DHAKA MONDAY OCTOBER 26, 2026



"Ukraine military violated Starlink terms of service and used it for offensive drone strikes to kill people."

Tech tycoon **ELON MUSK**

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Here motherhood costs cricket career

Unlike most other cricket boards, BCB has no policy to support female cricketers' careers during pregnancy and after becoming mothers



"In the BCB's system, there is a stigma against married players. Officials and selectors assume that once a female player marries or has a child, she won't play long, viewing further investment in her as a waste of time."

Former Bangladesh batter **Sanjida Islam Moyna**

SAMSUL AREFIN KHAN

When former Bangladesh pacer Suraiya Azmin emailed Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) on May 9 to request paid maternity leave, she received no response.

After giving birth in August, she found herself dropped from the national contract list, while her leave request and unpaid salary remained unresolved.

Suraiya's experience is not an isolated case.

Her experience exposes a wider gap in Bangladesh women's cricket: the lack of a formal maternity policy to protect players' income, contracts and prospects of returning to the game.

Former Bangladesh batter Sanjida Islam Moyna, who played 16 Women's ODIs and 54 T20Is between 2012 and 2020, married first-class cricketer Mim Mosaddek in 2020, continued playing domestically until 2024 and gave birth in 2025. She has since stepped away from the game to raise her child.

Sanjida believes assumptions about marriage and motherhood shape how

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PHOTO: **RAJIB RAIHAN**

Glowing sky lanterns float into the night sky as fireworks burst overhead at Nandankanan Buddhist Vihara in Chattogram city yesterday evening, marking Prabarana Purnima, one of the major religious festivals for the Buddhist community. Symbolising self-purification, restraint and goodwill, the occasion is celebrated with religious rituals and the release of sky lanterns, adding to the festive atmosphere.

BB fights on to curb family grip on banks

Submits draft amendment to the Bank Company Act

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Bangladesh Bank has held its ground on curbing family control of private banks in a new reform proposal, resisting pressure from the country's powerful bank owners.

A draft amendment to the Bank Company Act, sent by the central bank to the Financial Institutions Division last week, would allow no more than two members of one family on a bank's board, down from three.

Directorships would be limited to six consecutive years, half the current 12-year limit, with a minimum wait of three years before reappointment.

Both measures were carried over from the reforms drafted under the interim government. On family control and tenure, the central bank under Governor Mostaqur Rahman has kept to the line of his predecessor Ahsan H Mansur, who began the reform drive under the interim administration.

Bangladesh Bank has, however, watered down the earlier proposal on independent directors, giving owners more control over board composition.

Boards could still have up to 20 directors, and the number of independent directors would rise from two to five. The draft prepared under Mansur would have cut boards to 15 seats, at least half of them held by independent directors.

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OVERFLIGHT, LANDING CHARGES

27 carriers leave CAAB chasing Tk 114cr dues

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

The Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) is struggling to recover about Tk 114 crore ($9.23 million) in overflight and landing charges from 27 foreign airlines, most of which have ceased operations.

The billing period stretches from December last year to October 1986, with the majority of the dues -- Tk 63.43 crore owed by 18 defunct airlines, according to a CAAB document.

Besides, three airlines -- India's SpiceJet and Alliance Air, and Turkmenistan Airlines -- that continue to operate flights regularly owe CAAB a combined Tk 42 crore. Another Tk 7.74 crore remains outstanding from six airlines that either suspended operations or merged with other carriers.

SpiceJet accounts for the largest share of the dues, with Tk 34 crore in unpaid landing and overflight charges accrued between June 2021 and November 2025.

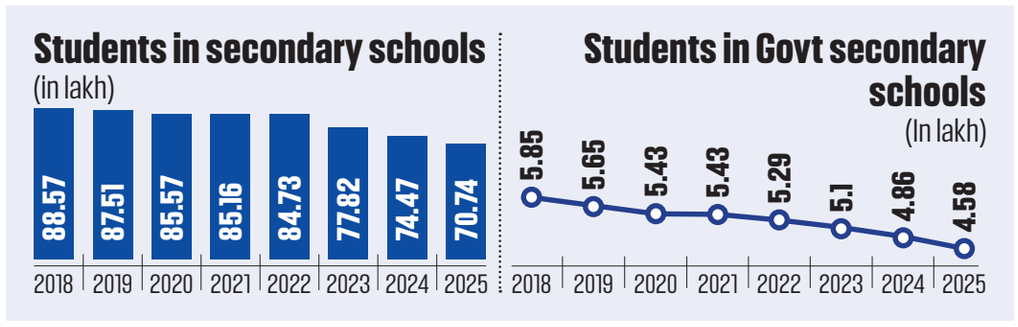
Of the defunct airlines, Air Deccan owes Tk 14.57 crore in overflight dues from November 2004 to September 2008, while Alitalia Airlines owes Tk 12 crore for the period between October 1986 and January 2009.

When contacted, Air Commodore Md Noor-e-Alam,

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Schools up, pupils down

Experts say thorough probe needed to find out why student numbers eroding at secondary schools, increasing at madrasas



MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR *and* **ARAFAT RAHAMAN**

Bangladesh has more secondary schools than it did seven years ago, but far fewer students in them.

Even government secondary schools, where the cost is negligible, are losing pupils. However, enrolment at registered Alia madrasas has increased, according to the latest report of the Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics (Banbeis).

The report shows that the number of students in classes VI-X at government and non-government secondary schools fell by around 17.83 lakh, from 88.57 lakh in 2018 to 70.74 lakh in 2025, or 20.1 percent. The number of general secondary schools stood at 16,737 in 2025, up from 16,186 in 2018.

Talking to The Daily Star, Prof Khan Moinuddin Al Mahmud Sohel, director general of Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE), said the steady decline in secondary-school enrolment required careful examination.

"We will investigate possible contributing factors,

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