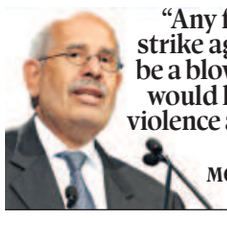
DHAKA TUESDAY NOVEMBER 3, 2026



"Any further American strike against Iran would be a blow of madness and would lead only to more violence and destruction."

Nobel peace laureate
MOHAMED ELBARADEI

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION



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Consumers squeezed again as BERC caves

12kg LPG official price now Tk 2,060

ASIFUR RAHMAN

The Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) has given into the pressure from market stakeholders and jacked up the retail price of LPG, putting consumers in more trouble as they already pay way above the government-set price.

Instead of ensuring businesses comply with the regulated price, the regulator yesterday increased the official price of a 12kg LPG cylinder by Tk 223 to Tk 2,060 for the month of November.

This is the first time the official retail price went above Tk 2,000.

However, people have been paying between Tk 2,000 and Tk 2,200 for 12kg of LPG since March.

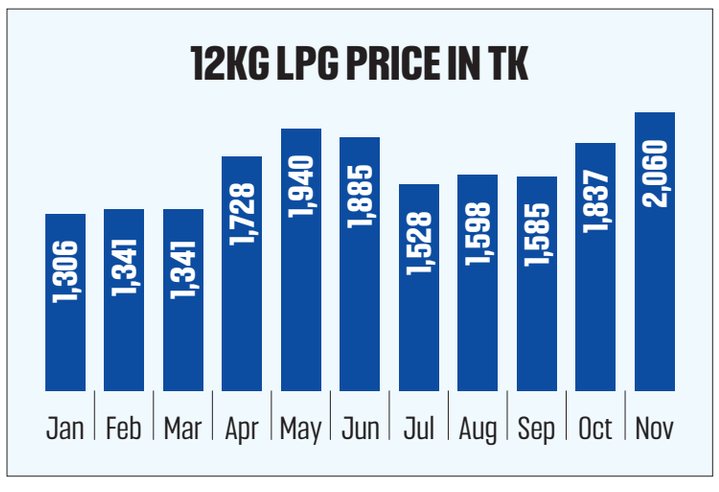
The Daily Star has reported repeatedly on the market situation since September, finding that 12kg cylinders were selling at prices ranging from Tk 1,900 to Tk 2,500, while the official rates during that period ranged between Tk 1,585 and Tk 1,837.

The latest adjustment means the official price has increased by Tk 475, or nearly 30 percent, over just two months.

The development has raised questions about BERC's regulatory role, particularly whether it is giving priority to the LPG businesses or protecting consumers.

The price increase also comes after LPG traders threatened a nationwide shutdown of sales and distribution, secured a public hearing on their demands, and pressed for higher commissions and other charges.

Under the new price structure, charges have increased in all three stages of the LPG supply chain.



Storage and bottling charges have risen by 40 percent to Tk 23.48 per kg from Tk 16.74, while distributors' charges have increased by 70 percent to Tk 7.08 from Tk 4.17 per kg.

Retailers' charges have also gone up by 55 percent to Tk 5.83 per kg from Tk 3.75.

For a 12kg cylinder, distributors will now receive Tk 85 in charges, up from Tk 50, while retailers' charges have risen to Tk 70 from Tk 45.

The new structure does not include a fixed home-delivery charge, which could have protected consumers from overcharging.

Consumers, who have cylinders delivered to their homes, would probably have to pay a lot more than Tk 2,060, provided they are sold at the new

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



Traffic on the way to the capital grinds to a halt on the Dhaka-Narayanganj Link Road in Fatullah yesterday as readymade garment workers stage a third day of demonstrations demanding a minimum monthly wage of Tk 30,000. PHOTO: **STAR**

Owners to reopen RMG factories today

Worker, trade union leaders call for an end to unrest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid protests by garment workers demanding higher wages, apparel manufacturers yesterday urged the home ministry to ensure security and restore normalcy in industrial zones.

The unrest entered its third consecutive day yesterday, forcing 414 factories to remain closed, according to Industrial Police data.

Leaders of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) made the appeal during an emergency meeting with Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed at his office.

They briefed the minister on the situation in Mirpur, Ashulia, Gazipur, Savar,

SEE PAGE 9 COL 5

Clashes, blockades continue on 3rd day of RMG unrest

Over 400 factories remain closed; 82 held in Gazipur, Mirpur

STAR REPORT

Garment workers demanding a minimum monthly wage of Tk 30,000 continued their demonstrations for the third consecutive day yesterday, blocking highways and clashing with police in Savar and Gazipur.

Protests also disrupted traffic in the capital's Mirpur and Narayanganj.

Amid the unrest, 264 factories in Savar-Ashulia and 150 in Gazipur declared holidays or suspended operations for the day, said police officials.

Protesters torched two vehicles in Gazipur, including a police vehicle, and a lorry in Savar.

The intensity of violence, however, appeared lower than on Sunday.

Police filed three cases in Gazipur against 4,000 and four in Mirpur over the violence against 11,000. At least 82 people were arrested in the areas.

Some factory owners, including former ministers and lawmakers, and individuals operating under the banner of labour organisations were instigating the unrest.

Home Minister
Salahuddin Ahmed

The last minimum wage increase, from Tk 8,000 to Tk 12,500, took effect on December 1, 2023.

Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed yesterday warned of stern legal action against those involved in violence and attempts to create instability in the garment sector.

Speaking to reporters after a meeting with BGMEA and BKMEA leaders at the Secretariat, he alleged that some factory owners, including former ministers and lawmakers, and individuals operating under the banner of labour organisations were instigating the unrest.

The government has identified some of those involved and collected audio and video evidence of violent incidents. Law enforcement agencies have been instructed to deal firmly with further violence, he added.

CLASHES, ARSON

In Gazipur, workers blocked several points along the Dhaka-Tangail highway for over six hours from

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



A woman lights candles on the grave of a deceased family member at Holy Rosary Church in Tejgaon, Dhaka, yesterday, marking All Souls' Day. Members of the Christian community observe the occasion by offering prayers, lighting candles and placing flowers on the graves of their loved ones. PHOTO: **PRABIR DAS**

Call from Mushtaque cleared the way

Court verdict recounts chain of events in Dhaka Central Jail on Nov 3, 1975

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The execution had already been approved. It came from the highest authority of the country. All the assailants had to do was pull the trigger, and they announced their mission with chilling candour.

Tajuddin Ahmed, M Mansur Ali, and AHM Qamaruzzaman -- leaders who had guided Bangladesh through the darkest days of the Liberation War, held together the government-in-exile in 1971, and steered the struggle for independence.

JAIL KILLING DAY

Their targets were four of the most important figures in Bangladesh's history, and the location was one of the state's most heavily guarded institutions -- the Dhaka Central Jail.

The victims of this despicable conspiracy were Syed Nazrul Islam,

The national tragedy that unfolded inside the jail in the early hours of November 3, 1975, was not an isolated act of violence.

It took place amid a fierce

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

HRFB alarmed by sedition case against Satkhira activist

Calls for fair probe into charges against Shampa Goswami

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Human Rights Forum Bangladesh (HRFB) yesterday expressed deep concern over a sedition case filed against Shampa Goswami, executive director of Satkhira-based Prerona Nari Unnayan Sangathan.

In a press statement, the rights group also raised concerns about threats to her safety amid allegations of harassment following the filing of the case.

According to HRFB, a sedition case was filed against Shampa with Shyamnagar Police Station in Satkhira on September 29 under Section 124A of the Penal Code. Shampa alleged that police have been keeping her house and organisation's

SEE PAGE 8 COL 5



A Gazipur Metropolitan Police vehicle sprays water to extinguish a fire in another police vehicle torched during clashes between law enforcers and RMG workers demanding higher wages in Gazipur yesterday.

PHOTO: MEHEDI HASAN

Khulna sees four killings in 3 days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

Police recovered the bodies of four men in Khulna district in separate incidents over the last three days.

Around noon yesterday, the bodies of two men were recovered from the Atharobanki river in Rupsha upazila.

They were identified as Mehedi Hasan Sohag, 38, a boatman from the upazila's Rajapur; and Al Amin Hossain, 24, said Anisuzzaman, additional superintendent (Crime and Ops) of Khulna police. Locals first spotted a body floating in the river near Jelkhanaghat. Later, as water receded during low tide, they spotted another body at the same location.

The police officer said, "One was hacked to death, while the other was shot." He said they could not immediately say whether either of the victims had any criminal cases against them.

Manzur Morshed, superintendent of Khulna River Police, said police were preparing inquest reports on the bodies.

The bodies were found a day after Syed Humayun Kabir, joint convener of the Khulna city unit of Tanti Dal, was hacked to death at his business establishment in the city's Rayermohol area around 6:30pm on Sunday.

According to Aranghata police, the killing may have been triggered by a dispute over payment for a refrigerator bought on credit. On Saturday night, a 35-year-old man was found with stab injuries on a road in the city's Labanchara area. He was declared dead at Khulna Medical College Hospital.

The victim was identified as Shahidul Islam Kolin.

Clashes, blockades

FROM PAGE 1

7:30am, bringing traffic to a standstill. Around noon, protesters set fire to a police vehicle at Naojor and another pickup at Safipur along the highway.

An industrial police inspector, requesting anonymity, said police personnel were inside a pickup when it was set ablaze. No injuries were immediately reported.

Md Arif Hossain, assistant commissioner and executive magistrate at the Gazipur Deputy Commissioner's Office, said a BGB member was injured during the protests in Kaliakair.

Nine platoons of Border Guard Bangladesh personnel were deployed in Gazipur to contain the unrest, according to BGB headquarters.

During a visit to the Naojor area around 12:30pm, this newspaper saw that over 100 workers gathered on the Dhaka-Tangail highway, some carrying sticks and rods.

The workers left the highway around 1:00pm. "The movement will continue. We will return in a while," a worker was heard saying.

Mohammad Taherul Haque Chowhan, additional police commissioner (administration and finance) of Gazipur Metropolitan Police, said at least 22 people were arrested.

Talking to this newspaper, Hazrat Billal, publicity affairs secretary of Bangladesh Garment Workers' Solidarity, said the unrest stemmed from workers' long-standing deprivation, inadequate wages, and obstacles to forming trade unions.

He said workers should not be held responsible for the violence, calling for the dismantling of syndicates involving factory owners and unscrupulous labour leaders.

He also urged the workers to pursue their demands through democratic means.

In Savar and Ashulia, demonstrations spread to Zirabo, Kathgora, Ghoshbagh, and Narsinghpur.

The protests began around 9:30am when workers of New Age Group factories left their workplaces, according to witnesses and police.

Workers subsequently assembled in front of factories belonging to Ananta and Ha-Meem groups. Some protesters hurled brick chunks and stones at police near a Ha-Meem Group factory.

Workers also demonstrated outside Bengal Plastic Pipes Ltd beside Kathgora Road and later threw brick chunks and stones at the factory.

Police said at least eight factories came under attack.

Clashes with police erupted when protesters twice attempted to block the Nabinagar-Chandra highway at Kabirpur. Police fired tear gas and used water cannons to disperse them.

Clashes also broke out in Ghoshbagh along the Abdullahpur-Baipail road, while protesters torched a lorry in Narsinghpur.

Two people were detained in the area over attacking law enforcers, said Mohammad Tariqul Islam, officer-in-charge of Ashulia Police Station. It could not immediately be confirmed whether they were garment workers.

The unrest also spread to Ullail in Savar, where workers gathered beside the Dhaka-Aricha highway. Workers at several factories in Padmar Mor, Hemayetpur, also stopped work.

Mohammad Mominul Islam Bhuiyan, superintendent of Industrial Police-1, said workers from protesting factories had prompted employees of nearby factories to join the demonstrations.

He also alleged that outsiders joined the protests, adding that police would take action based on available information.

In Dhaka, police drove protesters away twice as they attempted to march towards Mirpur-10 from Mirpur-14 around 9:00am.

Around 11:00am, workers from factories in the Shewrapara and Purabi areas of Mirpur-6 attempted to gather in Mirpur-2 and march towards Mirpur-10. Police fired tear gas to disperse them.

Hasan Mohammad Nasher Rikabdar, deputy commissioner of police (Mirpur division), said four cases had been filed over the unrest, while preparations were underway to lodge two more cases with Kafrul and Rupnagar police stations over Sunday's incidents.

At least 60 people were arrested, he told The Daily Star.

Among those arrested was Rajib Chandra Das, who was detained in Uttara over the allegation of torching a police vehicle on Sunday.

Khalid Mansur, officer-in-charge of Uttara West Police Station, said Rajib was held after he admitted to the offence in a Facebook post.

In another development, workers from several factories blocked the Dhaka-Narayanganj Link Road, bringing traffic to a halt.

Tarek Al Mehedi, additional superintendent of police (crime and operations) in Narayanganj, said the workers gathered at Katherpul in Kutubail around 11:30am and blocked the road around noon.

Shahidul Islam, a worker at Metro Knitting and Dyeing Mills Ltd, said he earned Tk 12,500 a month, while house rent alone cost him Tk 5,500. He needed another Tk 10,000 for groceries.

"We have only one demand: our monthly wages must be raised to Tk 30,000."

[Our correspondents in Savar, Gazipur, and Narayanganj contributed to this report.]



M Mansur Ali



AHM Quamruzzaman



Tajuddin Ahmad



Syed Nazrul Islam

Tankers 'explode' after hitting Hormuz mines

AGENCIES

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Navy said yesterday two oil tankers "exploded" after striking mines while traveling through an "unauthorized route" in the Strait of Hormuz.

The country has imposed restrictions on vessels seeking to pass through the strait and has attacked ships it says violate those restrictions, as it seeks to assert control over the strategic waterway and exert pressure on the US.

Iran said it was ready to reopen the strait within two days if the US agrees to its conditions, having previously proposed a one-week timeline.

"The possibility of implementing this plan in two days is another indication of Iran's good-faith approach," foreign ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei said yesterday.

Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump has reiterated his threat to resume strikes against Iran, telling a campaign rally that he may have to give Tehran "the hammer" at some unspecified time.

"And the only reason why I'm not finished with Iran is I want to be nice. I want to try and save all those lives if I can ... But at some point we're going to have to give them the hammer," AFP quoted him as saying.

Trump held a call with Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu over when and whether to ramp up combat operations against Iran, US media reported.

The Middle East and Gulf region should not become a battleground for great-power rivalry and China is willing to work with Arab nations to achieve lasting peace, Chinese President Xi Jinping told Oman's sultan, Reuters reports.

Xi told Omani Sultan Haitham bin Tariq al-Said that the world is undergoing profound changes.

In a separate development, the Houthi-affiliated Al Masirah TV said at least seven people have been wounded following air attacks by the Saudi-led coalition on Yemen's rebel-controlled Hodeidah governorate, reports AFP.

Consumers squeezed again

FROM PAGE 1

fixed price.

The new rate is also higher than the Tk 1,976 per cylinder proposed at the public hearing by BERC's technical evaluation committee.

At the time of the committee's proposal, the average Saudi Aramco contract price (CP) was $712 per tonne. It has since risen to $759 per tonne.

BERC uses the international Saudi CP to calculate local LPG prices. The shipping cost for November has been set at $250 per tonne, unchanged from the previous month.

Before the public hearing, the LP Gas Traders Cooperative Society on October 12 announced a two-day nationwide shutdown of LPG sales and distribution.

Amid high market prices, the traders demanded higher commissions, an end to what they described as administrative harassment. They also want permission to bring unused cylinders back into the supply chain.

Businesses sought higher charges and commissions despite audit reports submitted to the technical committee showing that most LPG companies were profitable.

Talking to The Daily Star, multiple businesspersons cited global supply chain disruption compounded by the Middle East conflict.

Importers claimed that they now have to buy expensive LPG from the US and other sources instead of from the Middle East.

Bangladesh's annual LPG demand is around 17 lakh tonnes, serving nearly one crore consumers. The market is dominated by private-sector companies, which account for almost the entire supply.

Although around 35 companies hold licences, only about 10 to 12 are active importers.

Consumer representatives questioned the rationale for considering further increases when customers were already paying significantly above the official rate.

The LP Gas Business Cooperative Society had also lodged a complaint with BERC on September 21, alleging that some companies were selling LPG to distributors above the regulator-fixed prices, forcing distributors and retailers to charge consumers more.

Khalilur Rahman, an adviser to the Consumers Association of Bangladesh, demanded an investigation into allegations of artificial shortages, hoarding, and overcharging before any further price adjustment.

Call from Mushtaque

FROM PAGE 1

power struggle within the military that followed the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on August 15, 1975.

As senior army officers moved to challenge the president's self-confessed killers who had taken control of the Bangabhaban, another plot was underway behind prison walls.

Amid the turmoil, Nazrul, acting president of the government-in-exile; Tajuddin, its prime minister; Mansur, finance minister; and Qamaruzzaman, minister for home affairs, and relief and rehabilitation, had landed in jail on politically motivated charges of corruption under martial law.

According to the full verdict of the Appellate Division delivered on April 30, 2013, a chain of events began unfolding around 3:00am on November 3.

The then Inspector General of Prisons, Nuruzzaman Howlader, received several telephone calls from army personnel at the Bangabhaban. He was told that armed men might enter the jail and forcibly remove some prisoners and was instructed to proceed immediately to Dhaka Central Jail.

Nuruzzaman informed then Deputy Inspector General of Prisons Kazi Abdul Awal of the calls and directed him to go to the jail at once. He too rushed there.

Upon arrival, Nuruzzaman and Abdul Awal sat in the office of the DIG (Prisons), where the prison chief continued receiving telephone calls.

"Sometime later, Captain Moslem Uddin arrived at the jail gate accompanied by four other armed personnel," the verdict said, adding that they asked for Nuruzzaman and enquired as to whether the four leaders had been kept separately as instructed.

Nuruzzaman asked why they had been segregated.

Offering no explanations, the armed personnel plainly announced that the four men were to be put to death.

Nuruzzaman then sought to speak to President Khandaker Mushtaque Ahmed.

According to the verdict, Mushtaque instructed Nuruzzaman over the phone to let the five army personnel "do whatever they wanted to do".

The armed men then entered the prison and opened fire on the four leaders.

But the operation did not end there.

After Fajr prayers, Nuruzzaman learned that another group of armed personnel had arrived at the prison to confirm the kills. They discovered that two of the four leaders were still alive and then killed them with bayonets.

Years later, retired Brigadier General M Sakhawat Hussain wrote that the murder of the four leaders in jail "took place with the informed consent of Rashid and Mushtaque."

In his book "Roktakto Dingulo: 1975-81", Sakhawat recalled that the massacre occurred in the dead of night, coinciding with the counter-coup of November 2-3, and was carried out in a planned manner under the leadership of Moslem.

According to him, apart from Mushtaque and Rashid, the only other person who knew about the jail killings was Major General Khalilur Rahman.

Khalilur informed the inspector general of police and instructed him to convey the news to the president through his secretary, Mahbubul Alam Chashi. When Mahbubul informed President Khandaker Mushtaque Ahmad, he understood from the president's reaction that he was already aware of the murders.

For reasons unknown, Khalilur kept the incident under wraps. He did not inform others, including officials at the cantonment. By the time Khaled Mosharraf, then chief of general staff of army, and Shafayat Jamil, then Dhaka brigade commander, learned of the killings, Rashid, Farooq, Dalim and Moslem had already left for Bangkok.

Sakhawat also cited Moslem's account, in which he said the DIG had taken him to the cells where the four leaders were being held. Moslem claimed he had personally killed the imprisoned leaders with a burst of fire from a Sten gun.

