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YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

THE DAILY Star ON FRIDAY

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"There is hope now that there is this balance of power, and that we will be supported more."

ZELENSKY on Democrat triumph in US midterms



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The poison is in the pot

Stanford University and icddr,b study finds lead in aluminium cookware seeping into food

TASNEEM TAYEB

Lead from widely used aluminium cooking pots made with recycled scrap metal can contaminate rice and khichuri, potentially exposing families to the toxic metal that can damage children's developing brains, a new study has found.

Researchers from US's Stanford University and icddr,b found lead levels of up to 305 micrograms per kilogram of rice and 420 micrograms per kilogram of khichuri cooked in new pots during their first use.

Lead exposure can impair children's learning, concentration and intelligence, and cause behavioural problems.

In adults, prolonged exposure increases the risk of heart disease, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

No level of lead exposure is known to be safe, the WHO says.

It recommends identifying and reducing sources of exposure when a person's blood lead level reaches five micrograms per decilitre. This is a threshold for intervention, not a safe limit.

Lead can enter the body from several sources, including contaminated food, paint, and informal battery recycling.

The new study did not establish how much of the country's lead exposure comes from cooking pots.

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LEAD: FROM COOKWARE TO EVERYDAY MEAL

- Initial lead levels reach up to 305 micrograms/kg in rice and 420 micrograms/kg in khichuri
- Scrubbing pots with rough pads cause them to release about five times as much lead in acidic test environments

HOW LEAD GETS INTO FOOD

- Handmade aluminium cookware is commonly manufactured by melting down scrap items such as discarded engine parts, radiators, computer components, and cans, which introduce toxic lead into the finished products
- New pots release the most lead. The amount can fall after repeated use, but lead continues to enter food

CHILDREN ARE WORST VICTIMS

- Estimated daily lead intake for children eating rice cooked in these pots is 13 to 19 microgram per day—roughly six to nine times the US FDA's interim reference level
- Lead can damage their developing brains, affecting learning, concentration and intelligence. It can also cause behavioural problems



PHOTO, INFO SOURCES: ICDDR,B

Mongla port to drive regional growth: PM

Tk 4,068cr project launched; infrastructure cooperation MoU signed with Chinese firm

STAR REPORT

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman yesterday expressed hope that the modernisation of Mongla port would turn it into a promising economic hub for the country's southwestern and northwestern regions, opening up new opportunities for trade, investment and industrialisation.

To this end, the government plans to improve road connectivity between Panchagarh and Mongla and upgrade the port's supply chain and cargo transportation facilities, he said while laying the foundation stone of the Tk 4,068 crore Mongla Port Expansion and Modernisation Project at a ceremony in Mongla, Bagerhat.

Once the project is completed, container trains will be able to travel directly between Kamalapur Inland Container Depot in Dhaka and Mongla Port, helping turn the facility into a major import-export hub, he said.

The premier arrived in Mongla in the morning to attend a series of programmes

PHOTO ON PAGE 2 | SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

Govt aims to deliver all textbooks by Nov

96% primary, 63.18% secondary textbooks already reached upazilas

ARAFAT RAHAMAN

After years of delays that left students waiting months for textbooks, the authorities hope to deliver all textbooks for the 2027 academic year to upazilas by November 30.

Around 96 percent of primary textbooks and 63.18 percent of secondary textbooks have already reached upazilas, NCTB Member (Textbooks) Prof Mohammad Abu Naser Tuku told The Daily Star.

NCTB plans to print more than 30 crore textbooks for nearly four crore students at pre-primary, primary, secondary, and equivalent levels.

However, an estimated 6.6 crore secondary textbooks are still to be delivered, while only 19.62 percent of class-9 books have reached upazilas.

"We hope to deliver all the books by November 30. This will undoubtedly be a milestone," NCTB Chairman Prof Mohammad Fakhrul Mawla told this correspondent.

If the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) meets the deadline, it would mark the first time nationwide textbook distribution has been completed by November since free textbook delivery was extended to secondary students in 2010.

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Ronaldo bids farewell to Portugal



AFP, *Lisbon*

Portuguese football legend Cristiano Ronaldo announced yesterday he was retiring from international football at the age of 41.

Ronaldo made his debut for Portugal in 2003 and went on to play a world record 234 times for his country, scoring 146 goals.

But the forward's powers have been waning in recent years and he fell out with national coach Jorge Jesus last month after refusing to play him in a Nations League match.

Ronaldo immediately left the team camp and was handed a 30-day suspension.

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TRUMP ELECTION ROUT

World relieved but cautious

AGENCIES

World leaders who have sparred with the "America first" President Donald Trump greeted the rout of his Republican Party in the US midterm elections with a measure of relief, allowing themselves to hope for a less combative US foreign policy.

But that hope was seasoned with the expectation that American voters' rebuke would not necessarily end the US conflict with Iran or change Trump's policies on tariffs or his lukewarm-at-best support for Ukraine and America's European allies.

Progressive politicians cast the results as part of a trend of liberal comebacks around the world, following recent defeats for populists on the right in Hungary, Brazil and Serbia.

The Democrats now control 54 Senate seats and have also won 247 seats in the House. All 435 House seats were contested, while 35 of the Senate's 100 seats were up for election. Voters in 36 states also elected governors.

Progressive politicians cast the results as part of a trend of liberal comebacks around the world, following recent defeats for populists on the right in Hungary, Brazil and Serbia.

Spain's social democratic Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez wrote on X that Americans had voted "Against hate. Against machismo. Against climate denialism and against the privileges of the elites."

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PHOTOS: **PALASH KHAN AND MEHEDI HASAN**

Workers walk to their workplaces along the Dhaka-Aricha highway in Savar, yesterday morning as normalcy is gradually returning at readymade garment hubs after five days of protests demanding a minimum monthly wage of Tk 30,000. *Inset*, workers at Network Clothing Ltd factory in Gazipur. Related story on page 2.

'FINANCING' RMG UNREST

225 individuals, firms under NBR scanner

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Board of Revenue has asked banks to freeze the bank accounts of more than 100 individuals and is scrutinising the financial transactions of around 125 companies over allegations of financing unrest in the garment sector.

The Central Intelligence Cell and the Income Tax Intelligence and Investigation Unit under the NBR have asked banks and financial institutions to trace and freeze the individuals' accounts and provide the companies' transaction records, according to several top NBR officials.

The move comes as unrest in the garment industry, which began at the start of the week over the demand for a minimum wage of Tk 30,000, has hampered production and raised concerns about exports in the major export-earning sector.

NBR officials yesterday said that politically connected individuals and businesspeople are alleged to have instigated and financed the unrest.

The financial scrutiny is intended to trace possible funding channels and establish whether money was used to support activities linked to the unrest.



"We are working according to our higher authorities' directions," said a top NBR official, seeking anonymity.

He said the NBR had already sought information about the financial transactions and accounts of individuals and business groups as part of an ongoing scrutiny.

"We are not freezing company

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

Samanta Shermeen quits NCP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



National Citizen Party (NCP) Joint Convener Samanta Shermeen has resigned from the party, citing its alliance with Jamaat-e-Islami, the marginalisation of women leaders and concerns over internal democracy.

She confirmed her resignation in a statement issued last night.

Samanta said she had spent nearly a year raising objections and submitting proposals to the party leadership regarding its political direction.

"Despite repeated calls to reconsider these issues, NCP has shown no interest in changing its course. I am therefore resigning from the National Citizen Party," she wrote.

She said she had opposed the party's alliance with Jamaat from the

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Prime Minister Tarique Rahman waves to people as he travels by bus in Bagerhat yesterday. Large crowds lined both sides of the road to catch a glimpse of him and exchange greetings during his daylong Khulna-Bagerhat visit. PHOTO: PMO

Garment unrest eases as workers return to work

STAR REPORT

After four days of labour unrest, the situation appeared to ease yesterday, with workers returning to garment factories and production resuming across industrial belts.

While normalcy largely returned to Gazipur, Narayanganj and Mirpur, tensions persisted in parts of Ashulia and Savar, where demonstrations continued and some factories remained closed as a precaution.

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) has begun using drones for real-time surveillance in industrial areas of Dhaka and neighbouring districts.

According to a BGB press release, the force has deployed three platoons in Mirpur, 11 in Savar and Ashulia, 12 in Gazipur and seven in Narayanganj.

Production resumed at nearly all garment factories in Gazipur yesterday morning, including those that had earlier declared sudden holidays.

During visits to Bhogra, Naojor, Board Bazar and Signboard, workers were seen queuing outside factories, while production activities continued as usual.

An apparel worker said employees had learned about the latest developments regarding the wage board and saw no reason to continue the protests.

Gazipur Industrial Police Superintendent Amjad Hossain said "99.99 percent" of garment factories in the district were operating yesterday, and traffic movement had returned to normal.

In Narayanganj, factory operations and traffic also resumed as usual. Security was tightened at Chashara, a key intersection in the city.

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The poison is in the pot

FROM PAGE 1

The study, published on October 25 in the Journal of Exposure Science & Environmental Epidemiology, also found that the way people clean their cooking pots could make the problem worse.

Scrubbing the pots with rough cleaning pads caused them to release more lead.

In a separate test using an acidic liquid, pots that had been scrubbed released about five times as much lead as pots that had not been scrubbed.

New pots released the most lead. The amount fell with repeated use, but lead continued to enter food even after the pots had been used several times.

Stirring with a metal spatula also increased lead release in similar tests.

The researchers examined 20 new pots purchased from a supplier in Bangladesh and seven used pots collected from households.

Rice cooked in six out of seven used pots also contained detectable lead.

Scrap metal used to manufacture inexpensive cooking pots was a major source of concern, Mahbubur Rahman, a researcher at icddr,b and co-author of the study, told The Daily Star.

The study says handmade aluminium pots are often produced by melting down discarded engine parts, radiators, computer components and cans.

Such materials can introduce lead into the finished cookware. However, the researchers did not establish the original sources of the scrap used in the particular pots tested.

The amount of lead entering food depended partly on what was being cooked, with acidic foods drawing more lead out of contaminated pots, Mahbubur said.

Using earlier research on rice consumption in rural Bangladesh, the researchers estimated that children eating rice cooked in the tested pots after three uses could take in about 13 to 19 micrograms of lead a day.

That is roughly six to nine times the US Food and Drug Administration's interim reference level for children's daily lead intake. These were estimates based on assumed rice consumption.

The findings are particularly concerning in Bangladesh, where 38.4 percent of children aged 12 to 59 months and 7.5 percent of pregnant women had elevated blood lead levels, according to UNICEF's Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2025.

Earlier studies in Bangladesh have also found lead in turmeric, ceramic utensils, toys and other household products.

A 2019 study led by Stanford University researchers identified turmeric adulterated with lead-containing yellow pigment as a likely source of lead exposure among pregnant women in rural Bangladesh.

A 2023 study by Pure Earth also found high lead levels in samples of ceramic utensils and children's toys.

The country has previously managed to reduce lead contamination in turmeric. A study published in 2023 found that turmeric samples containing detectable lead fell from 47 percent in 2019 to none in 2021 in the markets examined.

Researchers linked the improvement to public awareness campaigns, work with traders and enforcement against the use of lead-containing colouring.

"Simply asking families to stop using aluminium cookware would not solve the problem. Such utensils are inexpensive and widely used, making replacement difficult for many households," Mahbubur said.

