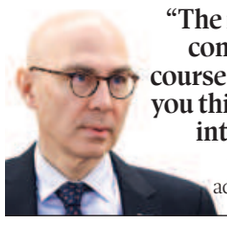
DHAKA FRIDAY OCTOBER 30, 2026

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

THE DAILY Star ON FRIDAY

SECOND EDITION

REGD. NO. DA 781 | VOL. XXXVI NO. 275 | KARTIK 14, 1433 BS | www.thedailystar.net | JAMADIUL AWAL 18, 1448 HIJRI | 16 PAGES: TK 15.00



"The message is: don't continue the current course of warfare where you think you are above international law..."

UN rights chief **TURK'S** advice to next Israeli govt



Bangladesh gets 3 more years for LDC graduation

Business leaders, economists urge swift reforms, trade deals, export diversification

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Bangladesh has secured a three-year extension of its graduation from the group of Least Developed Countries (LDCs), for a smoother transition amid risks from energy and supply disruptions caused by conflicts.

World leaders took the decision shortly after the 30th plenary session of the 81st UN General Assembly began in New York, at around 1:00am Bangladesh time today.

Graduation has now moved to November 24, 2029, from November 24, 2026. Nepal also received the same extension as the draft resolution, placed by the Group of 77 and China, was adopted.

The government says preparations are going well, while business leaders and economists called for quick, intensified efforts on reforms, trade deals and export diversification.

Commerce Minister Khandakar Abdul Muktadir told The Daily Star that the government would use the extra three years to attract investment, expand market access for local goods, and make ports more efficient.

It will also keep signing trade deals with countries and trade blocs, he said.

Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir, prime minister's adviser on finance and planning, told this newspaper that the government was working on a transition strategy, and had repeatedly urged the private sector to prepare through reforms in key sectors.

Its priorities are taking the economy into the trillion-dollar club, diversifying exports, and raising productivity in vital areas, he said. Reforms have been expedited under a "three Rs" philosophy: recovery from fragility, restoration, and reconstruction to acceleration.



- Graduation pushed to November 2029
- 75% of exports rely on LDC benefits
- EU deal remains crucial
- Investment shows little momentum

Mustafizur Rahman, distinguished fellow of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), called the extension "critically important" and said he was very happy the global community had endorsed Bangladesh's submission. "It will now be time for Bangladesh to do everything possible to graduate with momentum and make the process sustainable."

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



Fishermen repair their nets and prepare a boat at Patenga in Chattogram yesterday before heading back to sea in search of hilsa, as the government's 22-day fishing ban ended at midnight. The ban, imposed on October 8, was aimed at protecting mother hilsa during the breeding season. PHOTO: **RAJIB RAIHAN**

Ex-airman found dead in Turag, family alleges murder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Tahsif Souri

The family of former Bangladesh Air Force flight lieutenant KM Tahsif Souri, whose body was recovered from the Turag a day after he went missing, suspects that he was murdered and his body dumped into the river.

His father AKM Enayetul Karim made the comments while speaking to reporters at the Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College morgue yesterday.

Police, however, said no visible injury marks were found on the body, while the inquest report noted blood coming from his nose. The cause of death remains unclear pending the autopsy report.

SEE PAGE 2 CO 1

Family disputes SRB account over teen's death

Says he was shot dead by plainclothes SRB members

TOUSIF KAIUM

The family of an 18-year-old boy, who was shot dead in Dhaka's Jatrabari on Tuesday evening, alleged that plainclothes members of Special Response Battalion opened fire during an anti-narcotics drive and caused the death.

The following day, Selina Begum, mother of Maruf Hossain, alias Dukhu, filed a murder case with Jatrabari Police Station.

Maruf was killed in the Dhalpur area, where SRB personnel reportedly

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

Govt bets Tk 2,320cr on jute revival

12 projects proposed to boost export earnings, seed production

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR *and* **SUKANTA HALDER**

- Over 80% of jute seeds still imported
- Jute export earnings fell nearly 24% in 5 years
- 73 of the country's 266 jute mills closed

The government has proposed 12 projects worth Tk 2,320 crore to revive Bangladesh's jute sector, aiming to reduce dependence on imported seeds, boost value-added production and double export earnings by 2031.

The Ministry of Textiles and Jute has proposed completing the projects by June 2030, funded entirely by the government.

Md Jahid Hossain, joint secretary for planning at the ministry, told The Daily Star that the proposals had recently been submitted to the planning ministry for approval.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 3



Biman extends consultant bidding deadline by four days

TASNEEM TAYEB

Biman Bangladesh Airlines has extended the deadline to submit bids for consultancy services for its massive fleet expansion by four days -- a move procurement experts say still falls short of the time needed to prepare comprehensive proposals.

A revised request for proposals (RFP), published on October 29, sets November 6 as the new submission deadline instead of November 2, increasing the submission period from eight to 12 calendar days.

Biman now plans to choose the consultant and start work by November 12 instead of November 8. This gives the airline just six days after bids close to make its choice.

The airline has extended the deadline for the final comprehensive report by a month, from January 15 to February 15, 2027. The draft report and presentation are now due on December 14 instead of

SEE PAGE 9 COL 3



The rear carriage of the Neelsagar Express derailed in Tangail's Mirzapur yesterday morning, halting train operations and stranding passengers at various stations between Dhaka and the northern region. Rail connectivity on the route was restored five hours later after the carriage was salvaged.

PHOTO: STAR

Freedom fighters protest obstruction of Posari's burial

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Pirojpur*

Freedom fighters in Pirojpur formed a human chain yesterday protesting the obstruction of a guard of honour and burial of listed freedom fighter Manik Posari.

The Pirojpur Sadar Upazila Command of Bangladesh Muktijoddha Sangsad organised the programme in front of the District Muktijoddha Complex Building around 11:00am.

Ahmed Shahidul Huq alias Chan, convener of the district freedom fighters' command, said Posari was a gazetted freedom fighter who transported refugees and freedom fighters to and from India through the Sundarbans. He condemned the obstruction and demanded exemplary punishment for those responsible.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs has formed a high-level committee to investigate the incident and verify the authenticity of Posari's freedom fighter certificate.

Posari, 87, a listed freedom fighter and complainant in the war crimes case against former Jamaat-e-Islami leader Delwar Hossain Sayeedi, died on October 24 in Tungipara, Gopalganj, where he had been living away from home over safety concerns.

Some alleged Jamaat activists objected to his receiving a guard of honour and being buried in Pirojpur. Despite the objections, he was given a guard of honour at Pirojpur Police Lines that afternoon.

Later that evening, some people filled in the grave at his family graveyard in Chitalia village. Posari was finally buried around 2:00am on October 25 under police protection. Jamaat, however, denied obstructing his burial but acknowledged opposing the guard of honour.

Ex-airman found

FROM PAGE 1

His name came to the fore following allegations that he had circulated a video clip purportedly showing ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina leaving the country by aircraft from Kurmitola Airport on August 5, 2024.

Tahsif went missing on Tuesday evening after leaving his Uttara home to meet a friend. His body was found floating near Rajabari Ghat in Tongi on Wednesday afternoon.

His father said Tahsif was cheerful and sociable and had spent Tuesday shopping for his mother. "Suicide is out of the question. He was a person with a very pleasant personality."

He said Tahsif had worked hard to become a commissioned officer, completing several courses during his career.

The father said he was unaware of any threats against his son, although Tahsif occasionally mentioned feeling anxious without explaining why.

Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed yesterday declined to comment on the death before the initial investigation and autopsy findings.

"I don't want to comment on this matter right now. There needs to be an initial investigation, and an autopsy is being conducted. We will speak after learning all the details," he told reporters at the Bangladesh Police Academy in Sarda, Rajshahi.

Tahsif's father said his son left home on Tuesday evening after a junior friend, Dip, called him downstairs. He told his mother that he was going to meet the friend but never returned.

Speaking to the press, Dip said they first went to a workshop to repair Tahsif's motorcycle and later had dinner at a restaurant in RUAP Commercial Complex Market in Uttara.

They parted around 11:30pm. "After leaving the restaurant, he went somewhere for his personal work, while I returned home," Dip said, adding that they occasionally met and ate together.

Dip graduated from a private university and worked with a security company.

At 1:35am on Wednesday, a message came from Tahsif's phone to his mother, reading, "Mommy, I'm coming," after his mother had called him several times, said his father.

That was the last message the family received from him.

A relative said Tahsif's bike was also missing. Police were provided details and photographs of the vehicle.

As the family searched for Tahsif, his father went to Turag Police Station on Wednesday afternoon. He said police initially told him that there was no bad news and asked him not to worry.

At 5:15pm, the Uttarkhan police called him, confirmed his son's identity, and informed him that a body had been found in the river.

Enayetul said his son did not usually visit the area where his body was found.

"I don't know who killed him or why," he said, urging the government to investigate the death and identify those responsible.

Khokon Mia, 50, in-charge of Rajabari ferry terminal, said he first spotted the body floating towards the ghat from the western side of the river around 2:00pm on Wednesday.

The body was lodged against a speedboat among four moored near the terminal. It remained there for several hours before police arrived, he told The Daily Star.

According to the inquest report prepared by Sub-Inspector Mostafizur Rahman of Tongi River Police Outpost, the body was recovered around 5:45pm.

The report noted blood coming from Tahsif's nose, a swollen abdomen, and both hands bent forward towards his head, with his fists clenched. However, it recorded no external injury marks.

Tahsif was wearing a black, full-sleeved Panjabi, and white trousers. Police also found a wristwatch and an iPhone, which helped establish his identity.

Talking to this newspaper, Abdullah Al Mamun, superintendent of Dhaka district river police, said the cause of death could be determined only after the post-mortem report. Further legal action would depend on complaints from the family, he said.

Nashat Jabin, head of the forensic medicine department at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital, said samples, including a DNA sample, had been collected for testing.

She said detailed findings would be available in the autopsy report.

VIDEO CLIP

When asked yesterday whether the death was linked to the video clip of Hasina, Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed declined to comment.

In a YouTube podcast titled "Speak with Rashid", uploaded three months ago on July 21 this year, Tahsif was asked whether he had lost his air force job for filming the video.

"Could be," he replied, without directly confirming that he had filmed it.

"Even if I did record the video or share it, I want to ask: what is the proof they have? And it could also be that this is the reason I am no longer in the air force," Tahsif said in the podcast.

In a Facebook post, Tahsif's maternal cousin Moshfeka Jahan claimed that Tahsif had only shared the footage, which had been filmed by a colleague, and that intelligence agents continued monitoring him even after his retirement.

"My brother was murdered. What was his fault? Sharing the video of Hasina fleeing? He did not even film it himself; he shared it as a citizen."

Moshfeka later edited the post and locked her profile.

The Daily Star, however, could not verify the claim independently.

In a statement on August 4, 2025, the Inter-Services Public Relations Directorate said Tahsif and another officer had been retired under different circumstances, following due process in accordance with the BAF's laws and regulations.

The statement, issued in response to a report alleging their links to a foreign intelligence agency, rejected the allegation but did not explain the reasons of their retirement.

He was sent on retirement in September 2024, according to sources.

Tahsif's father Enayetul, however, said the family had been informed that his son was dismissed from the BAF on disciplinary grounds.

After leaving the BAF, Tahsif worked at the Bangladesh Cricket Board and Netra News before most recently joining Virgo Tobacco, the father said.

A source at the news portal said Tahsif worked as a security adviser to its editor-in-chief, Tasneem Khalil, in late 2024 and early 2025.

Following the autopsy yesterday, Tahsif's body was taken to his home around 4:00pm. He was buried at the Uttara Sector 12 graveyard after a janaza at a local mosque.

His father said the family would decide whether to file a case after completing the burial.

[Our Gazipur correspondent contributed to this report.]

Many banks 'on verge of collapse'

Says National Prof Mahbub Ullah

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh's banking sector is "very weak" and "fragile", with many banks "on the verge of collapse", National Professor Mahbub Ullah said yesterday.

The situation is "very unfortunate" for the people, the economy and the country, he said at the Annual Banking Conference, organised by Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management in Dhaka. Barkat-E-Khuda, a former professor of economics at Dhaka University, presented the keynote on the major problems facing the banking sector.

Prof Mahbub said banking is only one part of a wider crisis spanning governance, economic management, trade, education and health. The root, he argued, lies in the character of the state, with a handful of "oligarchs" extracting the gains, and rulers treating the state as their private property.

"We speak about privatisation of industry, privatisation of banks, but could you ever imagine that the state itself could be privatised? Unfortunately, our state has been privatised," he said.



A lack of meaningful social or cultural change even after an uprising every 10 to 15 years since independence led to accumulating frustration, Prof Mahbub said. Uprisings alone are no solution, he added, as they need dedicated leaders, an ideological frame, and a clear programme for national rejuvenation.

In the banking sector, the government's heavy dependence on borrowing to finance its deficit is crowding out private-sector credit, Prof Mahbub said.

He cautioned that repaying the loans and interest would be a serious challenge.

Citing the weak tax-GDP ratio, he said the country is failing to mobilise domestic resources. "This should serve as a red signal for the government."

He called on the authorities not to indulge the oligarchs again on the belief that the economy cannot run without them. "This time the economy has been thrown off the rails; next time it may be thrown into the river," he cautioned.

The solution lies in both the economy and the polity, Mahbub said, and a healthy banking sector would emerge only if political and economic corrections went together. Democracy and accountability must be given a chance to function.

"We cannot expect a solution overnight," he said. Even China, despite its success, struggles with non-performing loans, he noted, but those stemmed from a mismatch of demand and supply. "When you make deliberate mistakes, it becomes very difficult to correct them."

Bangladesh gets 3 more years for LDC graduation

FROM PAGE 1

The Smooth Transition Strategy (STS) is a good document but may need revisiting in some areas given the additional three years, he said. The extra time offers a chance to shift from a preference-driven economy to one driven by investment and competition, but Bangladesh must cut the cost of doing business and improve the business environment.

Major trading partners such as the European Union will also extend their preparatory periods by three years, he said. Bangladesh should develop other promising sectors, such as pharmaceuticals, not just RMG.

Mahmud Hasan Khan, president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), said the extension was good news but challenges remained.

Bangladesh must develop infrastructure and carry out key reforms so local industries can compete in the EU even after tariffs return.

"The country can be called well prepared when it can compete despite EU tariffs," he said, adding that the ultimate goal should be a free trade agreement with the EU that protects Bangladesh's interests.

Mohammad Abdur Razzaque, chairman of the Research and Policy Integration for Development (RAPID), said the extension would provide valuable time, "but time by itself will not improve our readiness".

The government and private sector should use the three years to act on a few urgent priorities, with clear responsibilities, deadlines and public reporting.

"Restoring macroeconomic stability will be extremely critical to protect export competitiveness," he said.

Persistently high inflation is pushing up domestic costs and appreciating the real exchange rate against major competitors, weakening exporters. Bringing inflation down must be an urgent part of the transition, and it is not the time to target high growth through expansionary policies.

Securing a trade arrangement with the EU, Bangladesh's largest export market, should be an early priority, he said. Although three more years of duty-free access will follow the new graduation date, early negotiations would give businesses greater certainty and time to adjust.

Export diversification should also be a priority, Razzaque said. Bangladesh now has three more years to provide export subsidies under LDC flexibilities, and the government should use this time to support new export sectors in ways that encourage investment and competitiveness.

Rationalising the tariff structure would also help but has received limited attention, partly because of the National Board of Revenue's revenue concerns. Policymakers should bring these together into a clear package of incentives and corrections.

Md Fazlul Hoque, administrator of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), said preparations are progressing well, with the government and private sector working together, but time is running fast even with an extension, so preparation must be long-term.

He also advocated graduation beyond apparel, with diversified exports and adequate importance for RMG.

Bangladesh was set to graduate this year after meeting all three criteria (per capita income, human assets index (HAI) and economic vulnerability index (EVI)) twice since 2018 under UN triennial reviews.

It earlier got a two-year extension because of Covid-19. In the 2024 review, the GNI per capita threshold for LDCs was $1,307, against Bangladesh's $2,684, according to the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The HAI threshold was 59.6, against Bangladesh's 77.5; the EVI threshold was 40.6, against 21.9.

DECADES OF PROGRESS UNDER STRAIN

In its extension request submitted to the UN in February, Bangladesh cited global trade volatility, geopolitical tensions, inflationary pressures, and supply chain disruptions.

It also cited the recent Middle East crisis, uncertain global energy supplies and changes in the international trading environment as factors affecting its readiness.

Bangladesh, the largest LDC and biggest beneficiary of support measures, faces a uniquely complex transition amid political uncertainty and prolonged economic crisis, a UN report published in April said.

It listed shocks from 2017 to 2026: climate vulnerability, the Rohingya crisis, a macroeconomic downturn predating the regime change, Covid-19, the political transition, the Russia-Ukraine war, inflation, and balance-of-payments pressures.

The report said Bangladesh remains poorly prepared. Nearly 75 percent of exports depend on LDC-specific duty-free access, and UNCTAD estimates losses of over $17.5 billion in annual export earnings after graduation. Only limited mechanisms are secured: the UK's Developing Countries Trading Scheme and deals with Japan and South Korea, neither yet enforced. A preferential agreement with Bhutan was signed in December 2020, and talks continue with nearly a dozen partners.

EU market preparedness is the weakest link, with no preferential apparel access and new EU-India and EU-Vietnam trade deals intensifying competition. Bangladesh is also unprepared for losing WTO flexibilities on export subsidies and TRIPS obligations, which will require stronger intellectual property enforcement. Domestic readiness on logistics costs, compliance, energy and diversification remains inadequate.

Private investment has weakened, with capital machinery imports falling from $5.1 billion to $2.8 billion between 2019 and 2024. Nearly 1.9 million jobs were lost in 2023-24, disproportionately affecting women. Bank non-performing loans have hit 35 percent. Revenue is just 6.8 percent of GDP and interest payments consume 36 percent of tax revenue, raising debt distress risk from low to moderate.

Concessional finance will not end abruptly, but terms are tightening and LDC-specific windows shrinking amid falling global aid.

Weak project management, poor revenue mobilisation, rising debt servicing and limited fiscal space constrain its use.

Coordination gaps and delays have hindered transition financing; STS implementation has been slow, with limited private sector engagement, weak inter-ministerial coordination and unclear financing.

The UN has stressed, including under the Doha Programme of Action, that graduation should not disrupt development.

Bangladesh is a critical test case for sustainable progress, the report said.

Rooppur gets clearance for power generation

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Pabna*

Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant has received regulatory clearance to advance Unit 1 to Stage C, paving the way for power startup and the gradual commencement of electricity generation at the country's first nuclear power plant.

Bangladesh Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority (BAERA) approved the move today following satisfactory results from Stage B-2.

"With the expected results in the B-2 stage, we have allowed Unit 1 to advance to the 'C' stage to launch the power startup," BAERA Chairman Md Mahamudul Hasan told The Daily Star yesterday afternoon.

He said the project authority would determine the startup date.

During Stage C, reactor power will be increased gradually to produce steam, drive the turbine and generate electricity. Generation capacity will be raised in stages, with BAERA monitoring the process to ensure safe operation.

Unit 1 initiated its first fission reaction on October 11, officials said.



Dr Md Zahedul Hasan, managing director of the Nuclear Power Plant Company of Bangladesh Ltd (NPCBL), said the unit would undergo systematic operational testing after power startup to demonstrate its safety, stability and reliability before regular electricity generation.

A key milestone would be synchronising the generator with the national grid and ensuring stable electricity supply, he added.

Successful completion of Stage C would allow the unit to advance to the Pilot Operation stage, subject to satisfactory test results and regulatory and commissioning requirements.

Dr Mohammad Shawkat Akbar, a former project director of the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant and former chairman of the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC), described Stage C as a transitional phase.

"During the B-2 stage, the fission reaction was limited to the primary circuit, resulting in limited heat. But in the 'C' stage, we must gradually increase heat to generate steam in the secondary circuit. At first, the reactor pressure will be increased from 1 percent to 5 percent, and then raised gradually," he said.