"Thus, with the consent of the highest level of the state, one of the most brutal murders in the history of Bangladesh took place as planned, tarnishing the history of the Bangladesh military," Sakhawat wrote.

The details of the killings later emerged from tape-recorded statements collected by an investigation committee formed on November 4, 1975. The military inquiry was assigned to then Lt Col (later brigadier) AJM Aminul Haque Bir Uttam.

Sakhawat noted the full contents of those statements have never been made public.

On November 4, 1975, Kazi Abdul Awal, then deputy inspector general of prisons, lodged an FIR with Lalbagh Police Station.

For nearly 21 years, however, the Indemnity Ordinance blocked any investigation or trial. Only after its repeal in 1996 could the Criminal Investigation Department reopen the case on August 18 of that year.

A Dhaka court eventually delivered its verdict in 2004, convicting and sentencing 11 people for their roles in the killings.

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court later observed that the murders were part of a broader criminal conspiracy involving powerful elements within the state machinery.

On April 30, 2013, the Supreme Court upheld the lower court verdict, confirming death sentences for Moslem Uddin, Marfat Ali Shah and Abdul Hashem Mridha. Life imprisonment was upheld for Khondaker Abdur Rashid, Shariful Haq Dalim, Noor Chowdhury, Rashed Chowdhury, Ahmed Shariful Hossain, Abdul Majed, Kismat Hashem and Nazmul Hossain.

What to make of the US midterms

FROM PAGE 12

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Republicans lead the lower house of Congress by the thinnest of margins, with 218 seats, which is the minimum required. The Democrats have 214. The remaining three are either vacant or independent.

Polls are predicting that Democrats will take anywhere between 224 and 240 seats. The more its majority in the House, the more ambitious can its agenda be. A comfortable margin means that the leading party could absorb a handful of defections and would not feel hostage at the hands of a few rebels who turn out to be kingmakers when the margin is thin.

A Democrat-led House would also mean that there would be serious negotiations over the budget and debt ceiling. Government shutdowns may be imminent.

SENATE

The Republicans have a solid lead with 53 to 47. Of course, they only need 50 seats since the vice president can always cast the tie-breaking vote. But the Democrats will need to secure 51 seats to take the Senate. This November, 35 are up for election of which 22 are Republican held. Meaning that the Democrats will need to hold on to their 13 Senate seats and win at least four more held by the Republicans to gain a majority in the upper house.

Polls show that up to 10 Republican seats may be up for serious electoral battles with the Democrats slated to win quite a few, enough to flip the majority to 53 in their favour.

A solidly Democratic Senate would mean Trump nominees are frequently denied confirmation. A reaction might be that there is a string of confirmations between election night and January when the new Senate would begin sitting.

It would not, however, be as simple in legislation. Sure, there is still the presidential veto, which would require two-thirds majority to override. But the Senate's filibuster provision would keep laws from going on the vote unless there is "cloture" (a majority of 60 votes) that could force the end of a debate. Rather unlikely, if not impossible, for Democrats to win that many in the Senate.

However, with both houses of the Congress in Democratic control, they could start passing laws in healthcare and environment or other issues almost goading the president to veto. Every veto would give the Democrats issues for future campaign where they will be able to call out Republican Congressmen and Senators for not signing on. And if the Republicans do sign on, that would on one hand be a sign that his lawmakers are running away from Trump or that the president is so blindly partisan that he is vetoing even pieces of legislation that have been co-sponsored by his own party leaders. Either way, this puts everyone in a bind.

Hence, of the 22 Republican Senate seats, there are a few to watch for -- Michigan, Texas, Maine, Ohio, Kansas, Alaska, Iowa, and some are also putting Nevada and Wisconsin down as battlegrounds.

Each has its own story. But perhaps the ones from Michigan or Alaska deserve mention. The popular Dr Abdul El Sayed's opponent in the state's Democratic nomination Haley Stevens has recently endorsed the Republican incumbent Senator Mike Rogers.

This comes after Sayed publicly said he wanted Stevens not to attend the same church on Sunday, since Stevens, whose boyfriend is an AIPAC donor, kept hammering Sayed for his criticism of Israel. Sayed enjoys a double-digit lead over Senator Rogers and is expected to win. But of late, after this meltdown within the party, the Democrats are nervous about this fallout and its effect on the voters.

In Alaska, one Dan Sullivan had hogged headlines since this senatorial candidate is virtually unknown in politics and is notable for one thing only -- his name matches with the incumbent Republican Senator. Senator Dan Sullivan is close behind Mary Peltola who had been the state's first indigenous congresswoman elected to the House in 2022.

A NYTimes investigation found that people linked to her supporters were behind propping up this second Dan Sullivan, obviously with the hope of taking away his votes that might give Peltola an advantage.

From Trust to Triumph...
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PUBALI BANK PLC.
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Open your Account from anywhere
PI Banking- a Pubali Bank apps
ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং সেবা প্রদানে 'ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং কর্ণার' পূবালী ব্যাংকের প্রায় সকল শাখা এবং উপশাখায়



Schoolboys pedal through a veil of morning fog in Tetulia, Panchagarh, yesterday as winter begins to make its presence felt in the northern border district. The thick mist and early morning chill offer a glimpse of the colder days ahead. PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

'Govts change, but state repression persists'

Speakers say extrajudicial killings continue under successive administrations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Governments change, but the state's methods of repression remain unchanged, allowing extrajudicial killings to continue under successive administrations, historian and researcher Mohiuddin Ahmad said at a discussion in Dhaka yesterday.

"Governments come and go, but the character of the state does not change. It functions in the same way through the same forces," he said at a seminar titled "Rakkhi Bahini and Extrajudicial Killings", organised by the July Mass Uprising Memorial Museum.

Rights organisation Odhikar documented 45 alleged extrajudicial killings between August 9, 2024, and December 31, 2025, during the interim government's tenure. Of the victims, 20 were shot dead, 18 died from torture, and seven were beaten to death.

The discussion came a week after Inspector General of Police Md Ali Hossain Fakir said police would resort to "crossfire" wherever necessary if the government permitted it.

Asked by The Daily Star about the government's response, rights activist Nur Khan Liton questioned whether the IGP had the legal or moral authority to make such a statement.

"As long as the Constitution, the Police Regulations of Bengal and criminal laws are in force, there is no scope for making such a statement," he said.

"Can the government give such permission? It cannot."

Odhikar documented 45 alleged extrajudicial killings between August 9, 2024, and December 31, 2025, during the interim government's tenure. Of the victims, 20 were shot dead, 18 died from torture, and seven were beaten to death.

Liton said rights activists expected the government to prevent statements by senior officials that could encourage extrajudicial killings.

"Unfortunately, we have not seen any visible action so far," he said.

Police Headquarters and the Bangladesh

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4

'Whom should I turn to for justice?'

Sagar's mother asks as probe stays unfinished nearly 15yrs on

EMRUL HASAN BAPPI and ASHUTOSH SARKAR



"Governments keep changing one after another, but there has been no progress. Whom should I turn to for justice?" said Saleha Monir, 74, breaking down in tears as she spoke of her son, Sagar Sarowar, and daughter-in-law, Meherun Runi, who were murdered nearly 15 years ago.

Despite 131 deadlines having passed and a 132nd being set, investigators have yet to complete the probe.

"So many years have passed, yet nothing has been uncovered yet," Saleha said when contacted by phone on Sunday.

She said her only wish was to see those responsible brought to justice before her death.

Saleha said she had learnt from news reports that the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) task force had been granted another six months to complete the probe, but no one from the team had contacted her recently.

Nowsher Alam Roman, Runi's brother, who filed the case,

SEE PAGE 9 COL 2

Plan to split NBR back on the table

Proposed structure separates policy, implementation; reform bill likely in next JS session

New revenue reform bill likely in upcoming JS session

Revenue Implementation Division to be headed by secretary-rank chairman

General cadre officer to lead Revenue Policy Division

Reform remains key condition of IMF's $5.5bn loan programme

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Despite persistent uncertainty over the restructuring of the National Board of Revenue (NBR), sources in the Finance Division have indicated that the agency may eventually be split into two separate departments.

Based on the recommendations of a high-level government committee, a bill proposing the formation of the two divisions is likely to be placed before the upcoming session of parliament.

Under the new proposal, the Revenue Implementation Division will be headed by a chairman with the rank of secretary, alongside several other secretaries appointed from within the NBR.

The structure is similar to that of the ministries of foreign affairs and planning, both of which have multiple officials holding secretary rank.

Meanwhile, the secretary of the Revenue Policy Division will be appointed from among existing general cadre officers.

The division will include experts from various fields, including economists, chartered accountants and legal professionals.

On May 1, the government formed a committee to review the widely discussed revenue reform ordinances introduced by the Prof Muhammad Yunus-led interim administration.

The Revenue Policy and Revenue Management Ordinance and its subsequent amendment, along with 12 other ordinances, lost validity after parliament failed to ratify them within the constitutionally mandated 30-day period from its first sitting on March 12.

According to a Cabinet Division notification issued on April 28, the nine-member committee -- headed by Ismail Zabiullah, the prime minister's

SEE PAGE 9 COL 2

IN FOCUS

PM for coordinated quake preparedness

UNB, *Dhaka*



Prime Minister Tarique Rahman yesterday ordered the authorities concerned to take comprehensive preparations to deal with potential earthquake risks, identify vulnerable buildings and strengthen emergency rescue capabilities.

He gave the directives at a meeting on earthquake preparedness and response at the Prime Minister's Office at the Bangladesh Secretariat, said PM's Deputy Press Secretary Hasan Shiplu.

The prime minister stressed the need for a coordinated action plan to ensure public safety in Dhaka and other earthquake-prone areas across the country.

He also called for identifying vulnerable and old buildings, ensuring compliance with the National Building Code in construction and enhancing the capacity to conduct swift rescue operations during emergencies.

TAHSIF SOURI'S DEATH

Police analysing footage from eight CCTV cameras

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

River Police are analysing footage from at least eight CCTV cameras to reconstruct the final movements of former Bangladesh Air Force officer KM Tahsif Souri, whose body was recovered from the Turag river last week.



Investigators are examining the footage to trace Tahsif's movements from his Uttara residence to Mazarbasti in Tongi and identify those who accompanied or came into contact with him, said Inspector Firoz Uddin, the investigation officer.

However, what happened during Tahsif's nearly two-hour stay in Mazarbasti remains unclear.

Ahmed Shahriar Reza Dip, an acquaintance of Tahsif, and another female friend, who were with him that night, have been arrested and are being questioned.

Investigators are cross-checking their statements against CCTV footage and other digital evidence, including what they did and consumed at a bar and how they decided on their next destination, Firoz said.

Tahsif left his Uttara Sector 18 residence on a motorcycle on October 27 evening. His body was recovered from the Turag the following afternoon.

According to investigation sources and CCTV footage, Tahsif left home at 6:31pm on October 27, accompanied by Dip on separate motorcycles.

Between 6:32pm and 10:15pm, they were seen

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

Star pays tribute to Sohrab Hossain

Colleagues remember his dedication to journalism, humility and sincerity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Daily Star paid heartfelt tributes to late district correspondent Sohrab Hossain yesterday, remembering him as a dedicated journalist, a humble person and a cherished member of the newspaper family.

Sohrab Hossain, Patuakhali correspondent of The Daily Star for more than 22 years, died at Patuakhali Medical College Hospital on October 20. He was 55.

Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, said Sohrab's death was an irreparable loss for the organisation.

Describing district correspondents as the newspaper's eyes and ears across the country, Mahfuz Anam said Sohrab's departure felt like a light going out across an entire region.

He recalled Sohrab's sincerity, commitment to journalism and deep affection for the organisation.

He also expressed solidarity with Sohrab's bereaved family and assured them that the newspaper's colleagues would always stand beside them.

Kamal Ahmed, consulting editor at The Daily Star, recalled that one of Sohrab's reports on the clearing of a protected forest

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4



The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam hands over a commemorative crest to the family of the newspaper's late Patuakhali correspondent Sohrab Hossain during a memorial programme yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

QABM Rahman passes away

CITY DESK



Capt QABM Rahman, an Ekushey Padak winner and maritime pioneer who played a key role in establishing Bangladesh's shipping sector after independence, died on November 1. He was 91, said a press release.

Born in Faridpur on February 1, 1935, Rahman was widely recognised for his contributions to the maritime sector since the 1950s.

He joined as director of Ports, Shipping and Inland Waterways on December 18, 1971, as part of the advance party led by Secretary General Ruhul Quddus.

In 1972, he became the founding chairman and managing director of the Bangladesh Shipping Corporation. He later served as the regional adviser for Asia and the Pacific at the International Maritime Organization in Bangkok, Thailand.

After returning to Bangladesh, he again served as chairman of the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation.

He was a patron of Chhayanaut and Surer Dhara. In 2022, he was awarded the Ekushey Padak in recognition of his contributions during the Liberation War and his role in promoting Bangalee culture.

Teacher crisis cripples eight Bandarban schools

MONG SING HAI MARMA, *Bandarban*

An acute teacher shortage has disrupted academic activities at eight government high schools across Bandarban's seven upazilas, with 150 of 223 sanctioned teaching posts, or nearly 67 percent, lying vacant.

The schools, with 7,556 students, operate with barely one-third of the required teachers, affecting regular classes, syllabus completion and efforts to address learning gaps, particularly in mathematics, science, English and ICT.

A shortage of non-teaching staff has further strained daily operations, forcing teachers to take on additional administrative duties.

Bandarban Government Boys' and Girls' High Schools have only 20 and 19 teachers, respectively, against 53 sanctioned posts each. Roangchhari Government High School has just four teachers against 27 posts.

Alikadam Government High School has four teachers against 17 posts, Ruma five against 15, Thanchi six against 15, Lama nine against 27, and Naikhongchhari four against 16.



Students gather outside Bandarban Government High School premises during recess. Academic and administrative activities are being severely disrupted in eight government high schools across seven upazilas in the district. PHOTO: STAR

"We have informed the higher authorities several times, but to no avail. The school is struggling to run academic activities for 1,100 students," said Mamtaz Uddin, head teacher of Bandarban Government Girls' High School.

He said the school also has only two employees against 14 sanctioned non-teaching posts.

Mohammad Nurul Islam, head teacher of Alikadam Government High School, said, "Despite repeated requests, we received only one additional teacher. We are now managing everything with four teachers, struggling to complete the syllabus because of the lack of subject-specific teachers."

Mohammad Mustafizur Rahman, an assistant teacher at Bandarban Government Boys' High School, said the shortage of mathematics and science teachers was affecting regular classes and SSC results.

Kaching Hla Marma, a parent from Thanchi, said many students were eventually forced to choose humanities due to the shortage of mathematics and science teachers.

District Secondary Education Officer Mohammad Jasim Uddin said the shortage was particularly acute in ICT, English, mathematics and science. A list of vacant posts had been submitted to divisional authorities, he added.

"A group of teachers are likely to be posted within the next month. The government will try to fill vacant posts in CHT schools on a priority basis," said Muhammad Faridul Alam Hossaini, deputy director (Chattogram region) of the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education.

One killed, two hurt in Mirsarai road crash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Ctg*

A truck helper was killed and two others were injured after a truck rear-ended another on the Dhaka-Chattogram Highway in Baroiyarhat area of Mirsarai upazila yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Milon Mia, 20, helper of the truck that crashed into the vehicle ahead, police said.

The injured were identified as the truck's driver Mohammad Manik, 35, and helper of the other truck Billal, 37.

The accident occurred around 3:30am on the Chattogram-bound lane of the highway, said Rakibul Hasan, officer-in-charge (OC) of Jorarganj High Police Camp.

On information, police and firefighters went to the scene, rescued the injured and took them to Mirsarai Upazila Health Complex, where Milon succumbed to his injuries around 6:00am.

Police seized the two vehicles while filing of a case was underway, the OC added.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Special Branch, Bangladesh Police, Malibagh, Dhaka.
Invitation Reference No: SB-Immi-DPP/2026-27/42
Name of the Items: Multimodal Biometric Identification System (MBIS)
Tender ID- **1352360**

Memo No. 44.01.0000.086.43.009.26/45 Date: 02/11/2026

Re-Tender Corrigendum/Amendment Notice

Re-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal for the following Item. Interested Tenderers are requested to visit (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) website for details.

Field Name	Old value	New value
Document last selling date and time	03 November-2026, 16:00	22 November-2026, 16:00
Opening date and time	04 November-2026, 12:30	23 November-2026, 12:00
Last date and time of security submission	04 November-2026, 12:00	23 November-2026, 11:30
Closing date and time	04 November-2026, 12:30	23 November-2026, 12:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies are allowed. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP portal and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

02/11/2026

(Md. Asad Ullah Chowdhury, PPM)
Additional DIG (Immigration Wing)
Special Branch, Bangladesh Police, Dhaka
&
Proposed Project Director "Modernization of Immigration at the Third Terminal of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, Dhaka"
☎ 0244070319
e-mail: addldigimmisb@police.gov.bd

GD-2648

Trust Bank PLC.
A Bank for Financial Inclusion
Head Office, Shadhinata Tower, Bir Srestha Shaheed Jahangir Gate, Dhaka Cantonment, Dhaka-1206

TENDER NOTICE

1. Sealed **Double Envelope** tender is hereby invited by **Trust Bank PLC** from bonafide suppliers/vendors/firms for the following tender:

Procurement of 2,000 (Two Thousand) Unit of All-In-One Hybrid Payment Sound Box for Trust Bank PLC.

2. Interested bidders may collect Tender schedule after depositing tender schedule fee from Trust Bank PLC, Purchase & Procurement Department, Head Office, Shadhinata Tower (Level # 05), Bir Srestha Shaheed Jahangir Gate, Dhaka Cantonment, Dhaka.

Note: Trust Bank PLC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders, in part or full.

Purchase & Procurement Department, GSSD

STATUTORY NOTICE
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO. 1292 OF 2026
An application under section 81(2) and 85 of the Companies Act, 1994.
AND
IN THE MATTER OF: Khijir Chowdhury, Secretary General, **Bangladesh Embroidery Manufacturers & Exporters Association (BEMEA)** Registered Office at BGMEA Complex, House No. 7/7A (5th Floor), West Block, Unit-B, Block-H-1, Sector-17, Uttara, Dhaka-1230. **----Petitioner**
-Versus-
The Registrar of Joint stock Companies and Firms and another**----Respondents**
Notice is hereby given that an application under Section 81(2) and 85 of the Companies Act, 1994 was moved by the petitioner before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh comprising **Mr. Justice Syed Mohammed Tazrul Hossain** for condoning the delay of holding Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the company in the name & style **"Bangladesh Embroidery Manufacturers & Exporters Association (BEMEA)"** and after hearing the learned Advocate and considering the submission, the Hon'ble Court has been pleased to admit the said application on 15.10.2026 and fixed for compliance within 30 days from the date of publication of notice. Any person interested in the said application may appear before the court either himself or through his Advocate. A copy of the said application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of charges.
S.M. Jahangir Alam, Advocate
Supreme Court of Bangladesh, Room No.220, Main Building, Supreme Court Bar Association Building, Shahbag, Dhaka.
Mobile No: 01712836109.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Economic Relations Division
Ministry of Finance
CEFADeM Project
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
www.erd.gov.bd

Memo No: 09.00.0000.208.14.0015.25.55 Date: 02/11/2026

Tender Notice (e-GP)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the Procurement of goods mentioned in the table below:

Sl. No	Tender ID No.	Description of Goods/ work	Publication Date & Time	Last Selling Date & Time	Closing Date & Time	Opening Date & Time
1.	1358982	Procurement of Furniture	28.10.2026 at 11:00	12.11.2026 at 13:00	12.11.2026 at 14:00	12.11.2026 at 14:00

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

02.11.2026
Tahmina Zakaria
Deputy Secretary & Assitant Project Director
Phone: 9180787

GD-2654

Bank Asia
Bank Asia Tower, 32 & 34 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215.

