Further information and guide are available in the National e-GP system (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd).

18/10/26
**(S.M. Towhidul Islam)**
Executive Engineer
Rajbari PWD Division, Rajbari.

GD-2541



Arnold Bake and his wife, Corrie, with Rabindranath Tagore and Bhimrao Sastri at Shantiniketan, c. 1926–27.

# Arnold Bake and the songs of Rabindranath Tagore

**BOB VAN DER LINDEN**

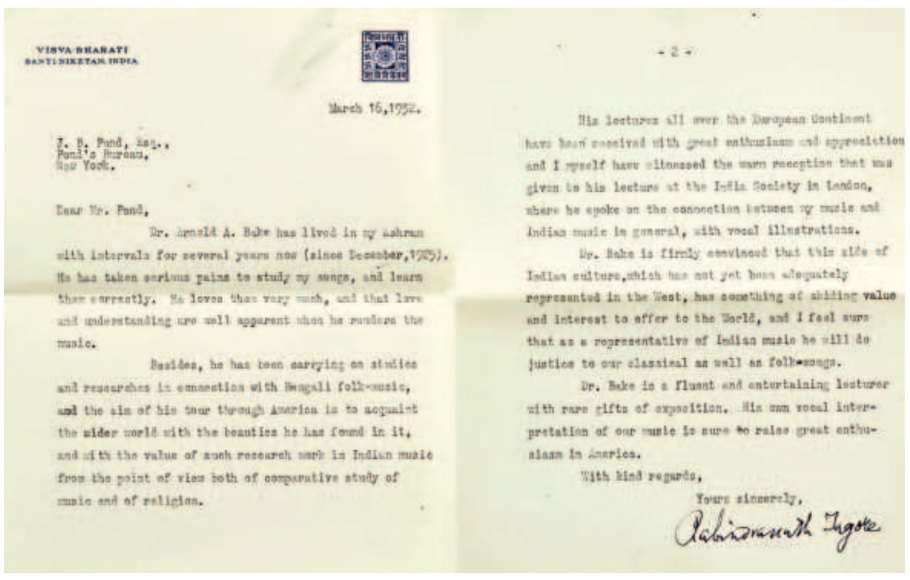
As a student of music(ology) and modern South Asian history, I have long been attracted to the archive of Arnold Bake (1899–1963), the Dutch singer and pioneering scholar of South Asian music and culture. In fact, I think that the history of South Asian (ethno-)musicology cannot be fully understood without a discussion of his achievements and influence.

Between 1925 and 1956, Bake spent nearly seventeen years in the Indian subcontinent, which he traversed from Kanyakumari to Ladakh and from Lahore to Dhaka. He not only studied Sanskrit treatises on music theory and the practice of North Indian 'Hindustani' art music, but also successfully performed the songs of the Bengali cultural icon Rabindranath Tagore, as well as Bengali and Nepali folk songs, during hundreds of lecture-recitals in India, Europe and the United States.

In addition, Bake made numerous, often irreplaceable, recordings, films and photographs of South Asian folk musicians and dancers. He had an excellent command of Sanskrit and Bengali, and contemporary Indologists praised his knowledge of Sanskrit treatises on music theory. For the last fifteen years of his life, he taught Indian music at the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies. He was the first to teach the subject at a Western university and was generally regarded as *the* authority on it. Through his countless public lectures and radio broadcasts, Bake familiarised non-academic Western audiences with South Asian music. He also played a leading role in various British and international research associations, including the International Folk Music Council, of which he was a founding member. Besides two books, Arnold wrote over a hundred articles and reviews, mainly in English but also in Dutch, German and French. He was known for being very sociable yet humble, and he was much loved for his wit.

Eventually, Bengali *kirtan* became the genre that Bake knew best. His two-hour performance as a lead singer, wearing a *dhoti* and sitting cross-legged among other musicians in front of a few hundred Indians at a temple in Brindavan in 1945, was one of the highlights of his life. Yet, in this article, I will focus on Arnold's ideas about and performances of Tagore's songs, which he studied at Shantiniketan (later Visva-Bharati) with Rabindranath himself and his nephew Dinendranath Tagore, because these aspects of his work are little known.