Battery rickshaw registration now mandatory in cities

Highways, major bus routes off-limits

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has made registration mandatory for battery-powered rickshaws operating in city corporation areas and barred them from highways, expressways, and major bus routes under new regulations that took effect yesterday.

The Local Government Division issued the Three-Wheeled Low-Speed Battery-Operated Rickshaw (E-Rickshaw) Movement Rules, 2026, through a gazette notification yesterday. The rules apply to all city corporations across Bangladesh.

City corporations, with prior government approval and in consultation with traffic authorities, will determine the number of e-rickshaws permitted to operate within their jurisdictions. The authorities will also jointly designate operating zones, routes and vehicle colours.

An e-rickshaw authorised to operate in one zone will not be allowed to enter another zone. Similarly, a vehicle registered in one city corporation cannot be used in another.

Under the rules, the one-time registration fee has been fixed at Tk 8,000 for e-rickshaws designed to carry two passengers and Tk 10,000 for vehicles designed for four passengers. Annual renewal fees will be Tk 4,000 and Tk 5,000, respectively, while a fitness certificate will cost Tk 1,000.

All e-rickshaws must comply with technical and safety standards prescribed by Buet.



PHOTO: STAR

Garment workers block a road in Mirpur-10, Dhaka, yesterday, demanding a minimum monthly wage of Tk 30,000 and other benefits. The protest triggered severe traffic congestion in neighbouring areas, leaving commuters stranded for hours.

IN FOCUS

Info Commission eyes local-level complaint hearings

Says chief commissioner at seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Information Commission is considering extending complaint-hearing facilities to district and upazila levels to help people outside Dhaka exercise their right to information.

Chief Information Commissioner Prof Nahreen Islam Khan announced the plan at a seminar titled "From Information to Participation: Using the Right to Information to Strengthen Open and Accountable Governance" yesterday.

Organised by Research Initiatives Bangladesh (RIB) with support from the National Endowment for Democracy, the event highlighted barriers to accessing information.

"We want to extend these facilities to district and upazila levels. This is my first priority," Prof Nahreen said, responding to concerns over the cost and difficulty of travelling to Dhaka for hearings.

She said 917 complaints were pending when the new commission took office, with more than 100 additional complaints filed in its first five working days. The commission has only 23 employees, fewer than half its sanctioned workforce.

Plans include introducing mobile-phone acknowledgements for complaints, holding information fairs and establishing a research wing.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 3

Social stigma, legal gaps keep hijra people out of jobs

Speakers seek special quotas, stronger legal protection

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than a decade after the state recognised the hijra community as a "third gender", legal, financial and workplace barriers continue to hinder their economic inclusion, speakers said at a roundtable yesterday.

They called for specific protection laws, special quotas, and greater private-sector recruitment to integrate the community into the economic mainstream rather than keep them dependent on allowances.

The roundtable, titled "From Margins to Mainstream: Fostering Hijra Employment and Economic Inclusion", was jointly organised by Bandhu Social Welfare Society and The Daily Star at The Daily Star Centre in Dhaka.

Hijra community representatives highlighted the institutional discrimination they face in education and employment, as well as in daily life.

Makeup artist and entrepreneur Mrinalini Devi said she could not continue her studies after passing her SSC exams in 2018 due to physical

SEE PAGE 9 COL 5



PHOTO: STAR

Speakers at a roundtable jointly organised by Bandhu Social Welfare Society and The Daily Star at The Daily Star Centre yesterday.



Tahmima Anam's 'Good Books' set for TV adaptation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Writer Tahmima Anam's upcoming novel "Good Books", which explores the world of publishing, is being adapted for television by Pacesetter Productions and Kudos, Variety has reported.

Tahmima Anam is adapting the novel alongside Emmy-nominated writer and producer Alison Brown, whose credits include "Emily in Paris", "Younger" and "Upload".

The book was announced at the Edinburgh Book Festival, where UK publisher Canongate revealed it had acquired the title for publication in 2028. Scribner, Canongate's frequent US publishing partner, acquired the North American rights.

The publisher described the novel as "'The Devil Wears Prada' meets 'Yellowface'",

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Dhaka lost half of its waterbodies in 35yrs

Finds study by Urban Development Directorate

The study identified eight of the 18 rivers shown on James Rennell's 1776 map as having disappeared. These are the Ati, Dolai, Herra, Konai, Narai, Painar, Pandu, and Shing rivers.



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka and its peripheral areas have lost nearly half of their water bodies over the past 35 years, with the total water area shrinking by 48 percent between 1990 and 2025, according to a study by the Urban Development Directorate (UDD).

The study found that the total water area across a 3,126.64 square-kilometre region covering Dhaka and seven peripheral districts declined from around 304 square kilometres in 1990 to 159 square kilometres in 2025.

The findings were presented at an event titled Consultation Workshop-02 yesterday.

The study also found that 1,418 of the 2,547 ponds recorded within Dhaka city corporation areas have disappeared, accounting for 55.7 percent of the total.

Comparing historical maps with recent satellite imagery, the study identified eight of the 18 rivers shown on James Rennell's 1776 map as having disappeared. These are the Ati, Dolai, Herra, Konai, Narai, Painar, Pandu, and Shing rivers. The Dhaleswari river also lost 62 percent of its area.

The research drew on historical maps from 1776 to 2026, government studies, satellite imagery covering 1990–2025, field surveys, interviews and stakeholder consultations.

At the workshop, Prof Ishrat Islam of BUET's Department of Urban and Regional Planning stressed the need to involve relevant departments and organisations, including BELA, BAPA and the Department of Environment.

Mahmud Ali, director (additional secretary) of UDD, emphasised the need for government and private organisations to work together to develop a comprehensive inventory of existing and historical water bodies.

Representatives from Rajuk, DNCC, DSCC, the National River Conservation Commission, and the River and Delta Research Centre attended the workshop.

The study is expected to produce a geographic information system (GIS)-ready database of historical and existing water bodies, map missing links between rivers and canals, and assess changes in water-body coverage.

It will also recommend rivers and canals for priority re-excavation and propose policy measures for wetland protection, buffer-zone management, and the integration of water-body conservation into urban planning.

Woman's death sparks murder allegation

Family alleges abuse by husband; inquest report notes marks on neck, face

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The death of a 24-year-old woman in Dhaka's Monipuripara has prompted allegations of domestic abuse, with her family claiming she was murdered and her in-laws saying she died by suicide.

Maratun Nessa Barsha was taken to Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital unconscious early Wednesday, where doctors declared her dead.

Her husband, Nabid Hossain, has been arrested in a case filed under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act and sent to jail, police said.

Barsha's family alleged that Nabid repeatedly assaulted her over money. Her younger sister, Ramisu Nessa Megh, said their mother received a video call from Barsha at 12:17am Wednesday.

"I saw blood on my sister's face and took a screenshot. But before she could say anything, the call was disconnected," Megh told The Daily Star.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

'Abul Mansur Ahmad's ideas offer lessons for constitutional reform'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Abul Mansur Ahmad argued in Pakistan's Constituent Assembly in 1956 that lawmakers cannot draft a constitution according to their own wishes while disregarding the commitments made to the people, said speakers at a discussion yesterday.

They said Abul Mansur Ahmad opposed Pakistan's first constitution, arguing that it violated the principles of the Lahore Resolution and the electoral pledges of the United Front.

They also said his arguments on provincial autonomy, democracy and the equitable distribution of power in a federal system remain relevant to Bangladesh's ongoing constitutional reform debate.

The discussion, titled "Abul Mansur Ahmad in the Constituent Assembly (1956): Democracy, Sovereignty and Federal Pakistan", was organised by the Reading Club Trust at the Bangla Academy.

Taimur Reza, assistant professor of history and philosophy at North South University, said the 1956 Constitution contradicted the commitments made at Pakistan's founding by disregarding the Lahore Resolution's principle of autonomous provinces.

He explained that Abul Mansur Ahmad viewed Pakistan as a state formed through the mutual consent of autonomous provinces, making the resolution fundamental to understanding the country's constitutional basis.

Reza also highlighted the United

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1



Md Lokman Hussain, senior lecturer in the law department at North South University, speaks at the discussion organised by the Reading Club Trust at Bangla Academy yesterday. PHOTO: MEHEDI HASAN

Woman's death sparks murder allegation

FROM PAGE 3

She said the family rushed from Lalbagh to Barsha's Monipuripara home, where they learned that she had been taken to the hospital. "We did not know then that they had killed my sister."

Shawon, Nabid's cousin, said he and his elder brother helped carry Barsha to an ambulance after Nabid called them around 12:45am.

He claimed Barsha had not eaten for two days following a dispute over a family birthday celebration. The couple had a physical altercation on Tuesday night, he said. Barsha later locked herself in a room, and Nabid broke down the door and found her dead, Shawon added.

Megh disputed his account, alleging that Barsha had been prevented from attending the celebration and eating.

According to the inquest report, it is initially suspected that Barsha had died from strangulation. It noted a crescent-shaped mark on Barsha's neck, swelling around both eyes, a cut above her right eye and dark marks on two fingers.

Tejgaon police OC Muniruzzaman said Barsha's father had filed a case and police were investigating all aspects. Bangladesh Mohila Parishad condemned the death and demanded an impartial investigation and exemplary punishment for those responsible.

COX'S BAZAR

Plastic monster statue raises pollution awareness

MOKAMMEL SHUVO

A 50-foot-tall monster sculpture made from plastic waste has been installed on Cox's Bazar beach to raise awareness of plastic pollution, drawing visitors who stop to look at it and ponder its environmental impact.

Set up between Sugandha and Seagull points by Bidyanondo Foundation in collaboration with the Cox's Bazar district administration, the installation was opened to visitors on October 12 by Deputy Commissioner MA Mannan.

Standing before the giant monster near Sugandha Beach, tourist Aminur Rahman from Lalbagh, Dhaka, was explaining the dangers of plastic pollution to his nine-year-old daughter, Sumaiya Akter.

Like Aminur and his daughter, many visitors have been gathering around the sculpture to take photographs and learn about the harmful effects of plastic waste.

Saiful Islam, a tourist from Natore, said he had visited Cox's Bazar two years ago but had not seen as much polythene, plastic cups and bottles scattered across the beach as he did during his latest visit.

He warned that the growing number of tourists and the resulting increase in waste could lead to a serious environmental crisis in the coming years.

Mohammad Rana, a member of Bidyanondo Foundation, said the monster is holding an uprooted coconut tree to symbolise the damage plastic pollution causes to biodiversity.



The plastic monster holding an uprooted coconut tree symbolises the damage plastic pollution causes to biodiversity. PHOTO: MOKAMMEL SHUVO

A special theatre has also been set up beside the sculpture to screen films promoting responsible tourism. Visitors must bring two discarded plastic bottles to enter and watch the films.

The initiative aims to combine entertainment with a message about collecting and recycling plastic waste.

Jamal Uddin, director of Bidyanondo Foundation, said people often enjoyed the sea's beauty without considering their own contribution to its pollution.

Organisers said the sculpture was made from five tonnes of plastic waste collected from the sea and surrounding areas.

Artists from the Faculty of Fine Arts at the University of Dhaka spent 20 days creating the installation using plastic waste collected from the beaches of Inani, Teknaf and Saint Martin's Island.

Fakhrul's brother wins Thakurgaon-1 by-poll

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Thakurgaon*



MIRZA FAISAL AMIN

Mirza Faisal Amin, BNP candidate and younger brother of President Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, won the Thakurgaon-1 by-election by a margin of 1,31,404 votes yesterday.

Faisal, who contested with the paddy sheaf symbol, secured 2,27,917 votes, while his nearest rival, Delawar Hossain, backed by the Jamaat-led 11-party alliance, received 96,513 votes.

Returning Officer and Thakurgaon District Election Officer Kamrul Islam declared Faisal the unofficial winner around 10:00pm.

Among the other candidates, Hafez Md Khademul Islam of Islami Andolan Bangladesh secured 3,289 votes, Md Abdul Alim Nizami of Bangladesh Khelafat Andolon 836, and Hossain Muhammad Omar Faruk of Bangladesh Congress 450.

Six more die of dengue, 1,886 get hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six more people died of dengue and 1,886 were hospitalised in the 24 hours until 8:00am yesterday, raising the death toll to 415 and the total number of cases to 1,32,105, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Of the latest deaths, two each were reported in Dhaka and Chattogram divisions, while Khulna and Rangpur reported one each.

Currently, 6,251 dengue patients are receiving treatment at hospitals across the country.

পাওয়ার গ্রিড বাংলাদেশ পিএলসি
POWER GRID BANGLADESH PLC
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

Grid Bhaban, Avenue-3, Jahurul Islam City, Aftabnagar, Badda, Dhaka-1212 Web: www.powergrid.gov.bd
স্মারক নং- ২৭.২১.০০০০.০০০.৭৮৫.১৭.০০০১.২৬.৭২৩ তারিখঃ ২৭/১০/২০২৬খ্রিঃ

e-Tender বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পাওয়ার গ্রিডের জিএমডি, রাঙ্গামাটি দপ্তরের আওতাধীন নিম্নলিখিত দরপত্র e-GP পোর্টালে প্রকাশিত হয়েছে।

ID	Reference	Title of Works	Closing Date and Time
1360386	27.21.0000.000.785. 18.0001.26.721; Date: 26.10.2026	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning work of 10.0 kWp capacity on-Grid Solar System with Net Metering at GMD Rangamati Office under GMD, Rangamati, Power Grid.	15 Nov 2026 at 15:00
1361029	27.21.0000.000.785. 18.0001.26.722; Date: 26.10.2026	Mufling and painting work of different 132 kV tower at Madunaghat-Chandroghona (Madunaghat SS Portion) and Madunaghat-Shikalbaha 132 kV line for protection tower under GMD Rangamati, Power Grid.	16 Nov 2026 at 15:00
স্মারক নং- ২৭.২১.০০০০.০০০.৭৮৫.১৭.০০০১.২৬.৭২৯ তারিখঃ ২৯/১০/২০২৬খ্রিঃ			
1362428	27.21.0000.000.785. 18.0001.26.726; Date: 28.10.2026,	Repair & maintenance work of boundary wall with painting at Chandraghona 132/33 kV grid substation under GMD, Rangamati, Power Grid	17-Nov-2026 at 15:00
1362429	27.21.0000.000.785. 18.0001.26.727; Date: 28.10.2026	Repair, maintenance and raising the level of access road at Madunaghat 230/132/33 kV grid substation under GMD, Rangamati, Power Grid	
1362430	27.21.0000.000.785. 18.0001.26.728; Date: 28.10.2026	Repair & Maintenance work of boundary wall, car port including barbed wire and painting at Khagrachori Grid Sub-Station under GMD, Rangamati, Power Gri	

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

সুবীর কান্তি নাথ
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, জিএমডি, রাঙ্গামাটি

আধুনিক ভাষা ইনস্টিটিউট
ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
নিয়মিত মাস্টার্স প্রোগ্রাম শূন্য আসনে ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি
শিক্ষাবর্ষ : ২০২৫-২০২৬

নিয়মিত মাস্টার্স প্রোগ্রামে ২০২৫-২০২৬ শিক্ষাবর্ষে ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের আধুনিক ভাষা ইনস্টিটিউটের Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL), ফরাসি ভাষা ও সংস্কৃতি (FLC), চীনা ভাষা ও সংস্কৃতি (CLC) এবং জাপানি ভাষা ও সংস্কৃতি (JLC) প্রোগ্রাম-এর শূন্য আসনে ভর্তিচ্ছুদের কাছ থেকে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় মঞ্জুরী কমিশন (ইউজিসি) কর্তৃক অনুমোদিত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় থেকে যে কোনো বিষয়ে চার বছর মেয়াদি স্নাতক (সম্মান) ডিগ্রিপ্রাপ্ত শিক্ষার্থীরা আবেদন করতে পারবেন। তবে স্নাতক (সম্মান) পরীক্ষায় ৪.০০ স্কেলে ন্যূনতম জিপিএ ৩.২৫/দ্বিতীয় বিভাগে ৫৫% নম্বর থাকতে হবে এবং মাধ্যমিক/সমমান ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক/সমমান পরীক্ষায় মোট জিপিএ ৬.৫০ থাকতে হবে। তবে মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক/সমমান পরীক্ষায় আলাদাভাবে ন্যূনতম জিপিএ ৩.০০/দ্বিতীয় বিভাগ থাকতে হবে। মাস্টার্স ডিগ্রিপ্রাপ্তরাও আবেদন করতে পারবেন। ভর্তির ক্ষেত্রে প্রার্থীর বয়স ও শিক্ষাবর্ষের কোনো বাধ্যবাধকতা নেই। বিদেশী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় থেকে স্নাতক/স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রি অর্জনকারী শিক্ষার্থীরা অনুষদ কর্তৃক ডিগ্রির সমতা নিরূপণ সাপেক্ষে ভর্তির জন্য আবেদন করতে পারবেন। আগ্রহী প্রার্থীদের আগামী ১লা নভেম্বর ২০২৬ তারিখ থেকে ২৬শে নভেম্বর ২০২৬ তারিখের মধ্যে নির্ধারিত ভর্তির আবেদন ফরম সংগ্রহ ও জমাদান করতে হবে (সময়: সকাল ১০টা থেকে বিকাল ৩:৪৫ মিনিট পর্যন্ত শুক্র ও শনিবার বাদে, মোবাইল: ০১৫৫০৭২০৮৬৭)

ভর্তি ফরম : https://portal.iml.du.ac.bd/DU-registration
বিস্তারিত তথ্য : আধুনিক ভাষা ইনস্টিটিউটের নোটিশবোর্ডে দেওয়া আছে।
https://www.facebook.com/iml.du.ac.bd অথবা
https://www.facebook.com/seba.iml (Page) এবং
https://www.facebook.com/groups/iml.du.ac.bd

অধ্যাপক মোহাম্মদ আবছার কামাল
পরিচালক
GD-2616

Police looking for madrasa official over 'sexual assault'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police are searching for a madrasa official accused of sexually assaulting a 12-year-old girl in Dhaka's Keraniganj.

The girl's father filed a case against Md Nazrul Mia, 60, the treasurer of that local madrasa on October 26, two days after the alleged incident, said Shafiqul Islam, a sub-inspector of Keraniganj Model Police Station and the investigating officer. "We have conducted raids twice to arrest the accused, but he and his family members have gone into hiding. Their mobile phones are switched off, and we are trying to trace their whereabouts," SI Shafiqul said.

Tahmima Anam

FROM PAGE 3

exploring how books are made, who gets to make them, imposter syndrome and the challenges of overcoming it, alongside themes of mothers, daughters and surrogate family relationships.

The story follows Raya Chatterji, who meets Prue McNeill, London's most respected literary agent, at a New York bookshop where Raya works. The encounter leads to a new career, a return to the city where she was born and a reckoning with secrets from her past.

Pacesetter Productions, founded by Jessica Rhoades, produced Peacock's spy thriller series "Ponies" and has worked with Charlie Brooker on "Black Mirror" and the upcoming comedy "Cunk on Cinema". Kudos, part of Banijay, is behind television series including "House of Guinness", "SAS: Rogue Heroes" and "Grantchester".

Tahmima is the author of the Bengal trilogy and has received the Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Best First Book and the O. Henry Award. Her novel "Uprising" was shortlisted for the Orwell Prize for Political Fiction. She has also been named a Granta Best of Young British Novelist and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. Born in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Tahmima earned a PhD in anthropology from Harvard University. Her acclaimed novels include "A Golden Age" and "The Good Muslim".

Department of
PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES
Faculty of Social Sciences
University of Dhaka

ONLY FULL-FLEDGED DEPARTMENT OF ITS KIND IN SOUTH ASIA

PROFESSIONAL MASTER'S IN
PEACE, CONFLICT AND HUMAN RIGHTS
(PMPCHR)

Call For Admission
7th Batch, Spring 2027

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME:
The PMPCHR is designed for professionals from armed forces, law enforcement agencies, foreign missions, NGOs, development sectors, civil services, legal practitioners and research organizations.