TENDER NOTICE

Appointment of a consultancy firm to support end-to-end procurement of a Core Banking System (CBS) and Middleware Solution through vendor selection.

The sealed tender is hereby invited by a reputed Company/Firm for support end-to-end procurement of a Core Banking System (CBS) and Middleware Solution through vendor selection of Bank.

Appointment of a consultancy firm to support end-to-end procurement of a Core Banking System (CBS) and Middleware Solution through vendor selection.

Tender schedule in detail will be available at the Logistics & Support Services Division (LSSD), Corporate Office, Bank Asia Tower (1st Floor), 32 & 34, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka from **03/11/2026** to **04/11/2026** during office hour. Pre-bid will be on **05/11/2026**. Tender should be submitted in a tender box kept at the LSSD of the Bank on or before **11/11/2026** within 2:30 PM and the same will be opened at 3:00 PM on the same day in presence of the representatives (if any) of the bidders. Only well-regarded firms with a long business track record will be qualified for this bidding. The firm/vendor will support the following activities and objectives:

- Conduct gap analysis, finalize the scope, develop the RFP and evaluation framework, review procurement documents, support bid evaluation and negotiations, recommend bidders, and assist with Management and Board approvals.
- Prepare the RFP for the procurement of a future-ready, scalable Core Banking Solution and Middleware platform.
- Promote transparency, fairness, and competition in vendor selection.
- Reduce implementation and project risks through clearly defined requirements.
- Support the Bank's digital transformation initiatives and future business growth.
- Enhance operational efficiency, customer experience, regulatory compliance, and technology resilience.

Vendor eligibility:
1) The bidder should have valid Registration/Ownership documents, updated VAT & TIN certificate, up-to-date Trade License and up-to-date Bank Solvency Certificate.
2) The bank shall not be bound to or under any obligation to accept the lowest quotation.
3) The bidder would have experience in similar types of works.
4) Bank Asia reserves the right to accept, modify or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Head of Procurement
Logistics & Support Services Division (LSSD)
Corporate Office
Tel: 09617001100 (Ext. 611)

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA)
BRTA Bhaban, New Airport Road, Banani, Dhaka-1212.
www.brta.gov.bd

e-Tender Notice: OTM (Physical Service)

Ref No: 35.03.0000.000.001.07.0041.26-2026 **Date: 02 November 2026**

An e-Tender has been invited in e-GP system national portal (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of the following physical service by Director (Administration), Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA), BRTA HQ, Chairmanbari, Banani, Dhaka-1212.

SL No	Tender ID	Description	Tender Publication date & Time	Tender Document Last Selling date & time	Tender Closing/ Opening date & time
01	1355056	Procurement of 27 (Twenty-Seven) Rental Microbuses for BRTA Mobile Court Operations and Monitoring Activities.	02-Nov-2026 12:00 Hours (BST)	25-Nov-2026 16:00 Hours (BST)	26-Nov-2026 14:00 Hours (BST)

This is an online tender where only e-Tenders will be accepted in national e-GP portal system (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd). No offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-tender please register on e-GP Portal. Information's and guidelines are available in the national e-GP system portal and from e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

For further information, visit: https://www.eprocure.gov.bd

Rubaiyat E. Ashique
Director (Administration)
Phone: 02-41082986
E-mail: da@brta.gov.bd

GD-2659

Israeli strikes kill four in Gaza: medics

Six others injured

REUTERS, *Cairo*

Israeli strikes killed at least four Palestinians and wounded several others in the Gaza Strip yesterday, the territory's health officials said.

Medics said two people were killed and six others wounded in two separate airstrikes in Khan Younis, in the south of the enclave, while a third person was killed in an Israeli airstrike in the town of Al-Mussadar.

The Israeli military said it carried out two strikes in the enclave, targeting "Palestinian militants", without giving further information.

Hamas has denied trying to carry out attacks or rebuild its arsenal and accuses Israel of undermining the Gaza peace deal.

Meanwhile, Jordan's King Abdullah II yesterday said there would be no security in the Middle East region until the Palestinians' right to a homeland is fulfilled.

"We reiterate, time and again, that there can be no security or stability in our region without upholding the Palestinian people's right to their homeland," he told Jordan's parliament.

Jordan neighbours Israel and the occupied West Bank. It has long advocated for a two-state solution, and signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1994.

Jordan's king says 'no security or stability' in region without Palestinian homeland





US President Donald Trump, *left*, dances during a midterm campaign rally for Republican candidates at Salina Regional Airport in Salina, Kansas, US, on Sunday evening. *Right*, Democratic US Senate candidate from Texas James Talarico appears alongside Democratic Texas gubernatorial candidate Gina Hinojosa during a campaign rally at The Espee in San Antonio, Texas. Voters go to the polls today to decide who will control Congress for the final two years of Trump's term. PHOTO: REUTERS

Cyberattack on fridges hits EU supermarkets

REUTERS, *Stockholm*

Ahold Delhaize and Colruyt said yesterday that an IT incident overnight hit fridges and freezers in dozens of stores in Belgium and Luxembourg, while Swedish grocers ICA and Coop reported similar temperature spikes, with one store blaming a cyberattack.

The incidents follow an attack in France last month, in which police said hackers seized control of cooling units at hundreds of supermarkets, raising temperatures as high as 50 degrees Celsius (122 degrees Fahrenheit) and causing fires and food losses.

Ahold also reported a cybersecurity incident to Dutch police last month after it detected suspicious activity in its infrastructure. Yesterday, the Delhaize supermarket chain realised there were temperature increases in the cooling systems, Delhaize spokesperson Sarah De Meester said. The company is investigating the incident.

Stephan Moelans, the CEO of Belgian refrigeration company Sabcobel, which operates Delhaize's systems, told the Belga news agency that the incident was a cyberattack, in which the units' evaporators were switched to defrost mode. Moelans' office declined to comment when contacted by Reuters.

A spokesperson for Colruyt Group, which operates Spar stores in Belgium under a franchise system, said five shops had their fridge systems attacked. From refrigerators and heating systems to security cameras and alarm networks, an expanding range of devices once largely mechanical can now be monitored and controlled remotely, creating new opportunities for cybercriminals.

Emergency alert apps hit in Russia, Ukraine

AGENCIES

Russia said its emergency warnings app came under a "massive cyberattack" yesterday, hours after Ukraine reported a hack in an apparent exchange of blows between the foes, as their longest truce came to an end.

Moscow's emergencies ministry said hackers posted "false information" on the app, which is designed to warn the public of incoming drone attacks and other threats.

Hours earlier, Ukraine said it suspected its air raid alert system had been compromised, after baseless alerts of a radiation threat appeared on the app.

The cyber attacks came as the longest truce of the war, limited to Ukraine's eastern Kherson region, ended on Sunday after Russia refused the offer of an extension, according to Kyiv.

Moscow did not immediately say who was behind the attack on its app, while Ukraine's Center for Strategic Communications SPRAVDI blamed the hack it suffered on Russia.



The rare pause in fighting, brokered by US First Lady Melania Trump and which began last Tuesday, had enabled a humanitarian mission to the Russian-occupied city of Oleshky as the war grinds through its fifth year, reports AFP.

Soon after the ceasefire ended, Russia on Monday resumed attacks on Kherson region. "At around 8:00 am this morning, Russian occupiers attacked a car with a drone in the Korabelny city district" of Kherson, local authorities said in a statement, adding that an elderly woman and a man were wounded.

Russia refused a Ukrainian offer to extend the truce, a senior Ukrainian figure told AFP on Sunday.

US MIDTERMS

Democrats, Trump hold final rallies

AFP, *Washington*

Democrats held their final get-out-the-vote rallies yesterday, on the eve of today's midterm elections, in which they hope to win at least partial control of Congress and impose political constraints on President Donald Trump for the first time in two years.

All 435 seats in the House of Representatives and 35 of the Senate's 100 seats are being contested. Voters in 36 states will also elect governors. About 210 million registered voters are expected to cast their ballots.

Rallies -- including by star Democratic Senate candidates James Talarico in Texas and Adam Hamilton in Kansas -- were capping a campaign of breathtaking tension and bitterness.

For his closing argument, Trump chose a speech in Washington at the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool -- a landmark that has become synonymous with the 80-year-old president's obsessive, controversial drive to redevelop the US capital. "We're going to win," he said on Sunday evening.

Polls, however, show that Democrats are near certain to take the majority from Republicans in the House of Representatives and have a real shot at winning the currently Republican Senate.

Even winning just the House would mean Democrats have voting power over the federal budget and would lead powerful committees able to investigate alleged corruption under Trump, the Epstein files and other explosive issues.

The loss of total Republican dominance would push Trump into unfamiliar and uncomfortable territory: a lame-duck period beset with high inflation at home, the sputtering war against Iran and hostile Democratic investigations into his activities in Washington.

But a decade into the Trump era, Democrats remain wary about predictions of victory. "Nauseously optimistic," Democratic Senator Raphael Warnock told CNN to describe the mood.

Democrats are facing late internal divisions, with left-wing candidates clashing at times with the party's establishment. In a startling display of infighting on Sunday, Democratic congresswoman Haley Stevens in Michigan endorsed Republican candidate Mike Rogers against left-wing progressive candidate Abdul El-Sayed in her state's key Senate race.

Trump was quick to praise Stevens for her "bravery", posting on his Truth Social platform that "Haley said what few people are willing to say."



Unsuccessful Democratic primary candidate Stevens backs Republican Rogers in Michigan

ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন

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তারিখঃ ১৬ কার্তিক, ১৪৩৩ বঙ্গাব্দ / ০১ নভেম্বর, ২০২৬ খ্রিস্টাব্দ

পুনঃনিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের রাজস্বখাতভুক্ত নিম্নবর্ণিত শূন্য পদসমূহ পূরণের জন্য বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে অনলাইনে (http://dscc.teletalk.com.bd ওয়েবসাইটে) আবেদনপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। অনলাইন (Online) ব্যতীত কোন আবেদন গ্রহণ করা হবে নাঃ

ক্র. নং	পদের নাম ও বেতন স্কেল (জা. বে. স্কেল, ২০১৫ অনুযায়ী)	পদের সংখ্যা	বয়স সীমা	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা
১	২	৩	৪	৫
১.	সহকারী প্রকৌশলী (পুর) ২২,০০০-৫৩,০৬০/- (৯ম গ্রেড)	৬ (ছয়)টি	১৮-৩২ বছর	কোনো স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে পুর কৌশলে অন্যূন দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণি বা সমমানের সিজিপিএতে স্নাতক বা সমমানের ডিগ্রি।
২.	সহকারী প্রকৌশলী (বিদ্যুৎ) ২২,০০০-৫৩,০৬০/- (৯ম গ্রেড)	২ (দুই)টি	১৮-৩২ বছর	কোনো স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে বিদ্যুৎ প্রকৌশলে অন্যূন দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণি বা সমমানের সিজিপিএতে স্নাতক বা সমমানের ডিগ্রি।
৩.	সহকারী প্রকৌশলী (যান্ত্রিক) ২২,০০০-৫৩,০৬০/- (৯ম গ্রেড)	১ (এক)টি	১৮-৩২ বছর	কোনো স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে যন্ত্র প্রকৌশলে অন্যূন দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণি বা সমমানের সিজিপিএতে স্নাতক বা সমমানের ডিগ্রি।
৪.	উপ-সহকারী প্রকৌশলী (পুর) ১৬০০০-৩৮৬৪০/- (১০ম গ্রেড)	৫ (পাঁচ)টি	১৮-৩২ বছর	কোনো স্বীকৃত ইনস্টিটিউট বা প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে পুর কৌশলে ডিপ্লোমা।
৫.	উপ-সহকারী প্রকৌশলী (যান্ত্রিক) ১৬০০০-৩৮৬৪০/- (১০ম গ্রেড)	১ (এক)টি	১৮-৩২ বছর	কোনো স্বীকৃত ইনস্টিটিউট বা প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে যান্ত্রিক, পাওয়ার বা অটোমোবাইল প্রকৌশলে ডিপ্লোমা।
৬.	উপ-সহকারী প্রকৌশলী (বিদ্যুৎ) ১৬০০০-৩৮৬৪০/- (১০ম গ্রেড)	৩ (তিন)টি	১৮-৩২ বছর	কোনো স্বীকৃত ইনস্টিটিউট বা প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে বিদ্যুৎ প্রকৌশলে ডিপ্লোমা।

২। নিম্নলিখিত শর্তাবলী অবশ্যই অনুসরণ করতে হবেঃ

১। ০৫ নভেম্বর, ২০২৬ তারিখে প্রার্থীর বয়সসীমা ১৮ থেকে ৩২ বছর হতে হবে। এসএসসি সনদের ভিত্তিতে বয়স নির্ধারণ করা হবে। বয়স প্রমাণের ক্ষেত্রে এফিডেভিট গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়;

২। সরকারি/আধাসরকারি/স্বায়ত্তশাসিত ও সংবিধিবদ্ধ সংস্থায় কর্মরত প্রার্থীদেরকে অবশ্যই যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের অনুমতিক্রমে আবেদন করতে হবে। সকল চাকুরিরত প্রার্থীকে মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ প্রদত্ত অনাপত্তি/ছাড়পত্রের মূলকপি জমা দিতে হবে;

৩। নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন কর্মচারি চাকুরি বিধিমালা, ২০১৯, কোটা পদ্ধতি ও প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে সরকারের সর্বশেষ জারিকৃত বিধি-বিধান/নীতিমালা যথাযথভাবে অনুসরণ করা হবে;

৪। মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় সকল সনদপত্রের মূল কপি প্রদর্শন করতে হবে এবং Online-এ পূরণকৃত আবেদনপত্রের একটি প্রিন্ট কপিসহ (ক) সকল শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি (খ) পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ৪ কপি ছবি (গ) জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র/জন্মনিবন্ধন সনদ (প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে) (ঘ) নাগরিকত্ব সনদ (ঙ) চারিত্রিক সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি;

৫। কোটা দাবির সমর্থনে প্রার্থীকে সর্বশেষ নীতিমালা অনুযায়ী যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সনদ/প্রমাণপত্রের সত্যায়িত ছায়ালিপি দাখিল করতে হবে;

৬। লিখিত ও মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য কোন প্রকার TA/DA প্রদান করা হবে না;

৭। বিজ্ঞপ্তি অনুযায়ী উল্লিখিত পদের জন্য লিখিত ও মৌখিক পরীক্ষা গ্রহণ করা হবে। লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীরা মৌখিক পরীক্ষার জন্য যোগ্য বিবেচিত হবেন;

৮। পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণে ইচ্ছুক প্রার্থীগণ http://dscc.teletalk.com.bd ওয়েবসাইটে আবেদনপত্র পূরণ করতে পারবেন। আবেদনপত্রের বিস্তারিত নিয়মাবলী http://dscc.teletalk.com.bd এবং www.dscc.gov.bd ওয়েবসাইটে পাওয়া যাবে। আবেদনের সময়সীমা নিম্নরূপঃ

(I) Online-এ আবেদনপত্র পূরণ ও পরীক্ষার ফি জমাদান শুরুর তারিখ ও সময়ঃ ০৫ নভেম্বর, ২০২৬ সকালঃ ১০.০০ টা।

(II) Online-এ আবেদনপত্র জমাদানের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়ঃ ২৬ নভেম্বর, ২০২৬ তারিখ বিকালঃ ৫.০০ টা।

(III) উক্ত বয়সসীমার মধ্যে User ID প্রাপ্ত প্রার্থীগণ Online-এ আবেদনপত্র Submit এর সময় থেকে পরবর্তী ৭২ (বাহাত্তর) ঘন্টার মধ্যে এসএমএস এর মাধ্যমে পরীক্ষার ফি জমা দিতে পারবেন;

৯। আবেদনকারীকে পরীক্ষার ফি বাবদ বিজ্ঞপ্তির ১ হতে ৬ নং ক্রমিকের পদের জন্য পরীক্ষার ফি বাবদ ২০০/- (দুইশত) টাকা ও টেলিটক এর সার্ভিস চার্জ বাবদ ২৩/- (তেইশ) টাকাসহ মোট ২২৩/- (দুইশত তেইশ) টাকা, তবে সকল গ্রেডের পদের ক্ষেত্রে অনগ্রসর শ্রেণির (ক্ষুদ্র নৃ-গোষ্ঠী, শারীরিক প্রতিবন্ধী ও তৃতীয় লিঙ্গের) প্রার্থীরা আবেদন ফি বাবদ ৫০/- (পঞ্চাশ) টাকা ও টেলিটক এর সার্ভিস চার্জ বাবদ (ভ্যাটসহ অফেরতযোগ্য) ৬/- (ছয়) টাকাসহ সর্বমোট ৫৬/- (ছাপ্পান্ন) টাকা Teletalk pre-paid mobile ব্যবহার করে প্রদান করতে হবে।

১০। online এ আবেদন করতে সমস্যা হলে টেলিটক নম্বর থেকে ১২১ নাম্বারে ফোন করে তথ্য জানা যাবে অথবা alljobs.query@teletalk.com.bd ই-মেইলে যোগাযোগ করা যাবে;

১১। কোনো কারণ উল্লেখ ব্যতিরেকে এ নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি আংশিক বা সম্পূর্ণ সংশোধন/স্থগিত/বাতিল করার ক্ষমতাসহ নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে উল্লিখিত পদ সংখ্যা দাপ্তরিক প্রয়োজন ও জনস্বার্থে কম/বেশি করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন;

১২। নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত বিষয়ে নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে;

১৩। প্রার্থী কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত কোন তথ্য বা দাখিলকৃত কাগজপত্র জাল, মিথ্যা বা ভুয়া প্রমাণিত হলে কিংবা পরীক্ষায় নকল বা অসদুপায় অবলম্বন করলে সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রার্থীর প্রার্থীতা বাতিল করা হবে এবং তার বিরুদ্ধে যথাযথ আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে। ভুল তথ্য/জাল কাগজপত্র প্রদর্শিত হলে পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ যে কোনো প্রার্থীর প্রার্থিতা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন;

১৪। গত ০৩ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২৫ তারিখের ৪৬.২০৭.০০০.০৩.০২.২৭১৯.২০১৯-৪২৭ নম্বর স্মারকে দৈনিক আমার দেশ ও New age পত্রিকায় এ নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশিত হয়। উক্ত নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি মোতাবেক যারা আবেদন করেছেন, তাদের নতুন করে আবেদন করার প্রয়োজন নেই;

১৫। উল্লেখ করা হয়নি এমন ক্ষেত্রে সরকারের সর্বশেষ জারিকৃত বিধি-বিধান প্রযোজ্য হবে;

অনলাইনে আবেদন করার বিস্তারিত নিয়মাবলীঃ

ক. পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণে ইচ্ছুক প্রার্থীগণ http://dscc.teletalk.com.bd ওয়েবসাইটে আবেদনপত্র পূরণ করতে পারবেন। আবেদনের সময়সীমা নিম্নরূপঃ
(i) Online -এ আবেদনপত্র পূরণ ও পরীক্ষার ফি জমাদান শুরুর তারিখ ও সময়ঃ ০৫ নভেম্বর, ২০২৬ সকালঃ ১০.০০ টা।
(ii) Online-এ আবেদনপত্র জমাদানের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়ঃ ২৬ নভেম্বর, ২০২৬ বিকালঃ ০৫.০০ টা।
উক্ত সময়সীমার মধ্যে User ID প্রাপ্ত প্রার্থীগণ Online-এ আবেদনপত্র Submit এর সময় থেকে পরবর্তী ৭২ (বাহাত্তর) ঘন্টার মধ্যে এসএমএস এর মাধ্যমে পরীক্ষার ফি জমা দিতে পারবেন;