Instead, the government needed to prevent contaminated scrap metal from being used to manufacture cooking utensils.

Researchers had discussed the issue with the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) and cookware manufacturers. They also held a workshop with BSTI.

But Mahbubur said they faced difficulties gaining access to manufacturers and finding out where the materials used to make the pots came from.

His team has collected more cookware samples from Dhaka and other parts of Bangladesh for further testing.

In a written response to The Daily Star, BSTI said the government had made certification mandatory for aluminium cooking utensils in January this year.

It is collecting samples from factories and markets for testing and taking steps to bring manufacturers under its licensing system.

Under BDS 1110:2025, aluminium utensils must meet prescribed limits for lead and other toxic metals.

BSTI cited a maximum limit of 0.05 percent under the standard but did not specify in its response which metals the figure applies to.

Non-compliant manufacturers would be denied licences and face legal action, while regular mobile court drives would be conducted to prevent the sale of such products, it said.

Md Safiqul Islam, chairman of Bangladesh Food Safety Authority, told The Daily Star that the authority was using training, workshops and awareness campaigns to inform people about the risk of lead contamination and discourage the use of aluminium cookware.

He acknowledged that scrubbing could increase contamination and advised households to avoid aluminium cooking utensils as much as possible.

In August, the government approved a draft national action plan to reduce lead exposure by 2035, including stronger monitoring, regulation and enforcement.

Further government intervention was needed to control the materials used in cookware production and ensure researchers and regulators could examine the manufacturing supply chain, Mahbubur said.

The government needed to address contamination at its source, rather than expecting families to replace cooking utensils they could barely afford, he added.

The researchers have also called for testing finished cookware to determine how much lead enters food during cooking. BSTI's response did not specify whether its certification tests include such measurements.

Mongla port to drive regional growth: PM

FROM PAGE 1

as part of his daylong visit to Bagerhat and Khulna.

He said modernising Mongla Port was part of the government's efforts to build a trillion-dollar economy, stressing the need to ensure navigability, reliable navigation channels, safe vessel movement and competitive port services.

He said the development and operation of Khan Jahan Ali Airport were also among the government's priorities.

"The initiative will help strengthen the country's industry, trade and economic security. In particular, it will create sustainable socio-economic value by generating employment for the younger generation, boosting investors' confidence and ensuring balanced regional development," he added.

Thanking the Chinese government for its continued support for Bangladesh's infrastructure and trade development, Tarique said the modernisation project would include a modern container terminal, yards and cargo-handling facilities.

He said the success of the project would not depend solely on completing construction work but also on improving port services, reducing cargo handling time and costs, increasing investment and employment, and protecting the environment.

Tarique also called for making the port more attractive to international shipping companies and developing it as a first-call port under appropriate commercial and operational conditions.

He said the government would move quickly to build the necessary infrastructure to ensure an adequate supply of power and gas to boost economic activities from Mongla to the country's northern region.

Tarique made the remarks after attending the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Invest Bangladesh and China Railway Construction Corporation (CRCC) on economic and infrastructure cooperation in Mongla.

Under the MoU, the two sides will explore investment opportunities in key sectors, including energy, industrial infrastructure, green infrastructure, transport, logistics and human resource development.

During talks with a high-level Chinese delegation led by CRCC Chairman Dai Hegen, Tarique also called for increased Chinese investment in Bangladesh, particularly in Mongla, to expand industrialisation and strengthen economic and infrastructure cooperation between the two countries.

Speaking at a rally in Khulna later in the day, Tarique said there was a conspiracy to damage the country's industries, adding that people would unite to foil any such attempts, just as they did during the 2024 mass uprising.

"We will stand against the conspirators with all our strength, together with the people of the country, the working people and our brothers and sisters among the workers."

He was addressing a roadside meeting at the Katakhali intersection on the Khulna-Mongla highway in the afternoon.

The government wants to restore Khulna's status as an industrial hub and expand industrial development across Khulna, Bagerhat, Chuadanga and other underserved regions, the prime minister said.

Tarique addressed the rally while travelling by road from Mongla to Khulna after attending programmes at Mongla Port.

After the Katakhali rally, he visited the shrine of Hazrat Khan Jahan Ali (R) in Bagerhat and offered fateha and joined prayers.

This was Tarique's first visit to the shrine since taking office as prime minister.

225 individuals, firms under NBR scanner

FROM PAGE 1

accounts. Generally, we avoid taking such action against companies to ensure that their business operations continue uninterrupted and workers' salaries are not affected," he said.

Most of the individuals are linked to the ousted Awami League government.

The list includes former ministers, lawmakers and influential businesspeople, some of whom are in jail while others are reportedly on the run. Family members of some of them have also been brought under the initiative.

Those named include Tipu Munshi, former commerce minister; Abdus Salam Murshedy, former lawmaker and owner of Envoy Group; Shahriar Alam, former state minister for foreign affairs; Nasrul Hamid, former state minister for power and energy; Tajul Islam, former local government minister; and SM Mannan Kochi, former president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA).

The companies on the list include Renaissance Group, Well Group, Nipa Group, Standard Group, Sadma Group, and Tusuka Group.

Contacted, Shehrin Salam Oishee, daughter of Salam Murshedy and director of Envoy Group, said their personal bank accounts had not been frozen, although the authorities had frozen their fixed deposit receipts (FDRs) and sought information about their other accounts.

"The authorities have sought information about the financial activities and expenditures of individuals classified as politically exposed persons (PEPs). We have no problem with the intelligence agencies investigating the matter," she said.

"My father has been in jail for more than two years. Even getting a document signed by him takes five to six months, as the paperwork has to go through the relevant authorities," she said.

"Information has also been sought about our other accounts, which are all business accounts. Freezing business accounts would affect business operations and, in turn, the country's economy," she added.

Md Nasir Uddin, managing director of Sadma Fashion Wear Limited, denied the allegation of financing the unrest as "completely false and fabricated".

"I have been working in the garment sector for the last 26 years. The garment industry is like my own child. Why would I get involved in such a heinous act?" he added.

The Daily Star tried to reach most of the other owners, but could not as some are in prison and some are allegedly abroad.

Govt aims to deliver all textbooks by Nov

FROM PAGE 1

DELIVERY

The NCTB plans to print more than 30 crore textbooks for nearly four crore students at pre-primary, primary, secondary, and equivalent levels.

The allocation includes 7.61 crore books for classes 1 to 5, 17.95 crore for classes 6 to 10, 4.16 crore for Ebtedayee students, and 57.31 lakh for pre-primary children, besides books for other streams.

Based on the allocation for classes 6 to 10, an estimated 11.34 crore books have been supplied to upazilas, leaving around 6.61 crore outstanding.

According to NCTB member Prof Tuku, all pre-primary textbooks have reached upazilas, while delivery for classes 1 to 3 has exceeded 97 percent.

The figures stand at 95.93 percent for class 4 and 90.76 percent for class 5. Pre-delivery inspection, which checks textbook quality before dispatch, has been completed for 97.53 percent of primary books.

The situation differs at the secondary level, where textbook delivery varies significantly across classes.

Around 87.61 percent of class 6 and 88.79 percent of class 7 textbooks have been distributed to upazilas. Delivery for class 8 stands at 52.38 percent, while fewer than one in five class 9 books have arrived.

Overall, 63.33 percent of secondary books have undergone pre-delivery inspection, while 88.20 percent of Ebtedayee books have been delivered.

DELAYS

The November deadline is not new. The NCTB had set similar targets in earlier years, but deliveries often continued to December or beyond.

A review of available published reports found no confirmed instance of the entire nationwide supply reaching upazilas by the end of November.

Under the Awami League government, most textbooks reached upazilas before the academic year began in several years. For the 2015 academic year, around 95 percent of primary and 99 percent of secondary books reached upazilas by December 29, 2014. For 2020, 98 percent of the 35.39 crore textbooks were supplied to upazilas by early December 2019.

But delays became frequent in subsequent years. The Covid-19 pandemic disrupted textbook printing and distribution for 2021. In 2022, 2023, and 2024, the AL government failed to deliver more than 3 crore textbooks for classes 8 and 9 on time, leaving students waiting until March for complete sets.

The problem persisted under the interim government, which took office after the fall of AL government in August 2024. By January 1, 2025, only around six crore of the required 40.15 crore textbooks had been delivered.

The authorities missed successive deadlines amid textbook revisions, late tendering, paper shortages, and printing delays. Many students were still without complete sets in March, and supply continued to April.

The following year saw some improvement. The NCTB said it completed the supply for the 2026 academic year on February 7, claiming that it was the earliest finish in five years.

The BNP government, which took office later that month, is now aiming to complete the 2027 supply before December.

PRINTING

Meeting the November 30 deadline, however, remains a challenge, particularly for secondary textbooks.

Under the printing contracts, at least half of the books for class 8 and classes 9-10 were supposed to reach upazilas by November 3.

The NCTB has served show-cause notices on 32 printing presses over slow progress, particularly in printing books for the higher classes.

It has also warned that contracts with the underperforming presses could be cancelled and their work reassigned.

According to NCTB officials, printing for the 2027 academic year began about a month earlier than it did for 2026.

Sources at the NCTB said many printing presses secured contracts for both primary and secondary textbooks. They completed primary textbook orders before shifting to secondary book printing.

NCTB Research Officer Md Rakibur Rahman told this newspaper that printing could now pick up pace as many secondary textbooks have black-and-white pages. Work on several lots that had to be retendered was also underway, he said.

Rakibur, who also serves as the NCTB's public relations officer, said four new textbooks for classes 4 and 6, approved by the National Curriculum Coordination Committee on October 25 subject to revisions, had yet to go to press.

The books are Culture of Bangladesh and Sports for class 4, and Learning with Happiness and My Technical Education for class 6. The edited digital files were ready and printing would begin shortly, he added.

Meanwhile, the NCTB is correcting around 38 lakh copies of the class 6 Information and Communication Technology textbook following an error in an illustration. The books already dispatched to district and upazila offices are being recalled for correction.

NCTB Chairman Prof Mawla earlier said the printing presses would bear the additional costs. Officials expect the corrected copies to reach upazilas by November 30.

The board has also rejected around 9.5 lakh substandard printed forms and 12,000 finished books. Fifty-three monitoring teams are overseeing the printing quality.

World relieved but cautious

FROM PAGE 1

"It happened in Brazil. It just happened in the US. And it will happen soon in Spain," wrote Sánchez, who faces an election November 29.

Norwegian Foreign Minister Espen Barth Eide said the majority of Americans had sent a clear message that "they have had enough of MAGA and now want a different course. Enough of polarization."

British Prime Minister Andy Burnham expressed hope the election results would focus minds in Washington and other capitals on ending the Iran war, which has sent fuel prices soaring — a major source of frustration for voters.

"The world has an opportunity now to unite around the issue that is affecting us all, and that's the cost of living," Burnham said during a visit to the Commonwealth summit in Antigua. "But I can't get people's cost of living pressures down until the conflict in the Middle East is resolved."

That and "the conflict in Ukraine started by Russia. These are the things we have to focus on now."

But others in Europe cautioned that, with Trump in power for two more years, there would be no quick change to American foreign policy, which has strained defense, economic and diplomatic alliances.

The president has berated European leaders over everything from immigration to wind farms, roiled their economies with tariffs, threatened to pull the US out of Nato ally Denmark, reports AP.