ELIGIBILITY:
- Bachelor's degree in any discipline with a minimum CGPA of 2.50 (on a 4.00-point-scale) or 2nd class;
- No 3rd division/class at SSC/HSC/Bachelor's levels;

PROGRAMME FEATURES:
- 18-month long professional programme
- 3 semesters (48 credits)
- 12 courses (e.g. Peace and Conflict, Human Rights, Terrorism and Counter /Anti-Terrorism, Governance and Development, Environment, Migration and Refugee, Organizational Conflict Management, Research Monograph /Thesis, etc.)
- Classes on Friday & Saturday

Career Path:
- NGOs and INGOs
- Development Partners
- Research Organizations

30% Online Classes

Room No: 1002, Level: 10, Social Sciences Building
+88 01719-212281
+88 01712-511763
pmpchr@du.ac.bd

Application Deadline: 26 NOVEMBER 2026
Admission Test: 04 DECEMBER 2026

অফিস স্পেস বিক্রয়
ধানমন্ডি ৮নং রোডে দক্ষিণ-পূর্ব কর্ণার প্লটে ৩০৮৩ বর্গফুটের অফিস স্পেস বিক্রয়।
০১৭০৪-১৭০০৭৮
০১৭০৪-১৭০০৭৫

রেডী ফ্ল্যাট বিক্রয়
গুলশান-২ এ, ১০১ নং রোডে, ASSET নির্মিত ৩৭০০ বর্গফুটের চার বেড ও ২টি কার পার্কিং সহ, নতুন Renovated একটি আধুনিক ফ্ল্যাট বিক্রয়। +৮৮০১৯১৬৯২৮৫২১

Land Sale-Joint Venture
28 Bigha Land. Single owner. Near Rajuk Purbachal. Army Joloshiri, Ananda Nogor (Police housing). Dhaka Village. Interested renound investors company are welcome to buy or build satelight city or others.
Phone: 01715-103940

STATUTORY NOTICE

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH, HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
Company Matter no. 1269/ 2026
An application under section 81(2), 85(3) read with section 396 of the Companies Act 1994
AND
IN THE MATTER OF
Mr. Rahat Kamal, shareholder and Managing Director, **Shilpo Technic (Pvt.) Ltd** of 199, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208. ----------**Petitioner**
VERSUS
The Registrar of Joint Stock Companies & Firms and another.-----**Respondents**

Take notice that an application under section 81(2), 85(3) read with section 396 of the Companies Act 1994 was filed before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh on behalf of the above named petitioner for condonation of delay in holding Annual General Meeting of **Shilpo Technic (Pvt) Ltd** for the calendar year 2024 & 2025 and to give necessary direction for holding the said Annual General Meetings. Upon hearing the application on 11.10.2026 the Hon'ble Company Judge **Mr. Justice Syed Mohammed Tazrul Hossain** was pleased to admit the application. Interested person may appear before the Hon'ble Court on or before the date fixed for hearing of the matter. Copy of the application may be obtained on payment of necessary cost.

Md. Shahinur Rahman
Advocate, Supreme court of Bangladesh
Room No-607(Annex Ext.), Supreme Court Bar Association Building, Dhaka,
Cell: 01723918002

NATIONAL HOTEL & TOURISM TRAINING INSTITUTE
Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation
(Bangladesh Tourism Corporation)
83-88, Mohakhali C/A, Dhaka - 1212
www.nhtti.gov.bd

Admission

1 **Diploma in Hotel Management (2-year)**
(Course Code: DHM – 41 & 42)
Requirements : HSC or equivalent,
Age Limit : 30 years till admission date.
Fees : Taka 2,10,000/- to be paid in 4 installments (80,000+50,000+40,000+40,000)
Admission Test: **06 December 2026 at 10:00am**

2 **Diploma in Tourism & Hospitality Management (1-year)**
(Course Code: DTHM - 09)
Requirements : HSC or equivalent,
Age Limit : 30 years till admission date.
Fees : Taka 1,00,000/- to be paid in 2 installments (70,000+30,000).
Admission Test: **08 December 2026 at 10.00am**

3 **Professional Baking Course (1-year) (Friday & Saturday)**
(Course Code: PBC – 11)
Requirements : SSC or equivalent
Age Limit : 30 years till admission date.
Fees : Taka 1,10,000/- to be paid in 2 installments (70,000+40,000).
Admission Test: **07 December 2026 at 10.00am.**

4 **Diploma in Culinary Arts & Catering Management (1- year, Friday & Saturday) (Chef Training).**
(Course Code: DCCM – 19 & 20)
Requirements: SSC or equivalent,
Age Limit: 40 years till admission date.
Fees: Taka 1,50,000/- to be paid in 2 installments (80,000+70,000).
Admission Test: **07 December 2026 at 10:00am**

5 **Professional Chef Course (1-year)**
(Course Code: PCC – 39 & 40)
Requirements: SSC or equivalent,
Age Limit: 30 years till admission date.
Fees: Taka 1,20,000/- to be paid in 2 installments (80,000+40,000).
Admission Test: **08 December 2026 at 10:00am**

Unique Features:
- Center of Excellence in Hospitality & Tourism Training
- Course Curriculum developed by ILO/UNDP Experts
- A pool of Trained National Faculty Members
- Airlines ticketing software included in Diploma in Tourism and Hospitality Management (DTHM) course.

Admission:
Apply Online: www.nhtti.gov.bd/admission
Last Date of Apply: 04 Dec 2026
Last Date of Admission: 29 Dce 2026
Course Commencement: 03 Jan 2027
Contact:
+88022222233289, +8801991139011
Email: nhtti@parjatan.gov.bd
83-88 Bir Uttam AK Khondoker Road, Mohakhali, Banani Dhaka-1212.

S M Mujahidul Alam
Principal (Acting)
GD-2614

Family disputes

FROM PAGE 1

came under attack while conducting the drive.

On Wednesday, DMP Deputy Commissioner (Media) Akhtar Hossain said a gunfight had taken place between SRB members and drug peddlers, leaving a boy injured. He later died at a hospital.

However, the victim's elder sister, Roksana Begum, told The Daily Star that 10 to 12 SRB members in plainclothes detained several locals and began taking their mobile phones and money.

As the detainees could not identify the plainclothes personnel as law enforcers, they assaulted them, she said.

"The SRB members then fired bullets indiscriminately. The detainees were running in different directions. Hearing the gunshots, my younger brother went to see what was happening, and he was shot," Roksana said.

She claimed that none of the locals had firearms or opened fire during the incident.

An intelligence agency member, speaking on condition of anonymity, corroborated part of her account, saying that SRB personnel were the only ones who opened fire during the operation.

The source said drug-related activities were widespread in Dhalpur and that SRB members had gone there in plainclothes to conduct a drive. When they encountered trouble, they fired five rounds to bring the situation under control.

According to the case statement, Maruf returned home from work around 5:00pm on Tuesday and left around 6:30pm to play night cricket, as he usually did.

Around 7:00pm, he reached near an abandoned four-storey building at Outfall Staff Quarters No 14, where unidentified assailants opened fire. Maruf was shot in the right shoulder while trying to flee.

Locals took him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared him dead at 7:50pm. The complaint further said Maruf's mother later learned from locals that unidentified drug peddlers and criminals had opened fire on SRB personnel, who allegedly fired into the air to repel the attackers.

Victim's sister Roksana, however, challenged the account, claiming that her mother had signed the document as per police directives.

"My mother has little understanding of its contents."

Several attempts were made to contact the officer-in-charge of Jatrabari Police Station for comment, but he did not answer the calls.

Denying that SRB members had opened fire, Mohammad Asaduzzaman, commanding officer of SRB-10, told The Daily Star that drug peddlers attacked SRB members, snatched four detainees, and fired indiscriminately at the personnel.

Wing Commander MZM Enthekhab Chowdhury, SRB's legal and media wing director, said a case had been filed with Jatrabari Police Station. "If any involvement of our personnel is found during the investigation, action will be taken against them."

Meanwhile, Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) yesterday expressed serious concern over the death, citing major inconsistencies in accounts given by officials.

Citing witness accounts, the rights body said several men, identifying themselves as SRB members, were handcuffing three people when brickbats were thrown at them. Two members then opened fire, according to the witnesses.

HRSS demanded an independent investigation into the death and called for the findings to be made public.



PHOTO: AFP

Opposition lawmakers light flares and set off smoke bombs during a session of Albania's parliament in Tirana yesterday as they sought to disrupt a vote and accused the prime minister of downplaying ongoing anti-government protests. The demonstrations, which began in mid-October with students demanding greater support for education and the prime minister's resignation, have repeatedly descended into clashes with police.

US MIDTERM ELECTION

Trump, Obama trade barbs on campaign trail

REUTERS, *Chillicothe*

Neither man is on the ballot but Republican President Donald Trump and Democratic former president Barack Obama took prominent roles on the campaign trail on Wednesday, with less than a week to go before congressional races that could shift the balance of power in Washington.

While Trump has been on a weeks-long campaign blitz that has underlined Republican concerns about losing control of Congress for the final two years of his presidency, Obama had kept a relatively low public profile until the past week, during which he has delivered blistering speeches criticizing Trump.

On Wednesday, Obama appeared in Morrow, Georgia, near Atlanta, where he urged voters to support Democratic Senator Jon Ossoff, who faces a challenge from Representative Mike Collins, a Republican.

While delivering the standard Democratic critique of Trump for imposing tariffs and going to war in Iran, Obama also said America's values were on the ballot, as he recalled the vision of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., who is buried in Atlanta.

"There is a moral component to the choices we face right now," Obama said. "We are not going to fix the system that's broken, we're not going to unrig our economy, so long as we've got a culture where anything goes, where people in the highest offices of the land think it's OK to lie and cheat and bully, if we continue to have a culture where money is deemed the only measure of our worth," Obama said.

Trump's public approval rating has fallen to a near record low, with Americans increasingly sour on the high cost of living and the Iran war, but he remains an animating force in the party and has campaigned hard to increase Republican turnout.

Pak court jails prominent rights couple for 10yrs

REUTERS, *Lahore*

A Pakistani anti-terrorism court yesterday sentenced prominent human rights lawyers Imaan Mazari and her husband, Hadi Ali Chattha, to 10 years in prison in a security breach case, her family said.

The judge announced the verdict at Adiala Jail, where the couple have been held since earlier this year. The court also imposed additional sentences of one year and two years on the couple on separate charges of obstructing and assaulting government servants. The sentences will run concurrently.

Mazari, who has won international recognition for speaking out against the disappearances of political activists and for defending minorities and journalists, and Chattha have drawn support from rights groups that have condemned their imprisonment.

The couple were accused of endangering an international cricket team's security plans by staging a protest and blocking a road in a 2024 case.

In statements seen by Reuters, they denied the charges. "We are prisoners of conscience," they said, adding that they were being targeted for their human rights work.

Pakistan's law minister has repeatedly said the country's judiciary is independent.

BJP wins big in India's MLC polls

Congress, Samajwadi Party send a message from Nagpur, Varanasi

AGENCIES

The MLC elections across India's four states brought both shock and cheer for the BJP and Congress yesterday.

While the Congress suffered a humiliating defeat in Karnataka, where it is in power but failed to win a single seat, the BJP faltered in two constituencies that mattered most: Nagpur, home to the RSS headquarters, and Varanasi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's parliamentary constituency, reports TNN.

The BJP nevertheless emerged as the largest party, winning 13 of the 28 seats contested, while its allies took the NDA's tally to 16.

The alliance swept all four seats in Karnataka, won six of the 11 seats in Uttar Pradesh and secured four of the eight seats in Bihar.

MLC elections are held for the legislative council, the upper house of a state legislature, which exists in only six of the 28 states.

In Maharashtra, the ruling Mahayuti won two of the five seats, while the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi secured three. The Congress's only victory came from Nagpur, a political stronghold of Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis and Union minister Nitin Gadkari.

In Uttar Pradesh, the Samajwadi Party retained the Varanasi Teachers' constituency and was heading towards victory in the Graduates' seat, both of which it had won in 2020.

Modi took a swipe at the opposition party on X, pointing out that voting in the four states had taken place using ballot papers.

IBA Institute of Business Administration

ADMISSION TEST
Executive MBA; Spring 2027 (Batch-45)

Eligibility

Academic Qualifications:

01. Bachelor's degree in any discipline with a minimum CGPA of 2.50 (on a 4.00-point scale) or 2nd class;

02. Minimum GPA of 3.00 (on a 5.00-point scale) or 2nd division in SSC and HSC exams separately;

03. Minimum GPA of 2.00 in both O-Level and A-Level exams separately. For details, please visit our website.

Job Experience:

- Minimum five years of full-time work experience in executive/Grade-9 level or above (in case of public sector employments) after bachelor's degree.

- The written test will be held on **Friday, November 27, 2026 from 10:00 am to 11:15 am at IBA, University of Dhaka.**
- An applicant with a foreign nationality and foreign university degree(s) may be exempted from taking the written test if s/he has a valid GRE/GMAT score at or above the 75 percentile. However, s/he is required to appear before an interview board.
- For all foreign certificates/degrees (excluding O-Level and A- Level), equivalence will be determined by the Equivalence Committee of IBA. Without such equivalence, an applicant is not eligible to sit for the admission test. Candidates should contact the Executive MBA Program office to apply for equivalence.
- An applicant with degree from any program not approved by UGC is ineligible to apply.
- The application fee is BDT 4050 (including online processing fee). The application must be submitted online by **Wednesday, November 25, 2026.** For detailed application procedure, please visit: **www.iba-du.edu or https://www.admission.iba-du.edu**

Classes of Executive MBA Program will take place during weekends i.e., on Fridays and Saturdays.

For further information, please contact:
Executive MBA Program Office, Room # 405 (3rd Floor)
Institute of Business Administration
University of Dhaka, Dhaka 1000
Mobile # +8801758171660

Director
Institute of Business Administration
University of Dhaka

GD-2615

ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন
ফিনিক্স রোড, ফুলবাড়িয়া,
নগর ভবন, ঢাকা।
www.dscc.gov.bd

স্মারক সংখ্যা : ৪৬.২০৭.০০০.০৩.০২.৩৮.২০১৯-৮৮৮

তারিখঃ ১৩ কার্তিক ১৪৩৩ বঙ্গাব্দ / ২৯ অক্টোবর ২০২৬ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

স্থানীয় সরকার, পল্লী উন্নয়ন ও সমবায় মন্ত্রণালয়ের স্থানীয় সরকার বিভাগের ০৬.১০.২০২৬ খ্রি. তারিখের ৪৬.০০.০০০০.০৭০.১১.০০১.১৮.৯০০ নম্বর স্মারকে অনুমোদনের প্রেক্ষিতে ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের রাজস্বখাতভুক্ত নিম্নবর্ণিত শূন্য পদসমূহ পূরণের জন্য বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছেঃ

ক্র. নং	পদের নাম ও বেতন স্কেল (জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল/২০২৬ অনুযায়ী)	পদের সংখ্যা	বয়স সীমা	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা
১	২	৩	৪	৫
১.	গাড়ী চালক (ভারী) ২১,৯০০-৫২,৯০০/- (১৬তম গ্রেড)	২০ (বিশ) টি	১৮-৩২ বছর	অষ্টম শ্রেণী বা কোনো স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হতে জুনিয়র স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ; এবং বৈধ লাইসেন্সসহ ভারী যানবাহন চালানোর বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা।

২। **নিম্নলিখিত শর্তাবলী অবশ্যই অনুসরণ করতে হবেঃ**

(১) ০২/১১/২০২৬ তারিখে প্রার্থীর বয়সসীমা ১৮ থেকে ৩২ বছর হতে হবে। বয়স প্রমাণের ক্ষেত্রে কোন এফিডেভিট গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়;

(২) সরকারি/আধাসরকারি/স্বায়ত্তশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানে কর্মরত প্রার্থীদেরকে অবশ্যই যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের অনুমতিক্রমে আবেদন করতে হবে;

(৩) নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে সরকারের বিদ্যমান বিধি-বিধান এবং পরবর্তীতে এ সংশ্লিষ্ট বিধি-বিধানে কোন সংশোধন হলে তা অনুসরণ করা হবে;

(৪) আবেদনপত্রে প্রার্থীর নাম, পিতা/স্বামীর নাম, মাতার নাম, স্থায়ী ঠিকানা, বর্তমান ঠিকানা, জাতীয়তা, ধর্ম, জন্ম তারিখ, বয়স, নিজ জেলার নাম, শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা (যদি থাকে) উল্লেখ করতে হবে;

(৫) আবেদনপত্রের সাথে নিম্নোক্ত কাগজপত্রাদি সংযুক্ত করতে হবেঃ
(ক) ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের চেয়ারম্যান/পৌরসভা বা সিটি কর্পোরেশনের মেয়র/কাউন্সিলর কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত নাগরিকত্বের সনদপত্র এবং জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র (ভোটার আইডি কার্ড) বা জন্ম নিবন্ধন সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি;
(খ) শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা এবং অভিজ্ঞতা (যদি থাকে) সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি;
(গ) আবেদনপত্রের সাথে সংযুক্ত সকল শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি এবং সদ্য তোলা ০৩(তিন) কপি পাসপোর্ট আকারের রঙিন ছবি প্রথম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত হতে হবে। সত্যায়নের ক্ষেত্রে সত্যায়নকারী কর্মকর্তার সুস্পষ্ট নাম ও পদবী সম্বলিত সিল অবশ্যই থাকতে হবে;

(৬) প্রার্থী মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধার পুত্র-কন্যা হলে মুক্তিযোদ্ধা সনদ (মন্ত্রণালয়ের সনদ, বামুস সনদ), মুক্তিবার্তা/গেজেট নম্বর ও তারিখ এবং মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/ শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধার পুত্র-কন্যা হিসেবে চাকুরি প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে উপরোক্ত কাগজসহ প্রার্থীর সাথে মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধা সম্পর্কের প্রমাণক হিসেবে সংশ্লিষ্ট ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের চেয়ারম্যান/পৌরসভার মেয়র/সিটি কর্পোরেশনের ওয়ার্ড কমিশনার/কাউন্সিলর কর্তৃক ইস্যুকৃত প্রত্যয়নপত্র। প্রার্থী এবং তার পিতা-মাতার জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় প্রদর্শন করতে হবে।

(৭) প্রশাসক, ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের অনুকূলে যেকোন অনুমোদিত তফসিলভুক্ত ব্যাংক হতে ১০০/- (একশত) টাকা মূল্যের ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার (অফেরতযোগ্য) সংযুক্ত করতে হবে;

(৮) প্রার্থীর নিজ ঠিকানা উল্লেখপূর্বক সরকার নির্ধারিত ডাকটিকেটসহ ফেরত খাম (সাইজ ৯" X ৪") সংযুক্ত করতে হবে;

(৯) আবেদনকারী বিভাগীয় প্রার্থী হয়ে থাকলে তার নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত অনাপত্তিপত্রের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি সংযুক্ত করতে হবে;

(১০) সচিব, ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন বরাবর আবেদন করতে হবে এবং আবেদনপত্রের খামের উপর অবশ্যই পদের নাম উল্লেখ করতে হবে। ০২.১১.২০২৬ তারিখ হতে ২৩.১১.২০২৬ তারিখ বিকাল ৫.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত সময়ে সচিব, ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন বরাবর ডাকযোগে আবেদনপত্র প্রেরণ করতে হবে। সরাসরি দাখিলকৃত কোন আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না। অসম্পূর্ণ, ত্রুটিপূর্ণ ও বিলম্বে প্রাপ্ত আবেদন বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে;

(১১) আবেদনকারী তার সর্বশেষ অর্জিত শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার তথ্য আবশ্যিকভাবে উল্লেখ করতে হবে;

(১২) নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে উল্লিখিত পদের সংখ্যা হ্রাস/বৃদ্ধির অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করেন;

(১৩) লিখিত, ব্যবহারিক ও মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য প্রার্থীকে কোন প্রকার টিএ/ডিএ প্রদান করা হবে না;

(১৪) নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি বাতিল/প্রত্যাহারের অধিকার কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন;

(১৫) ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের ওয়েব সাইটে (www.dscc.gov.bd) এ নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তিটি পাওয়া যাবে;

(১৬) নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত বিষয়ে নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে;

(১৭) উল্লেখ করা হয়নি এমন ক্ষেত্রে সরকারের সর্বশেষ জারিকৃত বিধি-বিধান প্রযোজ্য হবে;

ডিএসসিসি/পিআরডি/ ৯৯/২০২৬-২৭

২৯/১০/২০২৬

(মোঃ মশিউর রহমান খান)
সচিব
ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন

GD-2626

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

Mob violence will not end without justice

Govt must ensure swift investigations and punishment

We are deeply disturbed by the persistence of mob violence in the country despite repeated assurances from the government that it would take firm action against those responsible. The deaths of at least 15 people in mob beatings this month alone show that those pledges have done little to stop such brutality. On Tuesday, two pickup truck drivers named Jony and Md Nishat were beaten to death in Dhaka's Jatrabari area on suspicion of being muggers. Just six days earlier, Alam Sheikh, who had come to Dhaka in search of work and reportedly had mental health issues, was beaten to death on the premises of Shaheed Suhrawardy Hospital on suspicion of being a kidnapper. These violent crimes reflect a dangerous disregard for the rule of law.