খ. Online আবেদনপত্রে প্রার্থী তাঁর রঙিন ছবি (দৈর্ঘ্য ৩০০ x প্রস্থ ৩০০) pixel ও স্বাক্ষর (দৈর্ঘ্য ৩০০ x প্রস্থ ৮০) pixel স্ক্যান করে নির্ধারিত স্থানে Upload করবেন। ছবির সাইজ সর্বোচ্চ 100 KB ও স্বাক্ষরের সাইজ সর্বোচ্চ 60 KB হতে হবে;

গ. Online আবেদনপত্রে পূরণকৃত তথ্যই যেহেতু পরবর্তী সকল কার্যক্রমে ব্যবহৃত হবে, সেহেতু Online -এ আবেদনপত্র Submit করার পূর্বেই পূরণকৃত সকল তথ্যের সঠিকতা সম্পর্কে প্রার্থী নিজে শতভাগ নিশ্চিত হবেন;

ঘ. প্রার্থী Online -এ পূরণকৃত আবেদনপত্রের একটি প্রিন্ট কপি পরীক্ষা সংক্রান্ত যে কোনো প্রয়োজনের সহায়ক হিসেবে সংরক্ষণ করবেন এবং মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় এক কপি জমা দিবেন;

ঙ. SMS প্রেরণের নিয়মাবলী ও পরীক্ষার ফি প্রদানঃ Online -এ আবেদনপত্র (Application Form) যথাযথভাবে পূরণ করে নির্দেশনা মতে ছবি এবং Signature Upload করে আবেদনপত্র Submit করা সম্পন্ন হলে কম্পিউটারে ছবিসহ Application Preview দেখা যাবে। নির্ভুলভাবে আবেদনপত্র Submit করা সম্পন্ন প্রার্থী একটি User ID, ছবি এবং স্বাক্ষরযুক্ত একটি Applicant's copy পাবেন। উক্ত Applicant's copy প্রার্থী প্রিন্ট অথবা ডাউনলোড করে সংরক্ষণ করবেন। Applicant's কপিতে একটি User ID নম্বর দেয়া থাকবে। উক্ত User ID নম্বর ব্যবহার করে প্রার্থী নিম্নোক্ত পদ্ধতিতে যে কোনো teletalk pre-paid mobile নম্বরের মাধ্যমে ০২ (দুই) টি SMS করে বিজ্ঞপ্তির ১ হতে ৬ নং ক্রমিকের পদের জন্য পরীক্ষার ফি বাবদ ২০০/-(দুইশত) টাকা ও টেলিটক এর সার্ভিস চার্জ বাবদ ২৩/- (তেইশ) টাকাসহ মোট ২২৩/- (দুইশত তেইশ টাকা); অনধিক ৭২ (বাহাত্তর) ঘন্টার মধ্যে জমা দিতে হবে। তবে সকল গ্রেডের পদের ক্ষেত্রে অনগ্রসর শ্রেণির (ক্ষুদ্র নৃ-গোষ্ঠী, শারীরিক প্রতিবন্ধী ও তৃতীয় লিঙ্গের প্রার্থীগণ) প্রার্থীরা আবেদন ফি বাবদ ৫০/- (পঞ্চাশ) টাকা ও টেলিটক এর সার্ভিস চার্জ বাবদ (ভ্যাটসহ অফেরতযোগ্য) ৬/- (ছয়) টাকাসহ সর্বমোট ৫৬/- (ছাপ্পান্ন) টাকা ৭২ ঘন্টার মধ্যে জমা দিবেন। বিশেষভাবে উল্লেখ্য, Online এ আবেদনপত্রের সকল অংশ পূরণ করে Submit করা হলেও পরীক্ষার ফি জমা না দেয়া পর্যন্ত Online এ আবেদনপত্র কোন অবস্থাতেই গৃহীত হবে না"।

প্রথম SMS: DSCC<space>User ID লিখে Send করতে হবে 16222 নম্বরে।
Example: DSCC ABCDEF
Reply: Applicant's Name, Tk. 223 will be charged as application fee. Your PIN is XXXXXXXX. To pay fee Type DSCC<Space>Yes<Space>PIN and send to 16222 নম্বরে।
দ্বিতীয় SMS: DSCC<space>YES<space>PIN লিখে Send করতে হবে 16222 নম্বরে।
Example: DSCC YES XXXXXXXX
Reply: Congratulations Applicant's Name, payment completed successfully for DSCC Application for XXXXXXXXXXXX User ID is (ABCDEF) and Password (XXXXXXX).

চ. প্রবেশপত্র প্রাপ্তির বিষয়টি http://dscc.teletalk.com.bd অথবা ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন এর Website: www.dscc.gov.bd'র এবং প্রার্থীর মোবাইল ফোনে SMS এর মাধ্যমে (শুধু যোগ্য প্রার্থীদেরকে) যথাসময়ে জানানো হবে। Online আবেদনপত্রে প্রার্থীর প্রদত্ত মোবাইল ফোনে পরীক্ষা সংক্রান্ত যাবতীয় যোগাযোগ সম্পন্ন করা হবে বিধায় উক্ত নম্বরটি সার্বক্ষণিক সচল রাখা, SMS পড়া এবং প্রাপ্ত নির্দেশনা তাৎক্ষণিক অনুসরণ করা বাঞ্ছনীয়।

ছ. SMS -এ প্রেরিত User ID এবং Password ব্যবহার করে পরবর্তীতে রোল নম্বর, পদের নাম, ছবি, পরীক্ষার তারিখ, সময় ও কেন্দ্রের নাম ইত্যাদি তথ্য সম্বলিত প্রবেশপত্র প্রার্থী Download পূর্বক Print (সম্ভব হলে রঙিন) করে নিবেন। প্রার্থী এই প্রবেশপত্রটি লিখিত পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণের সময়ে এবং উত্তীর্ণ হলে মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময়ে অবশ্যই প্রদর্শন করবেন।

জ. শুধু টেলিটক প্রি-পেইড মোবাইল ফোন থেকে প্রার্থীগণ নিম্নবর্ণিত SMS পদ্ধতি অনুসরণ করে নিজ নিজ User ID, Serial এবং PIN পুনরুদ্ধার করতে পারবেন।
i. User ID জানা থাকলেDSCC<space>Help<space>User<space>User ID & Send to 16222.
Example: DSCC HELP USER ABCDEF
ii. PIN Number জানা থাকলেDSCC<space>Help<space>PIN<space>PIN No & Send to 16222.
Example: DSCC HELP PIN 12345678

ডিএসসিসি/পিআরডি/১১০/২০২৬-২৭

(মোঃ মশিউর রহমান খান)
সচিব
ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন

GD-2660

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

Listen to the workers before unrest

Govt must establish an effective channel for resolving RMG workers' grievances

Why must factory workers take to the streets, block major thoroughfares, and bring production to a halt before their grievances receive serious attention? This is a question the government and all industry stakeholders must answer as RMG workers continue demonstrating on the streets, pressing for a minimum monthly wage of Tk 30,000. Over the past few days, workers have been protesting at major RMG hubs within and outside Dhaka city, demanding a hike from the current Tk 12,500 minimum wage. This has caused disruption in production and damage to both private and public properties, not to mention immense public suffering.

This demand has reasonable grounds: persistent inflation, rising house rent, transport costs, and other essential expenses have steadily eroded workers' purchasing power. A report by this daily also highlights allegations of arbitrary dismissals and blacklisting of workers. Through their demonstrations, RMG workers are asking for fair pay and labour practices. But why did they have to take to the streets in the first place? The government announced its intention to form the new minimum wage board on October 15, but the process was not completed until Sunday, after workers' agitation had intensified. With the three-year wage-review deadline approaching in December, why was the process not initiated much earlier? Had the government not delayed the wage board formation, the situation might not have escalated this far.

Instead, Sunday's blockade kept the Dhaka-Tangail highway closed for around six hours, while Monday's renewed blockade caused long traffic tailbacks. Police say that, driven by a rumour of some workers' detention, protesters vandalised and torched police vehicles and boxes. Police retaliated with tear gas and water cannons to disperse them. At least 529 RMG factories in Mirpur, Savar, Ashulia, Gazipur, and Mymensingh declared a "holiday", while violence in Gazipur left at least 25 people injured.

The government should designate a minister—preferably the labour and employment minister—as a permanent and accessible liaison between RMG workers and factory owners.

This has again exposed the failure of existing mechanisms for resolving labour disputes. To fill the gap, the government should designate a minister—preferably the labour and employment minister—as a permanent and accessible liaison between RMG workers and factory owners. Workers must have a reliable channel to communicate grievances, seek intervention, and obtain timely responses. They should be encouraged to approach this channel before resorting to street demonstrations. The minister, in turn, must have the authority and willingness to bring employers to the negotiating table. Such a mechanism should not restrict workers' right to peaceful protest, but make it less necessary to exercise that right through disruptive action. Workers must also recognise that violent and aggressive campaigns cannot become a routine means of voicing grievances.

RMG workers are a major driving force behind our export economy. The government and factory owners alike must be sympathetic to their plights and ensure that the new wage board completes its work without unnecessary delay. Equally, workers need effective avenues for negotiation and should use them before taking disputes to the streets. Our industries must be built on fair wages, accountability, and trust.

30 years of the other opinion

Al Jazeera's enduring contribution to journalism deserves recognition

On November 1, 1996, Al Jazeera went on air with a promise: "the opinion... and the other opinion." Launched by Qatar's late Father Emir, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, and staffed largely by journalists from the BBC's shuttered Arabic service, Al Jazeera gave the world an authentic Arab voice. Dissidents, Islamists, and Israeli voices appeared on the same screens, airing debates that had been largely absent from the region's media.

Its larger achievement, though, has been global. For decades, news flowed one way, from London and Atlanta to the rest of the world. Al Jazeera reversed that current. For the first time, the BBC and CNN faced a credible rival that questioned their framing and told the Global South's stories from the ground up rather than from distant Global-North capitals. Al Jazeera's coverage of the US-led wars in Afghanistan and Iraq challenged Western narratives, foregrounding civilian suffering while many Western journalists reported alongside US troops. Its coverage of the 2011 Arab Spring brought the uprisings to millions worldwide and earned Al Jazeera English a Peabody Award.

Perhaps Al Jazeera's most consequential journalism has been its coverage of Israel's war in Gaza. With Israel barring foreign journalists' independent access, Al Jazeera's Palestinian correspondents have documented the atrocities at great personal risk, several losing their lives. Their reporting has challenged Western media narratives of obscuring Palestinian suffering. A 2024 investigation revealed that The New York Times had instructed its journalists to restrict the use of "genocide" and avoid "occupied territory".

Bangladesh has felt the channel's reach, too. In 2021, at the height of Sheikh Hasina's power, its investigative documentary All the Prime Minister's Men exposed how the brothers of the then-sitting army chief, General Aziz Ahmed, had escaped the law and profited from their proximity to power. And when mobs torched The Daily Star's offices last December, trapping 28 colleagues for four hours, Al Jazeera helped draw international attention to the attack. Al Jazeera has also pioneered new approaches to journalism. Its Investigative Unit gained global recognition for its in-depth exposés, while AJ+, launched in 2014, helped popularise mobile-first, social media-driven news formats.

None of this places Al Jazeera beyond criticism; its Qatari funding and its selective silences deserve scrutiny. But when the world's most powerful newsrooms looked away, Al Jazeera looked closer. The world is better informed because it exists. At 30, we celebrate its steadfast fight to publish "the other opinion".

The RMG sector must balance fair wages and industry competitiveness



Dr Selim Raihan is professor in the Department of Economics at Dhaka University and executive director at South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (Sanem). He can be reached at selim.raihan@gmail.com.

■ **SELIM RAIHAN**

The latest labour unrest in the country's ready-made garment (RMG) sector, factory closures, and the workers' demands for a substantial hike in minimum wages have once again brought an important economic and industrial issue to the fore. More than 500 RMG factories in Mirpur, Savar, Gazipur, Ashulia and Mymensingh have declared a "holiday" due to protests by workers, who are demanding that their monthly minimum wage be raised from Tk 12,500 to Tk 30,000. The protests have been marked by road blocks and sporadic violence in several places, with public property as well as several factories vandalised and set ablaze. The government has responded by deploying law enforcement and forming a new minimum wage board, although no deadline has been set for announcing the new wage structure. As discussion advances, several factors must be taken into account: the erosion of workers' purchasing power due to rising cost of living, the industry's ability to pay, and Bangladesh's competitiveness in the international market.

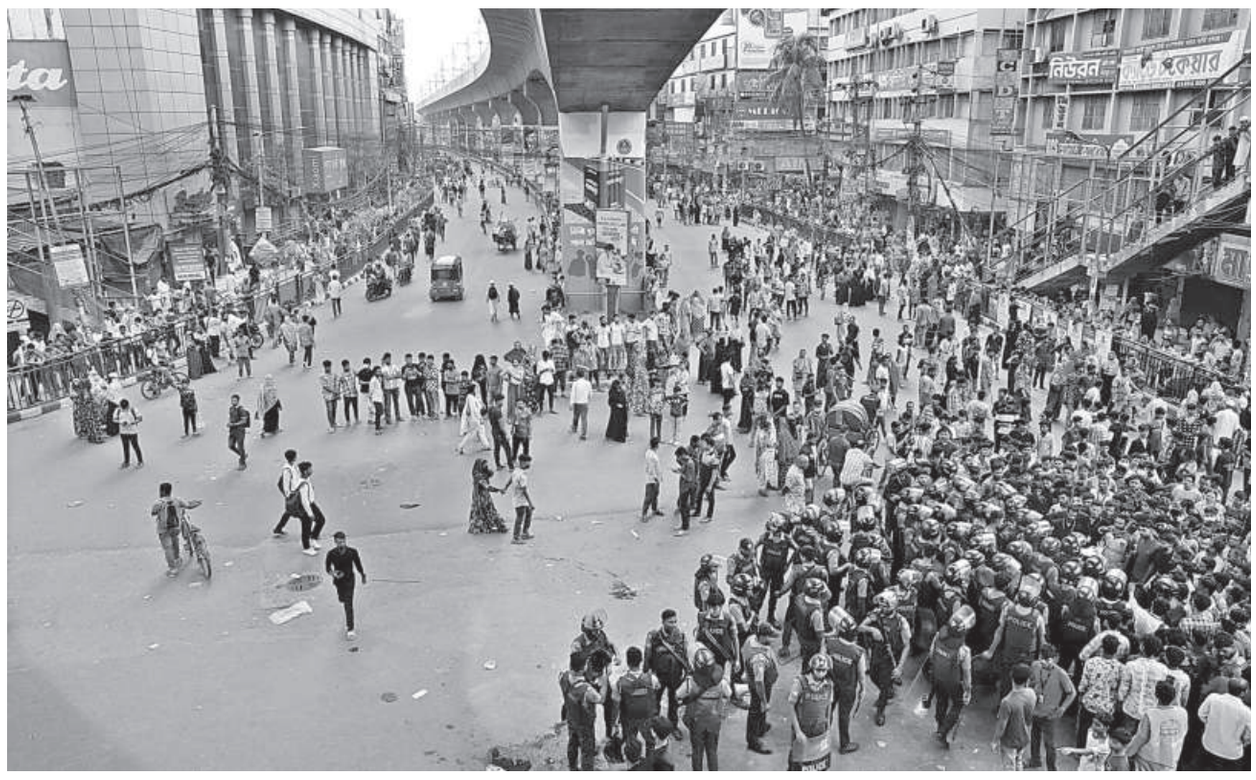
Over the past three years, high inflation and rising prices of food and other essentials have significantly reduced the workers' real incomes and purchasing power. Therefore, their demand for a revised wage structure cannot be seen solely as a request for more money, but rather as an attempt to regain their ability to afford necessities. Besides, since 1985, which was more than four decades ago, wages in this sector have been revised only six times, increasing from Tk 627 to Tk 12,500.

Unlike some of our international competitors in the global RMG manufacturing industry, our minimum wage revision has not been incremental or regular. Over the years, it has been more reactive and often politically charged, with revisions arriving mostly after labour unrest. This time, too, the situation has arisen following a similar pattern. That is why the government's role in this case deserves scrutiny. Although plans to form a new wage board were announced on October 15, meaningful action was delayed. The decision to move forward with the wage board only after protests, road blockades, and factory closures points to shortcomings in the government's ability to anticipate labour disputes and engage effectively with the industry stakeholders. Timely intervention might have prevented the situation from escalating and reduced the resulting disruption to production.

A reasonable balance must be struck between workers' demands for their right to earn a fair wage and the financial ability of the RMG industry to continue operating. In determining what constitutes a fair and sustainable wage, the wage board will have to take into account the actual cost of living, inflation rates, the financial capacity of the RMG industry, and the international competitive environment.

From both economic and industrial perspectives, raising the current minimum wage of Tk 12,500 to Tk 30,000 all at once would put significant financial pressure on RMG product exporters. In particular, small and medium-sized factories with low profit margins would face a substantial increase in production costs. The industry is already under strain due to lower export orders, higher energy costs, the global economic recession, and domestic inflation. Thus, finding a compromise that balances the need for higher wages with the factories' ability to pay them will be challenging.

Increased production costs could push up export prices, potentially weakening the country's price competitiveness against Vietnam, India, Cambodia and other competing countries. Moreover, many international buyers are unwilling to provide additional funding to cover higher production costs, leaving factory owners to absorb most of the additional expenses.



Agitating RMG workers block Mirpur-10 intersection in Dhaka on November 1, 2026. PHOTO: **ANISUR RAHMAN**

While recognising that the industry faces numerous challenges, we cannot overlook the fact that workers' real incomes have continuously declined. Moreover, unresolved labour disputes, work stoppages, factory closures, production delays, and shipping delays would continue to undermine buyer confidence in Bangladesh and ultimately hurt the country's export capabilities.

Therefore, a reasonable balance must be struck between workers' demands for their right to earn a fair wage and the financial ability of the RMG industry to continue operating. In determining what constitutes a fair and sustainable wage, the wage board will have to take into account the actual cost of living, inflation rates, the financial capacity of the RMG industry, and the international competitive environment.

Instead of increasing wages rapidly in one large step, a gradual increase over time could be implemented alongside other measures, such as improving worker productivity, investing in new technologies, and strengthening the overall management of factories. Equally important is meaningful engagement with international buyers to secure fairer prices for Bangladeshi products. International brands and retailers also need to accept greater responsibility for ensuring that the costs associated with providing decent wages to workers are incorporated into the prices they pay their suppliers.

In the meantime, the government must stop simply reacting to crises after they occur. Instead, it should establish an ongoing dialogue with workers and employers, review wages periodically, and develop and enforce effective labour laws.

It is important to note that Bangladesh's competitive position in the global RMG industry should not rely solely on maintaining low wages. Rather, the country's ability to remain competitive will increasingly depend on improving productivity, enhancing product quality, managing businesses effectively, and maintaining positive relationships between workers and employers. Ensuring decent living standards for the workers and sustaining industrial growth are not conflicting goals. Both are essential for building a stronger, more responsible, and globally competitive RMG industry in the long run.

How to put idle public assets to work



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■ **ASHFAQ ZAMAN**

In Khalishpur, Platinum Jubilee Jute Mills is being passed to Hamko Group on a 30-year lease. Pran-RFL has taken Star Jute Mills in Khulna and National Jute Mills in Sirajganj, and has already reopened the Rajshahi Textile and Jute Mills under a public-private partnership. Of the 25 jute mills closed in 2020, 14 have been leased and nine are producing again. A single 14.8-acre lease at Narsingdi is expected to draw Tk 1,000 crore of investment, nearly Tk 3,000 crore of annual production and at least 3,000 jobs.