Austrian Foreign Minister Beate Meinl-Reisinger said that "independently of the election outcome, our security and prosperity in Austria and Europe must not depend on how people in Kansas or Iowa vote. That's why we are strengthening our own defense capability and our own competitiveness."

The United States' immediate neighbors reserved judgment on whether the Republican defeat would smooth rocky relations with Washington. "We must wait and see," said Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum.

Canadian Trade Minister Dominic LeBlanc said it was unclear whether the election would strengthen Canada's hand in negotiations to end its bitter trade war. "Well, I guess we'll see in a few weeks," LeBlanc said.

He noted that the new Congress would not take office until January and that Canada would continue negotiating with Trump's administration.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Wednesday that Russia hoped Trump "will continue his peacemaking efforts" regardless of the election outcome.

A prominent German lawmaker urged Republicans to see the result in part as voters' verdict on Trump's "wrong foreign policy."

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, who has been a target of Trump's baseless claims that his government discriminates against the country's white minority, said the Democrats taking control of both houses of Congress would "introduce a new era in world relations."

Ronaldo bids farewell to Portugal

FROM PAGE 1

He apologised and it was rumoured he intended to return to the international fold, but on Thursday the five-time winner of the Ballon d'Or released a video on his Instagram account in which he said he had played his last match for Portugal.

"To the Portuguese people, the day has come for me to hand back the number seven shirt of our national team," Ronaldo said, as images of his career were played.

"A journey that began in August 2003 and changed my life forever has come to an end," he added.

The Portuguese Football Federation said it would organise a "fitting tribute" to Ronaldo's "immense career".

Ronaldo will continue to play for his current club in Saudi Arabia, Al-Nassr, where he is under contract until June 2027.

In the highlight of his international career, Ronaldo won the European Championship with Portugal in 2016 in France, although he had to leave the field during the final with an injury.

At this year's World Cup in the United States, Canada and Mexico, he scored three goals but Portugal were knocked out in the last 16 by eventual winners Spain.

In a notorious moment at a previous World Cup, a 21-year-old Ronaldo was caught by TV cameras winking at his bench after appearing to exhort the referee to send off his then Manchester United teammate Wayne Rooney as Portugal faced England in the 2006 quarter-finals in Germany.



President calls for AI-driven innovation

BSS, *Dhaka*

President Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday called for transforming Bangladesh into an AI-driven, innovation-focused economy while inaugurating the Bangladesh AI Business Summit 2026 at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in Dhaka.

Describing AI as a key driver of future development, he said the technology could reshape agriculture, education, healthcare, industry, trade, employment and the overall economy over the next decade.

The president called for equipping young people with digital skills and technological knowledge to help them become drivers of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

He also urged businesses to use AI to develop new products and services, explore markets and generate employment, calling on all stakeholders to work together to realise the vision of a trillion-dollar economy by 2034 and address the challenges of graduating from the least developed country (LDC) status.



Prime Minister Tarique Rahman shakes hands with young athletes at Khulna District Stadium before inaugurating the second season of "Notun Kuri Sports 2026-27" yesterday. PHOTO: **PMO**

Study, play and create

PM tells children at launch of Notun Kuri Sports

UNB, *Khulna*

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman yesterday urged children and adolescents to excel not only in their studies but also in sports, arts and culture to help build a strong and prosperous Bangladesh.

"You will have to build this Bangladesh and make it strong on the world stage. Each of you is an ambassador of Bangladesh and an owner of this country," he said while inaugurating the second season of the nationwide "Notun Kuri Sports-2026-27" competition at Khulna District Stadium.

"Some of you will become doctors, engineers, architects or lawyers. But alongside your studies, you must also learn sports, arts and culture," he said.

Tarique said the government wanted to create an environment where children could pursue their studies alongside sports and cultural activities.

Referring to performances by students of Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protishtan, he said they had demonstrated their talents not only in sports but also in dance, music and other cultural activities.

"You can do it. You can study, you can play sports, and you can also develop skills in arts and culture," he told the children.

The PM said over 16 lakh children and adolescents had registered for the second season, with the final round scheduled for June next year.

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Digital support helps TB patients quit tobacco

Trials by ARK Foundation, The Initiative show promise

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Text messages can help tuberculosis (TB) patients quit tobacco and may reduce deaths, according to two clinical trials conducted in Bangladesh and Pakistan between September 2023 and April 2026.

The study, QUIT4TB Trial, conducted in Dhaka division and Punjab province, found that messages offering motivation, coping strategies and support in managing withdrawal symptoms helped patients quit tobacco and improved their treatment outcomes.

Prof Kamran Siddiqi of the University of York presented the findings at a programme in a Dhaka hotel. The results were also published in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

According to the study, 43.2% of patients receiving text messages quit smoking, compared with 16.5% in the usual-care group.

The trials were conducted by ARK Foundation in Dhaka and The Initiative in Islamabad, with funding from the UK's National Institute for Health and Care Research.

At the programme, health experts and anti-tobacco campaigners urged the government to incorporate tobacco cessation services into the national TB control programme.

Prof Kamran said smoking was far more common among TB patients than in the general population. About 41 percent of men with TB in Bangladesh smoke, he said, adding that smoking worsens treatment outcomes while quitting improves patients' chances of recovery.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

A mounting trail of deaths on two wheels

Motorcycle crashes continue to claim lives across the country; 1,387 killed till Sept this year

DIPAN NANDY *and* **SHAMIMA RITA**

Arifur Rahman and Md Falu worked at a scrap shop in Dhaka's Postogola. At their employer's request, they set out on a motorcycle for Tongi to inspect old scrap materials yesterday morning.

Little did they know that the journey would be their last. A covered van hit their motorcycle, killing Faluon the spot. Arifur later died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

On the same day, motorcyclist Ashif Hossain was killed in a head-on collision with a bus in the Kashiar Bari area of the Joypurhat-Hili road.

Meanwhile, in Cumilla's Daudkandi, Shahadat Hossain lost control of his motorcycle in the Madla area, fell onto the road, and was hit by a private car. In Kushtia, motorcyclist Rokon died after losing control of his bike and crashing into a palm tree.

These were not isolated incidents, as motorcyclists and their pillion passengers, not just those involved in yesterday's crashes, are killed in road accidents almost every day. Meanwhile, the growing number of motorcycles is adding to road safety concerns.

According to BRTA, registered motorcycles more than doubled from 24.13 lakh in 2018 to 50.80 lakh in August 2026.

At least 1,387 people were killed in motorcycle crashes between January and September this year, according to the Road Safety Foundation (RSF).

Monthly deaths stood at 196 in January, 174 in February, 204 in March, 113 in April, 113 in May, 134 in June, 138 in July, 176 in August and 139 in September.

According to RSF, 16,027 people were killed in 16,402 motorcycle crashes between 2020 and September 2026. The highest number of crashes occurred in 2025, with 3,029 accidents claiming 2,671 lives. However, the highest annual death toll was recorded in 2022, when 3,091 people died in 2,973 crashes.

A review of media reports suggests that at least 57 people were killed in 45 motorcycle-related incidents across the country in October. No organisation has yet compiled a comprehensive tally for the month.

RSF data show that 16,027 people were killed in 16,402 motorcycle crashes between 2020 and September 2026.

The highest number of crashes occurred in 2025, with 3,029 accidents claiming 2,671 lives. However, the highest annual death toll was recorded in 2022, when 3,091 people died in 2,973 crashes.

The foundation recorded 1,463 deaths in 1,381 crashes in 2020, 2,214 deaths in 2,078 crashes in 2021, 2,487 deaths in 2,532 crashes in 2023, and 2,609 deaths in 2,761 crashes in 2024.

The Bangladesh Passenger Welfare Association recorded 1,972 deaths and 2,270 injuries in 1,286 motorcycle crashes in 2020.

Its figures show that 1,874 people were killed in 1,463 crashes in 2021; 3,313 killed in 2,193 crashes in 2022; 2,152 killed in 2,031 crashes in 2023; and 2,570 killed in 2,329 crashes in 2024.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 5

IN BRIEF

ACC team finds doctors absent, irregularities at DMCH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Chairman AKM Asaduzzaman yesterday expressed concern over doctors' absence from duty and irregularities at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) during an inspection.

The ACC team, which visited the hospital around 12:15pm, found several doctors absent from their designated rooms. Doctors on duty in the emergency department were also not wearing identifiable uniforms.

"It was difficult to tell whether they were doctors, nurses or brokers," Asaduzzaman said, adding that the team could not establish whether doctors were providing services.

The team also found unhygienic conditions in treatment rooms, while patients and their relatives were seen searching for medical supplies, he said.

"Patients have long complained that they do not receive proper treatment and that doctors are often unavailable. The prime minister is also concerned about the issue and has visited several hospitals, including Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital. We will visit other hospitals as well."

The ACC chairman said the hospital director had been asked to issue show-cause notices to the absentees. "We will also take legal action," he added.

Asked about allegations of brokers operating at the hospital and doctors referring patients to private clinics, Asaduzzaman said the commission would take action against those involved.

Iqbal Sobhan sent to jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, former information adviser to ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, was sent to jail yesterday in a murder case linked to the July uprising.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Sarah Farzana Haque passed the order after Sub-Inspector Mohammad Amir Hossain of Jatrabari Police Station produced him before the court, a police officer said.

Iqbal Sobhan, 77, was brought to the courtroom around 3:50pm amid tight security, wearing a helmet, handcuffs and a bulletproof vest.

Police removed his helmet and bulletproof vest and took off the handcuffs from one hand inside the dock, where he spoke with his lawyers.

During the hearing, defence lawyer Choudhury Md Galib Raghib said they could not file a bail petition but sought division facilities for his client under the jail code.

"He [Iqbal Sobhan] is a senior journalist and an elderly person. Considering his physical illness and social standing, we are seeking a division for him in prison," he said.

Dhaka Metropolitan Public Prosecutor Omar Faruq Faruqi alleged that Iqbal Sobhan held meetings with Sheikh Hasina and controlled the media during the student protests.

He also alleged that Iqbal Sobhan secured various benefits, including the post of information adviser, through Hasina's favour and misused his position to gain undue advantages and trade television channel licences.

After hearing both sides, the magistrate said she would include details about Iqbal Sobhan in the order so jail authorities could decide on his division facilities.

According to case documents, Mohammad Arif, a 17-year-old madrasa student, was shot in Dhaka's Jatrabari area on July 19, 2024. He was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

On August 26, 2024, Arif's father, Mohammad Yousuf, filed a case with Jatrabari Police Station against Sheikh Hasina, Iqbal Sobhan and 231 others.



Syeda Anisa Murshed is recognised as a Stellar Woman in the Corporate category at the third edition of bti-The Daily Star Stellar Women for her professional journey and achievements. The ceremony, held recently at bti Celebration Point in Gulshan-2, Dhaka, was attended by M Mahbubur Rahman, CEO of bti; Aysha Siddiqua, executive director – Brand, bti; Mashrur Hasan Mim, executive director – Marketing, bti; and Tajdin Hassan, chief business officer of The Daily Star. PHOTO: **STAR**

Honouring a stellar woman

Syeda Anisa Murshed recognised for corporate achievements

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Daily Star and building technology and ideas (bti) jointly honoured Syeda Anisa Murshed with the coveted Stellar Women title in the Corporate category, in recognition of her remarkable professional journey and achievements.