On October 20, the home ministry released a report stating that 40 people were killed in 63 incidents of mob beating between January and September this year, compared with 63 deaths in 107 incidents during the same period last year. While government data indicate a decline, the figures recorded by rights organisations paint a different picture. Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) documented 171 deaths in mob beatings during the first nine months of this year, while the Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) recorded 187 deaths and 401 injuries in 398 incidents. This discrepancy between official and independent data raises questions about the government's assessment of the problem.

On September 1, Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed pledged to tackle mob violence firmly, arguing that the existing laws are sufficient to prosecute perpetrators. However, the government's apparent failure to ensure justice in these cases

We urge the government to prove that its pledges are more than words. They must promptly investigate all reported mob killing cases, identify everyone involved, and ensure effective prosecution. The authorities should also compare official data with those of rights organisations to understand the full extent of the problem.

is emboldening perpetrators and perpetuating the culture of mob violence. In September 2024, Tofazzal Hossain was beaten to death at Dhaka University's Fazlul Huq Muslim Hall on suspicion of theft. Although a Dhaka court accepted a supplementary charge sheet in March this year and issued arrest warrants against 22 accused, only six have been arrested so far. Meanwhile, the investigation report on the killing of former Chhatra League leader Shamim Ahmed, also known as Shamim Molla, at Jahangirnagar University in September 2024 has yet to be submitted. Such delays and lack of progress only undermine public confidence in the justice system. Rights activists have also pointed out that a tendency to justify violence along social and political divides is fuelling such acts. When perpetrators believe they can evade punishment, and people see violence go unchallenged, it becomes harder to stop.

We urge the government to prove that its pledges are more than words. They must promptly investigate all reported mob killing cases, identify everyone involved, and ensure effective prosecution. The authorities should also compare official data with those of rights organisations to understand the full extent of the problem. Alongside law enforcement, the government must conduct nationwide awareness campaigns to make it clear that suspicion of a crime, alleged religious offence or personal grievance can never justify mob beating or killing. Restoring public confidence in the state's ability to protect its citizens and deliver justice is essential to end mob violence.

Safeguards key to curbing irregularities

Political will needed to check wilful loan defaults

We share the concerns of economists, bankers, and industry experts that existing laws and mechanisms to bring wilful defaulters to book and recover bad loans are too lax. Experts say wilful defaulters account for more than 80 percent of the bad loan portfolio which, as of June 2026, reached more than Tk 6 lakh crore—nearly a third of total disbursed loans. Moreover, most wilful defaulters are associated with a handful of powerful, politically connected conglomerates that took advantage of relaxed regulations under the Awami League regime.

Over the last two years, much of the looted funds could not be recovered because a large portion was siphoned out of the country, while loopholes in the conventional and lengthy loan recovery procedure also created barriers. The recovery machinery often catches minor defaulters while letting major ones slip through. Thus, there must be stricter measures taken against wilful borrowers. A comprehensive and transparent assessment of Bangladesh's bad loan portfolio to identify wilful defaulters must be carried out. Targeted action can then be taken against them, so that those who failed to repay loans due to the energy crisis, order cancellation, sluggish demand, and slow economic growth do not suffer the same consequences.

Similarly, when relaxing regulations in the financial sector to boost the economy, adequate safeguards must be in place to prevent disingenuous borrowers from taking advantage of the system. Besides, relaxing rules or lowering policy rates will not automatically encourage more private investment, which hit its lowest level in 11 years at the end of FY2024-25. Even private credit growth has remained below 5 percent for the last six months. According to bankers, demand for large letters of credit for machinery or factory expansion has been low, meaning domestic businesses are hesitant to make long-term investments.

While the energy crisis, persistent inflation, low real-wage growth, job cuts, and sluggish demand are discouraging private investment, political uncertainty and a deteriorating law-and-order situation are further dampening business confidence. This is where the government needs to act: reining in party-linked elements accused of extorting businesses, demonstrating the political will to bring wilful defaulters to book, and pursuing consistent policies that do not favour the powerful at the expense of the weak.

Only an independent caretaker system can ensure free, fair elections

Without credible elections, we will never attain political stability

THE THIRD VIEW



Mahfuz Anam is the editor and publisher of The Daily Star.

MAHFUZ ANAM

It has not even been a year since we had the last national election, so why are we already talking about the next one? Because the amendment regarding the incorporation of the provisions for a caretaker government into our constitution is in the process of being formulated. This is a most important development as experience has repeatedly shown us that only a truly independent caretaker government system overseeing an election can guarantee a credible one.

Jamaat-e-Islami claims to be its original proponent. The Awami League, whose activities are banned at present, was the political mover and shaker behind this demand, and the BNP, under Khaleda Zia's government, was the party that incorporated it into the constitution in March 1996. All three parties can claim credit for it.

Although the 1991 election was held under an interim government headed by Chief Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, which came about through an agreement among all political parties, the elections since June 1996 were all held under the caretaker government system (until its eventual abolition in 2011 under the Awami League rule). While the defeated parties always criticised the elections as not being free and fair, they lived with the results, accepted the formation of a new government, and took part in parliamentary proceedings.

A brief review of history is relevant here. It was the Awami League that literally held the nation hostage to push through the caretaker government system. From 1994 onwards, Sheikh Hasina's party called for endless hartals to force the then BNP government to accept this system to hold elections. Inside parliament, it began with walkouts, which grew longer over time. This was followed by periodic boycotts, and finally, it ended with the resignation of the entire opposition, leaving the House totally one-sided and ineffective.

At the time, the BNP had underestimated public support for this change and conducted the election in February 1996 under the existing system, in which the ruling party remained in power during the election. The election was boycotted by all opposition parties led by the Awami League.

Although victorious, BNP appeared to have understood the public mood, amended the constitution to introduce the caretaker government system, and held another election in June 1996. Awami League won this one and came to power for the first time in 21 years. It had been ousted from power in 1975, when Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was assassinated.

Although the 1991 election was held under an interim government headed by Chief Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, which came about through an agreement among all political parties, the elections since June 1996 were all held under the caretaker government system (until its eventual abolition in 2011 under the Awami League rule). While the defeated parties always criticised the elections as not being free and fair, they lived with the results, accepted the formation of a new government, and took part in parliamentary proceedings.

The fall of Gen HM Ershad in 1990 can be termed the restarting point of our democratic journey. With the caretaker government system in place as well as the restoration of the parliamentary system, we had a rare opportunity to strengthen our democratic institutions, especially the Election Commission, judiciary, and all other "accountability" bodies whose autonomy was a precondition for democracy to be genuinely functional.

But, tragically, our politicians did not utilise this vital opportunity. Instead of strengthening institutions of accountability and transparency, they politicised them, the bureaucracy and police being the most serious victims. The judiciary was not spared either. The fundamental principle that those in power must be kept accountable in a transparent manner was never accepted by our political parties.

So, as we moved on with elections—June 1996, 2001 and 2008—questions were often raised about their neutrality, though not generally on the basis of credible evidence. The crucial element in the caretaker government system was the agreement by all parties that the head of such a government—the chief adviser, with the rank and status of prime minister—would be the last retired chief justice. This worked when Justice Habibur Rahman headed the caretaker government in 1996, and the Awami League got elected. But in 2001, when the party was defeated, it raised a hue and cry over the tenure of Chief Adviser Justice Latifur Rahman.

During the BNP government's tenure from 2001 to 2006, its law minister, Barrister Moudud Ahmed, introduced a provision that extended the retirement age of Supreme Court judges. This altered the succession of the retired chief justice who would normally have taken charge as the chief adviser and brought the previously retired chief justice, Justice KM Hasan, into the picture. This triggered the Awami League's suspicions that the extension of the judges' retirement age was a ploy to have a chief adviser of BNP's own choosing. This led to tremendous political conflict, resulting in the declaration of a state of emergency and the formation of an army-backed caretaker government regime led by former Bangladesh Bank Governor Fakhruddin Ahmed. The tenure was two years instead of 90 days. To the army's credit, it digitised our voter ID cards and helped introduce NID cards, which have since become essential to our lives.

In our view, of the many mistakes Sheikh Hasina committed, abolishing the caretaker government system was the most consequential. If she had continued with it, she would definitely have faced tougher elections—and may even have lost the next one—and thus would never have descended to such a despicable level of abuse of power, nepotism, cronyism, extrajudicial killings, and corruption later. Defeat in elections would have helped her political survival.

The 2008 election brought the Awami League back to power. By 2011, Sheikh Hasina abolished the caretaker government system through a constitutional amendment. The reason for the move was clear: she did not want to face any free and fair election in the future that might bring about her defeat. She wanted to remain in power for the foreseeable future.

It is worth recalling that, after the 2008 victory, Hasina did set up a special parliamentary committee headed by veteran politician and MP Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, with Suranjit Sengupta as the vice-chair. When this body submitted its recommendations to the leader of the House, there was no suggestion that the caretaker government system should be abolished. The idea was Hasina's, and the whole committee was forced to accept it, leading to the 15th Amendment to the constitution.

In our view, of the many mistakes Sheikh Hasina committed, abolishing the caretaker government system was the most consequential. If she had continued with it, she would definitely have faced tougher elections—and may even have lost the next one—and thus would never have descended to such a despicable level of abuse of power, nepotism, cronyism, extrajudicial killings, and corruption later. Defeat in elections would have helped her political survival.

So, what lessons can we draw from the caretaker government system since 1991? In all elections held under a ruling party government, the incumbent always won. In all elections held under caretaker governments, the opposition won. So, as it goes about restoring the system through a constitutional amendment, will the BNP be morally and politically strong enough to accept that prospect? Can its leaders, activists and MPs face this very unpleasant eventuality?

The reality is that BNP will not be able to ignore the huge public support underpinning the caretaker government idea. In the July National Charter, BNP accepted the system. But the million-dollar question is whether the caretaker government will be neutral enough, empowered enough, and structurally independent enough to hold a free and fair election that will enjoy public confidence.

Being in power has a near-suicidal blinding effect. The true public reaction to election results is not always immediately discernible. Even if it is, the party in power feels that, since public memory is "short", it will be able to make voters forget any election fraud through some development work. Sheikh Hasina really thought that the metro rail, the expressways, the Karnaphuli tunnel and other such infrastructure projects would erase people's displeasure at being deprived of their voting rights. The July uprising in 2024 proved that she was fundamentally wrong. Whatever the immediate demands were, the underlying issues behind her eventual fall included the fraudulent elections of 2014, 2018 and 2024.

We are now back at another starting point. The student-led mass uprising has given us another chance to institutionalise our democracy, the most important element of which is ensuring free and fair elections. We must face the unpleasant fact that, even after 55 years of independence, we cannot guarantee free and fair elections. This says a lot about the immaturity of our political culture.

The post-1991 caretaker government experiment was a very good start, but the fear of defeat among incumbents gradually grew to a level at which Sheikh Hasina abolished it. After more than 15 years of lost time, we are back on track. But we now have to solidify the process.

The July charter has laid out in great detail the steps towards setting up a durable caretaker government system. Item 16 in the charter, with 21 sub-items, addresses every aspect of the issue. It also allows parties that have expressed dissent to have their way if their party manifestos receive the voters' endorsement. This clears up many issues on which the BNP has expressed dissent.

However, in moving forward, the most important factor is the determination of the ruling party, which now enjoys a decisive majority in parliament, to set up a caretaker government system that will not be under its dominance. The most decisive aspect is the ruling party's willingness to accept the possibility that it may lose the next election. It is not inevitable, but it is possible. Accepting that possibility is the crucial political maturity that we must now demonstrate. It will help make our governments much more accountable and pro-people, instead of pro-party, so that their chances of winning people's hearts and minds remain high. This will have a tremendous positive impact on our entire governance process.



VISUAL: **BIPLOB CHAKROBORTY**

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/

‘Bureaucratic obstinacy is the root cause of the BRT failure’

Dr Md Shamsul Hoque, *professor of civil engineering at the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), talks to* **Monorom Polok** *of* **The Daily Star** *about the failure of Dhaka’s first dedicated Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project, the flaws in its planning and design, and the lessons to be learned from this experience to design better public transport.*

The cabinet has recently scrapped the country’s first dedicated Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project after 14 years and with Tk 2,810 crore already spent. We have since witnessed various reactions from experts and even street protests in Gazipur. What is your view?

I must say the BNP government, and the interim government previously, made the right decision in this regard, much like a surgeon performing a necessary amputation to prevent greater harm. I understand the public’s emotional attachment. People endured prolonged disruption believing the project would provide them with a direct route from Gazipur to Motijheel. If Gazipur residents think BRT offered them a dream, they saw only half the picture. The question that should be asked is: what would they do if they get dropped off at Dhaka airport when their destination is Motijheel?

A BRT that stops short of the built-up city cannot sustain itself. The idea of getting off at the airport to hunt for another bus is impractical, especially when parallel intercity buses already offer curb-to-curb pickups and drop-offs along the highway. A local bus lets you board and get off wherever you like, but this system would have required you to walk to a distant station, climb a footbridge, queue, ride to the airport, climb another footbridge, and hunt for a second bus. By contrast, commuters can now simply stay on direct local buses. Even if completed, the BRT would never have fulfilled its original objective.

The only reason highway traffic moves today is that the BRT lane was opened to general traffic over the past year and a half. Squeezing long-haul and industrial freight into two lanes to reserve the middle one for a low-utility bus service is the very definition of congestion.

The government has reportedly opted to convert the Gazipur-Airport corridor into a six-lane road. Is this the most sensible option, given the infrastructure already built and the needs of commuters?

Yes. The cabinet resisted political pressure and made a strictly technical decision. A four-member Buet committee submitted an 86-page report confirming that the project lacked merit, worsened congestion, and conflicted with the industrial zoning in Dhaka’s Detailed Area Plan. The contractor was also facing insolvency and litigation; appointing a replacement would have meant two more years of legal delays. The Roads and Highways Department (RHD) has proposed an expressway with flanking service roads.

The narrative that Tk 2,810 crore was “wasted” is factually incorrect. The actual sunk cost is about 4 percent of the total, or roughly Tk 99–100 crore spent on the stations. Demolishing the stations will cost Tk 45 crore, while installing barriers will cost Tk 27 crore. Salvaging the steel, however, will recover Tk 7 crore. The other 96 percent of the investment—including the 10-lane Tongi Bridge, flyovers, drainage, footpaths, and service roads—is in public use. Converting the corridor into an expressway with flanking service roads would ensure a consistent geometric configuration and save Tk 2,000 crore in future waste.



Md Shamsul Hoque

‘To make the proposal look lucrative, the consultants bypassed these expensive engineering challenges on paper, claiming the project could be completed in 1.5 years. Fourteen years later, it remains incomplete. Independent investigations by my team and two separate RHD committees revealed monumental blunders. Rather than hiring independent international specialists, the donor relied on in-house consultants who rushed through a desktop design.’

Some media outlets claimed that 97 percent of the BRT infrastructure work was complete, which is incorrect. Project authorities had earlier sought a revision that would have extended the deadline to 2029 and raised the overall budget to Tk 6,598 crore, only to deliver a fragmented bus service that few people would have possibly used.

The real high-capacity solution for Gazipur is already built: the third and fourth railway tracks, conceived to serve commuter trains between Gazipur and Narayanganj. It is congestion-free and free of level crossings, running straight into Motijheel and Kamalapur.

What were the fundamental planning and design flaws that led to the BRT project’s failure? How could they remain unresolved for so long?

The project began with good intentions. The 2004 Strategic Transport Plan proposed three BRT lines, with BRT-3 running from Motijheel to the airport. The World Bank showed interest, and the ADB then proposed extending a line from Gazipur, but its feasibility hinged entirely on that anchor carrying passengers all the way to Motijheel. But then, the World Bank section was scrapped around 2018-19, and the project’s whole purpose vanished.

The ADB advised converting the corridor into a metro and offered to finance it. It had initiated a logical project designed to integrate with an anchor corridor, but once that anchor disappeared, the donor rightly saw that a fragmented BRT had no utility. Non-technical bureaucrats at the ministry refused to accept this and ordered the project to proceed unchanged. This obstinacy is the root cause of every failure since.

The second flaw was a rushed desktop feasibility study. It skipped drainage, footpaths, and land for stations. To make the proposal look lucrative, the consultants bypassed these expensive engineering challenges on paper, claiming the project could be completed in 1.5 years. Fourteen years later, it remains incomplete. Independent investigations by my team and two separate RHD committees revealed monumental blunders. Rather than hiring independent international specialists, the donor relied on in-house consultants who rushed through a desktop design. It was not a genuine BRT project but an unplanned corridor redevelopment, and it ignored the fact that the N3 is a heavy industrial artery. A six-lane highway cannot accommodate a 10-to-12-lane BRT footprint. The RHD, which builds highways but has never operated public transport, then took on the mega-project, succumbing to the allure of managing such a high-profile initiative. When buses could not cross truck routes at grade, eight flyovers were bolted on. These additions inflated the budget, extended the timelines, and turned the BRT into an ad hoc civil infrastructure initiative that abandoned its original transit mission.

How did it last so long? From the departments to the ministry, the Planning Commission, and IMED, there was not a single transit professional who understood BRT. The RHD lacked transport planners, the ministry blindly pushed files forwarded by departments, and the Planning Commission operated without qualified planners. Non-technical officials approved massive budgets without evaluating whether the project was still fit for purpose. Working with the Dhaka Bus Rapid Transit PLC, the operating company, was one of the most frustrating experiences of my professional life. It functioned largely as a rehabilitation centre for bureaucrats, who cared about bus procurement schedules, not technical modelling. Seeing expert advice ignored, Buet and four professors from CEPT University in Ahmedabad withdrew around late 2022.

What lessons should the government draw from this failure when planning and implementing other major transport infrastructure projects?

Test technical feasibility before building, and entrust the work to people who actually understand transit: independent specialists rather than rushed in-house consultants, and agencies with real operating experience. And listen when a donor tells you that the premise of a project has collapsed.

A BRT should ideally take nine months to two years to build at modest cost, but ours set records for cost overruns and delays. After its mayor visited Brazil’s Curitiba, Jakarta built around 14 BRT lines without foreign consultants or external borrowing, funding dividers and stations domestically. We are taking on foreign debt to build ours. Experienced transit leaders in Malaysia or Indonesia would have conducted a proper feasibility study before undertaking a project.

Where a corridor is constrained, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, and Chinese cities build low-cost elevated viaducts for BRT, which is what ITDP guidelines would have recommended here. After all, on our industrial corridor, about 88 percent of garment workers must cross the highway on foot. An at-grade barrier creates a social divide, and workers will breach it out of sheer necessity.