This is asset recycling in action, and the government deserves credit for moving within months of taking office. Invest Bangladesh has published a portfolio of 44 investment opportunities across more than 10,000 acres under five state corporations, from a proposed green steel mill in Bogura to textile, chemical, and agro-processing sites. A draft policy under Section 48 of the Invest Bangladesh Act, 2026 has completed public consultation, promising competitive, transparent transfer of unused assets while the state keeps ownership. The finance minister framed the FY2026-27 budget around stabilisation and private sector-led growth, and the government has signalled that the state should enable investment rather than compete with it. The opportunity now is to scale this into a national strategy.

A recent World Bank study found that state enterprises cost the exchequer nearly Tk 88,200 crore in a single year, with a return on assets of negative 5.2 percent, compared to positive 9.7 percent in India and almost 12 percent in Vietnam. The same study estimated that Bangladesh could mobilise more than Tk 1.2 lakh crore in additional fiscal resources annually if its enterprises earned a 10-percent return. Viewed against the Tk 1.27 lakh crore the budget allocates to interest payments, it is clear that the cure to the debt burden lies in land and factories that already have access to gas, power, and roads.

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Three moves could turn today's promising transactions into that larger programme.

The first is a complete public register. The current portfolio covers industrial corporations, but the wider estate is larger still. Bangladesh Railway's 2021-22 annual report recorded 61,860 acres, of which nearly 12,000 lay unused. With BTCL's exchange plots in Dhaka and Chattogram, BIWTA foreshore land, sugar estates such as Shyampur in Rangpur, idle since 2020, and commercial plots held by ministries and state banks, the recyclable estate plausibly runs to tens of thousands of acres. A geotagged online register, detailing each plot's size, encumbrances, and independent valuation, would allow investors to price opportunities and parliament to scrutinise decisions, in addition to exposing encroachment to all. Adamjee offers a precedent: the jute mill closed in 2002 and its site now generates far more employment and exports as an export processing zone than the mill ever did. The railway acres invite Hong Kong's rail-plus-property model, where development around stations funds the transport itself. Each cluster in the register could carry a designated future, whether human-made fibre at BTMC sites, agro-processing on sugar land, or solar generation on mill estates too remote for industry.

The second move, the one that could most distinguish this programme, is dedicated financing for the domestic firms taking these assets on. Recycling works only if investors can fund the modernisation each site needs; much of the machinery is outdated. Bangladesh Bank has already shown the instinct, unveiling a Tk 60,000 crore stimulus fund with Tk 20,000 crore earmarked for closed industrial enterprises. The government could now go further and create a formal Asset Recycling Refinance Window, modelled on the Export Development Fund. This would be a concessional-rate, long-tenor credit available only against a registered lease of a state asset, with a partial credit guarantee for first-time lessees. Tying cheap money to the register would pull domestic conglomerates and medium-sized firms alike towards recycled sites rather than greenfield land; the lease itself, bankable and state-backed, becomes the collateral.

The third move is to show the public where the money goes. A ring-fenced asset recycling fund at the Finance Division could split proceeds between retiring the costliest domestic debt and co-financing infrastructure, with a published annual statement. Bangladesh has issued sovereign ijarah sukuk since 2020, and because an ijarah requires an underlying asset, registered state property is a natural base for an asset-backed sukuk programme tapping sharia-compliant liquidity. BSEC finalised its REIT rules in 2024; a flagship state-sponsored REIT on rented public property, sold in small units to diaspora savers through the wage earner bond channel, would anchor the capital market while the state keeps the land. In time, digitally registered fractional units piloted through BSEC's sandbox could widen participation further.

If 2,000 of the portfolio's 10,000 acres drew investment at half the Narsingdi intensity of roughly Tk 70 crore per acre, that alone is Tk 70,000 crore of private capital. Add the World Bank's estimated fiscal gains and modest lease and REIT income, and a 10-year programme could plausibly mobilise upwards of Tk 2 lakh crore, without a single distressed sale. Two safeguards would secure legitimacy: settling the dues of workers from closed mills from the earliest proceeds, and publishing every major lease in full. With those in place, the government may find it has begun something larger than reviving old mills: the financing model for Bangladesh's next growth cycle, hiding in plain sight on its own land.

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From Buriganga to the Sundarbans, BNP keeps contradicting its own environmental pledges



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■ KALLOL MUSTAFA

Before the February election, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) made several important commitments regarding environmental protection and sustainable development. Since taking office, the BNP-led government has launched a number of initiatives to fulfil those pledges, including tree-planting programmes and the excavation of rivers and canals. Prime Minister Tarique Rahman regularly emphasises the importance of protecting rivers, forests, and the environment. However, in the meantime, the government has also taken several decisions and initiatives on environment-related matters that directly contradict the party's electoral commitments and the PM's own statements.

For example, the BNP's election manifesto pledged to take prompt, appropriate, and effective measures to protect Dhaka from pollution. It also committed to use natural low-lying areas as water retention zones. In addition, the party promised to introduce a "Green Canal Bank Model" along riverbanks and canal banks, creating a new green economy through tree planting, biodiversity conservation, and the development of ecotourism.

In September, the PM instructed his government's ministries to undertake coordinated initiatives to control pollution in the rivers surrounding Dhaka. He said, "We must strive to leave behind pollution-free rivers and a liveable environment not only for ourselves but also for future generations." Yet, the amendments made by the Ministry of Housing and Public Works to the Detailed Area Plan (DAP) are likely to benefit real estate developers and industrial owners while worsening river pollution and waterlogging around the capital and further reducing its liveability. A gazette notification issued by the ministry on October 14 announced three amendments to the DAP. Through these amendments, the government has decided to allow heavy industries to be established on open land along the bank of the Buriganga River. It has also removed the requirement to preserve designated strategic flood flow zones, thereby opening up these areas for housing project development. Remarkably, the relevant technical procedures of the Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk)—the capital's development authority—were not followed in the forming of these amendments, and no stakeholder consultation took place.

Establishing heavy industries on open land along the Buriganga would worsen water, air, and noise pollution. Constructing housing projects in flood flow zones would obstruct the natural movement of floodwater, worsening waterlogging and increasing flood risks in surrounding areas. Instead of creating the "new green economy" promised in the ruling party's election manifesto, these measures would further expand the existing "pollution-based economy".

The BNP's election manifesto also pledged to establish modern and environmentally friendly management systems for the shipbreaking industry. It promised to formulate specific policies to protect the environment and ensure workers' safety. The party committed to implementing a green shipbreaking transition to ensure safe and environmentally sound ship recycling in accordance with the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships (HKC). In practice, however, the BNP-led government has decided to introduce changes to the existing regulatory framework for the shipbreaking industry that could make the sector more dangerous for both the environment and for workers. On September 29, a government committee dealing with the ship recycling industry decided to downgrade shipbreaking from the "red" category to the "orange" category. The decision was taken in response to demands from shipbreaking yard owners. If implemented, it could remove the requirement for an environmental impact assessment (EIA) before establishing a new shipbreaking yard.

In August, the Prime Minister's Office formed this committee to review existing laws, regulations, policies, and related matters concerning the ship recycling industry. The committee is chaired by Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Abdul Awal Mintoo, and its members include the industries minister, the state minister for shipping, the cabinet secretary, the secretary of the Finance Division, and the secretary of the Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. Notably, no environmental experts or representatives from environmental organisations were included in the committee.

The decision to downgrade may enable owners to establish yards more quickly than before. But rather than becoming more modern and environmentally friendly, as promised in the BNP's election manifesto, the industry risks becoming more polluting and dangerous. This would further increase environmental pollution along the coast and make the industry even more hazardous for workers.

The BNP's election manifesto pledged to take strict action against deforestation, forest encroachment, and the destruction of mangrove forests. It also promised to discourage the establishment of industrial facilities in wildlife habitats and sanctuary areas. The party committed to taking appropriate initiatives to revitalise the country's forests alongside protecting the existing ones. In addition to launching an initiative to plant 25 crore trees, the PM has directed the identification and protection of "mother trees" in existing forests. He has also called for measures to expand forest cover in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

However, despite pledging to take strict action against the destruction of mangrove forests, the BNP-led government has itself been pursuing plans that could harm the environment of the Sundarbans. The Sundarbans is already under pressure from various sources, including pollution caused by industries around Mongla and the Rampal power plant. Against this backdrop, reports indicate that the government is planning to construct a floating storage and regasification unit (FSRU) for liquefied natural gas (LNG) at the ecologically significant Akram Point inside the Sundarbans, as well as in Nalian village adjacent to the forest, along with a gas transmission pipeline from the area to Mongla. Within two kilometres of Akram Point lies the Sundarbans South Wildlife Sanctuary on one side and the Sundarbans East Wildlife Sanctuary on the other. Both sanctuaries are components under the Unesco World Heritage Site.

Constructing an LNG terminal and associated gas pipelines within the Sundarbans poses severe risks to the mangrove ecosystem and its unique biodiversity. The terminal would increase the movement of large commercial vessels, escalating noise and water pollution that would inflict long-term negative impacts on endangered Irrawaddy and Ganges river dolphins, mangrove flora and fauna, and the overall environment. Furthermore, excavation during the construction of the pipeline from Akram Point to Mongla would damage the forest floor and destroy the specialised breathing roots (pneumatophores) of mangrove plants which are embedded deep in the soil. Chilled, chemical-laden liquid waste discharged from the LNG plant would also disrupt the thermal and chemical balance of the Sundarbans' river water. In addition, sudden technical failures, pipeline leaks, or natural disasters causing fires or explosions could place the sensitive Sundarbans ecosystem at grave risk.

The fire incident at a floating LNG terminal in Maheshkhali in July of this year demonstrated that such concerns are not unjustified. Moreover, what could happen if the Sundarbans region is industrialised and commercial shipping traffic is expanded has already been made clear by past accidents involving oil tanker spills and capsized coal vessels in the Sundarbans' rivers.

There are also questions as to how positively a new LNG terminal could contribute to resolving the country's energy problems. The government is struggling to even import sufficient LNG to supply the two existing terminals. Building another terminal for expensive imported LNG would certainly place additional pressure on the national economy. If that terminal were to be built inside the Sundarbans, it would impose environmental and economic burdens as well.

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has spoken of leaving behind pollution-free rivers and a liveable environment for future generations. But if decisions made by various ministries under his government pave the way for heavily polluting industries to set up along riverbanks, housing developments to take place in flood flow zones, crucial environmental safeguards being relaxed for the shipbreaking industry, and LNG infrastructure being constructed inside the Sundarbans, they will do little to serve either the present or future generations.

More than planting trees or excavating rivers and canals, fulfilling environmental commitments requires taking a firm stand against projects and policies that damage the environment. The effectiveness of the prime minister and his party's environmental pledges will ultimately depend on whether the ministries under his leadership reverse their recent environmentally harmful decisions.



'More than planting trees or excavating rivers and canals, fulfilling environmental commitments requires taking a firm stand against projects and policies that damage the environment.'

FILE PHOTO: **BNP MEDIA CELL**

Establishing heavy industries on open land along the Buriganga would worsen water, air, and noise pollution. Constructing housing projects in flood flow zones would obstruct the natural movement of floodwater, worsening waterlogging and increasing flood risks in surrounding areas. Instead of creating the 'new green economy' promised in the ruling party's election manifesto, these measures would further expand the existing 'pollution-based economy'.

Children must not pay the price for institutional silence



Shagufe Hossain is a freelance gender justice practitioner. She founded Leaping Boundaries Foundation to raise the visibility of female madrasa students on platforms where they are underrepresented.

■ SHAGUFE HOSSAIN

In ancient Athens, citizens could vote to exile another citizen for 10 years. Each voter scratched a name onto a piece of pottery. The practice, called ostracism, required no criminal trial or finding of guilt and only a restricted group—male citizens—could take part. Historians debate its precise purpose. It was a blunt political device, shaped by the narrow democracy it served.

Ostracism was a public check on political influence. However, other forms of influence or authority can be harder to challenge because they are woven into trust, care, and everyday relationships. Power does not reside only in money, office, or force. It also lies in the ability to define obedience, sin, discipline, and truth—and whose account of an event will be believed and whose will be dismissed. Here, religious authority can carry particular weight because it is sustained by a community's trust. In South Asia, religious authority is often reinforced by social hierarchies involving age, gender, family standing and class. Children are generally expected to obey elders, influential religious figures may enjoy unquestioned respect, and poorer families may depend on religious institutions for education and care. A religious teacher may therefore be an educator, moral guide, and authority figure all at once. A child in their care may depend on that same adult for discipline, safety, and support, making it particularly difficult to report abuse or have their account taken seriously.

The recent allegations of sexual abuse in some madrasas in Bangladesh bring this imbalance into sharp focus. The Daily Star reported allegations of rape, attempted rape, and sexual abuse at six madrasas over 16 days in October, involving boys and girls as young as seven. In Gazipur, an eight-year-old residential student informed his mother after allegedly being abused on three consecutive nights. In Savar, a 13-year-old student was allegedly threatened with death by her headteacher if she spoke about the assault. These allegations must be investigated fairly, leading to accountability for proven offenders and protections for vulnerable children.

Figures reported by bdnews24, based on monitoring by JusticeMakers Bangladesh in France (JMBF), offer a wider but still incomplete picture. From January 1 to October 24, JMBF recorded 172 media-reported incidents of alleged sexual violence against boys, involving 235 children. It said 153 of the boys were madrasa students, and 91 incidents involving 137 boys took place in madrasas. Of the 201 people accused in the monitored cases, 103 were madrasa teachers. The figures come from media reports, not court findings; JMBF said only one of the cases it tracked had reached trial at the time. Its reports also included incidents in neighbourhoods, schools and mosques.

These figures cannot measure abuse across every madrasa, nor do they establish that religious belief causes abuse. They do show why the concentration of authority matters. A person may have access to children, the deference of families and the standing to shape how a child understands what has happened. Threats, dependence and fear can make disclosure difficult; reverence can make it harder for others to believe the child.

The misuse of religious authority takes different forms across faiths. A 2021 report by an independent commission in France estimated that 2,16,000 minors had been sexually abused by Catholic clergy or members of religious orders between 1950 and 2020. In India, a Mohali court convicted Christian pastor Bajinder Singh in March 2025 and sentenced him to life imprisonment the following month for rape in a case registered in 2018; the judge said he had misused his position as a preacher. Allegations against Hindu spiritual leader Swami Chaitanyananda Saraswati surfaced in August 2025. He was arrested in September, and Delhi Police filed a chargesheet in November accusing him of sexually harassing 19 women at the institute where he was chancellor. In Asaram Bapu's case, the alleged rape of a minor that dates to 2013 led to his conviction in 2018, and in May 2026, the Rajasthan High Court upheld his life sentence while setting aside his convictions for gang rape and aggravated penetrative sexual assault.

Taken together, the above cases show religious authority operating through both a leader's access to people in their care and an institution's power to decide whether complaints are acted on.

In Bangladesh, accountability must go beyond investigating the allegations and scrutinising the madrasas involved to also address how the public responds to such incidents. The Daily Star reported calls for fair investigations alongside protests that included assaults on accused teachers, vandalism and even arson. Public anger cannot justify mob violence, which risks interfering with accountability measures. The accused are entitled to due process, while children are entitled to immediate protection and to have their accounts taken seriously.

But defending a community from blanket blame must not become a way to defend authority from scrutiny. Criticism of an institution's safeguarding failures is not an accusation against every believer. When it is recast as an attack on faith, attention shifts from the child who may have been harmed to the institution said to be under attack. That shift protects reputation but does not protect children.

Defending faith cannot depend on asking children and families to protect it through silence. Religious standing should bring greater responsibility, not exemption from accountability. A child must be able to name harm without being made to feel that they have betrayed their family, community or faith. The credibility of a religious institution rests on whether it can hear the child, act on the complaint and hold those in authority accountable.

Power will always gather somewhere: in the state, the family, the school, the pulpit, the committee. The question is whether those subject to it have a safe way to challenge it. The Athenians wrote names on pottery; we have laws, safeguarding systems and institutions of oversight. Their forms are different, but the problem remains: how can a society prevent authority from becoming untouchable?



FILE VISUAL: **STAR**

Sarika Sabah's dancing roots flourish beyond the spotlight

SHARMIN JOYA

Known primarily for her acting, Sarika Sabah recently took centre stage with an opening dance performance at Blender's Choice-The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards 2025.

Reflecting on the experience, she said performing on stage as a dancer wasn't something she usually did, making the opportunity even more thrilling and memorable. Her connection with dance, however, dates back much further. Sarika began learning at the age of four, when her mother enrolled her at Shishu Academy. She received her initial classical training there before continuing lessons with a Shilpakala tutor who taught her at home.

"My foundation in classical dance was built through six to seven years of continuous learning as a child," she recalled, noting how those early lessons and movements have stayed with her.



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

"It was the first time I had performed at such a major award ceremony, and it was a great experience for me. The daily rehearsals and the opportunity to bond with fellow artistes made it particularly memorable," she added.

Attending the awards ceremony as a performer rather than simply as an audience member also gave Sarika a fresh perspective on the event. She appreciated its efforts to recognise background crew members and technicians, whose contributions often go unnoticed.

Speaking about the award results, Sarika graciously acknowledged Runa Khan's win in the category in which she had been nominated for ***Bohemian Ghora***, describing it as well-deserved given the project's immense popularity among audiences.

"Although I was nominated in the same category, I am really happy for her, and it was a much-deserved win!" she said.

While admitting that she felt a little disappointed that her own project, ***Gulmohor***, did not receive more accolades, she remained confident about her team's potential and future work.

Following her web debut with ***Gulmohor***, Sarika has completed shooting for her second OTT web film. Although the production house has yet to permit the release of promotional details, the project is expected to premiere by the end of this year.

"It features a brand-new co-artiste pairing, and it is my first time working with this director," Sarika revealed, adding that she has high hopes for the project.

After a two-year break from television dramas, during which she focused on OTT projects and commercials, Sarika is preparing to return to the small screen with upcoming festival productions. With Valentine's Day and Eid falling close to each other, she has already completed shooting for five to six fiction projects, mostly opposite Saad Salmi Naovi, alongside a couple of new co-stars.

Her on-screen chemistry with Naovi has earned considerable appreciation from audiences. The two have been friends since their student days at North South University and had previously worked together on commercials and brand campaigns before reuniting on television sets.

"We had known each other for a long time, and as he started working in the industry, we began connecting more professionally. Because we share a genuine bond, we give each other honest input on performance and storytelling, which helps both of us grow," she said.

With new web films and television dramas in the pipeline, Sarika continues to explore new opportunities and expand her presence across platforms.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Muza, Sanjoy reunite for new single 'Eka Eka'



US-based Bangladeshi-origin musicians Muza and Sanjoy have reunited for ***Eka Eka***, following collaborations including ***Jhumka***, ***Shei Ashate*** and ***Koynare***.

Released last Friday, the single features vocals by Muza, who co-wrote the song with Sanjoy. Sanjoy also produced the music.

Directed by Hector Toro, the music video features both artistes, with choreography by Meghna Chakraborty, Saleena Rajan and Ridy Sheikh. The release is from Qinetic Music.

Muza gained recognition among Bangladeshi listeners with his reimagining of the traditional song ***Noya Daman***. Sanjoy, an electronic dance music producer and DJ, has worked with artistes including Arijit Singh, Sunidhi Chauhan, Habib Wahid and Xefer.