She was named the winner at the third edition of bti-The Daily Star Stellar Women.

The prestigious recognition, which celebrates exceptional women leaders from various sectors, was presented to Anisa Murshed at an event held at bti Celebration Point in Gulshan-2, Dhaka, recently.

The initiative celebrates her determination to break the glass ceiling and inspire women to reach new heights in the corporate world.

The ceremony was attended by M Mahbubur Rahman, CEO of bti; Aysha Siddiqua, executive director – Brand, bti; Mashrur Hasan Mim, executive director – Marketing, bti; and Tajdin Hassan, chief business officer of The Daily Star.

Launched in 2023, the Stellar Women initiative aims to honour women making significant contributions across various sectors, particularly those who remain relatively under-recognised.

In its previous editions, the platform recognised 24

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



Mohsina Ahmed passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mohsina Ahmed, a former senior principal officer of Bangladesh Krishi Bank, died at her residence in Siddheshwari, Dhaka on Wednesday evening, aged 70.

She had been suffering from age-related ailments for a long time, according to her family.

Mohsina was the wife of former Justice Syed Abu Kausar and the mother of Tasnim Mohsin Mishu, diplomatic correspondent at The Daily Star.

Her namaz-e-janaza was held after Zohr prayers yesterday at Baitus Sujut Mosque in Siddheshwari. Many of the well-wishers of the deceased and her family participated in the janaza. Later, she was buried at Azimpur Graveyard.

Dhaka Reporters Unity and Diplomatic Correspondents Association, Bangladesh, have expressed deep condolences over her death.

Honouring a stellar woman

FROM PAGE 3

women across multiple categories.

The third edition features six categories: Entrepreneur, Sports, Art & Culture, Architect (Residential & Commercial), Corporate, and Bank & Financial Institution. The categories may evolve over time to reflect emerging sectors and contributions.

The third edition of the initiative began in August 2026, with the first award presented in November.

1,500 building plans remain pending for approval in Cumilla

KHALID BIN NAZRUL, *Cumilla*

Monowara Begum, a resident of Cumilla city, dreams of building a small house on a piece of land left behind by her late husband, using the savings she has accumulated over her lifetime.

She has already had an architectural plan prepared by an engineer, submitted the necessary documents and fees, and got the site visited by a surveyor from Cumilla City Corporation (CuCC).

However, her building plan has yet to receive approval one and a half years later, and as such, she has been unable to secure a housing loan from a bank. Now, Monowara is concerned whether she could realise her dream eventually.

The situation has become increasingly complicated since the political changeover on August 5, 2024, as regular meetings of the CuCC's Building Plan Approval Committee were not held.

According to CuCC sources, at the last meeting of the committee on February 23, 2026, around 350 building plans were considered, of which some 200 were approved.

Around 3,000 development projects are underway in the city, being carried out by 70 developer companies, both registered and unregistered. The plan approval delays are also affecting the city's real estate sector, as many projects remain stuck in limbo.

Mazarul Islam Ripon, a senior manager at a real estate development company in Cumilla, said many of their projects, both commercial and residential, are not progressing as those are still awaiting CuCC's approval. Consequently, thousands of city residents are suffering.

CuCC Executive Engineer Md Sayem Ahmed Bhuiyan said around 1,500 building plan applications are currently pending.

He also said CuCC had prepared a draft master plan in 2014-15, which was submitted to the LGRD ministry for final approval. However, following the establishment of the Cumilla Development Authority (CuDA), responsibility for implementing the plan has been transferred to them.

He added that the CuCC has not been accepting applications for building plan approvals since August this year.

Meanwhile, the gazette notification establishing the CuDA was approved on April 10, 2026, making it the sole authority responsible for approving building plans within the gazette-notified areas, including those under CuCC.

Engineer Sheriful Hoque, assistant authorised officer of the CuDA, said under the Bangladesh National Building Code 2020, the authority is responsible for approving building plans and carrying out related regulatory activities within its designated jurisdiction.

He added that the CuDA had sent three letters to the CuCC requesting the transfer of pending building plan applications. However, no response had been received so far.

Meanwhile, the CuDA has also formed a building plan approval committee and held its first meeting on October 8, where 11 of 13 building plan applications were approved.

CuDA Chairman Utbatul Bari Abu said bringing city residents under the framework of building regulations would be one of the major challenges.



Thousands of landowners in Cumilla city are worried as many real estate development projects are stuck in limbo due to delays in approvals of building plans from city authorities.

PHOTO: STAR

Digital support

FROM PAGE 3

Although face-to-face behavioural support helps smokers quit, no high-burden TB country has incorporated smoking cessation into its TB services, he said. The researchers, therefore, tested a low-cost intervention that could be scaled up.

Their team developed a web-based application that sent patients 134 text messages over six months, offering motivation, coping strategies and advice on managing withdrawal symptoms.

The first phase involved 1,080 patients at 27 TB facilities in the two countries between September 2023 and January 2025. It compared text-message support with usual care.

The results showed that 43.2 percent of patients receiving text messages quit smoking, compared with 16.5 percent in the usual-care group. By the sixth month, deaths were also lower in the text-message group, at 3.5 percent, compared with 7.5 percent in the usual-care group.

The second phase involved 1,764 patients at 36 facilities between April 2025 and April 2026. It compared text-message support with face-to-face counselling.

Face-to-face support proved more effective, with 62.1 percent of patients quitting tobacco, compared with 35.9 percent in the text-message group.

"Both [text messages and face-to-face consultations] are feasible solutions to help people with TB quit tobacco and improve TB outcomes," Prof Kamran said.

Sajib Roy, programme officer at the National Tobacco Control Cell, presented the government's plans to reduce tobacco use, while Prof Rumana Huque, executive director of ARK Foundation, delivered the welcome address.

Study, play and create

FROM PAGE 3

The overwhelming participation showed there was no shortage of talent among children, he said, adding that the government was responsible for creating opportunities to help them realise their potential.

At the programme, he handed over BKSP admission offer letters to 40 students.

The PM virtually launched the competition in 503 upazilas simultaneously. He released balloons and pigeons to mark the inauguration and watched performances by BKSP and Chinese students.

A total of 16,23,218 children and adolescents have registered online for the competition, which is open to those aged 10 to 14.

Volleyball and table tennis have been added to the previous eight disciplines, taking the total to 10.

The competition carries the slogan "Make sports a profession, give families confidence". The first season was inaugurated in Sylhet on May 2.

MPF

UNIVERSITY OF DHAKA
MASTER OF PROFESSIONAL FINANCE (MPF)
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

Admission Notice

For Application: mpf.finanancedu.ac.bd/admission

Application last date: November 17, 2026, **Admission test date:** November 20, 2026 (Friday) at 10:00 AM (Written) and 11:15 AM (Viva-voce).

For more information: MPF Program Office (Room 4005), 3rd Floor MBA Building, Faculty of Business Studies, University of Dhaka
Email: mpf@du.ac.bd, Cell: +8801725288250 and +8801914379230.

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BANGLADESH BANK
Bankers' Selection Committee Secretariat
Head Office, Dhaka.
Website: www.bb.org.bd

Invitation for Tender through Web

Tender No: 355/2026 Date: 04/11/2026

Tenders are hereby invited through Electronic Media (e-Tenders) from bona fide, government-approved higher educational/training institutes/Firms for Following Package:

SL	Tender ID	Package No.	Namc of Work	Tender Closing Date & Time
1	354/2026	BSCS/2026/02	Selection of Institution/Firm for conducting recruitment examination for the post of Officer (G) (10th Grade, Job Id: 26102) for State Owned 07 Banks and 02 Financial Institutions	18/11/2026 02:00 pm

The interested parties may visit the web site www.bb.org.bd/en/index.php/about/tenders & etender.bb.org.bd to get the details of the tender.

Signed/-
(Mizanur Rahman Akon)
Director (BSCS), Bangladesh Bank
&
Member Secretary, BSC
Phone: - 88-02-9530226

ডিসিপি : ৪৮/২০২৬ - ২৮৫৩
তারিখ: ০৫-১১-২০২৬

GD-2688

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

মিলিটারি কলেজিয়েট স্কুল ফরিদপুর (এমসিএসএফ)

ক্যাডেট ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি - ২০২৭

মিলিটারি কলেজিয়েট স্কুল ফরিদপুর (এমসিএসএফ) ফরিদপুর জেলার রাজবাড়ী রাস্তার মোড় থেকে উত্তর-পশ্চিমে ৮০০ মিটার দূরত্বে ফরিদপুর আর্মি ল্যান্ডে প্রায় ১০.৫ একর জমির উপর বাংলাদেশ সেনাবাহিনী কর্তৃক প্রতিষ্ঠিত ও পরিচালিত জাতীয় শিক্ষাক্রম অনুযায়ী ঢাকা শিক্ষা বোর্ডের অধীনে ইংরেজি ভার্সনের সম্পূর্ণ আবাসিক শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান। দেশের ক্যাডেট কলেজসমূহের আদলে এই শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠানে সামরিক কর্মকর্তাদের প্রত্যক্ষ তত্ত্বাবধানে ক্যাডেটদেরকে শারীরিকভাবে সুস্থ-সবল, নৈতিক গুণাবলির বিকাশ সাধন ও নেতৃত্বের প্রশিক্ষণের মাধ্যমে ভবিষ্যতের যোগ্য মানবসম্পদ হিসেবে গড়ে তোলা হয়। পড়াশোনার পাশাপাশি নিয়মিত সহপাঠ্যক্রমিক কার্যক্রমে অংশগ্রহণ, খেলাধুলা, সাঁতার, ফেন্সিং ও আর্চারি প্রশিক্ষণ প্রদান, ইংরেজি ভাষায় কথোপকথনে দক্ষতা অর্জনসহ জাতীয় ও আন্তর্জাতিক পর্যায়ে বিভিন্ন প্রতিযোগিতায় অংশগ্রহণের সুযোগ সৃষ্টির মাধ্যমে একজন ক্যাডেটকে চৌকস ও দায়িত্বশীল নাগরিক হিসেবে গড়ে তোলা হয়। উল্লেখ্য, এমসিএসএফ-এর ক্যাডেটদের সরাসরি আন্তঃবাহিনী নির্বাচনী পর্ষদে (আইএসএসবি) অংশগ্রহণের সুযোগ রয়েছে।

ভর্তি সংক্রান্ত তথ্য

পরীক্ষার কেন্দ্র	শ্রেণি	পরীক্ষার তারিখ: লিখিত	পরীক্ষার তারিখ: মৌখিক	পরীক্ষার তারিখ: স্বাস্থ্য এবং মনস্তাত্ত্বিক পরীক্ষা	লিখিত পরীক্ষার বিষয়াবলি নম্বর ও সময়	যোগ্যতা	বয়স	উচ্চতা	ওজন
প্রবেশপত্রে উল্লেখ থাকবে	৭ম (বয়েজ ক্যাডেট)	০৯ জানুয়ারি ২০২৭ শনিবার সকাল ১০০০-১৩০০ ঘটিকা	এমসিএসএফ-এর ওয়েবসাইটে পরবর্তী সময়ে জানানো হবে		সর্বমোট ২৫০ নম্বর ১। বাংলা-৬৫ ২। ইংরেজি-৬৫ ৩। গণিত-৭০ ৪। বিজ্ঞান, আইসিটি সাধারণ জ্ঞান ও আইকিউ-৫০ সময়: ৩ ঘণ্টা	১। বাংলাদেশী নাগরিক হতে হবে ২। আবেদন অনুযায়ী ৬ষ্ঠ শ্রেণি/সমমান পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ ৩। শারীরিক ও মানসিকভাবে সুস্থ হতে হবে	০১/০১/২৭ তারিখে ৭ম শ্রেণিতে আবেদনের জন্য সর্বাধিক ১৩ বছর ০৬ মাস	সর্বনিম্ন ৪´-৮´´ /৫৬ ইঞ্চি	স্ট্যান্ডার্ড মেডিকেল চার্টে উল্লেখিত বয়স ও উচ্চতা অনুযায়ী