Tagore composed an oeuvre of over 2,000 Bengali songs, known as *Rabindra Sangit*, and he felt 'that his greatest gift was for music, and it was this that he should try to communicate to the outside world'. He constantly used musical metaphors in his writings, and there is a connection between his music and his painting. Even so, his songs remain atypical compositions because of their combination of elements drawn mainly from Hindustani music (*khayal*, though not its improvisations, which he never liked, and especially *dhrupad*), Baul songs, Bengali *kirtan* and British folk songs. Overall, he questioned conventions in Indian art music practice that were sanctioned solely by tradition. Thus, he regularised the rhythm in his melodies, leaving out 'detailed florid ornamentation and the rhythmical ambiguity which is so much part of a classical vocal performance'. Likewise, he created several new talas and was never a purist in his use of *ragas*.



VISVA-BHARATI
SANTINIKETAN INDIA

March 16,1932.

J. B. Pond, Esq.,
Pond's Bureau,
New York.

Dear Mr. Pond,

Dr. Arnold A. Bake has lived in my Ashram with intervals for several years now (since December,1925). He has taken serious pains to study my songs, and learn them correctly. He loves them very much, and that love and understanding are well apparent when he renders the music.

Besides, he has been carrying on studies and researches in connection with Bengali folk-music, and the aim of his tour through America is to acquaint the wider world with the beauties he has found in it, and with the value of such research work in Indian music from the point of view both of comparative study of music and of religion.

- 2 -

His lectures all over the European Continent have been received with great enthusiasm and appreciation and I myself have witnessed the warm reception that was given to his lecture at the India Society in London, where he spoke on the connection between my music and Indian music in general, with vocal illustrations.

Dr. Bake is firmly convinced that this side of Indian culture,which has not yet been adequately represented in the West, has something of abiding value and interest to offer to the World, and I feel sure that as a representative of Indian music he will do justice to our classical as well as folk-songs.

Dr. Bake is a fluent and entertaining lecturer with rare gifts of exposition. His own vocal interpretation of our music is sure to raise great enthusiasm in America.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Rabindranath Tagore

**A letter of recommendation written by Rabindranath Tagore for Arnold Bake in 1932.**

Like Indian nationalist music reformers, Tagore was strongly attracted to the idea of modernising Indian music. Thus, he established a Department of Music at Shantiniketan and was in favour of the notation of his songs. In his criticism of traditional Indian art music-making, nonetheless, Tagore was more radical than Indian nationalist music reformers. Like Arnold Bake, for instance, he complained that Indian singers neglected their instruments and stage presentation. In contrast, he was very impressed by the vocal quality of Western singers, as well as by the fact that Western musicians, unlike their Indian counterparts, tuned their instruments before going on stage.

Bake shared Tagore's modernist nostalgia for 'village India' and the belief that Bengali folk culture and music embodied the 'soul of the people', unhampered by modern civilisation. In fact, he believed that Tagore's songs were 'unthinkable without the Bengali folk-songs, very much in the same way as the music of several modern European composers is unthinkable without the background of the folksongs of their respective countries'. The idea that 'half of Rabindranath's lifework' would be lost to posterity after his death prompted him to transcribe some of Tagore's songs into staff notation.