The duo's previous collaborations have involved songwriting, shared vocals and music production, with Sanjoy also producing several tracks that feature Muza.

Events

'Monpakhi'



Bhumi Gallery presents ***Monpakhi***, a group art exhibition organised by Addopanto celebrating the beauty and poetic spirit of avian life. Featuring works by 12 promising artists, the showcase captures the grace, colour, and free-spirited essence of birds through a diverse array of creative interpretations and visual styles.

Date: Friday–Thursday | November 6–12, 2026
Time: 3:00pm–8:00pm
Venue: Bhumi Gallery, Lalmatia

NEWS

Deep urban-rural divide laid bare

FROM PAGE 12

Under Chattogram Board, 66.20 percent passed in the metropolis, against 29.85 percent in Khagrachhari, 33.24 percent in Rangamati and 41.42 percent in Bandarban. Elsewhere in Chattogram district, 45.59 percent passed.

Under Rajshahi Board, the rates were 55.33 percent in Rajshahi district and 53.64 percent in Bogura, against 36.93 percent in Naogaon, 37.88 percent in Sirajganj and 38.36 percent in Chapainawabganj.

Under Sylhet Board, 57.62 percent passed in Sylhet district, compared with 43.84 percent in Moulvibazar. Under Barishal Board, the figures were 49.95 percent in Barishal district and 37.09 percent in Jhalakathi.

Barishal Board had the lowest pass rate, at 44.84 percent.

Dhaka metropolis produced 13,482 of the 35,948 GPA-5 achievers under the nine general boards, or 37.5 percent, despite accounting for only 10.6 percent of examinees.

At Notre Dame College in Dhaka, 2,229 students secured GPA-5, exceeding the individual totals of five of the country's 11 education boards: Mymensingh, Cumilla, Sylhet, Barishal and Technical. Of its 3,256 examinees, 3,218 passed.

In Shariatpur, another district under Dhaka Board, just 35 of 5,727 examinees secured GPA-5. The proportion achieving the top grade was nearly 20 times higher in the capital.

Sylhet district accounted for 903 of its board's 1,204 GPA-5 achievers, or 75 percent, despite having 43 percent of examinees. Sunamganj recorded only 46 GPA-5s among 13,667 candidates.

Rajshahi and Bogura districts together produced 3,094 of Rajshahi Board's 4,520 GPA-5 achievers, or 68.5 percent, with fewer than 40 percent of candidates.

At Government Azizul Haque College, a sought-after college in Bogura city, 1,455 of 1,471 examinees passed and 747 secured GPA-5, more than half the district's 1,309 top grades.

Yet none of the 46 examinees at the rural Taslim Uddin Tarafder College in Gabtali upazila passed.

Under Dinajpur Board, 749 of 804 candidates passed at Dinajpur Government College, compared with 209 of 534 at Kaharol Government College.

The Daily Star's analysis found that 1,083 of 1,376 colleges under Rajshahi, Barishal and Chattogram boards had pass rates of 50 percent or below.

Under Rajshahi Board, the number rose from 457 of 750 colleges last year to 614 this year.

Rajshahi district colleges had an average of 40 teachers each in 2025, against 30 in Naogaon, according to the Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics (BANBEIS).

The averages were 22 in Chattogram district and 15 in Khagrachhari.

BANBEIS also found that 54.21 percent of colleges were rural, although urban areas accounted for 76.11 percent of college students.

Poor facilities and low enrolment were also reported at colleges in rural areas, where no HSC examinees passed.

For instance, at Majidbaria College in Patuakhali's Mirzaganj, classes are held in dilapidated tin-shed rooms. It has eight teachers, but its only HSC candidate failed.

Principal Faruk Mallik said the college had yet to secure monthly pay order (MPO) enlistment and poor infrastructure had contributed to low enrolment.

At Kadbhanu Memorial Secondary Girls' School and College in Barguna's Betagi, neither of its two HSC examinees passed.

Principal Shamima Nasrin said admissions to the higher secondary section had been suspended after 2024 because of a classroom shortage. It had applied to close the section.

Inequalities begin even before college.

Asadullah identified four factors: disruptions to earlier schooling, selective admissions, unequal family resources and private tuition, and weaknesses in teaching and institutional management.

Disadvantaged families had fewer ways to compensate for learning losses during the pandemic and later disruptions, including those caused by extreme weather.

Better-off households could afford tutors, materials, study spaces and sometimes relocation to better colleges, he said.

"HSC results are a late-stage expression of inequalities that often begin well before college," he said.

Students entering Class XI with weak reading comprehension or mathematics could struggle with the higher secondary syllabus, although timely remedial teaching could help.

Asadullah urged regular, credible assessments to identify learning difficulties before HSC.

District totals include both urban and rural colleges, so the results do not measure a nationwide rural-urban divide.

The disparities are unsurprising without an area-based plan to ensure acceptable standards at all institutions, said Manzoor Ahmed, professor emeritus at BRAC University.

Education boards mainly handled registration and examinations, doing little to improve teaching or monitor quality, although they could use part of their fee income to raise standards.

"Does the government accept the responsibility for providing school education of acceptable quality for all children? If so, where is the time-bound plan for that?"

He urged the government to consider recommendations from the interim government's consultation committee on secondary education and pursue a coordinated plan with education boards and agencies.

Fragmented, ad hoc and partial responses "can only aggravate problems further", he said.

'Father, please pray for me'

FROM PAGE 12

made to sign a document, put into a military vehicle, had his hair cut and was given a military uniform," he said.

Nur Islam said Roni, the eldest of four siblings, had married just six months before leaving for Russia. He had mortgaged family land and taken out loans to finance the trip, but had yet to repay the debts.

"Despite repeatedly appealing to the government to bring my son back, I have not received any effective assistance. Now I have only one request: please arrange to bring his body home. I want to see his face one last time and bury him with my own hands," he said.

Roni's mother, Mafiza Begum, said Al Amin initially told her that Roni had been injured in a drone attack and hospitalised, but later informed her of his death.

Gopalganj Sadar UNO Koushik Ahmed said initial reports suggested Roni had been killed, but his death had not been officially confirmed.

"We are maintaining contact with the embassy. If they provide us with any information, we will take the necessary steps with utmost sincerity," he said.

CAAB expenses soar on loan repayment

FROM PAGE 12

He stressed that the terminal needed to begin operations quickly to generate revenue and ease the repayment burden.

According to a ministry press release, committee members stressed the need for transparency and accountability in procurement and development projects.

At the meeting, Millat said a lack of sustained accountability over the past 20 years had led to the implementation of various unplanned projects.

Unnecessary purchases made in the past would be investigated, he said.

Meanwhile, CAAB documents reveal that six issues remain unresolved between the government and the prospective operator of HISA third terminal, although preparations are under way to begin operations on December 16.

According to a CAAB progress report dated October 28, bid evaluation and negotiations with the SWG consortium have been completed, but the operating agreement has yet to be finalised.

The outstanding issues include Biman Bangladesh Airlines' payment obligations as an airline and self-handler, revenue sharing, the defect notification period, changes in law, a letter from the civil aviation ministry, and the issuance of preference shares to JICA.

The report said a Readiness Steering Committee had been formed involving SWG and relevant stakeholders to prepare for the proposed commencement of operations.

The third terminal is designed to increase the airport's annual passenger-handling capacity from 8 million to 20 million. However, testing and commissioning of several facilities, including baggage-handling and security systems, remain under way, according to the documents.

The CAAB presentation also highlighted the need for a new international airport near Dhaka, as projected passenger demand is expected to exceed Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport's capacity despite the ongoing expansion.

According to the presentation, annual passenger numbers at Dhaka airport are projected to reach around 33 million by 2045.

Even after the third terminal and two proposed pier extensions are completed, the airport's annual passenger handling capacity would reach 24 million, leaving a substantial shortfall against projected demand.

Increasing urbanisation around the airport had made the construction of an independent second runway and further infrastructure expansion difficult.

Cancel dealerships for fertiliser s

FROM PAGE 12

use farmer cards and lists to ensure fair distribution among genuine farmers.

He said more fertiliser than required had been supplied this year, while cultivation of new crops had not increased significantly. The government was prepared to meet any additional demand.

However, he stressed the need for strict vigilance against smuggling, particularly in border districts.

He said higher demand and prices for non-urea fertilisers in some areas of neighbouring countries created a risk of smuggling. Urea could also be smuggled out due to shortages in some places.

"Under no circumstances can the country's fertiliser be allowed to go outside the country," he said.

He instructed deputy commissioners and agriculture officials to make decisions based on local conditions, environmental factors and actual demand.

He also warned against the unauthorised use of urea as a raw material in industrial factories, directing swift action against textile and dyeing factories found using it.

HRFB alarmed by sedition case

FROM PAGE 2

office under surveillance and harassing her family members.

According to the FIR, Shampa is accused of making provocative remarks against the elected government and state at a public gathering held at her office on August 14, 2026. Sedition, under Section 124A of the Penal Code of Bangladesh, is a non-bailable offence carrying a penalty of three years up to life imprisonment.

In the statement signed by Tahmina Rahman, convener of HRFB and executive director of Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), the forum said that in light of such allegations, the protection of citizens' fundamental rights and personal privacy guaranteed by the constitution requires special consideration.

Noting that Article 36 of the constitution guarantees citizens' freedom of movement and Article 43 ensures the right to privacy of home and correspondence, HRFB stressed the urgency of addressing the allegations of surveillance on an individual's residence and office, as well as the harassment of their family members, with due importance.

The forum also observed that specific allegations are essential when bringing serious charges like sedition against anyone involved in human rights activities.

HRFB called upon the authorities concerned to verify the legal basis and veracity of the charges brought against Shampa, and to conduct an impartial investigation into the allegations she has raised.

It also demanded appropriate measures to ensure that Shampa, as a human rights activist, can carry out her peaceful and legitimate activities, and that she, her family, and the staff and volunteers of her organisation are not subjected to any form of intimidation, harassment, or retaliation.

HRFB is a coalition of 20 human rights and development organisations in Bangladesh, including ASK, Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP), and Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB).

F1 crowns its youngest king

FROM PAGE 12

Alberto Ascari 73 years ago.

At 20 years and 68 days old, he is by far the youngest ever champion: the previous record holder Sebastian Vettel was 23 years and 133 days old when he won his first title in 2010.

Flung into Formula One in 2025 at just 18, he has dazzled in his second season. His Mercedes team has dominated but the Italian has emphatically outperformed his British teammate, Russell.

After finishing second to Russell in the opener in Australia, Antonelli won the next five races.

Coming into Mexico, he had won nine of the 18 races, displaying his consistency with six other podium finishes.

His ability and chutzpah were best illustrated in Monza when, after starting 19th, he weaved his way through the pack -- and past Russell who had started on pole -- to win his home grand prix comfortably. It was one of the all-time great race performances.

The son of Elisabetta, who stays out of the spotlight, and Marco, a former driver and team principal, Andrea Kimi Antonelli started karting at seven, although his father, surprisingly, opposed a career in the sport.

"He didn't want me to become a driver because motorsports can be very cruel at times, especially financially, since it's very hard to succeed without the support of the right people," said Antonelli before the US Grand Prix.

"He taught me everything he knew, first about racing, and now about life. It's really important to have him by my side during races."

Police analysing

FROM PAGE 3

at a motorcycle garage and a restaurant in Uttara.

At 10:17pm, they entered a bar in Uttara Sector 11, where the female friend joined them. The three left together at 11:52pm.

Footage shows they initially tried to put her on a rickshaw before Tahsif took her on his motorcycle.

Shortly after midnight, Dip and Tahsif entered Mazarbasti. Around 2:00am, Dip was seen leaving alone on his motorcycle. Investigators have yet to find footage showing anyone leaving with Tahsif's motorcycle.

Investigators said Dip had given conflicting accounts of what happened that night. He initially claimed he had dropped Tahsif near his residence before leaving.

In another account, he claimed he fled after being chased by men in uniform, while Tahsif ran towards the river and jumped into the water.

The female friend was arrested on Sunday and placed on remand. Investigators plan to cross-check her statements with Dip's and question them face-to-face today or tomorrow.

Meanwhile, police have yet to determine the cause of Tahsif's death.

The inquest report found no visible injury marks on his body. An iPhone and a packet of cigarettes were recovered from his pockets.

Investigators are awaiting the autopsy report and forensic test results.

PRAYER TIMING
NOVEMBER 03

	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	4-55	12-45	4-00	5-30	7-15
JAMAAT	5-30	1-15	4-15	5-34	7-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Plan to split NBR back on the table

FROM PAGE 3

adviser on public administration -- is tasked with reviewing the ordinance and its amendment.

The committee includes Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir, adviser to the prime minister on finance and planning, as well as the cabinet secretary and secretaries of the finance, public administration and legislative divisions.

The NBR chairman is the member-secretary of the committee, which was tasked with reviewing the ordinance and recommending a new bill for revenue reform.

The reform is a key condition of the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) $5.5 billion loan programme for Bangladesh.

Multilateral lenders, including the IMF, have long advocated reforms to the tax system and administration to boost revenue collection, as Bangladesh has one of the world's lowest tax-to-GDP ratios.

Introduced in May 2025, the ordinances sought to separate tax policy formulation from revenue collection and establish two divisions by dissolving the NBR. The move triggered massive protests by revenue officials in June.

The separation process was further delayed in the following months due to bureaucratic wrangling over the organogram and rules of business.

The interim administration subsequently left office without implementing the law, leaving the task to the next elected government.

At a meeting with the Economic Reporters' Forum on April 25, Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury described the country's tax framework as historically "half-baked".

He said a new committee had been formed to separate tax policy from execution and ensure that future policies "genuinely reflect the will of the people".

Whom should I turn to for justice?

FROM PAGE 3

criticised the task force for repeatedly seeking extensions. He, however, welcomed the High Court's decision to summon ICT Prosecutor Tanvir Hassan Zoha and the task force chief.

"Close coordination between the ICT prosecutor and the investigating agency is crucial. There should be accountability regarding how far the investigating agency has progressed based on the information he has obtained," he said.

Sagar, news editor of Maasranga TV, and Runi, a senior reporter at ATN Bangla, were murdered at their rented flat in Dhaka's West Rajabazar on February 11, 2012.

Their only child, Mahir Sarowar Megh, then five, was at home during the killings.

Eight suspects -- Kamrul Islam alias Arun, Abu Sayeed, Rafiqul Islam, Bakul Miah, Masum Mintu, Palash Rudra Paul, Anamul Haque alias Humayun Kabir and Tanveer Rahman Khan -- were arrested.

Of them, Tanveer and Mintu are out on bail, Palash is absconding, and the others are in jail.

On September 30, Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Ariful Islam set November 5 as the deadline for submitting the investigation report, a police officer said.

The case was initially investigated by Sher-e-Bangla Nagar police before being transferred to the Detective Branch on February 16, 2012, and subsequently to the Rapid Action Battalion, now Special Response Battalion, in April that year.

The PBI took over on November 4, 2024, after a four-member task force was formed following a High Court order.

On October 19, the task force submitted a 27-page progress report to the Supreme Court registrar general.

Signed by the investigation officer and PBI Additional SP Azizul Haque, it said previous investigators had recorded statements from 167 witnesses. The task force questioned 90 witnesses and recorded statements from 24.

It also sought digital evidence and data preserved by the tribunal relating to former army officer Ziaul Ahsan and a cultural personality through a letter to ICT Chief Prosecutor Aminul Islam and Prosecutor Tanvir Hassan Zoha. However, no information had been received.

Contacted on Sunday, Azizul declined to disclose further details.

Govts change, but state repression persists

FROM PAGE 3

Police Service Association defended the IGP, saying his remarks referred to firm enforcement of existing laws, not extrajudicial killings.

Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed told The Daily Star on October 27 that the remarks did not represent the government's position and that it opposed extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances and custodial deaths.

The following day, he said he had cautioned the IGP over his wording.

Prime Minister's Information Adviser Zahed Ur Rahman said the prime minister would consider the matter after returning from Japan. The prime minister returned on October 30.

Ain o Salish Kendra recorded 16 deaths in its extrajudicial killing and custodial death tally between January and September 2026, including one reported "crossfire" death and four shootout deaths.

At the seminar, Ahmad questioned why Rakkhi Bahini members accused of detention, torture and killings were not brought to justice even after the force was dissolved and its personnel absorbed into the army in 1975.

Writer and researcher Sohul Ahmed said the force emerged against the backdrop of revolutionary movements of the 1970s, when countries emerging from armed struggles often formed special militias.

He said Bangladesh's ruling party considered the revolution complete in 1971, while other groups believed it remained unfinished. Although legally constituted, the Rakkhi Bahini operated to protect the ruling party, he argued.

Sohul proposed a truth commission to document extrajudicial killings since 1972, hear victims' accounts and examine how they occurred.

Ehasan Mahamud, director general of the museum, questioned the need for the Rakkhi Bahini when the country already had the army, police and other security forces.

"When a ruler begins to fear the people, he feels the need to establish another force outside the state's conventional forces," he said.

Owners to reopen

FROM PAGE 1

Narayanganj and other industrial areas, where more than 60 percent of garment factories are located.

On Sunday, the government formed a six-member wage board to fix the minimum monthly salary for more than four million garment workers.

Babul Akhter, the newly appointed workers' representative on the board, urged protesters at a press conference yesterday to return to work.

He later told The Daily Star that the board would meet today or tomorrow to discuss the wage structure.

"We will have to recommend the new pay structure for the workers soon," he said.

Under the amended Labour Act of 2026, the new wage structure must take effect from December 1.

Babul blamed "outsiders" for the unrest, saying there was no justification for further protests and violence following the board's formation.

A group of trade union leaders also met the home minister yesterday afternoon. He urged them to persuade workers to end their agitation and resume work.

"Any unrest or demonstration by the workers after the formation of the wage board is illogical as the board needs to do some home works for final recommendation of the salary," said Nazma Akter, president of Sommilito Garments Sramik Federation.

Towhidur Rahman, president of the Bangladesh Apparels Workers Federation, echoed her views but said the board should have been formed at least 15 days earlier to avert unrest and meet the December 1 deadline.

BGMEA Vice-President Rezwan Selim said the home minister had suggested reopening factories today.

He said manufacturers at a meeting on Sunday night expressed concern over production delays, shipment disruptions, costly air freight and cancellation of work orders.

The unrest, coupled with global supply chain volatility and a gas crisis, has further strained the sector, he said, adding that some buyers halve their orders when unrest breaks out.

BKMEA President Mohammad Hatem said factories would reopen today.

He alleged that the unrest was no longer about wages but was being fuelled by outsiders seeking to destabilise the industry.

Speaking at a briefing afterwards, the home minister alleged that opportunists and supporters of fascist forces had infiltrated the protests to incite violence.

He urged workers to return to work and warned that those responsible for disorder would be identified and brought to justice.

Salahuddin claimed an analysis of CCTV footage and videos from recent days showed masked outsiders infiltrating the demonstrations.

He said the government would consider the lawful release of innocent workers and labour leaders arrested over the incidents.

The minister added that the prime minister had instructed authorities to determine a minimum wage that would serve both workers and the industry, considering living standards and the overall economic situation.