সিলেবাস ভর্তি পরীক্ষার পূর্ণাঙ্গ সিলেবাস www.mcsf-edu.com ওয়েবসাইটে পাওয়া যাবে।

পরীক্ষার মাধ্যম বাংলা/ইংরেজি—যেকোনো একটি মাধ্যমে লিখিত পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণ করা যাবে।

দৃষ্টিশক্তি

দৃষ্টিমান চশমাবিহীন	চশমাসহ	মন্তব্য
এক চোখে ঃ ৬/১২ অন্য চোখে ঃ ৬/১৮	উভয় চোখে ঃ ৬/৬	চশমার পাওয়ার কোনো চোখে (-) 2D এর অধিক হবে না। এ্যাসটিগম্যাটিজমের ক্ষেত্রে Spherical Equivalent হিসাব করতে হবে।

অযোগ্যতা

১। গ্রস নক নি (Gross Knock Knee), ফ্লাট ফুট (Flat Foot), কালার ব্লাইন্ড (Colour Blind), অতিরিক্ত ওজন (Over Weight), ভেরিকস ভেইন (Varicose Vein), এ্যাজমা (Asthma), মৃগী (Epilepsy), হৃদরোগ (Heart Disease), বাত (Arthritis), বাতজ্বর (Rheumatic Fever), যক্ষা (Tuberculosis), পুরাতন আমাশয় (Chronic Dysentery), হেপাটাইটিস (Hepatitis), ডিওডেনাল আলসার (Duodenal Ulcer), হাত ঘামা (Palmar Hyperhidrosis), রাতকানা (Night Blindness), লাইপোলাইসিস (Lipolysis), যেকোনো প্রকার ডায়াবেটিস (Diabetes), হেমোফাইলিয়া (Heamophilia), বিছানায় প্রস্রাব করা (Nocturnal Enuresis), অতিমাত্রার এ্যালার্জি (Severe Allergy), শারীরিক অক্ষমতা (Physical Disability) মানসিক ও শারীরিক সমস্যা (Mental/Physical Problem), খাদ্যগ্রহণ-সংক্রান্ত ব্যাধি (Food Eating Disorder)- ইত্যাদি রোগে আক্রান্ত।

২। এমসিএসএফ-এ ভর্তি ও যোগদান পরবর্তী সময়ে বর্ণিত রোগসমূহ, অন্য কোনো অসুখ বা হাউসে থাকার ক্ষেত্রে যদি অনুপযুক্ত বিবেচিত হয়, তবে উক্ত ক্যাডেটকে প্রতিষ্ঠান থেকে ছাড়পত্র প্রদান করা হবে।

৩। স্বাস্থ্য পরীক্ষা পর্ষদ কর্তৃক চিহ্নিত অন্যান্য কারণ এবং শারীরিক ও মানসিক চাপ গ্রহণে অক্ষম (Unable to take mental & physical hardship)।

৪। অধিক মাত্রায় আঞ্চলিক সমস্যা (Severe Local Accent), বয়স কম/বেশি (Over/Under Ages) ও শৃঙ্খলাজনিত কারণে শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান থেকে বহিষ্কার (Withdrawal from any school/institution on discipline ground)।

অনলাইনে ভর্তি আবেদনের সময়সীমা

০৫ নভেম্বর ২০২৬ খ্রি. তারিখ বৃহস্পতিবার সকাল ০৯০০ ঘটিকা থেকে ০২ জানুয়ারি ২০২৭ খ্রি. তারিখ শনিবার রাত ১২০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত সময়সীমায় www.mcsf-edu.com-এ ওয়েবসাইটের মাধ্যমে অনলাইনে আবেদন করা যাবে।

অনলাইনে আবেদন করার জন্য অত্যাবশ্যকীয় কাগজপত্র

১। পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ছবি (সাইজ ৩০০ x ৩০০ পিক্সেল এবং সর্বাধিক ১০০ কিলোবাইট - JPEG)
২। পরীক্ষার্থীর স্বাক্ষর (সাইজ ৩০০ x ৩০০ পিক্সেল এবং সর্বাধিক ১০০ কিলোবাইট - JPEG)
৩। জন্মনিবন্ধন সনদপত্র (সর্বাধিক ৪০০ কিলোবাইট-JPEG)
৪। প্রধানশিক্ষক/প্রতিষ্ঠান প্রধান কর্তৃক ৬ষ্ঠ/সমমানের (যেকোনো মাধ্যম) পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ হওয়ার সাল এবং রোল নম্বর উল্লেখপূর্বক সনদপত্র।
পরীক্ষার ফলাফল প্রকাশিত না হয়ে থাকলে প্রধানশিক্ষক/প্রতিষ্ঠান প্রধান কর্তৃক এই মর্মে সনদ প্রদান করতে হবে যে, (নাম..... রোল..... স্কুল/শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠানে ৬ষ্ঠ/সমমানের বার্ষিক পরীক্ষায় (বাংলা/ইংরেজি মাধ্যম/ভার্সন-এ অংশগ্রহণ করেছে এবং পরীক্ষায় কৃতকার্য হবে) সর্বাধিক ৪০০ কিলোবাইট - JPEG)

ভর্তি পরীক্ষার ফি প্রদানের পদ্ধতি

আবেদনকারীকে ওয়েবসাইটে ভর্তি ফরম পূরণের পর প্রদত্ত অনলাইন পেমেন্ট গেটওয়ে লিংকে মোবাইল ব্যাংকিং/ইন্টারনেট ব্যাংকিং/ডেবিট/ক্রেডিট কার্ড এবং ওয়ালেট- বর্ণিত যেকোনো একটি মাধ্যমে ২৫০০ (দুই হাজার পাঁচশত) টাকা ফি জমাদান নিশ্চিত করে অনলাইনে আবেদন ফরম নিবন্ধন সম্পন্ন করতে হবে। আবেদন ফি সঠিকভাবে জমা দেওয়ার পর আবেদনটি গৃহীত হবে। যথাযথভাবে আবেদন ফি জমা না হলে আবেদন প্রক্রিয়া সম্পন্ন হবে না এবং প্রবেশপত্র প্রিন্ট করা যাবে না।

ত্রুটিপূর্ণ ও অসম্পূর্ণ আবেদন বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে

প্রবেশপত্র সংগ্রহ

আবেদন সফলভাবে সম্পন্ন হওয়া সাপেক্ষে ০৩ জানুয়ারি ২০২৭ খ্রি. তারিখ থেকে ০৫ জানুয়ারি ২০২৭ খ্রি. তারিখ পর্যন্ত সময়সীমায় প্রবেশপত্র প্রিন্ট/ডাউনলোড করা যাবে। Tracking Number এবং প্রদত্ত মোবাইলফোন নম্বরের মাধ্যমে সাবমিট বাটনে ক্লিক করে প্রবেশপত্র (Admit Card) প্রিন্ট/ডাউনলোড করা যাবে।

লিখিত পরীক্ষার ফলাফল

লিখিত পরীক্ষার ফলাফল এমসিএসএফ ওয়েবসাইট (www.mcsf-edu.com) ও অফিশিয়াল ফেসবুক https://www.facebook.com/mcsf-faridpur পেজের মাধ্যমে প্রকাশ করা হবে।

বিশেষ দ্রষ্টব্য: অনিবার্য কারণবশত লিখিত পরীক্ষার তারিখ পুনঃনির্ধারিত হলে সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলকে এসএমএস প্রেরণ এবং ওয়েবসাইটের মাধ্যমে অবগত করা হবে।

ভর্তি সংক্রান্ত যোগাযোগ: ০১৭৬৯৫৫৮৭৬০ মুঠোফোন নম্বরে ০৪ নভেম্বর ২০২৬ খ্রি. তারিখ থেকে ০৫ জানুয়ারি ২০২৭ খ্রি. তারিখ পর্যন্ত (সরকারি ছুটির দিন ব্যতীত) সকাল ৯:০০ ঘটিকা থেকে বিকাল ৩:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত সময়সীমায় যোগাযোগ করা যাবে।

PRAYER TIMING
NOVEMBER 06

	Fazr	Juma	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	5-00	12-30	3-45	5-25	7-00
JAMAAT	5-35	1-15	4-00	5-30	7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সরকারি বিধি মোতাবেক মীর্জা গোলাম হাফিজ কলেজ মির্জানগর (বাইশ মাইল), সাভার, ঢাকা-১৩৪৪ শূন্যপদে ১জন হিসাব সহকারী, ৩জন ল্যাব সহকারী (পদার্থ বিজ্ঞান, রসায়ন ও জীব বিজ্ঞান) এবং ১জন আয়া নিয়োগ দেওয়া হবে। আগ্রহী প্রার্থীদের ৫০০/- টাকার পোস্টাল অর্ডার (অফেরত যোগ্য) আবেদন পত্র, ২কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ছবি, জাতীয় পরিচয় পত্রের ফটোকপি, শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সনদের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপিসহ বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের ১৫দিনের মধ্যে অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয় বরাবর কলেজের ঠিকানায় পৌঁছাতে হবে।

[বিঃদ্রঃ পূর্বের আবেদনকারীদের পুনরায় আবেদন করার প্রয়োজন নেই।]

মোহাম্মদ আব্দুল কাদের
অধ্যক্ষ (ভারপ্রাপ্ত)

বাংলাদেশ রেড ক্রিসেন্ট সোসাইটি

জাতীয় সদর দপ্তর
৬৮৪-৬৮৬, রেড ক্রিসেন্ট সড়ক, বড় মগবাজার, ঢাকা ১২১৭।

স্মারক নং-ব্যপনি-২০২৬/১-১ বাংলাদেশ রেড ক্রিসেন্ট সোসাইটির ২০২৬-২০২৮ মেয়াদের ব্যবস্থাপনা পর্ষদ নির্বাচনের জন্য গঠিত নির্বাচন কমিশন-২০২৬ তারিখ: ০৪/১১/২০২৬

চূড়ান্ত তফসিল

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society Order, 1973 (President's Order No. 26 of 1973), Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (Organization and Management) Rules, ১৯৭৩ এর সংশ্লিষ্ট বিধান অনুসারে বাংলাদেশ রেড ক্রিসেন্ট সোসাইটির ২০২৬-২০২৮ সময়কালের ব্যবস্থাপনা পর্ষদ এর পরিশিষ্ট-১ এ বর্ণিত পদের নির্বাচনের উদ্দেশ্যে বিডিআরসিএস ব্যবস্থাপনা পর্ষদ নির্বাচন পরিচালনা সংক্রান্ত নির্বাচন কমিশন-২০২৬ এতদ্বারা নিম্নরূপ তফসিল ঘোষণা করছে:

ক্রমিক	কার্যক্রম	তারিখ ও বার	সময় ও স্থান
০১	ইউনিট কর্তৃক প্রেরিত ডেলিগেট তথা ভ্যাচাই-পূর্বক ভোটার তালিকা হালনাগাদ	১১-১৫ নভেম্বর ২০২৬, বুধবার-রবিবার	সকাল ০৯:০০ টা থেকে বিকাল ৪:০০টা পর্যন্ত; নির্বাচন কমিশন কার্যালয়, বিডিআরসিএস এর জাতীয় সদর দপ্তর, ঢাকা
০২	খসড়া ভোটার তালিকা প্রকাশ	১৫ নভেম্বর ২০২৬, রবিবার	বিকাল ০৫:০০টা; নির্বাচন কমিশন কার্যালয়, বিডিআরসিএস এর জাতীয় সদর দপ্তর, ঢাকা এর নোটিশ বোর্ড ও দৃশ্যমান অন্যান্য স্থান।
০৩	খসড়া ভোটার তালিকায় আপত্তি, আবেদন গ্রহণ, নিষ্পত্তি এবং চূড়ান্ত ভোটার তালিকা প্রকাশ	১৬ নভেম্বর ২০২৬, সোমবার	গ্রহণ: সকাল ১০:০০ টা থেকে দুপুর ১২:০০টা পর্যন্ত; নিষ্পত্তি: দুপুর ১২:৩০টা থেকে বিকাল ৫:০০টা; চূড়ান্ত ভোটার তালিকা প্রকাশ: সন্ধ্যা ৬:০০টা; নির্বাচন কমিশন কার্যালয়, বিডিআরসিএস এর জাতীয় সদর দপ্তর, ঢাকা
০৪	মনোনয়নপত্র বিতরণ/সংগ্রহ	১৭ নভেম্বর ২০২৬, মঙ্গলবার	সকাল ৯:০০ টা থেকে বিকাল ৪:০০টা পর্যন্ত; নির্বাচন কমিশন কার্যালয়, বিডিআরসিএস এর জাতীয় সদর দপ্তর, ঢাকা
০৫	মনোনয়নপত্র দাখিল	১৮ নভেম্বর ২০২৬, বুধবার	সকাল ৯:০০টা থেকে বিকাল ৪:০০টা পর্যন্ত; নির্বাচন কমিশন কার্যালয়, বিডিআরসিএস এর জাতীয় সদর দপ্তর, ঢাকা
০৬	মনোনয়নপত্র বাছাই ও প্রাথমিকভাবে মনোনীত প্রার্থী তালিকা প্রকাশ	১৯ নভেম্বর ২০২৬, বৃহস্পতিবার	সকাল ৯:০০টা থেকে বিকাল ৪:০০টা পর্যন্ত; নির্বাচন কমিশন কার্যালয়, বিডিআরসিএস এর জাতীয় সদর দপ্তর, ঢাকা
০৭	মনোনয়নপত্র বাছাইয়ের সিদ্ধান্তের বিরুদ্ধে আপিল গ্রহণ	২০ নভেম্বর ২০২৬, শুক্রবার	আপিল গ্রহণ: সকাল ০৯:০০টা থেকে বিকাল ০৪:০০ টা পর্যন্ত; নির্বাচন কমিশন কার্যালয়, বিডিআরসিএস এর জাতীয় সদর দপ্তর, ঢাকা
০৮	আপিল শুনানী ও নিষ্পত্তি	২১ নভেম্বর ২০২৬, শনিবার	সকাল ১০:০০ টা থেকে বিকাল ৫:০০টা; নির্বাচন কমিশন কার্যালয়, বিডিআরসিএস এর জাতীয় সদর দপ্তর, ঢাকা
০৯	বৈধভাবে মনোনীত প্রার্থী তালিকা প্রকাশ	২২ নভেম্বর ২০২৬, রবিবার	বিকাল ০৪:০০ টা; নির্বাচন কমিশন কার্যালয়, বিডিআরসিএস এর জাতীয় সদর দপ্তর, ঢাকা
১০	প্রার্থীতা প্রত্যাহারের তারিখ	২৩ নভেম্বর ২০২৬, সোমবার	সকাল ০৯:০০টা থেকে বিকাল ০৪:০০টা পর্যন্ত; নির্বাচন কমিশন কার্যালয়, বিডিআরসিএস এর জাতীয় সদর দপ্তর, ঢাকা
১১	চূড়ান্ত প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বী প্রার্থী তালিকা প্রকাশ	২৩ নভেম্বর ২০২৬, সোমবার	বিকাল ০৫:০০টা; নির্বাচন কমিশন কার্যালয়, বিডিআরসিএস এর জাতীয় সদর দপ্তর, ঢাকা
১২	ভোট গ্রহণ	২৫ নভেম্বর ২০২৬, বুধবার	সকাল ১১:০০ থেকে বিকাল ৪:০০টা পর্যন্ত; ভোটকেন্দ্র: হলি ফ্যামিলি রেড ক্রিসেন্ট মেডিকেল কলেজ মিলনায়তন/সংলগ্ন কক্ষ, ঢাকা।
১৩	ভোট গণনা ও ফলাফল ঘোষণা	২৫ নভেম্বর ২০২৬, বুধবার	ভোট গ্রহণ সমাপ্তির পর গণনাপূর্বক ভোট কেন্দ্রে সকলের উপস্থিতিতে চূড়ান্ত ফলাফল ঘোষণা।

বিঃদ্রঃ পূর্বের তফসিল অনুযায়ী যারা ইতোপূর্বে ফি প্রদান করে মনোনয়নপত্র সংগ্রহ করেছিলেন তাদেরকেও নতুন করে মনোনয়নপত্র সংগ্রহ করে দাখিল করতে হবে, কিন্তু নতুন করে কোন ফি প্রদান করতে হবে না। তবে মনোনয়নপত্রের সাথে পূর্বের মানি রিসিটের কপি দাখিল করতে হবে।

১৫/১১/২০২৬

(মোহাম্মদ হারুন-উজ-জামান ভূঁইয়া)
প্রধান নির্বাচন কমিশনার

Congress to rein in 'out-of-control' Trump admin

Says next likely House speaker Jeffries as Democrats build commanding majority

AGENCIES

Hakeem Jeffries - likely to be the next speaker of the House – has accused the "Trump Cartel" of "massive corruption" and added: "We are going to hold the crooks accountable", as Democrats build commanding majority in the US Congress.

The Democrats will control Congress in January, meaning that a representative from the party would become Speaker. The speaker operates not only as the leader of the House of Representatives, but also as leader of the majority party.

In a letter to colleagues on Wednesday, Jeffries wrote: "Against all odds, House Democrats were consistently successful in the minority. We must now deliver the dramatic change the American people are demanding in the majority."

He added: "The days of the House functioning like a wholly owned subsidiary of the Trump Administration are over. Congress will assume its place as a check and balance on an out-of-control executive branch."

The Democrats now control 54 Senate seats and have also won 247 seats in the House. All 435 House seats were contested, while 35 of the Senate's 100 seats were up for election. Voters in 36 states also elected governors.

President Donald Trump also faced pressure from Republicans on Wednesday to change course after the election rout.

Republican allies and strategists called on Trump to shake up his White House staff, restore discipline and scrap policies they blamed for the losses, including the Iran war and tariffs, as his presidency enters its final years, reports Reuters.

Inside the White House, senior aides were bracing for staff departures, possible Cabinet changes and Democratic investigations

But Trump showed little indication that he viewed the election outcome as a reason to change direction. Inside the White House, senior aides were bracing for staff departures, possible Cabinet changes and Democratic investigations, according to a senior official who spoke on condition of anonymity.



A protester kicks a tear gas canister during a nationwide day of strikes and demonstrations over wages, the cost of living and public services, called by French labour unions and joined by high school and university students demanding better education conditions, in Lyon, France, yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS



Bomb threats hit European flights for third day

AFP, *Rome*

Italian, French and Bulgarian fighter jets scrambled yesterday as at least 14 European flights were hit by hoax bomb alerts for the third day this week, authorities and airlines said.

The hoaxes particularly targeted low-cost carriers and flights to or from Bulgaria, Czech Republic and Italy.

Italian air force jets escorted a Finnair flight from Helsinki to Rome while French fighters guided a Aer Lingus Dublin-Rome flight to a military base outside Paris. Bulgaria's air force escorted three planes targeted by threats.

Three flights were diverted in all but all the jets landed safely with no explosives found. More than 20 hoaxes have now been reported this week with low-cost carrier Ryanair the victim of at least seven.

Three Ryanair planes headed for Sofia from Madrid, Copenhagen, and London Stansted were targeted by bomb threats, a spokesperson for the Bulgarian Ministry of Transport told AFP. Two of the planes landed in Sofia.

Middle East to pay for Trump's midterm rout

Analysts say Trump may maintain status quo, using sanctions, oil blockade to pressure Tehran further

REUTERS

The Iran war played a major role in the Republican Party's heavy defeat in Tuesday's US midterm elections, but the setback may leave President Donald Trump with even fewer options for ending the conflict.

Democrats captured both the Senate and House of Representatives, delivering a sharp rebuke to Trump and his eight-month-old war in Iran. The result creates a divided government, making it harder for Trump to advance his domestic agenda. However, the president retains broad authority over foreign policy and military operations, meaning Congress is unlikely to force a major shift in strategy.

Trump now faces three broad choices: intensify military action, pursue a diplomatic agreement with Tehran, or maintain the current policy of sanctions and pressure.

Recent indirect talks between Washington and Tehran, mediated by Qatar, briefly raised hopes for a breakthrough. However, Iranian officials later said the two sides remain far apart.

A quick deal could help reopen the Strait of Hormuz and ease pressure on global energy markets, but any agreement that fails to address Iran's nuclear programme risks leaving the region unstable and strengthening Tehran's influence.

The military option remains available as the US has significantly increased its forces in the Middle East. Yet a limited campaign may do little to weaken Iran's leadership, while a broader offensive risks drawing Washington deeper into an unpopular conflict.

The final option is preserving the status quo, relying on sanctions and an effective blockade of Iranian oil exports to pressure Tehran. But such a strategy could take years to produce results, time Trump may not have as he enters the final phase of his presidency.



Ballistic missile downed over Medina region: Saudi coalition

Air defence warning issued for the port of Yanbu

AGENCIES

The Saudi-led coalition fighting Yemen's Houthis said yesterday that a ballistic missile fired by the group at the Medina region had been intercepted.

The announcement came just minutes after the kingdom's civil defence agency warned of potential danger in the area near the strategic port of Yanbu. It was unclear if the two events were connected.

"Air defence intercepted and destroyed a ballistic missile launched by the terrorist Houthi militia toward the Medina region," coalition spokesman Turki al-Malki said in a post on X.

The Houthis have repeatedly said their forces would not target Makkah or Medina in their ongoing campaign against the kingdom, which has seen the group attack airports, energy infrastructure and military sites, reports AFP.

A tanker was struck by two unidentified projectiles about 50 nautical miles north of Qatar's Madinat ash Shamal early yesterday, the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) agency said. The status of the crew and the extent of any damage were unclear.