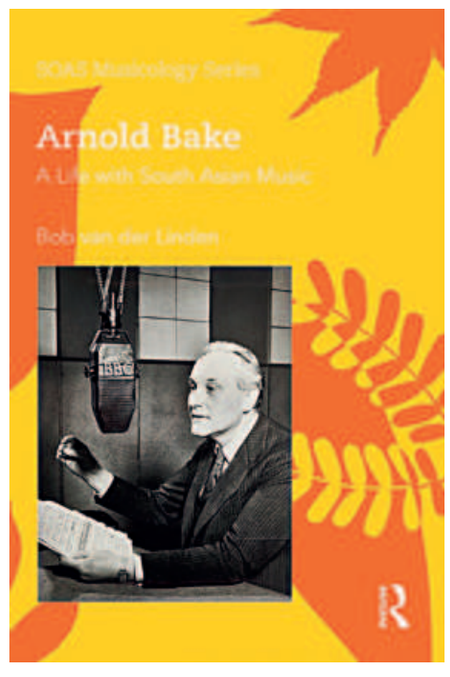
*In 1935, Bake's Twenty-Six Songs of Rabindranath Tagore* was published by Geuthner in Paris. It was dedicated to Rabindranath, who authorised its publication, and to the memory of Dinendranath, who had died that same year. Of course, his transcriptions represent only his interpretations of the singing of Tagore and, more particularly, Dinendranath, as is also evident from his own performances of these songs (recordings of which exist) in a rather European classical style. Nonetheless, Bake's singing and notations were regarded as 'authentic' by audiences in India and the West. One reason for this was undoubtedly that he was regarded as an authority in the field. After all, he had studied with Indian masters, and his singing had been praised by Tagore himself.

Yet the main explanation for the acceptance of Arnold's singing as 'authentic' was his embodiment of the songs and his knowledge of Bengali, both of which people associated with India. Here, no doubt, he was helped by the trope of 'spiritual' India, as well as by dominant ideas about musical authenticity and the performance of folk songs as being 'honest', 'naked', 'direct', 'restrained', etc. The fact that Arnold sang solo, with sweeping hand movements punctuated by snaps of his fingers rather than with harmonic accompaniment, undeniably contributed to this aura of authenticity as well.

In 1961, Bake argued that Tagore had been especially attracted to Baul music and kirtan because of the essential relationship between words and melody that was inherent in these genres but had been lost in contemporary Indian art music. Tagore wanted to restore the meaning and importance of words in his compositions, 'away from the flourishes and ornaments for their own sake and the urge to stun the audience with their sheer virtuosity'. Thus, after recognising the completeness of European classical compositions and folk songs, Arnold continued, Tagore became 'the first composer in India to regard his songs as inviolable entities'.

He explained: Tagore's attitude towards his compositions was much more akin to that of a Western composer. The tune as given is the one that was intended for those words. His ornaments were brought in where he wanted them and where they, as he felt, heightened the inner meaning of the words. By changing them or leaving them out, or worse, adding new ones indiscriminately, the very purpose of the melody, to carry the words above the sphere of everyday life, was defeated. The consequence is that we have here a body of song with regard to which one can speak of an 'authentic' version. That this authentic version is the way in which Dinendranath gave them stands to reason.

Unquestionably, Bake approached Tagore's songs as 'a sort of fetish', and this approach paralleled that of European folk song collectors. But did Tagore see his own songs as 'inviolable entities', and is the idea of an 'authentic' version of them not peculiar, given that he relied almost entirely on the memories of Dinendranath and others? As the poet wrote in 1928: My own testimony with regard to my compositions is always untrustworthy. My songs, for example: I'm always thinking up tunes for them. I sing the tunes to whoever happens to be at hand. Thereafter, responsibility for the tunes rests entirely with my pupils. If later I try to sing them, they are quite ready to say that I've got them wrong. I frequently have to accept correction from them at this.




**Book cover of *Arnold Bake: A Life with South Asian Music (2018)* by Bob van der Linden, published by Routledge, featuring a photograph of Bake singing a song by Rabindranath Tagore for the BBC in 1947.**

After his death in 1941, Tagore was canonised as Bengal's greatest creative artist; two of his songs were also immortalised as the national anthems of India (*Jana Gana Mana*) and Bangladesh (*Amar Shonar Bangla*). For many Bengalis in West Bengal, Bangladesh and the Bengali diaspora, Hindus and Muslims alike, singing or listening to Rabindra Sangit has taken on the role of a personal religion. Accordingly, the authentic performance of Rabindra Sangit became a subject of debate under the supervision of the Visva-Bharati Music Board, which held the copyright to Tagore's songs between 1941 and 2001. Ironically, even several recordings of Dinendranath were forbidden from being released.