Over the past two decades or so, transport infrastructure development has often prioritised major roads and projects that primarily benefit higher-income groups, rather than affordable and accessible public transport. What should the government’s priorities be to ensure that the urban poor, too, have access to reliable and affordable transport?

BRT’s original promise was exactly this: a sustainable, reliable system accessible even to low-income commuters, at a fraction of a metro’s cost. Curitiba functioned without a metro and built multiple BRT lines for the cost of a single one. Metros are fast, but they require enormous capital investment. Reliability is what daily riders value most. Even at 30 km/h, arriving and departing on time is preferable to most commuters.

Our priorities should follow that logic: low-cost, dependable systems that connect places people actually need to reach, designed around how low-income workers really travel, including on foot. For Gazipur, the place to start is the rail infrastructure already built. Connecting commuters to it is the most reliable, rapid, and sustainable strategy available.

What should Bangladesh gain from its first sovereign bond?



Saba El Kabir is founder of Cultivera and institutional sustainability adviser at the Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC). He can be reached at saba@cultivera.net.

■ SABA EL KABIR

Bangladesh is preparing to borrow up to $1 billion from international investors. According to a recent report by The Daily Star, the government plans roadshows in London, New York, and Hong Kong for its first sovereign bond. The interest rate and repayment terms have yet to be finalised. But before we start jet-setting around the world in search of financing, we should take a beat and try to understand what we intend to achieve with the money.

Our public finances are already stretched. The FY2026-27 budget allocates Tk 1.27 lakh crore to interest payments on existing debt. That is more than Tk 18 of every Tk 100 the government expects to collect in revenue, before repaying any principal. The caveat is that the government’s revenue goals have consistently tended towards the aspirational.

Bangladesh has good reasons to seek new financing. During July-September 2026, foreign loan disbursements fell 42 percent to $662 million, while repayments reached $1.35 billion. Meanwhile, last year, the government borrowed around Tk 1.66 lakh crore from banks, exceeding its revised target by nearly Tk 47,500 crore. Moving some government borrowing offshore could ease pressure on domestic financing, provided it actually replaces local borrowing. A sovereign bond would also give international investors a publicly traded reference price for Bangladesh’s dollar-denominated credit risk. Banks and companies seeking offshore financing could then be assessed against that benchmark, potentially improving access to international capital.

An estimated interest rate of around 8 percent has featured in public discussion, although no final rate has been agreed upon yet. A $1-billion, 10-year bond at 8 percent interest would cost $80 million a year—and $800 million over a decade. The $1 billion principal would also be due at maturity. At Bangladesh Bank’s (BB) recent exchange rate of Tk 123.75 per US dollar, the annual interest would be Tk 990 crore. For comparison, BB’s 10-year domestic government bond benchmark stood at 9.26 percent on October 25. Borrowing internationally at 8 percent appears cheaper by 1.26 percentage points.

But this comparison leaves out a major risk. Domestic debt is serviced in terms of the taka. International bonds must be repaid in US dollars, while the government collects most of its revenue in the local currency. If the price of a US dollar rises by 10 percent, the annual interest payment would increase from Tk 990 crore to Tk 1,089 crore. Repaying the principal would cost approximately Tk 13,613 crore, instead of Tk 12,375 crore. The government would then owe the same amount in US dollars but need substantially more taka to pay for it.

The apparent saving on interest rate could cease to exist with relatively modest depreciation. The actual financing cost would also depend on the repayment schedule, fees, and any protection against currency movements.

Bangladesh has already experienced significant exchange rate pressure. A long-term currency hedge could reduce the government’s exposure, but whether affordable financial safeguard is available for a bond of this size remains unclear.

Nevertheless, the real question is: what will Bangladesh do with the money?

Earlier this year, Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman and I argued in these pages that expanding credit has done little to resolve the weaknesses holding back productivity. Repeated refinancing and easier liquidity have often postponed difficult reforms. The same concern applies to sovereign borrowing: additional financing could cover existing expenditure without addressing the problems that constrain the economy.

Bangladesh has already experienced significant exchange rate pressure. A long-term currency hedge could reduce the government’s exposure, but whether affordable financial safeguard is available for a bond of this size remains unclear.

Using a bond to retire more expensive debt could generate savings. Refinancing obligations falling due soon could reduce pressure on the budget. Productive infrastructure investment would strengthen future earnings and improve the country’s capacity to repay. Holding the proceeds in foreign exchange reserves would serve a different purpose. If the government borrowed at 8 percent while earning substantially less on those reserves, it would be paying for an additional liquidity buffer. That may be useful insurance, but the cost of it should be clear.

Bangladesh has a long record of public projects delayed by cost overruns and weak implementation. Expensive borrowing to paper over weak accounting would compound these failures unless project selection improves.

Some advocates of sovereign bonds point to their flexibility. Commercial borrowing generally comes with fewer restrictions on expenditure than many multilateral loans. Multilateral appraisal, procurement requirements, and monitoring can be slow, but they provide checks against waste and system loss. With commercial borrowing, Bangladesh must rely more heavily on its own institutions to maintain those standards, and our ability to do so remains a perpetual point of contention.

When debt servicing consumes more public revenue, governments face harder choices over spending, taxation, and further borrowing.

The public should be able to examine those choices. Before issuing the bond, we should understand the intended use of proceeds, the full borrowing cost, and the repayment schedule. We should know how much existing debt would be replaced, if any, and how future payments would change if the taka depreciates. The government should clarify its comparison with domestic borrowing, multilateral financing, and credit-enhanced alternatives. The parliament should also have an opportunity to examine these commitments, while subsequent budget reports should account for how the proceeds were used.

Under Bangladesh’s constitution, servicing government debt is a standing obligation of public finances. The parliament may discuss these payments, but these are not subject to the ordinary annual vote on spending grants. A bond issued today will therefore create repayment commitments that future budgets must accommodate, regardless of which government is in office.

Therefore, before committing to its first sovereign bond, it behoves the government to show what Bangladesh stands to gain, what the country will owe, and how the public can judge whether the borrowing was worthwhile.

অমর একুশে বইমেলা ও অনুষ্ঠানমালা ২০২৭

ইভেন্ট ম্যানেজমেন্ট বিষয়ক বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পত্র সংখ্যা : ক্রনিস-১৬৫০/২০২৬/৩৪২/৫/বাএ

তারিখ : ১৩ কার্তিক, ১৪৩৩ / ২৯ অক্টোবর, ২০২৬

বাংলা একাডেমি ০৭.০১.২০২৭ থেকে ০৬.০২.২০২৭ তারিখ পর্যন্ত ‘অমর একুশে বইমেলা ২০২৭’ আয়োজন করতে যাচ্ছে।

স্পন্সরের মাধ্যমে বইমেলার নির্ধারিত কার্যক্রম বাস্তবায়নে সহযোগিতা করার জন্য ইভেন্ট ম্যানেজমেন্ট প্রতিষ্ঠানকে দায়িত্ব প্রদান করা হবে। এ সংক্রান্ত কাজের বিবরণী (ইভেন্টসমূহ) ১,০০০.০০ (এক হাজার) টাকা মূল্যে ০১.১১.২০২৬ থেকে ১১.১১.২০২৬ তারিখ বিকেল ৪:০০টা পর্যন্ত বাংলা একাডেমির ড. মুহম্মদ শহীদুল্লাহ্ ভবনের হিসাবরক্ষণ ও বাজেট উপবিভাগ থেকে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে।

ইভেন্ট ব্যবস্থাপনায় আগ্রহী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট থেকে মুখবন্ধ খামে প্রস্তাব আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। আগ্রহী প্রতিষ্ঠানকে আগামী ১২.১১.২০২৬ তারিখ বৃহস্পতিবার দুপুর ১২.০০টার মধ্যে সচিবের দপ্তরের সভাকক্ষে রক্ষিত বাক্সে প্রস্তাব জমা দিতে হবে। প্রাপ্ত প্রস্তাব/প্রস্তাবসমূহ বিবেচনা করে একাডেমি ইভেন্ট ব্যবস্থাপনা প্রতিষ্ঠান চূড়ান্ত করবে।

ইভেন্ট ব্যবস্থাপনা প্রতিষ্ঠান নির্বাচন ও স্পন্সর গ্রহণ সংক্রান্ত যেকোনো বিষয়ে বাংলা একাডেমির সিদ্ধান্ত চূড়ান্ত বলে বিবেচিত হবে।

সচিব
বাংলা একাডেমি, ঢাকা
ফোন : ০২-৫৮৬১১২১৬

GD-2622



Shakib Khan



Afran Nisho



Sariful Razz



Siam Ahmed

PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

2027 to be a big year for DHALLYWOOD'S LEADING MEN

ZAHID AKBAR

Dhallywood is gearing up for an eventful 2027, with several big-budget films already announced for release, particularly around the Eid holidays.

A number of leading male stars are set to headline these films. While two projects are reportedly in the final stages of production, release schedules for the others may change depending on filming, censor clearance, cinema hall availability and Eid release plans.

Here is a look at the leading actors and their upcoming films to watch in 2027.

Shakib Khan

Dhallywood's leading star Shakib Khan is expected to return to the big screen with ***Nissho***, which is being planned for release during Eid-ul-Fitr 2027. The film's title may change. Directed by Mehedi Hassan Hridoy, the project reunites the actor and director following ***Borbaad***.

The upcoming film is being planned as an action-romance drama centred on revenge. Kolkata actress Idhika Paul will star opposite Shakib Khan.

The actor is also set to feature in ***Mohabbat***, announced by director Himel Ashraf. Produced by Arshad Adnan, the film is scheduled for release during Eid-ul-Azha next year. With two major projects in the pipeline, Shakib is set to remain one of the most prominent faces of Dhallywood in 2027.

Afran Nisho

Following his appearances in ***Surongo***, ***Daagi*** and ***Domm***, Afran Nisho is preparing for his fourth film, ***Khalnayak***. Directed by Vicky Zahed, the film is expected to be released during Eid-ul-Fitr 2027.

Tama Mirza will play the female lead, while Mehazabien Chowdhury will appear in a guest role. The cast also includes Shahiduzzaman Selim, Chanchal Chowdhury, Intekhab Dinar and Kolkata actress Priyanka Sarkar.

With an ensemble cast and a planned Eid release, ***Khalnayak*** is among the films generating anticipation for the coming year.

Sariful Razz

Sariful Razz is set to appear in ***Kanabhula Paradox*** along with Sabila Nur. The film is produced by Tanim Noor. It will mark the directorial debuts of Ayman Asib Shadhin and Susmoy Sarker.

Razz is also expected to star in another film, ***Premik***, although further details about its production and release schedule are yet to be confirmed. The films will offer audiences a chance to see him take on new roles and explore different stories.

Siam Ahmed

Siam Ahmed is set to return to the big screen with ***Andhar***, directed by Raihan Rafi. The film is reportedly scheduled for release in March 26, 2027, coinciding with Bangladesh's Independence Day.

The cast includes Siam Ahmed, Chanchal Chowdhury and Nazifa Tushi. The film's planned release date places it among the notable projects to look forward to next year.

Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Azha are expected to remain important periods for major releases, while other films will seek to draw audiences throughout the year.

Beyond the star power, the success of these projects will depend on their stories, direction and ability to connect with audiences. Their release schedules and the availability of cinema halls will also shape how the year unfolds.

Iranian filmmaker **JAFAR PANAHI** imprisoned for five years



Iranian filmmaker Jafar Panahi has been sentenced to five years and one month in prison by a Tehran Revolutionary Court in a separate verdict.

His lawyer, Mostafa Nili, told Emtedad News Agency that the ruling was issued in Panahi's absence. The filmmaker's bank accounts were frozen last week, leading his legal team to approach the prosecutor's office.

Panahi, who already faces a one-year prison sentence, has also been banned from travelling abroad and using social media for two years. The court has ordered the seizure of his assets.

Known for films such as ***The Circle***, ***Taxi*** and ***No Bears***, Panahi has repeatedly faced restrictions from Iranian authorities. He returned to Iran after promoting his latest film internationally.

Hiron Kiran Theatre to stage 'A Father's Sky' in Nepal



Bangladeshi theatre troupe Hiron Kiran Theatre will stage ***A Father's Sky***, written and directed by Jahangir Alam Dhali, at the sixth Lalabala Kathmandu International Children's Theatre Festival in Nepal from November 2 to 6. The festival will be held at Imperial World School in Kathmandu. The troupe will leave Bangladesh on November 1.

Themed "Celebrating Autumn with 13 Countries", the festival aims to promote children's theatre and cultural exchange. ***A Father's Sky*** explores love, self-respect, personal aspirations and the bond between a father and daughter.

This will be the troupe's seventh visit to Nepal. It has performed at festivals in around 10 Indian states and Sri Lanka.

EVENTS

'The River Script'



In this solo exhibition, Rashid Khan reads Bangladesh's rivers as living archives of landscape, culture, history and change. Bringing painting into dialogue with the written word, ***The River Script*** traces the histories and human experiences carried along the riverbanks of the world's great delta.

Date: Thursday–Sunday | November 5–15, 2026
Time: 3 pm- 8 pm
Venue: Dhaka Gallery, H-44, Road 12, Block E, Banani

NEWS

LPG selling above

FROM PAGE 12

percent to Tk 80 from Tk 50 per cylinder and the retail charge by 55.6 percent to Tk 70 from Tk 45.

Importers and distributors argued that the proposed rates would not adequately cover their expenses or ensure sustainable operations.

Distributors demanded a commission of Tk 150 per cylinder.

Importers also said the committee's calculations of loan interest costs and expected returns on equity did not adequately reflect their financing costs and required returns.

"We want to ensure that no distributor or retailer charges more than the fixed regulated rate in future. But the rate should be logical. Without a distribution charge of Tk 150 per cylinder, it would not be possible for them to run a decent business," said Abu Sayed Raza, chief marketing officer of Fresh LP Gas, a concern of Meghna Group of Industries.

Their demands for higher charges came despite audit reports submitted to the evaluation committee showing that most companies were profitable.

Multiple representatives from the consumer end asked about the issue, but got no response from the commission and the businesses.

Raza rejected allegations that the current shortage had been artificially created, saying companies were struggling to secure imported cargoes.

Companies had been providing the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission with daily information on sales and stocks and supplying security agencies with details of their imports, cargo sources and prices since the shortage began, he said.

Syed Mizanur Rahman, a representative from Bangladesh Economic Association, questioned the justification for raising LPG business margins without first investigating allegations of artificial shortages, hoarding and overcharging.

The LP Gas Business Cooperative Society had lodged a complaint with the BERC on September 21 alleging that some companies sold LPG to distributors above the regulator-fixed prices, prompting distributors and retailers to charge consumers more than the prescribed rates.

Rahman questioned whether the BERC had taken any action against the companies named in the complaint. He also said that consumers had paid around Tk 630 crore above the BERC-fixed prices in a single month.

In contrast, the Directorate of National Consumer Rights Protection conducted raids only on retailers and collected only Tk 11 lakh in fines for overcharging, he said.

"By remaining inactive, BERC has effectively legitimised this unlawful business practice. Should the commission not also be held accountable?"

He went on to demand an investigation into the allegations and action against those responsible.

BERC Chairman Jalal Ahmed said the commission would examine the complaints and views expressed at the hearing before deciding on the proposed charges. He acknowledged that LPG was not always available at BERC-fixed prices but said the commission had also found instances when the fuel was sold below the prescribed rates.

"When the price was fixed at Tk 1,940 per 12kg cylinder, companies like Meghna and Omera lodged complaints that some were selling below the rate, which barred competition."

BERC is developing a system to monitor daily sales, stocks and imports, while working with the Bangladesh Bank to track letters of credit opened for upcoming months.

Changes in sourcing patterns and other variables, including exchange rates, need to be considered when assessing the proposed charges. Such variables change over time and are not entirely within the commission's control, he added.

BERC will receive written statements from stakeholders until Sunday before deciding on the matter and announcing the monthly LPG price.

Over 45% women

FROM PAGE 12

TFGBV, while 57.4 percent had faced such violence in the previous 12 months.

Harassment and gender-based abuse affected 52.7 percent, economic exploitation and fraud 37.1 percent, sexual and image-based abuse 24.5 percent, and identity misuse or abuse involving fake IDs 17.3 percent.

Young women and students were particularly vulnerable, with 49 percent of respondents aged 15 to 24 reporting TFGBV. Among university-educated women, the rate was even higher, at 76.7 percent.

Although 71 percent of respondents were active internet users, 67 percent had never received formal online safety guidance or training.

Facebook and Messenger emerged as major platforms for abuse, with 39.7 percent reporting violence on Messenger and 36.7 percent on Facebook. Among those who reported the abuse to these platforms, 56 percent said no action was taken.

Only 4.6 percent of survivors reported the abuse to police, of whom 81.8 percent said their cases had made little or no progress.

Following the abuse, 21.1 percent reduced their social media use out of fear, 20.7 percent cut back on online participation, and 4.6 percent had to change their place of study, job or residence.

Sayema Chowdhury, an independent consultant and member of the research team, described the problem as structural.

"The forms of cyber violence are changing as fast as technology is advancing," she said, adding that online abuse often spills into women's offline lives.

Liza Sharmin, additional deputy commissioner of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police's Women Support and Investigation Division, said police faced challenges in identifying offenders behind fake accounts, preserving digital evidence and accessing forensic facilities.

"When a mobile phone is sent to a digital forensic lab, it takes at least three months," she said, calling for specialised training and stronger forensic capacity outside the capital.

Miraj Ahmed Chowdhury, founder and managing director of Digitally Right Limited, said technology had expanded opportunities for women but also increased the risks, sometimes prompting women in public-facing roles to censor themselves or withdraw from online spaces.

Fowzul Azim, a legal analyst, researcher and retired senior district judge, called for greater accountability among digital platforms, including Bangla-language terms of service, reporting mechanisms and safety support.

Dr Fowzia Moslem, president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, said the recommendations should now be presented to relevant stakeholders.

"As long as gender inequality remains, new forms of violence will continue to emerge," she added.

The study recommended reforming the Cyber Security Act 2026, expanding digital forensic capacity beyond Dhaka, adopting trauma-informed and gender-responsive responses, strengthening survivor support, and requiring digital platforms to provide Bangla-language safety tools, simplified reporting mechanisms and procedures for emergency content removal.

Hanif sentenced to death for crimes against humanity

FROM PAGE 12

government fell amid the student-led uprising.

The tribunal also ordered the confiscation of half of each convict's immovable property, with proceeds from the sale to be distributed as compensation to the families of those killed and injured through the July Foundation or another designated statutory body.

The prosecution initially brought three charges, but the tribunal framed five, covering murder, torture, persecution, conspiracy to suppress the movement with lethal force and a common criminal design to attack civilians.

The tribunal also sentenced all four to rigorous life imprisonment under the remaining charges.

"We believe this is a very timely verdict. We welcome it as a mark of respect to the souls of those who were martyred during the July Uprising," Chief Prosecutor Md Aminul Islam told reporters.

"I have nothing more to say, but I find the verdict unexpected and I am disappointed," state-appointed defence lawyer Md Amir Hossain said, declining to elaborate.

Yesterday's judgment was the eighth delivered by ICT-1 and ICT-2 since their reconstitution following the political changeover on August 5, 2024.

The tribunals have so far convicted 72 people, including ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, former cabinet ministers, Awami League lawmakers and senior former police officials. Of them, 22 are in custody and the rest remain at large. A total of 23, including Hasina, have been sentenced to death.

The investigation began on March 25, 2025. The prosecution pressed charges on September 11, and the tribunal framed charges on November 2.

The prosecution produced 19 witnesses, including the investigation officer, and submitted 36 series of documents and five material exhibits.

Arguments concluded on October 7, after which the case was kept pending for verdict.

Dhaka to seek Hasina, Kamal's extradition at talks with India

FROM PAGE 12

Hasina has remained in India since fleeing Bangladesh during the mass uprising in August 2024. She and Kamal were sentenced to death in absentia by the International Crimes Tribunal for crimes against humanity.