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders are hereby invited by Prime Bank PLC. from reputed companies in the relevant field for the supply of the following items:

SL	Name of Items	Period of Sale (Tender) From	Period of Sale (Tender) To	Last Date of Submission & Opening
1	Request for Proposal (RFP) – Growth Operations & Customer Activation Services for Prime NOW	03.11.2026	23.11.2026	23.11.2026
2	Request for Proposal (RFP) – TIA-942-C Rated-3 Data Center Certification (Consultancy, Audit, Certification & Surveillance)	03.11.2026	26.11.2026	26.11.2026
3	Request for Proposal (RFP) – Engagement of Outsourcing Service Provider	05.11.2026	06.12.2026	06.12.2026

Details are available on the Prime Bank website.
https://www.primebank.com.bd/tenders

Head of Procurement Division

Prime Bank

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

Memo No: 46.02.0400.000.14.001.25-**2376** Date: 02/11/2026

e-Tender Notice No-13/2026-27

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

Sl. No.	Package No.	Name of Works	e-Tender ID	Procurement Method	Tender/ Proposal Document Last Selling/ downloading Date and Time	Last Date and Time for Tender/ Proposal Security Submission	Tender/ Proposal Closing Date and Time
1.	EARN-LGED-INFRA-W-60	Repair & Maintenance of YTC Buildings at Barguna Sadar Upazila, Dist: Barguna (1st Retender)	1359852	OTM	18-Nov-2026 17:00	19-Nov-2026 11:00	19-Nov-2026 12:00

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

02.11.26
Executive Engineer
LGED, Barguna.
Tel: 02479930954
e-mail: xen.barguna@lged.gov.bd

GD-2658

Star pays tribute

FROM PAGE 3

reserve was published alongside the news of his death.

He said the report reflected Sohrab's commitment to public-interest journalism, extending beyond daily events to issues such as climate change and environmental protection.

Mohammad Al-Amin, content editor at The Daily Star, praised Sohrab's sincerity, humility and dedication to journalism, saying he was highly respected in his community.

Pinaki Roy, chief reporter (national), described Sohrab as a rare combination of a good human being and an outstanding journalist.

He recalled Sohrab's diverse reporting on agriculture, climate change, terrorism and sports, including a report on a woman boat operator who later received The Daily Star's Unsung Women Award.

Mizanur Rahman, chief financial officer and head of operations at The Daily Star, remembered Sohrab as a cheerful and dependable colleague who was always willing to help. He also recalled their last meeting during the newspaper's 30th anniversary celebrations in Barishal.

Sushanta Ghosh, The Daily Star's Barishal correspondent, said he saw reflections of legendary journalist Monajatuddin in Sohrab, particularly in his commitment to grassroots reporting.

Sohrab's elder son, Atik, said the family now considered his father's colleagues at The Daily Star members of their extended family. He thanked the newspaper authorities for standing beside them following his father's sudden death.

Mahfuz Anam handed over a commemorative crest to the family of Sohrab Hossain.

The colleagues also prayed for Sohrab's departed soul and sought blessings for him.

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নম্বর: ১৩.০০.০০০০.০০০.০১৫.০৭.০০০২.২৪.৬৪৫

তারিখ: ১৭ কার্তিক ১৪৩৩ বঙ্গাব্দ
০২ নভেম্বর ২০২৬ খ্রিস্টাব্দ

ই-টেন্ডার বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বিষয়: দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি সংবাদপত্রে প্রকাশ।

খাদ্য মন্ত্রণালয়ের ২০২৬-২৭ অর্থবছরে দাপ্তরিক কাজে ব্যবহারের নিমিত্ত অন্যান্য মনিহারি/ব্যবহার্য সামগ্রি ক্রয়ের জন্য ন্যাশনাল ই-জিপি পোর্টালে (www.eprocure.gov.bd) নিম্নোক্ত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা হয়েছে।

ক্রমিক নং	দরপত্রের সূত্র	মালামালের বিবরণ	টেন্ডার আইডি	দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ	দরপত্র দাখিলের সর্বশেষ সময়
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১। ইহা একটি অনলাইন টেন্ডার, কোন হার্ডকপি গ্রহণ করা হবে না।
২। প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্য ও বিস্তারিত জানার জন্য খাদ্য মন্ত্রণালয়ের ওয়েবসাইট-এ (www. mofood.gov.bd) দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি এবং ই-জিপি সিস্টেম পোর্টাল (www.eprocure.gov.bd) এবং e-Gp help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd) ফোন নং-১৬৫৭৫ এ যোগাযোগ করা যেতে পারে।

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মোহাম্মদ সাখাওয়াত হোসেন
উপসচিব
ফোন : +৮৮০২৫৫১০০২২১
ফ্যাক্স : +৮৮০২৯৫১৫০২৪
ইমেইল : dsservice@mofood.gov.bd

GD-2649

Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies (IDMVS)
University of Dhaka

Professional Master of Disaster Management (PMDM) Admission Announcement
20th Batch, Session: 2026-2027 (January-June)

Required Qualifications and Other Information

- Minimum undergraduate degree in any discipline with a minimum CGPA of 2.50 (out of 4) or 2nd class/division at all levels of education.
- Those who require equivalent certificate or migration certificate, must submit their document(s) before admission.
- **CLASS ON FRIDAY!**

- PMDM Written Test 2026-2027 (January-June) of the Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies (IDMVS), University of Dhaka will be held on 11 December 2026 (Friday) at 10:00 am.
- An applicant with a degree from UGC unapproved program of any university is not eligible to apply for admission.
- The application fee is 1500 BDT. The application form must be collected and submitted between 20 September 2026 – 15 November 2026.
- For detailed information, please visit our office **Room No. 6081, Arts Building, 5th Floor, University of Dhaka, Dhaka-1000 (9:00 am to 4:00 pm on Saturday-Thursday) & (10:00 am to 7:00 pm on Friday).**
- For further information, please call at 01918864314, 01711790898, 01760010744; E-mail: idmvs@du.ac.bd; Web: https://du.ac.bd/body/IDMVS
- For online application, please visit at https://du.ac.bd/webPost/97/20973

Director
Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies (IDMVS)
University of Dhaka

GD-2650

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Economic Relations Division
Ministry of Finance
CEFADeM Project
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
www.erd.gov.bd

Memo No: 09.00.0000.208.14.0015.25.56 Date: 02/11/2026

Tender Notice (e-GP)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the Procurement of goods mentioned in the table below:

Sl. No	Tender ID No.	Description of Goods/ work	Publication Date & Time	Last Selling Date & Time	Closing Date & Time	Opening Date & Time
1.	1358645	Procurement of Computer and accessories, Photocopier.	27.10.2026 at 11:00	10.11.2026 at 13:00	10.11.2026 at 14:00	10.11.2026 at 14:00

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

02-11-2026
Tahmina Zakaria
Deputy Secretary & Assitant Project Director
Phone: 9180787

GD-2653

High risk, no return

Is capital moving in the right direction in Bangladesh's startup ecosystem?

NOMROTA SARKER

Bangladesh has never lacked entrepreneurs. What it has lacked is patient capital. For more than a decade, policymakers, investors, and ecosystem builders have celebrated the country's 'startup era'. Pitch competitions multiplied, venture capital entered the national vocabulary, and unicorns became an aspiration.

Yet beneath the optimism lies a paradox. Bangladesh has produced thousands of founders, promising technology companies, and millions of digitally connected consumers. But institutional venture capital remains limited, angel investing fragmented, and bank lending tied to collateral. Much domestic capital still flows into real estate, textiles, trading, and fixed-income assets.

The result is an ecosystem with companies capable of becoming regional champions, but too little capital to help them get there. The question is no longer simply how Bangladesh produces its next unicorn. It is whether the country is starving dozens of Royal Bengal tigers while searching for one mythical unicorn.

A DECADE OF MOMENTUM

Over the past 15 years, Bangladesh has laid much of the groundwork for a technology economy. Internet access expanded, mobile financial services entered everyday life, digital commerce grew, and government programmes accelerated the adoption of digital services. International investors backed companies including Pathao, ShopUp, Chaldal, Truck Lagbe, Maya, and Sheba.xyz. The government entered venture investing through Startup Bangladesh Limited. Funding strengthened between 2018 and 2022 before rising interest rates and tighter global liquidity made foreign investors more selective. The correction exposed a weakness that had been there all along: Bangladesh had not developed enough domestic risk capital.

Mature startup ecosystems have a financing ladder, from family backing and angel investment to seed funds, venture capital, growth equity, debt, and public markets. Bangladesh's ladder is missing several rungs. Founders navigate grants, accelerators, and scattered angel networks before reaching institutional investors. Companies with growing revenue also struggle to finance expansion. They fall between traditional small-business lending and the rapid growth sought by venture funds.

THE BANKER'S DILEMMA

Commercial banks are not irrational. Their business is to protect capital, while startups are built around uncertainty. A lender asks about collateral, current cash flow, and recoverable assets. A venture investor asks whether a company can capture a market, scale efficiently, and execute its strategy. These are fundamentally different ways of assessing risk. Expecting banks to behave like venture capitalists misunderstands banking itself.

Bangladesh Bank established a BDT 500 crore startup refinancing fund in 2021. Revised rules in 2025 expanded financing limits, retained concessional lending, and opened routes for equity investment. These changes matter, but implementation will determine whether founders can actually access the money. Startup Bangladesh Limited, central bank financing, ICT innovation programmes, and SME support have given startups greater policy recognition. These are meaningful steps, but public money cannot build a venture ecosystem on its own.

The result is an ecosystem with companies capable of becoming regional champions, but too little capital to help them get there. The question is no longer simply how Bangladesh produces its next unicorn.

Successful ecosystems combine government support with private capital, including corporate investors, family offices, and institutions. Bangladesh still leans heavily on public intervention when international investors pull back. That dependence is neither sustainable nor desirable.

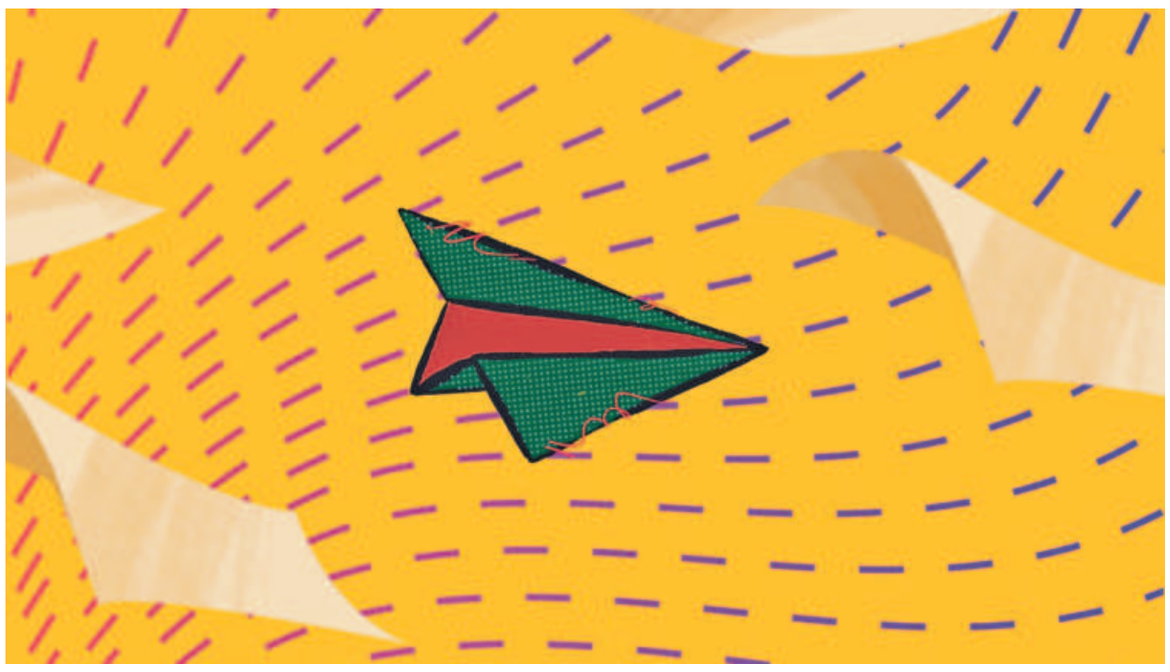


ILLUSTRATION: **ZARIF FAIAZ**

WHERE ARE THE INSTITUTIONAL INVESTORS?

Bangladesh has pension funds, insurers, banks, non-bank financial institutions, and large corporate balance sheets. Yet allocations to venture capital and other alternative investments remain limited. Elsewhere, institutions and family offices help fund innovation over long horizons. In Bangladesh, founders remain heavily dependent on overseas investors. When global venture markets slow, domestic startups can suddenly find themselves without oxygen.

The greatest blind spot may be neither seed-stage startups nor billion-dollar companies, but businesses between the two. Many generate revenue, employ substantial teams, and have demonstrated customer demand. With patient expansion capital, some could become regional leaders. Instead, they are too risky for conventional lenders, too small for growth equity, too mature for grants, and too large for angels.

This 'missing middle' may hold one of Bangladesh's greatest unrealised opportunities. LightCastle's investment data suggest startups have raised roughly $1 billion through more than 450 deals between 2010 and 2025, yet access to capital remains uneven.

SMES VERSUS STARTUPS: A FALSE CHOICE

The debate over whether to prioritise SMEs or startups presents a false choice. SMEs sustain employment and local economies; technology startups can also improve productivity and transform industries. Both matter, but they do not always need the same financing.

A manufacturer should not be financed on the same terms as an early-stage software company. Nor should a software business be judged solely by collateral standards designed for factories.

The broader investment picture also reveals how concentrated funding remains. LightCastle recorded $124 million across just 12 startup deals in 2025. The $110 million ShopUp–Sary transaction, which formed SILQ Group, accounted for about 89% of the total. A strong headline figure concealed much thinner investment activity elsewhere. Billion-dollar valuations make headlines, and governments often embrace them as benchmarks. But unicorns are outliers, not an economic strategy.

An ecosystem producing hundreds of sustainable, profitable technology businesses may generate more employment, exports, and tax revenue than one focused on a handful of valuations. Bangladesh should pursue resilience before rarity. Royal Bengal tigers are real. Unicorns mostly live in PowerPoint presentations.

CAPITAL SHOULD FOLLOW CAPABILITY

Bangladeshi founders have demonstrated their ability to build businesses in logistics, fintech, commerce, healthcare, education, and enterprise software. The question is how to finance their next stage. Well-directed investment in innovation can support higher-value jobs, export diversification, technology transfer, productivity, digital infrastructure, and future tax revenue. Innovation is not merely an ICT issue. It is also an industrial, employment, and economic policy. The next chapter requires each part of the financial system to reconsider its role.

Policymakers must improve regulatory certainty, tax treatment, cross-border investment rules, and governance. Bangladesh Bank must turn financing reforms into consistent implementation. Commercial banks need specialist lending expertise rather than applying conventional SME tests to every startup. Non-bank financial institutions could explore venture debt and revenue-based financing, while institutional investors could consider measured allocations to innovation funds, subject to their mandates and risk limits. Corporations can become customers, investors, and acquisition partners. Founders, meanwhile, must remember that raising capital is not proof of success. Sustainable businesses ultimately matter more than inflated valuations.

Bangladesh has spent years asking where its next unicorn will come from. Perhaps the better question is whether its financial system can recognise extraordinary businesses before they become obvious. Royal Bengal tigers already roam this ecosystem: resilient, adaptable, and accustomed to difficult terrain. If capital keeps chasing mythical unicorns instead of backing capable founders, Bangladesh may discover too late that its greatest competitive advantage was never missing: it was simply overlooked.

Nomrota Sarker *is a consumer brand founder and operator based in Bangladesh. Her work focuses on unit economics, cross-border scalability, and culture-led brand building across South Asia.*

Views expressed in this article are of the author's own and may not reflect the editorial stance of The Daily Star.

Google Vids offers free AI-powered video editing through Google Drive

NEXT STEP DESK

Google has expanded access to its browser-based video editing platform, Google Vids, allowing users to create and edit videos without installing dedicated editing software.

The application forms part of Google's Workspace ecosystem and can be accessed through Google Drive or directly through the Google Vids website.

Originally introduced for business and enterprise customers in 2024, Google Vids became available to individual users in 2026.

The platform provides tools for assembling footage, creating presentations, adding text and audio, and editing scenes using a visual timeline.

Users can import material from Google Drive and Google Photos, record webcam footage, add narration, and incorporate images, music, and other visual elements.

Ready-made templates allow beginners to produce videos without extensive editing experience.

Google Vids is designed primarily for accessible video production rather than complex professional editing requiring extensive multitrack controls.

Anthropic plans $3.5bn share sale to Japanese investors as US IPO approaches

NEXT STEP DESK

Artificial intelligence company Anthropic plans to sell up to $3.5 billion worth of shares to investors in Japan as part of its proposed US stock market listing, according to a regulatory filing reported by Reuters on November 2.

The filing shows that Anthropic intends to offer shares worth as much as 552.9 billion yen to Japanese investors, signalling the international investment interest surrounding one of the world's leading AI developers.

The company, best known for its Claude family of artificial intelligence models, plans to use the proceeds from the new shares to finance working capital, operating expenses, and capital expenditure.

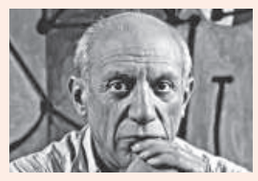
The filing did not disclose the overall size of Anthropic's proposed initial public offering or establish a definitive valuation.

However, Reuters has previously reported that some investors have discussed a potential valuation of approximately $1.5 trillion, reflecting expectations for the commercial growth of advanced artificial intelligence systems.

The Japanese allocation comes as AI companies face growing financial demands from the computing infrastructure required to train and operate increasingly sophisticated models.

Anthropic competes with OpenAI, Google, and other technology companies in developing AI systems for businesses, developers, and consumers.

Japan's participation in major US technology listings has also attracted attention following SpaceX's June 2026 IPO, when Japanese investors secured approximately $2.2 billion in shares.



"Inspiration exists, but it has to find you working."

Pablo Picasso

Big Tech's $740bn spending plans raise fresh fears over AI investment boom

NEXT STEP DESK

Investors are increasingly questioning the sustainability of the artificial intelligence investment boom as major technology companies commit hundreds of billions of dollars to computing infrastructure, raising concerns about profitability, debt, and future returns.

Alphabet, Amazon, Meta, and Microsoft have outlined combined capital expenditure plans exceeding $740 billion for 2026, according to TechCrunch. Much of the investment is associated with AI infrastructure, including data centres, advanced chips, and cloud computing systems.

The unprecedented spending has begun to unsettle investors who previously rewarded technology companies for expanding aggressively into artificial intelligence.

Alphabet has emerged as a particular concern. Google's parent company reported negative free cash flow of $9.1 billion in the third quarter, while forecasting annual capital expenditure of up to $205 billion. Slower growth in its core search advertising business has added to questions about whether AI could undermine an important source of revenue.

Amazon and Meta have also faced pressure over rising expenditure. Amazon expects capital spending of about $220 billion this year, while Meta has projected spending of up to $145 billion.

Microsoft, by contrast, reported positive quarterly free cash flow of $18.6 billion, demonstrating that some technology companies are better positioned to finance their expansion.

The concerns have spread through financial markets, with major technology and semiconductor stocks suffering losses as investors reassess the financial implications of AI infrastructure development.

Demand for artificial intelligence services remains substantial, particularly among cloud computing customers. However, analysts and investors are increasingly focusing on whether that demand can generate sufficient profits to justify the investment.

JOBS SPOTLIGHT

VISA
Manager, Visa Direct (South Asia)
Deadline: N\A
Eligibility:
» Experience in payments/cards in banking or financial services industry.
Minimum experience: 5-8 years

INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION
Social Services Manager
Deadline: N\A
Eligibility:
» Master's degree in social work, psychology, or related field.
Minimum experience: 5 years

CONCERN WORLDWIDE
Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) Officer
Deadline: November 3
Eligibility:
» Bachelor's degree or equivalent in an area of specialisation in M&E and/or MIS/ Social Science/ Statistics from a recognised university.
Minimum experience: 3-4 years

ZXY INTERNATIONAL
Merchandiser, Knit
Deadline: November 7
Eligibility:
» Graduate in Textile Manufacturing/ Apparel Merchandising from a well-reputed institute.
Minimum experience: 5 years

FOR MORE DETAILS AND THE APPLICATION LINKS, SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW

Year-old AI startup raises $1 billion in Series A funding

NEXT STEP DESK

AI startup Flapping Airplanes has raised $1 billion in a Series A funding round at a reported valuation of $6 billion, nine months after launching with $180 million in seed funding. The company said Index Ventures and Lux Capital co-led the round, announced on October 21. Existing investors GV, Sequoia, and Kleiner Perkins also participated. Other investors include Valor, Atreides, A*, and Nvidia.