The point, however, is that, except when sung by the master himself, Tagore's songs were, of course, never entirely authentic but always interpretations. In addition, there are numerous examples showing that Tagore had a very liberal attitude towards interpretations of his own songs. As in Bake's case, for instance, he consistently supported Bhimrao Shastri in singing and teaching them at Shantiniketan, even though the Maharashtrian's Bengali pronunciation was not always correct. Similarly, Tagore did not mind the use of chords for accompaniment, provided they were played on the piano rather than the harmonium, an instrument he loathed and banned at Visva-Bharati.

In 1941, Tagore wrote to his student and the later doyen of *Rabindra Sangit*, Santidev Ghosh: 'the treasure of my songs is within you. It will be your duty to disseminate these songs correctly'. In *Rabindrasangeet Vichitra* (1972), Ghosh explains that discussions about the authentic performance of Tagore's songs are futile because, had the poet considered the topic important, 'he would certainly have written something about it'. However, he did not leave behind 'any direction or order about the right to sing his songs'. On the contrary, 'he encouraged all to sing, without making any assessment' because he trusted that 'the good singers would come up by their own merit and would survive, while the bad ones would by themselves be extinct'.

Unquestionably, Tagore had a strong urge to speak for and to all humankind, and not just to his fellow Bengalis. His support for Bake's projects shows that he wanted his songs to be known throughout the world and was committed to cross-cultural communication. His open-minded attitude towards the 'authenticity' and translation of his writings and songs should therefore be understood in the context of his universal humanism and internationalism. At the same time, significantly, Tagore's position as both a traditionalist Bengali and an internationalist is reflected in his songs. Through them, he was not only deeply connected to the people and culture of Bengal but was also able to transcend literary and musical conventions and express himself aesthetically as a modernist. He never chose between traditionalism and universalism because he believed that one could only be cosmopolitan with a profound knowledge of one's own tradition.

**Bob van der Linden** *is a historian and musicologist and the author of Arnold Bake: A Life with South Asian Music (2019). For further information, visit www.bobvanderlinden.co.uk.*

DHAKA MONDAY OCTOBER 19, 2026, KARTIK 3, 1433 BS

# SPORT



**Bangladesh women handball team player Misty Khatun leaps in the air to launch a jump shot during their opening match of the Begum Khaleda Zia IHF Nations Trophy 2026 Asia Zone-2 against Nepal at the Shaheed Captain M. Mansur Ali National Handball Stadium yesterday. Misty scored six goals as Bangladesh avenged their 2019 SA Games defeat to Nepal with a 33-20 victory. The hosts will face India, who beat Maldives 40-8, in their second match today.** PHOTO: **FIROZ AHMED**



**Lamine today, when you see the first goal he scored, unbelievable... at the moment, he is the best player in the world. I think it was an amazing match for the fans, and all the people who love football, it was amazing.**

Coach **Hansi Flick** on Lamine Yamal after Barca's 5-2 win over Real Betis in LaLiga yesterday.

# Tigers caught in ODI transition

**SAMSUL AREFIN KHAN**

Bangladesh's 99-run defeat to Zimbabwe in the UAE tri-series opener exposed a familiar weakness in their 50-over cricket. After reaching 96-3 in pursuit of 272, the Tigers collapsed to 129-8, turning a promising position into another heavy defeat. Such batting meltdowns have become an alarming routine for a side that once made ODIs their strongest format.

From late 2014 to early 2023, Bangladesh established themselves as a formidable team at home while also registering notable victories abroad. The middle-order reliability provided by Shakib Al Hasan, Mushfiqur Rahim and Mahmudullah was central to that success. With the experienced trio no longer part of the setup, the next generation has struggled to fill the void, leaving Bangladesh's ODI decline rooted in a middle-order crisis as well as inconsistency away from home.

Shakib, Mushfiqur and Mahmudullah offered experience under pressure, the ability to rebuild after early wickets and the temperament to turn promising starts into substantial totals. Their departures have left Bangladesh searching for players capable of providing the same assurance, but the current crop has yet to establish a dependable middle order.

The lack of substantial individual contributions has compounded the problem. Since the beginning of 2024, Bangladesh have played 33 ODIs but recorded only four centuries. Najmul Hossain Shanto scored two, against Sri Lanka and New Zealand, while Tanzid Hasan Tamim and Towhid Hridoy scored one each, against Pakistan and India respectively.