India proposed November 17-18 for the director-general-level dialogue, and Dhaka agreed, a diplomat said. Bangladesh had initially proposed late October, but India preferred November due to the Durga Puja festivities.

The meeting comes amid a series of bilateral engagements ahead of a possible visit to India by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman. The two countries also held trade talks in October.

"At the consular dialogue, Dhaka will seek the extradition of political figures currently taking refuge in India, including Sheikh Hasina, Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal and the alleged killers of Sharif Osman Bin Hadi," a foreign ministry official said, requesting anonymity.

The talks are also expected to cover border management, alleged push-ins from India, visa services, repatriation of detained nationals, release of fishermen, the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty and renewal of the Revised Travel Arrangement, which has been extended every six months since its expiry in 2023.

Repatriation of fishermen is a priority for India. A High Commission official said New Delhi had shared a draft protocol with Dhaka to expedite the process.

Esha Srivastava, joint secretary of India's consular, passport and visa division, and Shah Asif Rahman, director general of the South Asia wing at Bangladesh's foreign ministry, will lead their respective delegations.

Established in 2017, the dialogue covers consular matters, visa procedures and mutual legal assistance. Four rounds have been held so far, most recently in New Delhi in May 2024.

North Korea fires unknown projectile into East Sea: Seoul

AFP, *Seoul*

North Korea fired an unknown projectile off its east coast yesterday, Seoul's defence ministry said, less than a week after South Korea proposed talks over a growing border row.

Japan's defence ministry separately confirmed the launch of what it said "appears to be a ballistic missile".

"The North fired an unidentified projectile into the East Sea," South Korea's military said, referring to the body of water also known as the Sea of Japan.

Yesterday's launch comes against the backdrop of growing tensions over a landmine explosion along the heavily fortified border between the two Koreas that saw three South Korean soldiers wounded.

Spoiler glitch delays

FROM PAGE 12

from one to two, operating every Monday and Thursday.

"The prime minister will return home aboard Biman's newly introduced Thursday flight from Narita," Alam had announced.

Contacted, Biman said the aircraft developed a fault in its № 1 hydraulic spoiler after it began moving towards the runway.

Spoilers are movable panels on an aircraft's wings that help reduce lift and control the aircraft's movement.

Engineers deactivated the affected spoiler so that the prime minister could return on the same aircraft.

Asked why the problem had not been detected during pre-flight inspections, Biman said no defects had been found during the checks.

The fault developed only after the aircraft began taxiing, it said.

Under the US Federal Aviation Administration's published Master Minimum Equipment List for the Boeing 787, an aircraft can depart with one hydraulic spoiler inoperative, subject to specified conditions, including deactivation of the affected spoiler and checks before departure.

Flight BG377, a Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner, was scheduled to leave Narita at 3:00pm Bangladesh time and arrive at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka at 10:35pm.

Sources at the Prime Minister's Office said the aircraft was advancing towards the runway on schedule.

Five minutes later, the captain informed passengers that a technical problem had been detected and engineers were working to resolve it.

About 40 minutes later, the captain made another announcement, saying the aircraft was returning to its previous position while engineers continued working on the problem.

The aircraft was subsequently brought back to the parking apron, and passengers later disembarked.

The prime minister was travelling with his wife, Dr Zubaida Rahman, and other members of his delegation.

Tarique was returning from a four-day official visit to Japan, from October 26 to 29, at the invitation of Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi.

This is not the first time a Biman aircraft carrying a Bangladeshi prime minister has encountered technical problems.

On November 27, 2016, a Biman Boeing 777-300ER carrying then-prime minister Sheikh Hasina to Hungary made an emergency landing in Turkmenistan after an engine oil-pressure problem.

In another incident in April 2023, a Biman Boeing 787 Dreamliner developed a weather radar malfunction while returning to Dhaka after dropping Hasina off in Tokyo. She was not aboard when the fault occurred.

Abul Mansur Ahmad's ideas offer lessons for constitutional reform

FROM PAGE 3

Front's pledges ahead of the 1954 provincial election. The alliance had promised to restrict the central government's authority to just three subjects -- defence, foreign affairs and currency -- while leaving all other powers to the provinces.

However, the proposed 1956 Constitution placed 51 subjects under central control, directly contradicting those commitments, he said.

Reza said constitution-making must adhere to founding principles and commitments made to the people.

Lokman Hussain, senior lecturer of law at North South University, said Abul Mansur Ahmad had identified the departure from the principles of the Lahore Resolution as a key source of Pakistan's constitutional crisis.

He also highlighted the economic contributions of the country's two wings, disparities in resource distribution, and the question of provincial autonomy.

Lokman said an understanding reached under the 1955 Murree Agreement on parity and autonomy between the two wings was not honoured.

Commitments made at Pakistan's founding and subsequent agreements were both violated, he said.

Researcher Millat Hossain said the authority to draft a constitution did not automatically make it democratically legitimate.

Democracy, he argued, required more than majority rule; it also depended on compromise, concessions, and a fair distribution of political power.

Hossain said Bangladesh, like Pakistan during its earlier period, has similarly failed to ensure an equitable distribution of political power.

Revisiting Abul Mansur Ahmad's political thought could help address the current constitutional crisis and inform efforts to build the country's future state structure, he added.

Chairing the event, Supreme Court lawyer Arif Khan said despite the reform process launched in August 2024, Bangladesh is still grappling with many of the same questions debated in Pakistan's Constituent Assembly in 1956.

Khan called for the speeches of Abul Mansur Ahmad and other members of the Constituent Assembly, along with records of constitutional debates from that period, to be made freely available online.

He also emphasised equitable resource distribution and judicial independence as essential foundations of democracy.

"A society marked by deep inequality cannot become a democratic or constitutional state," he said.

আধুনিক ভাষা ইনস্টিটিউট
ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি
শিক্ষাবর্ষঃ ২০২৫-২০২৬

বিদেশি ভাষার নাম	আরবি, চীনা, ইংরেজী, ফরাসি, জার্মান, হিন্দি, ইতালিয়ান, জাপানি, কোরিয়ান, ফার্সি, রাশিয়ান, স্প্যানিশ, তুর্কি এবং বাংলা (শুধুমাত্র বিদেশি শিক্ষার্থীদের জন্য)।
কোর্সের মেয়াদ	১৫০ ঘণ্টা (০১ বছরে সমাপ্য)
শিক্ষা কার্যক্রমসমূহের নাম	এলিমেন্টারি সার্টিফিকেট কোর্স (ইংরেজী ব্যতীত সকল ভাষা) ইংরেজী প্রি-ইন্টারমিডিয়েট সার্টিফিকেট কোর্স
ক্লাশের ব্যাপ্তিকাল	প্রতি ক্লাস ২ ঘন্টা করে, সপ্তাহে ০২ দিন।
ভর্তির ন্যূনতম যোগ্যতা	এইচ.এস.সি./সমমান পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ। ন্যূনতম দ্বিতীয় বিভাগ/বি গ্রেড/জিপিএ ২.৫ থাকতে হবে। ইংরেজী ভাষা কোর্সটি শুধুমাত্র ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে অধ্যয়নরত নিয়মিত শিক্ষার্থীদের জন্য।
আবেদনপত্র সংগ্রহ (অনলাইন ও অফলাইন)	ক) জনতা ব্যাংক, টি.এস.সি. (ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়) শাখা থেকে নগদ টাকার বিনিময়েও ভর্তির আবেদন সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। খ) আধুনিক ভাষা ইনস্টিটিউটের নির্ধারিত ওয়েবসাইট https://portal.iml.du.ac.bd/Other-registration এর মাধ্যমে ভর্তির জন্য নির্ধারিত ফরম অনলাইনে পাওয়া যাবে।
আবেদন বাবদ ফিস জমা (অনলাইন ও অফলাইন)	ক) ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে অধ্যয়নরত নিয়মিত শিক্ষার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা (খ) ভূতপূর্ব ও অন্যান্য শিক্ষার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে ৭০০/- (সাতশত) টাকা
আবেদনপত্র জমা (শুধু অফলাইন)	ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে অধ্যয়নরত নিয়মিত শিক্ষার্থীদের স্ব-স্ব বিভাগের চেয়ারম্যান / ইনস্টিটিউট পরিচালকের স্বাক্ষরকৃত (অফলাইন আবেদনপত্র সমূহ) আবেদনপত্র এবং ভূতপূর্ব ও অন্যান্য শিক্ষার্থীদের আবেদনপত্রের সাথে এস.এস.সি. ও এইচ.এস.সি. / সমমান পরীক্ষা পাশের সনদপত্র অথবা মার্কশীটের ফটোকপিসহ সংশ্লিষ্ট ব্যাংকে *(জনতা ব্যাংক, টি.এস.সি., ঢা. বি. শাখায়)* আগামী ১২ই নভেম্বর ২০২৬ তারিখের মধ্যে জমা দিয়ে প্রবেশপত্র সংগ্রহ করতে হবে। **অনলাইনে আবেদনকারী শিক্ষার্থীগণ অফিসে ফরম জমা দেয়ার প্রয়োজন নেই। শুধুমাত্র অনলাইনে আবেদন ফরমের PDF কপিটি প্রিন্ট করে ভর্তি পরীক্ষার দিন সঙ্গে করে অফিসে নিয়ে আসতে হবে, যা ভর্তি পরীক্ষার প্রবেশপত্র হিসাবে কাজ করবে।**
ভর্তি সংক্রান্ত ব্যাপারে যাবতীয় তথ্য ইনস্টিটিউটের ওয়েবসাইট এবং নোটিশ বোর্ডে প্রকাশ করা হয়েছে।	

পরিচালক

GD-2617

শেরেবাংলা কৃষি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
শেরেবাংলা নগর, ঢাকা ১২০৭
ওয়েবসাইটঃ www.sau.edu.bd

স্মারক নংঃ শেকৃবি/রেজিঃ/২য় সমাবর্তন/২০২৭-৭৮৮ তারিখঃ ২৯-১০-২০২৬ খ্রিঃ

দ্বিতীয় সমাবর্তন অনুষ্ঠানের বিজ্ঞপ্তি

আগামী ৬ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২৭ তারিখ শনিবার শেরেবাংলা কৃষি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় (শেকৃবি) ঢাকা- এর দ্বিতীয় সমাবর্তন অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। উক্ত সমাবর্তন অনুষ্ঠানে গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশের রাষ্ট্রপতি ও বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের মাননীয় চ্যান্সেলর সভাপতিত্ব করার সদয় সম্মতি জ্ঞাপন করেছেন।

সমাবর্তনে অংশগ্রহণের যোগ্যতাঃ
০১ নভেম্বর ২০১৫ থেকে ৭ই ডিসেম্বর ২০২৬ তারিখের মধ্যে অত্র বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে স্নাতক, এম.এস./এমবিএ/স্নাতকোত্তর ও পিএইচডি ডিগ্রি অর্জনকারী সকল শিক্ষার্থী। এছাড়া শেরেবাংলা কৃষি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের তৎকালীন অধিভুক্ত ঝিনাইদহ ভেটেরিনারী কলেজের (পাশের সেসন ২০১৮ ও ২০১৯) স্নাতক এবং আইইডিসিআর-এর সংশ্লিষ্ট স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রীধারীগণ অত্র সমাবর্তনে অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবে।

সমাবর্তন অংশগ্রহণের জন্য প্রদেয় ফি

রেজিস্ট্রেশন ফি	স্নাতক সনদ ফি	স্নাতকোত্তর সনদ ফি	পিএইচডি সনদ ফি
৪০০০.০০ টাকা	২০০০.০০ টাকা	২৫০০.০০ টাকা	৩০০০.০০ টাকা

- উল্লেখ যে, সমাবর্তনে অংশগ্রহণের জন্য প্রদেয় রেজিস্ট্রেশন ফি এর সাথে উপরে উল্লেখিত প্রতিটি ডিগ্রীর জন্য সনদ ফি আলাদাভাবে প্রদান করতে হবে। কোন শিক্ষার্থী উপরোক্ত কোন ডিগ্রীর মূল সনদ ইতোমধ্যে উত্তোলন করে থাকলে তার জন্য সনদ ফি প্রযোজ্য হবে না , শুধুমাত্র রেজিস্ট্রেশন ফি প্রদান করে সমাবর্তনে অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবে।

নিয়মাবলীঃ
১. সমাবর্তনে অংশগ্রহণের জন্য আগামী ০১ নভেম্বর ২০২৬ থেকে ৭ই ডিসেম্বর ২০২৬ তারিখের মধ্যে শেরেবাংলা কৃষি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েবসাইট (www.sau.edu.bd) এর "2nd Convocation" বাটনে ক্লিক করে অথবা সরাসরি convocation.sau.edu.bd ওয়েব লিংকে লগইন করার পর নির্দিষ্ট পদ্ধতি (ওয়েবসাইটে প্রদত্ত Registration Flowchart) অনুসরণ করে সতর্কতার সাথে প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্য আপলোডের মাধ্যমে রেজিস্ট্রেশন সম্পন্ন করতে হবে।
২. প্রার্থী convocation.sau.edu.bd ওয়েব লিংক এর "Eligibility Check" বাটনে নিজের রেজিস্ট্রেশন নম্বর অথবা নিজের নাম দিয়ে সার্চ করে প্রার্থিতা নিশ্চিত করতে পারবে।
৩. যারা ইতোমধ্যে সাময়িক সনদ গ্রহণ করেছেন তাদেরকে অবশ্যই মূল সনদ গ্রহণের পূর্বে সাময়িক সনদ জমা দিতে হবে।
৪. সতর্কতার সাথে নিম্ন বিষয়গুলোর প্রতি লক্ষ্য রেখে convocation.sau.edu.bd ওয়েব লিংক এর "Register" বাটনে ক্লিক করে পূরণ করতে হবেঃ
   - প্রার্থীকে অনলাইন রেজিস্ট্রেশনের সময় এসএসসি/সমমানের পরীক্ষা পাশের সনদ অথবা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সাময়িক সনদ (Provisional Certificate) অনুযায়ী নিজ নাম লিখতে হবে।
   - প্রার্থীকে কনভোকেশন রেজিস্ট্রেশন কার্ড প্রাপ্তির জন্য ইমেইল আইডি দিতে হবে।
   - সকল তথ্য পূরণ করার পর প্রার্থীকে অনলাইনে পেমেন্ট করার জন্য "Pay Now" বাটনে ক্লিক করে ৩৬+ চ্যানেল (যেমনঃ বিকাশ, নগদ, রকেট, ভিসা কার্ড, মাস্টার কার্ড, এমএক্স কার্ড, ইত্যাদি) লোকাল ও ইন্টারন্যাশনাল উভয় মাধ্যমে পেমেন্ট করা যাবে। উল্লেখ্য যে, প্রযোজ্য কনভোকেশন রেজিস্ট্রেশন ও সনদ ফি এর অতিরিক্ত হিসাবে অনলাইন পেমেন্ট চার্জ আবেদনকারীকে বহন করতে হবে।
   - সমাবর্তন সম্পর্কিত যে কোন বিষয়ে প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্য convocation.sau.edu.bd-এ প্রদত্ত "Frequently Asked Question (FAQ)" অথবা ওয়েব লিংকে প্রদত্ত "Help Desk" এর মাধ্যমে জানা যাবে। এছাড়া প্রয়োজনে শেকৃবি রেজিস্ট্রার কার্যালয়ে যোগাযোগ করার অনুরোধ করা হলো।

২৯/১০/২০২৬
কৃষিবিদ মোঃ নজরুল ইসলাম
রেজিস্ট্রার (চলতি দায়িত্ব)
শেরেবাংলা কৃষি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

GD-2623

Govt bets Tk 2,320cr

FROM PAGE 1

He said Bangladesh still imports more than 80 percent of its jute seeds despite being known as the land of golden fibre.

Hossain stressed the need to reduce this dependence, citing potential risks from diplomatic or trade disruptions.

According to ministry documents, the government aims to raise annual export earnings from jute and jute goods to $1.64 billion by 2031.

The plan also seeks to raise raw jute production from around 115 lakh to 120 lakh bales, meet 85–90 percent of domestic seed demand through local production, and increase the share of value-added jute products from 45 percent to 70 percent.

Export Promotion Bureau data show that earnings from jute and jute goods fell nearly 24 percent, from $1.16 billion in FY2020-21 to $883.69 million in FY2025-26. Officials attribute the decline to limited production of value-added goods, restricted market access, growing international competition and anti-dumping duties imposed by India.

Other challenges include the closure of 73 of the country's 266 jute mills, the lack of internationally accredited testing laboratories and numerous vacancies in the Department of Jute.

THE PROPOSALS

Among the 12 proposed projects, Tk 300 crore has been earmarked to achieve self-sufficiency in jute seed production through seed multiplication and distribution programmes in seed-growing areas.

Another Tk 300 crore has been proposed for modern harvesting and fibre extraction machinery, while Tk 120 crore would fund collaborative research to improve productivity, fibre quality and disease resistance. The proposals also include Tk 150 crore to develop a digital database to track jute production, sales, and exports.

Another Tk 50 crore has been proposed to develop environmentally friendly retting technology and Tk 100 crore to expand seed cultivation in saline-prone and hilly fallow lands.

The government also plans to allocate Tk 250 crore to support export-oriented entrepreneurs producing diversified jute goods in Rajshahi and Rangpur, alongside Tk 120 crore for jute-stick-based charcoal and activated carbon production.

Two other proposed projects involve Tk 280 crore to establish accredited testing laboratories and quality control systems, and Tk 100 crore to develop raw jute price management and digital procurement systems. Jahid said locally produced seeds often fail to reach farmers on time, while imported Indian seeds arrive earlier in the sowing season. As a result, many prefer imported seeds despite concerns over their quality.

Economist Khondaker Golam Moazzem welcomed the government's efforts but said several proposed projects failed to address its most pressing challenges. "The industry's biggest challenge is market access at home and abroad," he said.

Moazzem said weak enforcement of the Mandatory Jute Packaging Act continues to limit domestic demand. Although the law requires 21 products to be packaged in jute bags, plastic packaging remains widely used.

He said India remains Bangladesh's principal market for jute goods, but anti-dumping and countervailing duties continue to hinder exports.

Moazzem said the government should prioritise expanding domestic and international markets, removing export barriers and enforcing existing packaging laws. He supported efforts to achieve self-sufficiency in seed production, expand cultivation in suitable coastal and saline areas, and promote diversified products.

"Bangladesh still largely exports raw jute, while countries like India process it into higher-value products and capture greater returns," he said. Bangladesh should build its capacity to produce and export diversified jute goods.

He questioned several large budget allocations, saying the proposed spending should be assessed against the sector's actual needs and the government's existing capacity. "Many of the projects appear bureaucratic and supply-driven, while the sector's biggest challenges lie in market expansion and competitiveness."

Social stigma, legal gaps keep hijra people out of jobs

FROM PAGE 3

and mental abuse by classmates and a lack of cooperation from teachers.

Entrepreneur Shova Sarkar said social and family barriers often delay hijra people's education, preventing them from applying for government jobs. "A friend of mine recently completed her master's degree from the Open University. But by the time she overcame numerous hurdles to finish her degree, she had already exceeded the age limit for government jobs," she said.

However, Shova said financial independence increases acceptance within families and society. With support from Bandhu, she became an entrepreneur and now employs eight hijra workers at her shop.

Moshiur Rahman, manager of advocacy and communication at Bandhu, said despite the government recognising the community in 2013, negative attitudes and prejudice remained major barriers to their employment and economic inclusion.

Mar-A-Nul Islam Shovin, assistant joint secretary at the BKMEA, said when hijra workers are recruited in factories, they often struggle due to negative behaviour from colleagues.

MM Mahamudullah, additional director (Social Safety Net Wing) of the Department of Social Services, said existing laws, criminal justice procedures, medical services and even burial regulations only mention "male" and "female", complicating efforts to secure hijra people's rights.

Their right to inherit family property also remains unclear, he noted.