The latest funding values the year-old company at four times its $1.5 billion valuation in January, when it secured backing from GV, Sequoia, and Index. Founded by Aidan Smith and brothers Asher and Ben Spector, the startup aims to develop ways to train large AI models using less data. Smith previously worked at brain implant company Neuralink, while Asher Spector holds a background in statistics at Stanford University. Ben Spector studied computer science at Stanford and founded Prod, a student-run startup accelerator.

The company is developing what its founders describe as a "megakernel framework", designed to combine multiple computing tasks into a single programme running on a graphics processing unit (GPU). They say the system can handle AI model training, inference, and video games, potentially letting hardware run more efficiently.



IMAGE: **FLAPPING AIRPLANES**

DHAKA TUESDAY NOVEMBER 3, 2026, KARTIK 18, 1433 BS

SPORT



"One thing I know about Phil (Simmons) is that he will not make it easy. We'll be ready to finish this Test cycle with an away win in Bangladesh, and they are not easy (to beat) at home."

West Indies head coach **DAREN SAMMY**

NSC to earn Tk 1 lakh daily from SAFF

SPORTS REPORTER

TSA, the exclusive rights holder of the SAFF Championship 2026, will pay Tk 60,000 per day to the National Sports Council (NSC) for using the National Stadium to stage matches of the regional football tournament, NSC director (sports) Zahed Parvez Chowdhury said on Monday.

The six-nation tournament is scheduled to take place in Dhaka from November 5 to 17, but the NSC has allotted the National Stadium to TSA for 15 days, starting Monday.

In addition to the venue fee, TSA will have to pay Tk 10,000 per hour for floodlight use and bear the costs of the giant screen, public address system and digital display boards around the ground. The total daily expenditure is estimated at around Tk 1 lakh.

The NSC does not usually charge the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) for venue use and related facilities when it hosts international tournaments. However, this time TSA, in association with the SAFF secretariat, is organising the competition in Bangladesh for the first time.

"We have allotted the venue to TSA at the existing rates. Discussions are also under way regarding the royalty from gate receipts and broadcasting rights," Zahed said.

Proteas pack six pacers for Bangladesh Tests

SPORTS REPORTER

South Africa have named six fast bowlers in their squad for the upcoming two-Test series against Bangladesh, with Anrich Nortje returning after recovering from a groin injury.

Nortje missed the final Test of South Africa's recent ICC World Test Championship series victory over Australia but is back to bolster an already formidable pace attack featuring Kagiso Rabada, Marco Jansen, Dane Paterson, Wiaan Mulder and Corbin Bosch.

The six-pronged pace contingent reflects South Africa's emphasis on seam bowling for the series, with head coach Shukri Conrad expecting the Highveld conditions to offer pace and bounce.

"Traditionally, surfaces on the Highveld favour pace and bounce, although we have seen the Wanderers offer some assistance to spin in recent times. So, with that in mind, there will be greater focus on our seam-bowling options," Conrad said.

SOUTH AFRICA SQUAD

Temba Bavuma (c), Marques Ackerman, Matthew Breetzke, Corbin Bosch, Tony de Zorzi, Simon Harmer, Zubayr Hamza, Marco Jansen, Keshav Maharaj, Aiden Markram, Wiaan Mulder, Anrich Nortje, Dane Paterson, Kagiso Rabada, Ryan Rickelton.

Lungi Ngidi was not considered for selection as he continues his rehabilitation.

Captain Temba Bavuma will lead the squad, which also welcomes back batters Tony de Zorzi and Zubayr Hamza. De Zorzi missed the Australia series with a hamstring injury, while Hamza's inclusion provides additional depth in the top order.

Conrad said South Africa would look to carry their winning momentum from the hard-fought series against Australia into their next assignment.

"We know the threat Bangladesh pose and we expect their quicks to be very effective in Highveld conditions," he said.

South Africa are currently second in the World Test Championship standings with 71.43 percentage points, while Bangladesh are fifth with 47.62.

The Proteas last hosted Bangladesh for a Test series in 2022, winning 2-0. South Africa will again look to make home conditions count as they continue their push towards the top of the World Test Championship table.



PHOTO: **BFF**

No warm-up, no worries?

SPORTS REPORTER

Hosts Bangladesh underwent another floodlit training session at the National Stadium in Dhaka yesterday, seemingly set to begin their SAFF Championship campaign against Bhutan on Thursday without having played a warm-up match.

Since the residential camp began on October 25, head coach Thomas Dooley has overseen seven days of on-field training, including two-a-day sessions on occasions, but the team have yet to test themselves in match conditions, raising questions about the adequacy of their preparations for the six-team tournament.

It has been learned that Bangladesh have not even played a 90-minute match among themselves. Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) failed to arrange practice matches against foreign opposition or local clubs, despite assurances from the National Teams Committee.

After their last ASEAN Cup match against Indonesia on October 2, local players returned to their clubs and featured in at least four Bangladesh Football League matches, while overseas-based players resumed their respective domestic campaigns.

With Dooley introducing several new faces and dropping some members of the ASEAN Cup squad, former national players and coaches believe practice matches would have helped build understanding within the team and allowed the coach to fine-tune his playing style.

"Playing practice matches actually depends on the head coach," former captain Mamunul Islam said. "If he wanted them but the federation could not arrange them, then you can blame the federation. But we still don't know whether the coach wanted it.

"However, a couple of matches would have helped because some players came into the squad while others are likely to be left out. They could have built communication and understanding among the players and given the coach an opportunity to set his approach."

Former national forward Zahid Hasan Emily shared Mamunul's concerns.

"Bangladesh should have played a couple of practice matches before going into a big mission like the SAFF Championship," he said. "The coach could have identified the team's strengths and weaknesses and worked on them. It is a bit of a setback that he has missed that opportunity, especially when the team need to build understanding and combination under a new coach."

Former national player-turned-coach Shafiqul Islam Manik, however, saw a positive side to the lack of warm-up matches. "I believe the team played practice matches among themselves," Manik said. "The coach has probably made up his mind about the playing eleven against Bhutan and does not want to reveal it through a practice match."

WHAT TO WATCH

T SPORTS
ABG Cup Football Final
Live from 5:00 pm

SONY SPORTS 1, 2, 3, 5
Champions League
Galatasaray vs Stuttgart
Live from 11:45 pm
Shakhtar vs Sporting
Live from 11:45 pm
Live from 2:00 am
(Wednesday):
Atletico vs Bayern
Barcelona vs Aston Villa
Man Utd vs Roma
Villareal vs PSG
Feyenoord vs Inter

Kane carries depleted Bayern to Madrid

STAR SPORTS DESK

Matchday 4 of the Champions League delivers a blockbuster slate of fixtures, headlined by a high-voltage showdown at the Wanda Metropolitano as Atletico Madrid hosts an injury-ravaged Bayern Munich. Elsewhere, a perfect Aston Villa face Barcelona, while defending champions PSG travel to Villarreal.

Atletico welcome Bayern to a stadium where Diego Simeone's men remain unbeaten this season (W5 D1). Having bounced back from a shaky start (2L,1D in five matches), Atletico are on a stellar 10-game unbeaten streak featuring nine wins and six clean sheets in all competitions. They currently sit second in La Liga following Saturday's 2-0 win over Levante. Historically, Atletico have never lost at home to Bayern (W2 D1), drawing 1-1 in their only Metropolitano clash in December 2020.

Bayern arrive leading the Bundesliga on goal difference but engulfed in an injury crisis. Head coach Vincent Kompany is unlikely to be on the sidelines as he recovers from a late-October training ground collapse. Luis Diaz is out, while Michael Olise, Manuel Neuer, and Jonas Urbig are doubts, leaving Sven Ulreich to potentially start in goal. With Serge Gnabry and Ismael Saibari injured against Dortmund on Saturday (a 2-2 draw), Alphonso Davies and Lennark Karl may be forced out wide.

The spotlight again falls heavily on Harry Kane (10 goals, 8 assists in all competitions). Bayern have drawn their last two UCL matches against Viking and Arsenal; a third consecutive UCL draw would be their first since 2006.

Barca vs Villa: Perfect in the UCL, Villa visit Camp Nou -- the site of Unai Emery's most ignominious defeat. Emery holds a dismal 10% win rate against Barca (W3 D6 L21). Rebounding from consecutive defeats to PSG and Real Madrid, Hansi Flick's Barca, meanwhile just thrashed Alaves 6-1, handing Flick his 100th win in 131 matches. Lamine Yamal (12 goals, 11 assists) needs just one UCL goal to break his tie with Kylian Mbappe (13) for the all-time teenage record.

Man Utd vs Roma: Struggling United seek solace at Old Trafford, boasting a perfect 4-for-4 home record against Roma.

Villarreal vs PSG: Defending champions PSG top the table. Unbeaten in 13 UCL games (W9 D4), they can equal Lyon's French record of 14 by avoiding defeat against Villarreal.



PHOTO: **FACEBOOK**

Full-circle moment for F1's youngest champion

AHMED ABRAR JAWAD

As the engines fell silent at the Autódromo Hermanos Rodríguez, Kimi Antonelli could barely see through his tears. Crossing the finish line in third place at the 2026 Mexico City Grand Prix, the 20-year-old had just secured the Formula 1 World Drivers' Championship.

At 20 years and 68 days, the Bologna-born driver shattered Sebastian Vettel's long-standing record to become the youngest world champion in F1 history. He also ended Italy's 73-year wait for a drivers' title, since Alberto Ascari's triumph in 1953.

But the podium offered something even more special. Standing between race winner Max Verstappen and runner-up Lewis Hamilton, Antonelli found himself alongside two men he had grown up admiring. For the new champion, it was a moment years in the making.

Eight years earlier, as a 12-year-old grid boy at the 2018 Italian Grand Prix at Monza, he had stood beside Hamilton, clutching his hero's arm and whispering: "Remember, you're the best, you can win this."



PHOTO: **AFP**

He had also grown up on European karting circuits, where Verstappen was already a star, meeting the Dutchman during his formative years.

Now, having inherited Hamilton's Mercedes seat in 2025, Antonelli was no longer the wide-eyed youngster looking up at his heroes. He was standing beside them as a world champion.

"I will definitely frame the picture and put it on the wall of my house, so I can see it very well whenever I go in," he said afterwards.

Hamilton and Verstappen were united in their praise, both describing his achievement as "incredible".

The title was the culmination of a remarkable turnaround. After a difficult 2025 rookie season, when Mercedes boss Toto Wolff admitted he had to "catapult" the teenager into the demands of a top-team seat, Antonelli returned a different driver.

He opened 2026 with a podium in Australia before winning five consecutive races from Shanghai, taking control of the championship ahead of team-mate George Russell.

His defining moment came at Monza in September. Starting 19th after an engine penalty, he stormed through the field, passed pole-sitter Russell and claimed a memorable home victory.

The boy who once stood beside his heroes, hoping they would win, had become one of them. And at just 20, he had made history.

IN BRIEF

Bangladesh claim first-ever point in Asian Champions Trophy

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh claimed their first-ever point in the Asian Champions Trophy after coming from a goal down to hold China to a 1-1 draw in their final Pool match in Jalandhar, Punjab, on Monday.

Having lost all their matches on their debut in the 2021 edition in Dhaka, Bangladesh arrived at the tournament's final fixture on the back of four successive defeats against India, Malaysia, Japan and Korea. Expectations were low against China, who had thrashed them 7-1 at the Asian Games in Japan.

However, the men in red and green showed resilience to earn a hard-fought draw against a side they last defeated in a shootout at the 2017 Asia Cup. Bangladesh had also beaten China 3-2 in the now-defunct Hockey World League Round 2 in 2013.



Khulna, Ctg sniff victories in NCL

SPORTS REPORTER

Mymensingh Division's Al Amin Jr struck a fine century, but Khulna Division remained firmly in control of their fifth-round National Cricket League (NCL) match at the end of the third day in Khulna on Monday.

Resuming their second innings on 57 for two, Mymensingh reached 315 for nine at stumps, taking a 135-run lead. Al Amin made 102 off 185 balls for his fifth first-class century, while Abdul Mazid contributed 59.

Chattogram were also closing in on victory against Sylhet Division, reaching 126 for one at stumps in pursuit of 227, needing just another 101 runs for their second win of the competition.





CAAB expenses soar on loan repayment

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR *and* **MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN**

The Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh's (CAAB) expenditure jumped 26.5 percent in the last fiscal year, largely due to hefty loan repayments for Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport's third terminal.

Meanwhile, its income grew by only 2.4 percent as the long-delayed facility remained unopened and unable to generate the expected revenue.

CAAB's spending rose by Tk 680.18 crore to Tk 3,242.76 crore in FY2025-26 from Tk 2,562.58 crore a year earlier, according to figures presented at the second meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on civil aviation and tourism at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban on Sunday.

In contrast, its income increased by just Tk 92.74 crore, reaching Tk 3,990.74 crore from Tk 3,898 crore in the previous fiscal year.

The authority repaid Tk 1,150.38 crore in loans during the fiscal year, compared with no loan repayments a year earlier.

Former CAAB chairman M Mafidur Rahman said the delayed opening of the terminal likely prevented the authority from achieving the substantial revenue growth it had anticipated from increased passenger and aviation-related activities.

CAAB had previously expected its annual revenue to exceed Tk 5,000 crore once the third terminal became operational, he said.

Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister M Rashiduzzaman Millat had earlier said CAAB was facing financial pressure as it had to repay loans taken for the third terminal from revenue generated by existing terminals and other aviation activities, although the new facility had yet to become operational.

Speaking to journalists recently, he said the authority had already repaid Tk 1,100 crore from its earnings and would have to pay another Tk 900 crore in December.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4



Police transport seized battery-powered rickshaws to dumping yards after confiscating them for operating on main roads in Dhaka's Dhanmondi area yesterday. Meanwhile, Dhaka South City Corporation has launched a registration drive for e-rickshaws, aiming to ease traffic congestion and improve road safety. PHOTO: **PRABIR DAS**

Cancel dealerships for fertiliser irregularities

Agriculture minister directs officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fertiliser dealerships would be cancelled if irregularities were found in distribution and management, while officials involved would face departmental action, said Agriculture Minister Mohammed Aminur Rashid yesterday.

Speaking at a meeting on fertiliser supply for the upcoming Rabi season at the agriculture ministry, he said licences of newly appointed dealers would be cancelled if they were found involved in irregularities, corruption or harassment of farmers.

He directed officials to determine dealership areas based on the amount of agricultural land, number of farmers and cropping intensity.

Fertiliser must be sold at government-fixed prices, with price lists and stock information displayed at every dealership, he said.

He also ordered regular drives and mobile courts to prevent artificial shortages, overcharging, hoarding and cross-border smuggling.

The minister instructed officials to

SEE PAGE 8 COL 5

HSC RESULT SHOCK

Deep urban-rural divide laid bare

ARAFAT RAHAMAN

Students in major urban education centres have considerably outperformed their counterparts in many outlying districts in terms of pass rates and GPA-5 results in this year's Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinations.

While the overall pass rate under the nine general education boards, which used identical question papers for the first time this year, was 51.62 percent, it reached 79.33 percent in Dhaka metropolis and 66.20 percent in Chattogram metropolis.

In Rajshahi and Sylhet districts, the rates were 55.33 and 57.62 percent respectively.

By contrast, five outlying districts under the same boards -- Manikganj,

Dhaka metropolis produced 13,482 of the 35,948 GPA-5 achievers under the nine general boards, or 37.5 percent, despite accounting for only 10.6 percent of examinees.

Khagrachhari, Naogaon, Jhalakathi and Moulvibazar -- recorded pass rates between 29.85 and 43.84 percent.

The findings point to a structural divide in educational opportunity, said M Niaz Asadullah, professor of economics at Dhaka University.

Dhaka's concentration of top grades is consistent with its advantages in coaching, private tuition, academic resources and strong peer groups, he said.

The Daily Star found a gap of 41 percentage points between Dhaka metropolis and Manikganj, both under Dhaka Board.

In the capital's metropolitan area, 88,154 of 1,11,119 examinees passed, compared with 3,915 of 10,234 in Manikganj. Their pass rates were 79.33 percent and 38.25 percent respectively.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

F1 crowns its youngest king

AFP, *Mexico City*

Twenty-year-old Kimi Antonelli ripped up the record books to become the youngest Formula One champion yesterday in Mexico, emphasising his domination by



collecting the title with four races still scheduled for the season.

The young Italian finished third at the Mexico City Grand Prix, following two great champions Max Verstappen and Lewis Hamilton across the line, to put himself clear of Mercedes teammate George Russell and seven-time world champion Hamilton, the only ones who might possibly catch him.

The fresh-faced prodigy, who was in tears as he crossed the line, has brought a breath of fresh air to the paddock, which he has completely won over with his performances and personality, as he became the first Italian to win the title since

SEE PAGE 8 COL 5

ANALYSIS

What to make of the US midterms

Democrats eye control of Congress as Republicans face uphill battle

TANIM AHMED

The House of Representatives, or just the House, goes to the polls every two years, which is also when a third of Senate, the upper house, is up for election. Every four years, this election also coincides with the presidential election. This November will also see the election of 36 governors.



Most polls put the Democrats at a significant lead in both the 435-seat House and the 100-seat Senate. Even the most conservative polls put Democrats comfortably ahead of the Republicans. For instance, the NYTimes poll was the most optimistic which had Democrats leading the Republicans by 11 points at 52%-41%, when Fox had Democrats leading by 9 points at 54%-45%.

If these polls are anything to go by, Republicans are set to lose both chambers of parliament, which would make President Donald Trump's life difficult, but not so much that it would be impossible for him to pursue his agenda.

Just as Trump could still use his veto to shoot down laws passed by the Congress and presidential executive powers to bypass much of the Congressional roadblocks, so could an adversarial House block crucial bills and the Senate refuse to confirm his nominees for judges and other executive offices.

MORE ON PAGE 5

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



A person throws trash cans into a fire outside the International High School Montebello in Lille, northern France, yesterday, during nationwide protests demanding better school conditions. PHOTO: **AFP**

RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

'Father, please pray for me'

Gopalganj man's last words before reported death in drone attack

SHAHRIAR HOSSAIN AVI

The last time 24-year-old Roni Fakir spoke to his family over the phone around 1:00pm Bangladesh time on Thursday, he said it was extremely cold in Russia and drone attacks were taking place all around him.

"Father, please pray for me," he said.

By evening, his family received news that he had been killed in a drone attack while fighting in the Russia-Ukraine war.

Roni, from Sitarkul village in Borashi union of Gopalganj Sadar upazila, travelled to Russia on May 7 with two other young men from the district through Jabal-e-Nur International Ltd, an agency based in Dhaka's Khilkhet.

Their families said the three were promised high-paying jobs at a company but were allegedly handed over to the



Roni Fakir

Russian military and sent to fight in the war.

Roni's father, Nur Islam Fakir, said a Bangladeshi man named Al Amin, who was with his son, called around the time of Isha prayers on Thursday to inform him of the death.

"I paid Tk 10.5 lakh to send my son there. After reaching Russia, he was

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