Bangladesh have also gone without a successful chase of 250 or more since reaching 256 against Sri Lanka in Chattogram in March 2024. They have lost eight of their last 10 chases involving targets above 240, underlining their difficulty in building or completing substantial run chases.

Taskin Ahmed acknowledged the team's struggles to handle pressure, identifying consistency and game awareness as areas that need improvement.

"The problem lies in consistency. We need to build that consistency and game awareness. Sometimes, you will see that as a team, we collapse very quickly under pressure," Taskin said after the defeat.



PHOTO: **ACB**

The fragility is particularly frustrating because Bangladesh's pace attack has improved considerably. Nahid Rana, Taskin Ahmed, Shoriful Islam and Mustafizur Rahman are among the 10 leading wicket-takers from Full Member nations this year, with 27, 23, 17 and 16 wickets respectively. Yet their efforts have not been matched by a batting unit capable of consistently delivering under pressure.

**AWAY FORM DEEPENS THE DECLINE**

Bangladesh's struggles overseas provide another measure of how far they have fallen. From late 2014 to mid-2023, they lost only two of 16 bilateral ODI series at home, both against England. Although they lost consecutive home series against Afghanistan and New Zealand before the 2023 World Cup, they have since won five in a row against Sri Lanka, West Indies, Pakistan, New Zealand and Australia.

Away from home, however, they have not won a bilateral ODI series since beating Ireland 2-0 in May 2023. They have since lost six consecutive series, against Afghanistan twice, and Zimbabwe, West Indies, New Zealand and Sri Lanka once each. The West Indies series ended in a whitewash.

Including Saturday's loss to Zimbabwe, Bangladesh have managed only four wins in their last 21 away ODIs. Their inability to produce competitive totals or recover from setbacks has made them increasingly vulnerable on foreign soil.

**LEADERSHIP CHANGES ADD TO THE UNCERTAINTY**

Since the 2023 World Cup, Bangladesh have had three full-time ODI captains: Shanto, Mehidy Hasan Miraz and Litton Das. Tawhid Hridoy also stepped in to lead against Zimbabwe. Litton's recent absence through injury has further disrupted continuity at a time when the side needs a settled combination.

With a South Africa tour, a proposed five-match series against Pakistan and the Asia Cup among the assignments before the 2027 World Cup, Bangladesh have limited time to find answers.

Narrowly avoiding the World Cup qualifiers was a relief, but it does not resolve the underlying problems. Unless Bangladesh rebuild a dependable middle order and improve their performances away from home, their 2027 campaign could become another painful reminder of how far their ODI standing has slipped.

# Nahida handed T20I captaincy for a year

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Spinner Nahida Akter has been appointed captain of the Bangladesh women's T20I team for a year, with batter Sobhana Mostary named her deputy, Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) women's wing chairman Rafiqul Islam Babu told The Daily Star on Sunday.



Nahida is set to begin her tenure in November at the Emerging Nations Trophy in Thailand.

"We have held discussions with key personnel and decided to give Nahida the captaincy in T20Is. Sobhana Mostary will be the vice-captain. Nahida has been given the role for a year, after which we will assess the situation and decide on the next step ahead of the ICC T20 World Cup in 2028," Rafiqul said.

Former T20I captain Nigar Sultana Joty congratulated Nahida on her appointment in a post on her official Facebook, saying she "stands by Nahida and will continue to do so".

The BCB had been caught by surprise when Joty communicated her desire to step down as T20I captain. It is understood that Joty felt her captaincy had been questioned unjustly, while the BCB maintained that it had no intention of making a change. Amid the confusion, Joty relinquished the T20I captaincy after last month's Asian Games, although she will continue to lead the side in ODIs.

The 25-year-old Nahida has been one of the team's standout performers, having played 65 ODIs and 113 T20Is and claimed 81 ODI and 132 T20I wickets, respectively. She had also been serving as vice-captain since Joty took over the T20I captaincy in 2022.