He called for specific legislation to identify hijra individuals so that others cannot exploit government benefits.

"Whether the hijra population is 12,629 according to the BBS or 35,000 according to non-government estimates, undertaking a rights-based integrated programme for such a small number of people in a country of 200 million is not expensive for the government, " he added.

He also said an initiative to launch an entire floor staffed solely by hijra workers at a Gazipur factory stalled in the owner's absence following the political changeover.

He suggested they be engaged in solo professions like delivery services, as well as in traffic management.

Osman Goni, project coordinator at the Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies, said training alone is insufficient. Opaque private-sector recruitment and barriers to accessing formal financial services like banks also hinder inclusion.

Barrister Khalilur Rahman Khan, director (registration and audit) at the NGO Affairs Bureau, said, "Instead of looking at government limitations, NGOs could help by recruiting hijra people and including them in skills development programmes, as employing 35,000 to 1,00,000 people would be no challenge at all."

Citing Article 28(4) of the constitution, which allows special provisions for disadvantaged citizens, he called for education and job quotas for hijra people similar to those for ethnic minorities.

SME Foundation General Manager Abdus Salam Sardar, Prothom Alo Assistant News Editor Partha Shankar Saha, Shourza Talukder of CPD, Plan International Bangladesh's Nasrin Nahar and Bandhu General Secretary Mizanur Rahman also spoke.

Tanjim Ferdous, head of strategic partnerships at The Daily Star, moderated the discussion.

Biman

FROM PAGE 2

December 10.

Asked why the deadlines were revised, Biman said the changes were made to facilitate a comprehensive assessment of its fleet requirements and "allow adequate time for a thorough and informed evaluation".

The four-day extension is still insufficient, said Md Faruque Hossain, a former secretary and former director general of the Central Procurement Technical Unit.

Hossain, who had earlier described the original eight-day submission period as unrealistic, said the additional time did not adequately address his concerns.

The chosen consultant will advise Biman on bringing the new aircraft into its fleet, making routes more profitable, retiring older planes and financing the purchases.

The revised RFP retains the original scope of work and the technical and financial evaluation weightings. Biman, whose existing fleet comprises 19 aircraft, has entered into agreements to purchase 25 aircraft from Boeing and 10 from Airbus.

Info

FROM PAGE 3

She also urged government agencies to publish basic information, including budgets, on their websites rather than requiring applications. "The Information Commission's job is not just to settle complaints. It is to empower people," she said.

Reconstituted on October 17 after more than two years without commissioners, the commission has announced that hearings will resume on November 16.

Presenting findings from an initiative involving 265 people in three districts, RIB's Shahinur Islam Abid said 1,130 of 2,075 applications filed under the Right to Information (RTI) Act received replies. Another 546 went unanswered, while around 400 remained under process.

He said 32 complaints filed with the commission had not been heard.

RIB Chairman Shamsul Bari said the law had yet to fulfil its purpose after 17 years, with many applicants focusing on personal needs rather than scrutinising government decisions and public spending.

Dhaka South City Corporation
Planning and Design Division (P&D)
Nagar Bhaban, Dhaka-1000

Memo No. 46.207.018.09.11.10.2026. Date: 29.10.2026

Invitation for Enlistment (Works/ Goods) (Corrigendum Notice)

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH			
1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Co-Operative/Local Government Division	
2.	Agency	Dhaka South City Corporation	
3.	Procuring Entity	Executive Engineer, Planning & Design Division	
4.	Procuring Entity Code	Not use at Present	
5.	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka	
6.	Invitation for	Enlistment	
7.	Invitation Ref No	46.207.018.09.11.2735.2025	
8.	Date	Date- 06.08.2025	
KEY INFORMATION			
9.	Procurement Method	Limited Tendering Method	
FUNDING INFORMATION			
10.	Budget and Source of Funds	Own Fund	
11.	Development Partners	N/A	
PARTICULAR INFORMATION			
12.	Project/Programme Code	N/A	
13.	Project/Programme Name	N/A	
14.	Collecting of Application form & Submission Date & Time	Original Date & Time: Date-20.09.2026 to 20.10.2026 Time: - 9:00 am-4:00 pm	Corrigendum Date & Time: Date- 20.11.2026 Time: - 9:00 am-4:00 pm
15.	Name & Address of the Office(s)	Address	
- *Application Form Availability*		Room No- 1027, (Lift Level- 10), Office of the Executive Engineer, Planning & Design Division. Dhaka South City Corporation, Nagar Bhaban, Dhaka-1000.	
- *Receiving Application Form*		Room No-1027, (Lift Level-10), Office of the Executive Engineer, Planning & Design Division, Nagar Bhaban, Dhaka.	
INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT			
16.	Eligibility of Applicant	a. Must have valid Trade License (category wise) b. Must have eTIN (with update return Acknowledgement slip/Certificate). c. Must have eVat Registration Certificate d. Must Have update Bank Solvency Certificate supported by bank Statement of bank deposit min. Tk.10.00 (ten) Lac from any schedule bank within IFE period with mentioning the account no. of firm. e. For Electrical category, Contractor/Owner must have Electric ABC License. f. For Mechanical category, Contractor/Owner must have own motor workshop or agreement with a workshop to carry out the repair work of vehicle. g. Category wise relevant Document / Papers / Certificate h. Others as Mentioned in Application Form	
17.	Brief Description of Goods or Works		
18.	Brief Description of Related or Physical Services		
19.	Price of Application Form (Tk.)	1000.00	

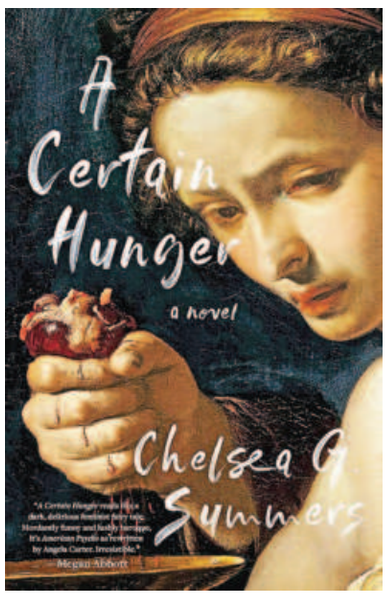
[N.B- Application fee and Enlistment Fee payable in the deposit of Current Account no. 1623200017839, Sonali bank PLC, Nagar Bhaban, Dhaka in favour of the Mayor / Administrator and 15% VAT will have to be deposited to the government treasury through treasury challan on the Enlistment Fee].

Procuring Entity Details			
20.	Name of Official Inviting Application	**Mohammad Khalilur Rahman**	
21.	Designation of Official Inviting Application	Executive Engineer	
22.	Address of Official Inviting Application	Office of the Executive Engineer, Planning & Design Division, Nagar Bhaban, Dhaka-1000.	
23.	Contact details of Official Inviting Application	**02223387760**	**E-mail: xenpnd@gmail.com**
24.	The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all Applications		

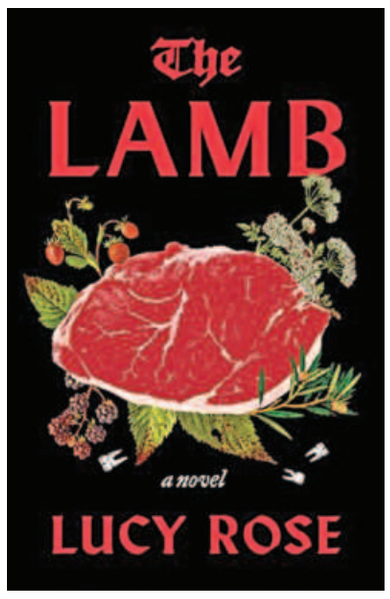
ডিএসসিসি/পিআরডি/১০১/২০২৬-২৭

২৯/১০/২০২৬
(Mohammad Khalilur Rahman)
Executive Engineer,
Planning & Design Division
Dhaka South City Corporation

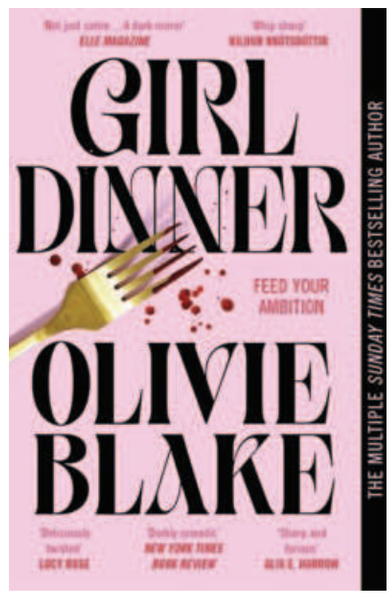
GD-2625

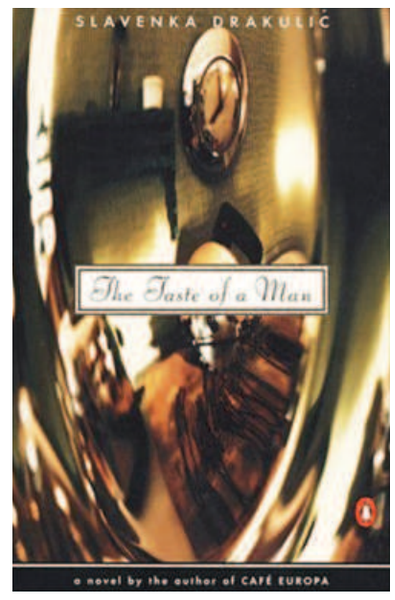












THE SHELF

8 books that give the monstrous feminine a seat at the table

KAZI RAIDAH AFIA NUSAIBA

October has come to sharpen its teeth. The nights grow long and hungry, the candles flicker, and somewhere a woman sets the dinner table for one more guest than she intends to let leave. Halloween has always adored its monsters, but somehow it has always been a woman being sacrificed for the plot, be it the ghostly bride in a bloody dress or the last girl standing in a horror movie. Not this year. Here are eight books where the women are hungry, and the men are the main course, and every last bone is picked clean. Bring your napkins. Lock the doors.

A Certain Hunger
Chelsea G. Summers
Hogarth, 2020
Dorothy Daniels would never eat standing up in a kitchen. A food critic of refined palate and enormous self-regard, she is writing her memoir from prison because she killed and ate several of her lovers, and she describes them the way she would a perfect plate of pasta: with relish and without a flicker of guilt. Snobbish, insufferable, and deliciously grotesque.

The Eyes Are the Best Part
Monika Kim
Erewhon Books, 2024
Once her father walks out, Ji-won, a Korean-American college student, watches her mother become smitten with George, an arrogant man whose fondness for Asian women is more than a little unsettling. Then the dreams start: dreams of eyes and of how delicious they might be. The gore is genuine, but what really stings is how ordinary the cruelty feels.



Maeve Fly
C.J. Leede
Tor Nightfire, 2023
By day, Maeve plays a princess at a Los Angeles theme park, wearing tiaras and showing endless patience with sticky-fingered children. By night, she tends her love of slasher films and a growing habit of handling irritating men in her own distinctive ways. It is the loudest and messiest book in this collection, and beneath all the spectacle it asks why horror's greatest monsters have almost always been men.

The Lamb
Lucy Rose
Harper, 2025
Margot and her mama live at the edge of an English forest, where strangers occasionally come knocking at the door. Mama brings them inside, feeds them, and takes care of them. And then, in the end, they turn into supper. Rose's debut is folk horror whispered by a child who does not yet realise her world is wrong: tender, terrible, and concerned with the hunger mothers hand down to daughters, whether they intend to or not.

Bones & All
Camille DeAngelis
St. Martin's Press, 2015
Maren Yearly consumes hearts. From infancy, anyone who grows too close to her (mainly boys) is ultimately devoured,



bones and all. Left by her mother at 16, she travels across America in search of the father she never knew. Later adapted into Luca Guadagnino's Bones and All (2022), it is the tenderest book here: a coming-of-age story about a girl whose appetite makes her unloveable, who has to decide whether to believe it.

Girl Dinner
Olivie Blake
Tor, 2025
Sloane, a sociology professor easing back into work after becoming a mother, and Nina, a pledge at an elite sorority called The House, are drawn into a circle of wealthy women whose secret wellness trend is cannibalism. It is a sharp satire about the impossible idea of "having it all" and about what, exactly, women are expected to consume to get there. If you liked the book Bunny (Viking, 2019) by Mona Awad, you will love this.

Rabindranath Ekhane Kokhono Khete Ashenni
Mohammad Nazim Uddin
Batighar, 2015
Mushkan Zuberi is captivating and sophisticated, a true femme fatale. She owns a high-end and elite restaurant in the little-known town of Sundarpur. Men are completely captivated by her beauty, gathering in her dining room to be close to her and try her renowned cooking. However, when an investigator begins to look into her mysterious history and the series of vanishings surrounding her, the horrific reality of her kitchen comes to light.

The Taste of a Man
Slavenka Drakulić
Abacus, 1997
Tereza, a young Polish poet studying in New York, falls into an all-consuming affair with José, a married Brazilian anthropologist, until love curdles into a hunger she can only satisfy by eating him. Drakulić, the Croatian writer who died this June, first published it in Croatian in 1995, decades before "femgore" had a name.

What Drakulić understood decades ago is that the line between consuming passion and literally consuming a person is paper-thin. The recent explosion of this subgenre isn't some sanitised, academic metaphor about "refusing to be prey". That's cute, but no. Reading about a woman who looks at a toxic man and sees only protein brings a peculiar, utterly unhinged kind of delight. It removes the courteous pretence of modern womanhood and substitutes it with bare cartilage and a snapping jaw. Together, these books form a blood-soaked permission slip allowing women to be wholly and unapologetically grotesque. They speak to a wild, unspoken weariness: the very particular exhaustion of smiling through condescending conversations and making yourself smaller to take up less physical space when all you want to do is scream ferociously in the grocery line. If that makes sense to you, pick up one of these books on the way and dig in. Bon appétit.

Kazi Raidah Afia Nusaiba *is a contributor.*

BOOK REVIEW: NONFICTION

In remembrance of bricks

Review of Amit Guha's 'Tapestries in Brick: A Guide to the Architecture of Bengal' (HarperVantage, 2026)

MARUF AHMED

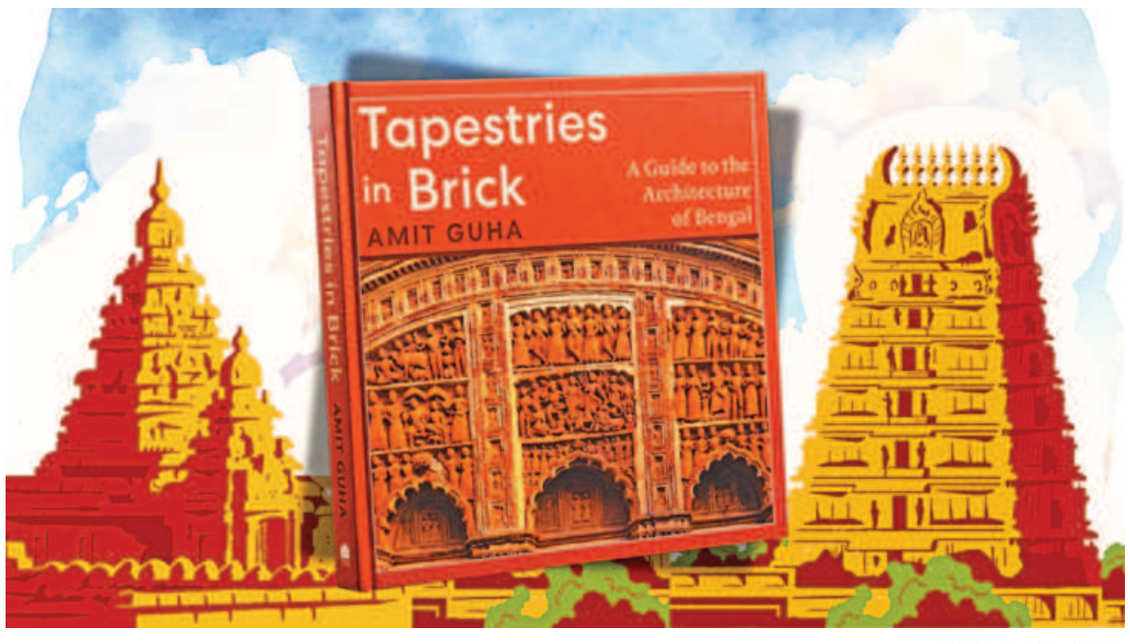
In Bengal, permanence has always been a precarious architectural ambition. Rivers abandon their courses, monsoons work patiently through masonry, and settlements disappear from the very ground on which generations have built their lives. Yet across this unsettling landscape stand hundreds of brick temples, their walls crowded with gods, merchants, musicians, animals, and the ordinary inhabitants of a world long gone. Their endurance presents a curious contradiction. How then does a civilisation so accustomed to the impermanence of its ground continue to produce architectural forms that aspire to outlive it? Amit Guha's *Tapestries in Brick* approaches this question through the extraordinary material and artistic inheritance of Bengal's temples, mosques, and other brick monuments.

The book is the outcome of more than two decades of travel and documentation across villages in West Bengal and Bangladesh. An engineer by training and an independent architectural historian by intellectual pursuit, Guha brings together an impressive photographic archive, historical accounts, architectural classifications, and detailed descriptions of monuments frequently neglected by conventional histories of South Asian architecture. His undertaking recalls the pioneering surveys of David McCutchion, Tarapada Santra, Hitesranjan Sanyal, and George Michell, whose scholarship Guha readily acknowledges. I believe the book's principal achievement, therefore, lies less in establishing an entirely new architectural history than in making an unusually dispersed architectural world intelligible and accessible to a wider readership.

I have found its most remarkable argument concerning the cultural mobility of architectural form. Bengal's brick temples emerged through prolonged encounters among Buddhist construction traditions, the curved roofs of village huts, the arches and ornamental vocabularies of Sultanate architecture, the towers of North Indian and Odishan temples, and, eventually, European decorative influences. These exchanges resist the convenient habit of assigning every architectural form an exclusive religious ancestry. A curved cornice cannot be understood merely as a Hindu expression when its genealogy passes through vernacular dwelling and Sultanate construction. Guha's account restores something of this historical complexity, revealing how Bengal's artisans transformed inherited forms through successive acts of borrowing, experimentation, and adaptation.

Yet architecture never travels innocently between cultural worlds. Its movements are also governed by wealth, religious authority, political ambition, and the changing organisation of labour. Guha is attentive to the rise of the Malla rulers, wealthy zamindars, merchants, and other patrons whose resources enabled an extraordinary proliferation of temples between the 17th and 19th centuries. His historical chapters trace how commercial expansion and systems of revenue extraction helped produce these concentrations of wealth. This context matters because the exuberance of terracotta ornament can otherwise make patronage appear as an uncomplicated history of artistic generosity. Behind every commissioned shrine stood an economy that determined who possessed the means to build, whose labour was employed, and whose aspirations acquired monumental form.

I think Guha is particularly convincing when he allows ritual practice to explain architectural organisation. In the temples associated with Gaudiya Vaishnavism at



DESIGN: **MAISHA SYEDA**

Bishnupur, the south-facing courtyard, subsidiary entrances, ceremonial structures, and elevated shrines were integral to congregational worship. Kirtan required gathering spaces, while certain upper shrines accommodated deities ceremonially carried above the sanctum during festivals. Architecture thus participated in an evolving relationship between worshipper and deity. The temple's meaning resided as much in the movement of bodies and the recurrence of ritual as in the profile of its towers. These passages offer an important corrective to architectural histories that classify religious buildings principally through their visible forms.

At Kantanagar in Dinajpur, Guha's descriptive powers find an especially rewarding subject. The temple's profusely sculpted walls assemble the Ramayana, the Mahabharata, Krishna's many exploits, and a remarkable sequence of secular scenes. Zamindars travel in palanquins and pleasure boats, musicians perform, hunters pursue animals, and ordinary activities enter the same material field as divine narratives. These images are invaluable witnesses to the social imagination of their time, although their testimony cannot be read as an impartial account of society. A procession carved at a patron's expense may tell us as much about the desired image of authority as about the lives over which that authority was exercised.