- Tanker struck by two projectiles north of Qatar
- Oil tankers, tugboat catch fire in Hormuz: Iran
- Iran, Oman FMs discuss regional peace efforts

Iran's IRGC said two oil tankers and a tugboat caught fire in the Strait of Hormuz after attempting to pass through an "unauthorised route", while its electronic warfare units captured two US LUCAS drones intact.

Meanwhile, Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and his Omani counterpart Badr bin Hamad Albusaidi yesterday spoke by phone about regional developments and diplomatic efforts to secure peace and stability in the region, Al Jazeera reports.

Following the drubbing of US President Donald Trump's Republican Party in the midterm elections, Iranians set fire to a giant poster featuring the American leader and his allies at a rally in Tehran.

In the capital's central Enghelab square, crowds gathered to observe the burning of the poster which also featured his Vice President JD Vance, special envoy Steve Witkoff and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The war was started by Trump and Netanyahu, who launched a massive wave of surprise attacks against Iran which killed supreme leader Ayatollah Khamenei and others on February 28 and sparked the wider Middle East war.

The cheering audience waved red flags to demand revenge for Khamenei's death.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Chattogram City Corporation
Batali Hill, Tigerpass, Chattogram.
www.ccc.gov.bd

Memo No: 46.11.1600.002.31.99.26.132 Dated: 04.11.2026

e-Tender Notice - CCC/Rev/26-27/Z-01/003

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 e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Document of following packages from the National e-GP system portal has to be posted online through any registered Bank branches up to the time given below:

Sl. No	Invitation Reference No.	Name of works	Procurement Tender Method	Tender ID	Tender document last selling date and time	Tender closing & opening date and time
1	CCC/Xen1/W7/ 26-27/WR-002	Development of Hathazari Road (Oxyzen Circle To Bagdad Hotel Circle) at 3 no Panchlaish ward	OTM (NCT	1362698	16-Nov-2026 14:00	16-Nov-2026 15:00

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd).

CCC/PRD-63/26-27 (5"X4)

Md Anisur Rahman
Chief Engineer
Chattogram City Corporation.

GD-2692

ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

২০২৬-২০২৭ শিক্ষাবর্ষে আন্ডারগ্র্যাজুয়েট প্রোগ্রামে ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

২০২১ সন থেকে ২০২৪ সন পর্যন্ত মাধ্যমিক বা সমমান এবং ২০২৬ সনের উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ ছাত্র-ছাত্রীদের মধ্যে যারা ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের বিভিন্ন ইউনিটে ভর্তির জন্য নির্ধারিত শর্ত পূরণ করে কেবল তারাই ২০২৬-২০২৭ শিক্ষাবর্ষে আন্ডারগ্র্যাজুয়েট প্রোগ্রামে ভর্তির জন্য আবেদন করতে পারবে।

ভর্তি প্রার্থীরা ১১/১১/২০২৬ তারিখ দুপুর ১২:০০টা থেকে ২৫/১১/২০২৬ তারিখ রাত ১১:৫৯ মিঃ পর্যন্ত Dhaka University Admission Website (https://admission.eis.du.ac.bd)-এর মাধ্যমে অনলাইনে আবেদন করতে পারবে। আবেদন ফি ১,২০০/- (এক হাজার দুইশত) টাকা, আইবিএ ইউনিটের আবেদন ফি ১,৫০০/- (এক হাজার পাঁচশত) টাকা এবং চারুকলা ইউনিটের আবেদন ফি ১,৪০০/- (এক হাজার চারশত) টাকা। চারটি রাষ্ট্রায়ত্ব বাণিজ্যিক ব্যাংকের (সোনালী, জনতা, অগ্রণী, রূপালী) যে কোন শাখায় অথবা অনলাইনে ডেবিট/ক্রেডিট কার্ড, মোবাইল ফিনান্সিয়াল সেবা ব্যবহার করে শিক্ষার্থীরা আবেদন ফি জমা দিবে।

শিক্ষার্থীরা নিম্নোক্ত ০৫ (পাঁচ) টি ইউনিটে আবেদন করতে পারবে। আবেদনের যোগ্যতাসহ ভর্তি সংক্রান্ত বিস্তারিত তথ্য ওয়েবসাইটে প্রদত্ত সংশ্লিষ্ট ইউনিটের ভর্তি নির্দেশিকায় উল্লেখ থাকবে।

ইউনিট সমূহ	অনুষদ সমূহ
বিজ্ঞান ইউনিট	বিজ্ঞান অনুষদ, জীববিজ্ঞান অনুষদ, ফার্মেসী অনুষদ, আর্থ এন্ড এনভায়রনমেন্টাল সায়েন্সেস অনুষদ, ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং এন্ড টেকনোলজী অনুষদভুক্ত সকল বিভাগ এবং সংশ্লিষ্ট ইনস্টিটিউটে ভর্তির জন্য।
কলা, আইন ও সামাজিক বিজ্ঞান ইউনিট	কলা অনুষদ, আইন অনুষদ, সামাজিক বিজ্ঞান অনুষদভুক্ত সকল বিভাগ এবং সংশ্লিষ্ট ইনস্টিটিউটে ভর্তির জন্য।
ব্যবসায় শিক্ষা ইউনিট	বিজনেস স্টাডিজ অনুষদভুক্ত সকল বিভাগে ভর্তির জন্য।
চারুকলা ইউনিট	চারুকলা অনুষদভুক্ত সকল বিভাগে ভর্তির জন্য।
আইবিএ ইউনিট	ব্যবসায় প্রশাসন ইনস্টিটিউটে ভর্তির জন্য।

২০২৬-২০২৭ শিক্ষাবর্ষে ভর্তি পরীক্ষার তারিখ ও সময়সূচি নিম্নরূপঃ

ইউনিট	পরীক্ষার তারিখ	বার	সময়সূচি
আইবিএ ইউনিট	০৫/১২/২০২৬	শনিবার	সকাল ১০:০০টা থেকে ১২:০০ মিনিট পর্যন্ত
বিজ্ঞান ইউনিট	১২/১২/২০২৬	শনিবার	সকাল ১১:০০টা থেকে ১২:৩০ মিনিট পর্যন্ত
কলা, আইন ও সামাজিক বিজ্ঞান ইউনিট	১৯/১২/২০২৬	শনিবার	সকাল ১১:০০টা থেকে ১২:৩০ মিনিট পর্যন্ত
চারুকলা ইউনিট (সাধারণ জ্ঞান ও অঙ্কন)	২২/১২/২০২৬	মঙ্গলবার	সকাল ১১:০০টা থেকে ১২:৩০ মিনিট পর্যন্ত
ব্যবসায় শিক্ষা ইউনিট	২৬/১২/২০২৬	শনিবার	সকাল ১১:০০টা থেকে ১২:৩০ মিনিট পর্যন্ত

চারুকলা ইউনিট এর ভর্তি পরীক্ষা (সাধারণ জ্ঞান ও অঙ্কন) একই দিনে অনুষ্ঠিত হবে বিধায় এই ইউনিটের এবং আইবিএ ইউনিটের ভর্তি পরীক্ষা শুধুমাত্র ঢাকা কেন্দ্রে অনুষ্ঠিত হবে।

সমতা নিরূপণ ও ভর্তি সংক্রান্ত অন্যান্য প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্যাদি https://admission.eis.du.ac.bd ওয়েবসাইটে দেখার জন্য পরামর্শ দেয়া হলো।

প্রশাসনিক ভবন
ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
ঢাকা-১০০০
তারিখ ঃ ...../২০২৬

০৫/১১/২০২৬

মুনসী শামস উদ্দিন আহম্মদ
রেজিস্ট্রার (ভারপ্রাপ্ত)
ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

GD-2686

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

A chance to correct course for the US

The implications of its midterm results extend well beyond Washington

The resounding victory of Democrats in the 2026 US midterm elections opens up the conversation on the much-needed checks and balances in American democracy and offers, hopefully, an opportunity to restore some measure of stability to an increasingly volatile international order. Through the ballot box, American voters have delivered their disapproval of President Donald Trump's approach to domestic and foreign policy, on an extraordinary scale. We welcome this outcome as a chance to correct a course that has unsettled the United States' allies, antagonised trading partners, and undermined confidence in the international rules-based system.

Trump's aggressive wielding of economic power through his tariff policy has been unprecedented. Treating trade restrictions as instruments of political coercion, he has repeatedly threatened and imposed tariffs to extract concessions from trading partners and advance geopolitical interests. The resulting uncertainty has disrupted global trade, unsettled markets, and raised costs for businesses and consumers. An analysis of the election results by Reuters highlights how economic discontent, including anger over tariffs and frustrations over the rising cost of living, contributed to the Democratic victory.

Trump's foreign policy has been equally disturbing. The US-Israel war against Iran has disrupted energy supplies and shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, driving up oil prices and intensifying inflationary pressures across economies. Trump has acknowledged the electoral cost of the conflict. Meanwhile, his administration's largely unquestioning support for Israel, despite its genocide and persistent human rights violations in Gaza, has further eroded US credibility as a defender of international law. A Democratic-controlled Congress could help change this trajectory.

The international community needs a US that respects multilateral institutions, honours its commitments and upholds international law consistently.

For the past two years, a Republican-controlled legislature has largely failed to challenge the president's exercise of executive power. The new congressional majority can investigate the administration's conduct, scrutinise military engagements, question its trade measures, and use its control over federal spending to demand greater accountability, as the Washington-based think tank Council on Foreign Relations explains. Democrats' control of the Senate also gives them the power to block presidential nominees, including any Supreme Court appointments should vacancies arise. While Trump's executive authority will limit how far Congress can go, a functioning system of checks and balances is itself a significant democratic gain.

The implications extend well beyond Washington. The international community needs a US that respects multilateral institutions, honours its commitments and upholds international law consistently. Whether on Gaza, Iran, Ukraine, climate action or global trade, greater congressional scrutiny could create pressure for restraint and diplomacy. The reactions of world leaders suggest many are hoping for precisely such a change. For Bangladesh, greater predictability in US trade policy and a possible de-escalation of the Iran war would be beneficial, given our dependence on the American export market and imported energy. However, it would be premature to assume that new political arithmetic in Washington would automatically resolve our trade and economic challenges.

Ultimately, this election outcome has presented an opportunity for change. Democrats must use their mandate responsibly, while the administration must recognise that presidential power is not without limits. A more accountable US would ensure a stable global order.

Fix measles vaccine supply without delay

Probing past failures is vital, but so is examining present shortcomings

The measles outbreak that has swept through the country this year, killing children and inflicting immense suffering on their families, marks a truly shameful period in our history, particularly because we had all but defeated this disease. As recently as in 2025, there were fewer than one measles case per million people, and Bangladesh was on course to eliminate the disease by the end of this year. Instead, the health directorate has recorded more than 2.34 lakh suspected cases and 1,269 confirmed and suspected measles-related deaths this year, most of them children.

It has taken nearly eight months of this raging epidemic for the government to formally investigate what went wrong with the measles vaccine supply. We welcome the three-member inquiry commission headed by former High Court judge, Justice Mamun Rahman, which will reportedly identify the liability of those responsible between August 8, 2024 and February 17, 2026 and report within 60 working days. But it must not become yet another committee whose findings gather dust.