**FIFA president Gianni Infantino made a brief two-hour stopover in Dhaka on Sunday while travelling from Morocco to Bhutan, meeting Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) president Tabith Awal and other officials at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport. Tabith said an official visit by Infantino could follow once the country makes tangible progress on football development projects.**

PHOTO: **BFF**

## SHORT CORNER

### Rana doubtful for SA Tests

**ABDULLAH AL MEHDI**



Bangladesh speedster Nahid Rana still has a long way to go before making a full recovery, following a medical assessment that is currently ongoing in Australia. He will need at least another four to six weeks before he can resume practice sessions and bowling, Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) sources told The Daily Star.

Rana has been out of action for around three months.

BCB sources said Rana would need at least six to eight weeks before he could "start bowling sessions". However, resuming bowling would not immediately make him match-fit, putting his participation in the upcoming WTC Tests against South Africa in doubt. The series is scheduled to begin in Johannesburg on November 15.

### Bowlers come to the fore in NCL third round

**SPORTS REPORTER**

After two rounds dominated by batters, bowlers made their mark in the third round of the National Cricket League (NCL) 2026-27, which began across four venues on Sunday, although Mymensingh Division's Mahfizul Islam Robin continued his impressive form with another century.

In Chattogram, pacer Mehedi Hasan and leg-spinner Shadhin Islam claimed three wickets apiece, while left-arm spinner Abu Hasim took two as Rangpur bowled Sylhet out for 179 in their first innings after the latter opted to bat.

***Read full stories on The Daily Star's website*

## WHAT TO WATCH



**T SPORTS**
UAE ODI Tri Series
Afghanistan vs Zimbabwe
Live from 5:30 pm

LaLiga
Getafe vs Rayo Vallecano
Live from 1:00 am (Tuesday)

**STAR SPORTS SELECT HD1**
Premier League
Tottenham vs Coventry
Live from 1:00 am (Tuesday)


গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
কর কমিশনারের কার্যালয়
কর অঞ্চল-৬, ঢাকা।
২০৯/এ-বি, শহীদ সৈয়দ নজরুল ইসলাম সরণি, পুরানা পল্টন, ঢাকা।
www.taxeszone6.gov.bd

নথি নং-১-ই-৮/বিবিধ (অংশ-৩)/২০২৬-২০২৭/১০৯০

তারিখঃ ০২ কার্তিক, ১৪৩৩ বঙ্গাব্দ / ১৮ অক্টোবর, ২০২৬ খ্রিস্টাব্দ

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

কর অঞ্চল-০৬, ঢাকা এর অধিক্ষেত্রাধীন ঢাকা জেলার স্থায়ী বাসিন্দাগণের মধ্য হতে নিম্নবর্ণিত বিভিন্ন পদে মোট ৪১ জন জনবল নিয়োগ করার জন্য অনলাইনে https://tax6.teletalk.com.bd ওয়েবসাইটের মাধ্যমে আবেদনপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে। নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত পূর্ণাঙ্গ বিজ্ঞপ্তিটি দেখার জন্য কর অঞ্চল-৬, ঢাকা এর ওয়েবসাইট **www.taxeszone6.gov.bd** ভিজিট করুন অথবা নিম্নোক্ত কিউআর কোড স্ক্যানের মাধ্যমে ও টেলিটকের জব পোর্টাল **https://alljobs.teletalk.com.bd** ওয়েবসাইটে সরাসরি প্রবেশ করেও বিজ্ঞপ্তিটি পাওয়া যাবে। নিয়োগ পরীক্ষার তারিখ, সময় ও অন্যান্য তথ্য www.taxeszone6.gov.bd ওয়েবসাইট হতে জানা যাবে।