Kantanagar also unsettles the familiar distinction between architectural survival and architectural completeness. The earthquake of 1897 destroyed its crowning towers, whose former appearance survives in 19th century photography. The temple continues to accommodate worship, festivals, and large gatherings, even as its original architectural composition remains irrecoverably altered. What, then, has survived: the monument, its image, its ritual life, or a changing relationship among all three? Guha does not pursue this question philosophically, but his documentation makes it difficult to ignore. Permanence here emerges through continued inhabitation, repair, and remembrance rather than the preservation of an untouched original form.

Equally significant is his attention to the sutradhars, the artisan communities whose skills and itinerant practices shaped Bengal's architectural landscape. Their contribution complicates histories that attribute architectural creativity almost exclusively to rulers and patrons. Particularly revealing is Guha's account of Nayabad Mosque, built, according to the history he recounts, by Muslim artisans associated with the construction of Kantanagar. The two buildings invite us to reconsider the boundaries through which religious architecture is habitually understood. Their proximity suggests a shared world of constructional knowledge and craftsmanship, without requiring us to imagine that differences of faith, patronage, or social position had somehow dissolved. Cultural exchange is historically meaningful precisely because it takes place amid such differences.

For all its descriptive richness, however, the book occasionally permits the visible surface to become the principal measure of architectural significance. Its extensive classifications of decorative panels, towers, arches, and sculptural programmes are supported by excellent photographs, but comparatively less attention is given to the technical and spatial questions through which these buildings might be understood as inhabited structures. How did brick dimensions, bonding systems, structural transitions, drainage, and changing environmental conditions govern their construction and endurance? How did thresholds distribute access among priests, patrons, devotees, and artisans? Plans, sections, and more sustained constructional analysis would have helped connect the magnificence of the façade to the less visible organisation of architectural life.

This is an excerpt. Read the full review on *The Daily Star* and Star Books and Literature websites.

Maruf Ahmed *is an architect and a lecturer at Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (KUET).*

DHAKA FRIDAY OCTOBER 30, 2026, KARTIK 14, 1433 BS

SPORT



Be careful with Nahid Rana. Don't kill the goose that lays the golden egg because you want immediate success.

West Indies fast bowling great **IAN BISHOP** on Nahid Rana

Lika's long wait ends in tears of joy

SPORTS REPORTER

After four unsuccessful attempts to reach the final, unheralded shuttler Lika Poddar claimed her maiden national title, beating defending champion Urmi Akter 2-1 at the 40th National Badminton Championships at Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Stadium yesterday.

Overwhelmed by the breakthrough, the 24-year-old broke down in tears while speaking to her mother in Mongla over a video call. Her mother had long dreamed of seeing her daughter shine at the highest level, and yesterday, Lika gave her a reason to celebrate.

Lika edged the opening set 22-20 before Bangladesh Army's Urmi fought back to level the match with a 21-11 win. Lika held her nerve in the decider, winning 21-18 to turn her first-ever final into a national title.



The two finalists had contrasting fortunes in doubles. Urmi bounced back from her singles defeat to win the mixed doubles title with Al Amin Jumar, beating Tamim Hasan and SK Pritha 21-17, 21-14. Lika, meanwhile, lost the women's doubles final with Narayanganj's Smrity Rajbongshi, going down 23-21, 21-17 to Bangladesh Army's Brishty Khatun and SK Pritha.

Despite hailing from Bagerhat, Lika represented Narayanganj, while Khulna resident Urmi had won her first national title representing Pabna.

Lika's breakthrough came after years of struggle. Her fisherman father could offer little financial support for her badminton career, and she now shoulders much of her family's financial responsibility through her earnings from the sport.

"I can't express how I feel because I've won the title in my first-ever final. I had competed four times before but never reached the final," Lika told reporters, expressing confidence that hard work and self-belief would help her shine internationally.

In men's singles, Rajin Ahmed of Sylhet DSA was declared champion after finalist SM Sibgat Ullah withdrew due to injury.

In men's doubles, Bangladesh Ansar's Moazzem Hossain Ohidul and Shuvo Khandaker recovered from losing the first set 22-24 to defeat Al Amin Jumar and SM Sifat Ullah 21-18, 26-24.





Spinners came to life at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur yesterday, with West Indies' Jomel Warrican claiming his fourth Test five-wicket haul to bundle the Tigers out for 272 in the first session before Taijul Islam helped Bangladesh set up an exciting finish to the second day's play of the first Test. Warrican's figures of five for 53 saw the visitors claim Bangladesh's last seven wickets for just 59 runs, turning things around after the hosts resumed the day in a promising position at 213 for three. After West Indies looked to assert their dominance with the bat, Taijul struck twice in quick succession, while Mehidy Hasan Miraz also chipped in with a wicket, leaving the visitors at 134 for four at stumps, still trailing by 138 runs. PHOTO: **FIROZ AHMED**

Rafi, Maisha lead record rush in pool

SPORTS REPORTER



Eight national records fell on the second day of the Max Group 35th National Swimming, Diving and Water Polo Competition at Syed Nazrul Islam Swimming Complex in Dhaka yesterday, with Samiul Islam Rafi setting two individual marks and helping establish a third, while Fatiha Mahtab Maisha broke two individual records.

The Bangladesh Navy swimmer clocked 24.98 seconds in the 50m butterfly, bettering his previous record of 25.15, before setting a 100m freestyle mark of 51.80, eclipsing the previous best of 52.42. His double made him the day's standout performer, with his contribution extending to the mixed relay.

Rafi also helped the mixed 4x100m relay team of Mohammad Islam, Mukta Khatun and Fatiha Mahtab Maisha clock 4:20.36, beating Bangladesh Navy's previous record of 4:24.36.

Maisha set two individual records, clocking 1:03.44 in the women's 100m freestyle to break Junayna Ahmed's 1:03.90 mark from 2019, before winning the 200m backstroke in 2:38.40, eclipsing Jui Akter's previous best of 2:40.41. Bangladesh Navy's Jui Akter broke Sonia Akter's women's 1,500m freestyle record of 20:26.06 with a time of 20:08.90, while Irfana Khatun set a women's 200m breaststroke record of 2:45.40, bettering Rumana Akter's 2:49.75.

After setting a record in the 1m springboard on the opening day, Arpa Das added another in the 3m event with 127.42 points, surpassing Nandini Pahan's previous best of 109.3 set last year.

Bangladesh Navy maintained their dominance in the medal table with 20 gold, 12 silver and nine bronze medals, while Bangladesh Army remained second with seven gold, 14 silver and 15 bronze.

Hridoy's red-ball temperament faces a reality check

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI

With only 18 first-class matches behind him, Tawhid Hridoy had much to prove when he was called up to replace the injured Mushfiqur Rahim in the first Test against West Indies. Instead, his dismissal at a critical stage of Bangladesh's innings on Thursday exposed the gap between his red-ball promise and his readiness for Test cricket.

Rather than show the patience and game awareness required to fill Mushfiqur's sizeable shoes, Hridoy fell to an ill-judged attacking shot when Bangladesh needed him to build a partnership.

With speculation growing that Mushfiqur could bring the curtain down on his storied career within a year, Bangladesh face an uncomfortable question: who can replace the formidable 39-year-old? Hridoy has emerged as a candidate, but his performance in Mirpur offered little reassurance that he is ready for such responsibility.

His Test debut against Zimbabwe did not go to plan, but an unbeaten 350 against South Africa A in Potchefstroom subsequently brought his red-ball credentials into focus.



"I don't think it was because of the pitch. If you look at the delivery [Tawhid] Hridoy got out to, it was more or less a half-volley, the kind of ball you could hit. Hridoy plays those shots regularly, and he scores runs. I don't think there was anything unusual about it."

Bangladesh opener **SHADMAN ISLAM**, who notched his third Test ton after resuming on 99 yesterday, said.

He had an opportunity to strengthen his credentials in Mirpur. His 42 on day one, before cramps forced him off the field, suggested there was substance to his red-ball credentials. But on the second day, after the hosts had lost centurion Shadman Islam, Hridoy failed to read the situation, with the hosts needing a big first-innings total.

He charged at a pitched-up delivery from Jomel Warrican, only to miss the line of the arm ball completely and see his stumps disturbed. It was just the second delivery he faced that day.

The shot was particularly damaging given the match situation, exposing his vulnerability against spin and a lack of restraint when Bangladesh needed consolidation.

His dismissal preceded a collapse of alarming proportions. Bangladesh slumped from 213 for three to 272 all out, losing seven wickets for 59 runs in the first session on day two, with Litton Das stranded at the other end.

Before the day's play, Hridoy had spoken about building big partnerships. His shot offered little evidence of the patience required to make that happen. A fresh day called for a fresh assessment of the conditions and the team's needs, but his approach suggested otherwise.

Shadman took responsibility for the collapse, saying he should have done more after resuming on 99 overnight and eventually departing for 105. He insisted the wicket had offered no demons early in the morning session.

"It [collapse] wasn't because of the wicket. Maybe the ball Hridoy got out to was a half-volley which was a ball to score off. He usually plays this kind of shots and scores from them. Maybe they bowled well and we made some mistakes," he said when asked about Hridoy and the other batters' approach.

For Hridoy to be undone by left-arm spin, so prevalent in Bangladesh cricket, was troubling in itself. His recurring struggles with cramps are also a concern.

In the scorching heat of Dubai last February, Hridoy battled cramps against India in the Champions Trophy to score an ODI century. Those struggles nevertheless raised questions over his fitness.

In Mirpur, however, cramps were not to blame. His dismissal instead exposed shortcomings in his judgement and footwork, underlining how much work remains before he can credibly fill Mushfiqur's shoes.



Right in the thick of it! Bangladesh head coach Thomas Dooley opted for a hands-on approach during practice at the National Stadium in Dhaka yesterday, going airborne to contest a header against full-backs Saad Uddin and Rahmat Mia as Topu Barman, Rakib Hossain, and Minhazul Karim Shadin watched on. With the SAFF Championship kicking off on home soil on November 5, the 65-year-old American is leaving no stone unturned to ensure the team is ready to meet the high expectations. PHOTO: **BFF**

WHAT TO WATCH

T SPORTS

Bangladesh vs West Indies
1st Test, Day 3
Live from 9:30 am

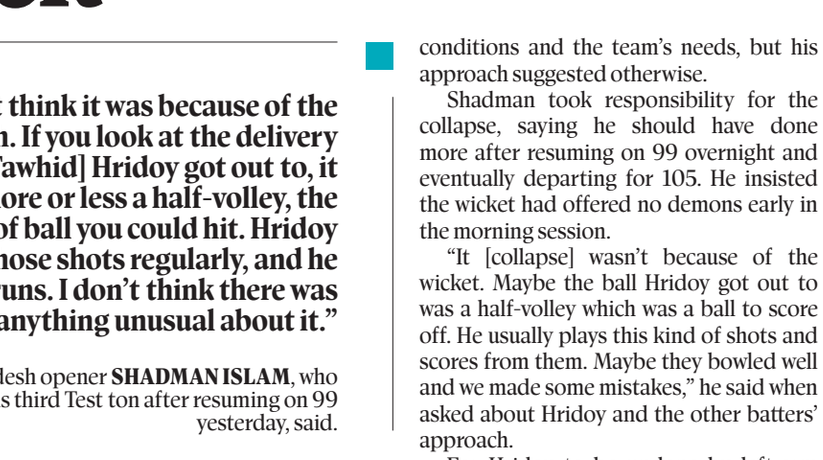
NCL GT20
Mississauga Skyhawks vs Toronto Knights
Live from 6:00 am

Brampton Blazers vs Vancouver Guardians
Live from 8:00 pm

Montreal Warriors vs Toronto Knights (Saturday)

LaLiga
Villareal vs Espanyol
Live from 2:00 am (Saturday)





Bangladesh bounce back for second gold

The trio of Abdur Rahman Alif, Md Sagor Islam and Abdulla Al Mohammad Rafi staged a strong comeback to help Bangladesh clinch their second gold medal at the Asia Cup Archery Stage-2, with the recurve men's team beating Kazakhstan 6-2 in the final in Sulaymaniyah, Iraq, yesterday. Bangladesh lost the opening set 50-53 but bounced back to win the next three, scoring 55-54, 55-52 and 52-51 to seal the victory. Meanwhile, newcomer Saima Salah Uddin had to settle for silver in the women's recurve individual event after losing 6-4 to Iran's Mobina Fallah, despite winning the first two sets. Earlier on Wednesday, Bangladesh's compound women's team of Bonna Akter, Sreeporna Biswas and Kulsum Akter Mone clinched the country's first gold at the meet, defeating Kazakhstan 230-220 in the final. PHOTO: **BAF**





BERC PUBLIC HEARING

LPG selling above fixed price, yet fresh hike sought

ASIFUR RAHMAN

A technical committee of BERC has proposed raising the price of a 12kg liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinder by 7.6 percent to Tk 1,976, following a review of the margins for bottlers, distributors and retailers.

We demand that BERC first investigate the artificial shortages, hoarding and overcharging, and take effective action against those responsible.

Khalilur Rahman, an adviser to CAB

The proposal, however, came under scrutiny at a public hearing yesterday, where consumers questioned why the regulator should consider higher charges when LPG is being sold at Tk 2,200 to Tk 2,400 per cylinder in the market -- well above the fixed price.

"We demand that BERC first investigate the artificial shortages, hoarding and overcharging, and take effective action against those responsible," said Khalilur Rahman, an adviser to the Consumers Association of Bangladesh, at the hearing held at the BIAM auditorium in the capital.

The committee proposed increasing the charge for storage and bottling to Tk 282 per cylinder, a 40.3 percent rise from the existing Tk 201. The importers sought the charge to be between Tk 331 and Tk 443.

It also proposed raising the distribution charge by 60

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

NATURE QUEST



IN THE CONCRETE JUNGLE

Perched atop a pillar, a rhesus macaque nibbles on fruit at Sadhana Aushadhalaya in Old Dhaka's Gendaria. Distinguished by its pinkish face and brownish-grey fur, the species is among Dhaka's few surviving urban wildlife. These intelligent, adaptable primates have inhabited Old Dhaka for generations, with a tradition of feeding and sheltering them dating to 1914. They navigate rooftops, buildings and crowded neighbourhoods searching for food. However, rapid urbanisation, disappearing trees and dwindling food sources threaten their survival. Once common across Dhaka, their numbers have declined as concrete replaces greenery, leaving increasingly little room for the city's original wild inhabitants.

PHOTO: **PALASH KHAN**

Over 45% women face tech-facilitated violence: study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 45.5 percent of women surveyed faced technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV), with 34.2 percent experiencing two or more overlapping forms of abuse and 14.8 percent reporting three or more, according to a study launched yesterday.

The study also cited 2025 data from the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) and UNFPA, which showed that 8.3 percent of women surveyed had experienced TFGBV at some point in their lives.

76.7% of university-educated women faced abuse

56% of abuse reports to platforms went unaddressed

67% received no formal online safety training

The findings were presented by Abdullah Titir, head of research at Digitally Right Limited, and Afroja Arman, senior training and research officer at Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, during a discussion titled "Abuse Beyond the Screen: A Study on Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence in Bangladesh" at Sufia Kamal Bhaban in Dhaka.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad and Digitally Right Limited jointly conducted the study with support from the Embassy of Sweden.

The mixed-method study, conducted from January 7 to 13, surveyed 521 women and girls aged 15 and above in Dhaka, Chattogram, Barishal, Rajshahi and Sylhet. The respondents were divided into five age groups: 15 to 24 (29 percent), 25 to 34 (27.8 percent), 35 to 44 (20.3 percent), 45 to 54 (14.8 percent), and 55 and above (8.1 percent). It also included four key-informant interviews and eight in-depth interviews with survivors.

Among active internet users surveyed, 63.7 percent reported experiencing

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

Spoiler glitch delays PM's flight from Japan by nearly 5hrs



TASNEEM TAYEB

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's return flight from Japan was delayed after the Biman aircraft carrying him and his entourage developed a fault in its spoiler system before takeoff at Narita International Airport yesterday -- the first day of the national carrier's newly introduced Thursday service.

The aircraft later took off from Narita at 7:55pm Bangladesh time, nearly five hours after its scheduled departure, Biman Bangladesh Airlines said in a press release last night.

The flight is expected to land at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka at 3:00am today.

Earlier on October 24, Md Ashraful Alam, Biman's director of marketing and sales, said the airline would increase its weekly flights between Dhaka and Narita

SEE PAGE 8 COL 6

3 tankers ablaze after hitting Hormuz mines

Say Iran Guards; Saudi coalition downs Houthi missile

AGENCIES

- Saudi strike kills 12 in Yemeni residential area: Houthis
- US fires top army general in latest ouster: media
- IDF launches interceptor at suspected target in Lebanon

Iran's Revolutionary Guards said yesterday three oil tankers had caught fire after hitting mines while attempting to cross the Strait of Hormuz.

"Over the past 24 hours, three violating oil tankers exploded and caught fire after striking mines while attempting to pass through the unauthorised southern route of the Strait of Hormuz," the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps said in a statement.

The vessels had "switched off all their radar and navigation systems" and disregarded warnings from the IRGC navy, the statement said. It was not immediately clear when the incidents occurred or which flags the tankers were flying.

Meanwhile, the Saudi-led coalition fighting Yemen's Houthis said yesterday it had intercepted a ballistic missile fired by the group at the kingdom's eastern region. The Iran-backed group also said that a Saudi strike on a residential area in Yemen's western Taiz province killed 12 people, reports AFP.

Iran's armed forces have repeatedly accused US Central Command (CENTCOM), which oversees US military operations in the region, of encouraging vessels to use a southern corridor near the Omani coast that Tehran considers unauthorised.

Netanyahu bloc targets Arab parties after election gains

Alleges foreign funding as kingmaker factions gain ground

AGENCIES

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's bloc yesterday piled pressure on Israeli Arab leaders over unproven accusations of foreign funding, in a push to neuter parties that made strong gains after an otherwise indecisive election.

National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir, a far-right firebrand with a history of attacks on Palestinians, went so far as to encourage Israel "immediately" to order the arrests of Arab party leaders.

Israel was nearing the completion of ballot-counting from Tuesday's election in which neither Netanyahu nor the opposition bloc led by former military chief Gadi Eisenkot looked able to secure a majority in the parliament known as the Knesset.

With nearly 93 percent of the vote counted, Netanyahu's bloc was at 53 seats and the opposition forces led by Eisenkot had 48 -- both well under the 61 needed to form a government. The two main Arab formations were on track for an unprecedented 19 seats.



Buses and trucks burn in the compound of a transport company hit by a Russian drone strike in Kharkiv, Ukraine, yesterday. PHOTO: **REUTERS**

NEWS IN FOCUS

Hanif sentenced to death for crimes against humanity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday sentenced Awami League Joint General Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif to death for crimes against humanity over the killing of six protesters in Kushtia during the July 2024 mass uprising.

Three other convicts, Awami League Kushtia district and city unit leaders Sadruddin Khan, Azgar Ali and Ataur Rahman Ata, were sentenced to imprisonment for the remainder of their natural lives for their involvement in the killings.

All four were tried in absentia as they remain absconding.

The three-member tribunal, headed by Chairman Justice Nozrul Islam Chowdhury, delivered the verdict over the killings on August 5, 2024, the day the Sheikh Hasina-led

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

NOV 17-18 DIALOGUE

Dhaka to seek Hasina, Kamal's extradition at talks with India

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will press India to extradite ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal and the alleged killers of Sharif Osman Bin Hadi at the fifth Consular Dialogue in Dhaka on November 17-18, diplomatic sources in Dhaka and New Delhi told The Daily Star.

It will be the first time Dhaka raises the issue at such a formal meeting since the July uprising in 2024.

Bangladesh first sought their extradition through a diplomatic note verbale in December 2024 and renewed the request after Hasina and Kamal were sentenced to death in November 2025.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4