কর অঞ্চল-৬, ঢাকা এর ওয়েবসাইটে প্রবেশ এর QR code

কর অঞ্চল-৬, ঢাকা এর টেলিটক পোর্টালে প্রবেশ এর QR code

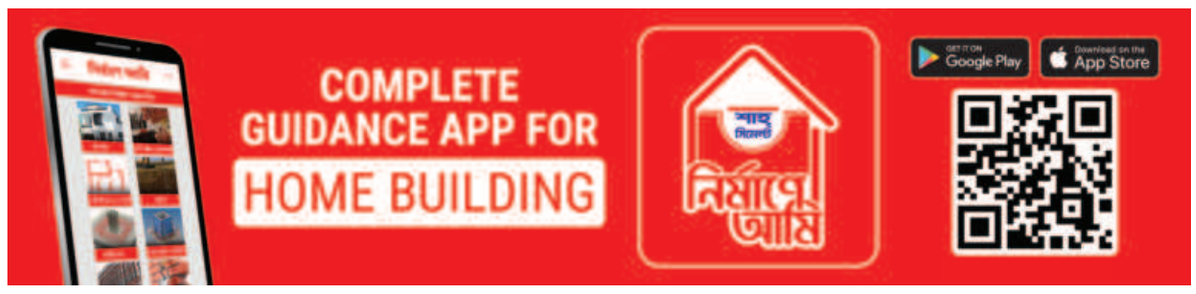
| ক্রঃ নং | পদের নাম | পদ সংখ্যা |
|---|---|---|
| (১) | কম্পিউটার অপারেটর | ০১টি |
| (২) | প্রধান সহকারী | ০৮টি |
| (৩) | সাঁটলিপিকার কাম-কম্পিউটার অপারেটর | ০২টি |
| (৪) | সাঁটমুদ্রাক্ষরিক-কাম-কম্পিউটার অপারেটর | ০৯টি |
| (৫) | অফিস সহকারী-কাম-কম্পিউটার মুদ্রাক্ষরিক | ১০টি |
| (৬) | গাড়ি চালক | ০২টি |
| (৭) | অফিস সহায়ক | ০৯টি |

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|---|---|
| **Online**-এ আবেদনপত্র পূরণ ও পরীক্ষার ফি জমাদান শুরুর তারিখ ও সময় : | ২৫.১০.২০২৬ খ্রি. সকাল ১০:০০ টা। |
| **Online**-এ আবেদনপত্র জমাদানের শেষ তারিখ ও সময় : | ১৪ .১১.২০২৬ খ্রি. বিকাল ৪:০০ টা। |

Rukaiya 18.10.2026
(কাজী রুকাইয়া সুলতানা)
উপ কর কমিশনার
সদর দপ্তর (প্রশাসন)
ও
সদস্য সচিব
বিভাগীয় নিয়োগ কমিটি
কর অঞ্চল-৬, ঢাকা।

GD-2539




# Draft amendment to CSA criminalises fundamental rights

## Media personalities, analysts, civil society members say at TIB roundtable

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Media personalities, legal analysts and civil society representatives demanded the repeal or amendment of repressive clauses in the draft "Cybersecurity Act, 2026", warning that it seeks to criminalise fundamental rights, free speech and press freedom under the guise of curbing fake news.

They made the call at a roundtable yesterday, jointly organised by Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), Cyber Support for Women and Children (CSWC) -- a coalition of 17 rights organisations -- and partner organisations (comprising 19 organisations in total) at the TIB office in the capital's Dhanmondi.

Members of the government-formed media committee, whose task is to review the draft act, also participated in the discussion.

In his opening remarks, TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman said successive governments have increasingly used cyber laws to criminalise freedom of expression and the press.

Although this trend paused briefly during the interim government, it has now returned.

"The priority is on how to further consolidate power to keep rights -- especially freedom of speech and expression -- under control. In reality, people's rights are being criminalised in the name of controlling disinformation and misinformation," he said.

Disclosing that 101 people were accused

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4



PHOTO: **RAJIB RAIHAN**

**Breaking away from conventional Durga Puja decorations, an unusual mandap themed "Raktanjali" at Khalifapatti in Chattogram city highlights violence against women and girls through sculptures, murals and protest slogans. Organised by the Khalifapatti Sarbajanin Puja Udjapan Parishad, the mandap replaces traditional colourful displays with stark depictions of rape, torture and oppression, demanding justice for victims and punishment for perpetrators. The theme symbolically offers the blood of victims instead of flowers at Goddess Durga's feet, urging people to speak out against injustice and violence against women. The photo was taken yesterday.**

**2 BANGLADESHIS EXECUTED**

# KSA shared prisoner list, concealed death penalties

## Dhaka summons envoy over executions

**DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT**

Two Bangladeshis executed in Makkah on October 14 were included in a list of prisoners that Saudi Arabia had shared with the Bangladesh mission in the kingdom, but the list did not mention that they had been sentenced to death.

In September, the consulate general in Jeddah had sought information from Saudi authorities about Bangladeshi prisoners in the region, The Daily Star has learnt from foreign ministry officials in Dhaka and Riyadh.

"They sent us a list that included the names of the two Bangladeshis -- but there was no information about the verdicts," said one of the officials posted in the consulate general in Jeddah.

The list mentioned 'adultery' as the alleged offence against one person and 'ICT' against the other.

"It was impossible to link the entries to the executions based on that list alone."

Receiving a list of prisoners does not enable the consulate to provide immediate consular assistance to everyone named.

"We periodically visit jails in the kingdom to provide consular services. We have had many successful cases in which sentences were reduced," the official said, adding that the consulate had received no requests for consular assistance from the two Bangladeshis.

Saudi Arabia did not notify Dhaka before executing the two Bangladeshis, said Shama Obaed Islam, state minister-2 for foreign affairs, on Saturday.

Bangladesh is yet to receive a full account of the incident.

Subsequently, Saudi Ambassador to Bangladesh Abdullah Zafer H bin Abiyah was summoned on Sunday for details.

The ambassador was handed a physical copy of the note verbale sent earlier through electronic channels.

The two Bangladeshis were accused of engaging in adultery inside a mosque in Makkah, according to a message sent to the foreign ministry by the Labour Welfare Wing of the Bangladesh mission in Saudi Arabia after the execution.

The Saudi authorities subsequently arrested, tried, sentenced and executed them.

Dhaka learned of the executions after they took place on October 14.

# Govt to buy 5,830 vehicles for police

## Tk 6,609cr procurement proposals await Ecnec nod

**REJAUL KARIM BYRON** *and* **MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN**

The government is set to purchase 5,830 vehicles for Bangladesh Police at an estimated cost of Tk 6,609 crore to address a transport shortage that has left the country's 639 police stations with fewer than two vehicles each on average.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

# Secretariat moving to Agargaon

## Cabinet approves relocation; foundation laying planned for Dec 16

**BAHARAM KHAN**

The government aims to lay the foundation stone of the new Secretariat at Agargaon in the capital's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar on December 16, Victory Day, following a decision to relocate it from Abdul Gani Road.

The decision was taken at a cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman at the Secretariat yesterday afternoon.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

31ST DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF

LATE AL-HAJJ JAHURUL ISLAM



The 31st death anniversary of the founder Chairman of Islam Group **Al-Hajj Jahurul Islam** is being observed today.

A Doa Mahfil will be held at his birth place Bhagalpur, at 11 a.m. October 19, 2026 in the mosque of Jahurul Islam Medical College & Hospital. All relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to pray for his eternal peace.

On behalf of Islam Group
**Begum Suraiya Islam**
**Manzurul Islam**
**Syeda Islam**
**Mafida Islam**
**Kaneta Islam**
and Members of the Family

# EU condemns settler attack on delegation in West Bank

**AFP,** *Brussels*

The European Union said yesterday that it "strongly condemns" an attack the previous day by a group of Israeli settlers on visiting European diplomats.

"The EU strongly condemns the latest attacks by violent settlers in the West Bank, including on European diplomats," the foreign service said in a communique.

The communique also urged "full accountability as well as effective measures to prevent continued acts of violence and violent harassment against Palestinians, including during the ongoing olive harvest season, as well as against journalists.

"We urge Israel to fully abide by International Humanitarian and Human Rights Law, and to cease the expansion of settlements," the statement concluded.

Saturday saw Israeli settlers attack a convoy of European diplomats in the West Bank and beat up a visiting French mayor, witnesses said, while US Secretary of State Marco Rubio warned against a brewing "crisis" in the territory a day after an American photojournalist was injured in a brutal attack.