The interim government directed that half of all vaccine purchases go through open tender instead of Unicef, a process officials had no experience with. Unicef says it warned the health ministry of a looming shortage in at least five letters and at 10 meetings. Why were these warnings not heeded? That is the question the commission must answer. Prof Sayedur Rahman, a key health adviser to the interim government, initially argued that the Unicef arrangement relied on an emergency clause. But a reform that leaves children without vaccines is a serious failure of governance, and those responsible for it must be held to account. While investigating past failures, the government should also take a hard look at its own. The outbreak is far from over, with more than 1,300 new suspected cases still reported daily. The current government deserves credit for its successive vaccination drives, which, however, also came short. But a probe confined to the interim period risks telling only part of the story.

So, we urge the government to publish the commission's report in full and on time, and to keep the process fair so it is not seen as political score-settling. We also need an independent review of the response since February this year, including an honest count of how many children remain unvaccinated. A stable procurement system must also be restored so no administrative experiment can ever leave our vaccine stores empty again. Those children died a preventable death; finding out why that happened is the least we owe their families.

Why are we struggling to attract private investment despite all the effort?



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**

Private investment has been one of Bangladesh's persistent economic puzzles. For years, private investment remained stuck at around 23-24 percent of GDP despite repeated investment summits, ambitious plans for economic zones, generous tax concessions for foreign investment, and successive promises to improve the business environment. It has now fallen to around 22 percent of GDP, its lowest level in about a decade. As a result, GDP growth has fallen to less than 4 percent. The deeper question is why businesses remain reluctant to commit investment after years of policies designed to encourage them.

Part of the explanation lies in the gap between announcements and implementation. The business environment has remained unfavourable for investment. Many economic zones have been painfully slow to become fully operational because land development, infrastructure, and reliable utility connections have lagged. The tax system remains fragmented and often distortionary. These initiatives have not produced enough investment, diversification, or technological upgrading to justify their fiscal cost.

The current economic environment makes this weakness more serious. Growth has slowed sharply since the pandemic and, over the past couple of years, has fallen to levels Bangladesh has not experienced in many years. Inflation has remained high for around four years, eroding household purchasing power while raising production costs. Export performance in FY2025-26 was essentially stagnant, although different official series and revisions produce slightly different estimates. Although remittances grew 17.3 percent, supporting the external account and foreign exchange reserves, they cannot substitute for a recovery in productive activity.

Private-sector credit growth has remained below 5 percent for several months, reaching historically low levels. Import demand, particularly for investment-related goods, has been weak. Fiscal space has narrowed. Fuel-price increases and gas shortages add further uncertainty. Substantially more private investment is needed to revive growth, create jobs, raise productivity and diversify exports. Yet firms must make long-term commitments amid weak demand, expensive finance, uncertain energy supply and a less predictable global economy.

Businesses have complained for years about unreliable energy, costly logistics, difficult taxation, regulatory uncertainty, weak contract enforcement, limited long-term finance and poor banking governance. What is different today is how these factors interact with persistent inflation, financial-sector stress, reduced fiscal space, political uncertainty, and weaker demand. Old structural weaknesses have become more binding because the economy has less room to absorb them.

Investment involves committing resources today against returns expected several years ahead. That is why businesses care about whether policies will remain predictable, contracts enforced and assets secure. They can adjust to difficult policies when rules are clear. However, when roadmaps for reforms in taxes, tariffs, energy prices or import regulations are obscure, business planning becomes harder.

The February 2026 election may have removed one source of uncertainty, but political transition does not automatically restore confidence. Businesses continue to watch law and order, political confrontation, institutional stability, and the state's capacity to enforce rules. Mob violence, insecurity, and arbitrary exercises of power carry an economic cost because they affect perceptions of property and business security. Foreign investors compare Bangladesh with competing destinations. Domestic investors therefore postpone expansion.

Thus, lowering high interest rates is not sufficient. Entrepreneurs will not borrow simply if uncertainties as mentioned above remain. Nor can monetary easing provide an easy escape while inflation remains high. Businesses need affordable finance, but premature easing could reignite inflationary and exchange-rate pressures. The banking system makes the problem considerably harder. Years of politically influenced lending, weak governance, repeated rescheduling and poor enforcement against powerful defaulters have distorted capital allocation. Non-performing loans are now around one-third of total loans. When politically connected borrowers receive large loans without adequate scrutiny while productive firms face normal commercial discipline, scarce capital is being allocated badly.

The losses eventually fall on depositors through weaker banks, taxpayers through recapitalisation, responsible borrowers through higher financing costs, or the wider economy through constrained credit. Banking reform is, therefore, central to the investment agenda. Bangladesh Bank's recent proposals to curb family control of private banks and tighten eligibility requirements for directors and managing directors move in the right direction. Yet resistance from bank owners illustrates the political economy of reform. More importantly, broader institutional reforms are still needed to reduce political influence and strengthen banking sector independence.

Taxation presents a similar problem. Bangladesh's tax-to-GDP ratio remains below 7 percent, among the lowest internationally. Yet the burden cannot continue to fall disproportionately on firms and individuals already inside the tax net while exemptions, discretionary treatment and weak enforcement protect others. Businesses can face aggressive tax administration even while aggregate revenue mobilisation remains exceptionally weak.

The tax base must widen, compliance needs to become simpler, discretionary privileges should be reduced, and enforcement made more consistent. Investment incentives, where justified, should be transparent, time-bound and linked to clear objectives. Reforms so far have too often been hesitant and inconsistent, without a credible roadmap for changing the system. Meanwhile, protectionism is rising, US trade policy has become less predictable, geopolitical tensions remain significant, and energy and shipping costs remain vulnerable to external shocks. Bangladesh also faces LDC graduation, while environmental requirements, labour standards and supply-chain due diligence are becoming more demanding. Competitors with better logistics, reliable energy and stronger institutions will not wait for Bangladesh to resolve its domestic weaknesses.

The private sector is not homogeneous. Bangladesh has competitive exporters, SMEs and entrepreneurs taking genuine commercial risks. It also has businesses whose profitability has depended on high protection, preferential finance, tax exemptions, regulatory access or political connections. Policies presented as private-sector support can, therefore, strengthen rent-seeking firms at the expense of productive ones. That also explains reform resistance. Banking reform threatens borrowers who benefited from weak governance. Tariff rationalisation affects industries accustomed to protection. Tax reform challenges groups enjoying exemptions. Competitive procurement threatens firms dependent on privilege. The beneficiaries are concentrated and influential, while the costs are dispersed among consumers, taxpayers and productive businesses.

The government's task is not simply to become more "business friendly", but more friendly to productive investment. That requires restoring law and order, improving policy predictability, repairing banking governance, ensuring reliable energy, reforming taxation, and reducing the anti-export bias in trade policy. Economic zones need functioning infrastructure and utilities, not further announcements.

Implementing reforms even when they confront powerful interests is essential. The practical test is whether an entrepreneur without political connections can expect predictable rules, commercial access to finance, reliable energy, fair tax treatment, and protection of contracts and property. Improving those conditions, rather than adding another layer of incentives, offers the more credible route to reviving private investment.



FILE VISUAL: **ANWAR SOHEL**

RMG wage revision must be grounded in evidence, not assumptions



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

■ **SABA EL KABIR**

The latest labour unrest in Bangladesh has, quite predictably, produced competing accounts of what needs to be done. This is a tried and tested set-piece: the government wants industrial stability restored, while manufacturers warn of lost orders and rising costs. On the obverse, labour organisations demand substantial wage increases, with rights groups and international institutions offering their own assessments of what workers should earn.

We are now in the second act, as the new RMG minimum wage board has declared that a revised pay scale will be finalised in December and workers will receive their first salary under the new pay scale in January 2027.

The minimum wage for the lowest regular garment-worker grade was set at Tk 12,500 in December 2023. According to data from Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), consumer prices rose by 29.5 percent between December 2023 and September 2026. This means that an unchanged wage would now need to be around Tk 16,200 to retain its purchasing power. This calculation is based on the national consumer price index. However, restoring purchasing power would merely return the original minimum to its December 2023 value, without establishing whether that wage was adequate in the first place.

The Power and Participation Research Centre's State of the Real Economy study, based on a nationally representative survey of 8,067 households in 2025, found that urban households earned an average of Tk 40,578 a month against an expenditure of Tk 44,961. That is a monthly shortfall of Tk 4,383. But even recorded expenditure may understate what a household needs. Our culture of "resilience" means families cutting food consumption or postponing medical treatment because they cannot afford it. A wage calculated solely from what people manage to spend risks treating deprivation as an acceptable standard of living.

On the other hand, a living wage lens requires a separate calculation based on the cost of a decent standard of living. The Global Living Wage Coalition estimated a monthly living wage of Tk 30,459 for Dhaka in 2025 and Tk 25,166 for surrounding industrial cities. These estimates assume a family of four supported by the equivalent of 1.58 full-time earners. The International Labour Organization's 2025 methodology sets out how household surveys and local prices can be used to estimate workers' needs. BBS and existing household research provide a substantial foundation which could be supplemented by targeted assessments in garment-producing areas. The Fair Labor Association's October 2026 study examined four Bangladeshi garment factories, so its findings cannot represent the entire industry. But as a signal, average base wages fell below the relevant living wage benchmarks. Even with overtime hours, average earnings remained below those estimates.

To build the basis for meaningful dialogue in place of sloganeering, the wage board should prioritise establishing a current living-cost baseline using an openly published methodology. Assumptions about household size and earners must be clear. Workers' representatives should participate in validating the findings, with the calculations available for independent examination. Concerns raised repeatedly by manufacturers about competitiveness and financial capacity also require evidence.

Aggregate export performance tells us little about the ability of different factories to absorb higher wages. BGMEA and BKMEA could strengthen their case through assessments of labour costs and operating margins across different types of factories. The board must examine how productivity and buyer pricing affect affordability, and publish aggregated findings without exposing commercially sensitive company accounts.

In 2023, the Centre for Policy Dialogue estimated a wage requirement of Tk 17,568 for a Grade-7 worker under the then grading system. Its modelling suggested that an additional $0.07 per garment in purchasing prices could accommodate that wage without reducing manufacturers' profit margins, provided buyers paid the increase. Section 141 of the Bangladesh Labour Act also requires the wage board to consider living costs, inflation, production costs, and employers' business capacity, among other factors. The law gives the board considerable discretion in determining how much weight to assign to each.

Publishing living-cost estimates and the evidence used to assess industry affordability would go a long way towards shifting the debate from rhetorical to methodical. If the proposed minimum wage for RMG workers falls below the estimated living wage, the difference should be disclosed and litigated through public discourse. There is no need to postpone the current revision while conducting an elaborate new survey, as existing research and focused checks of current prices can support an immediate assessment.

At a 2024 discussion organised by the Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies, researchers called for a dedicated research wing within the Minimum Wages Board. The labour ministry should act on that recommendation and establish a regularly updated, independently reviewable wage baseline.

The new wage board for RMG workers has the opportunity to carry out a reform that extends beyond constitutional metaphysics and into the lived reality of workers' households. It must show its work towards that end.

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Bangladesh must protect digital inclusion as the AI boom drives up costs



Mahmudul Hasan is a senior reporter at The Daily Star, covering AI, telecommunications, and technology.

■ MAHMUDUL HASAN

"Rajay rajay juddho hoy, ulukhagrar pran jay" is a well-known Bangla proverb that conveys how ordinary people often bear the brunt of rivalry between powerful nations, individuals, or groups. These days, it also captures an uncomfortable reality of the global artificial intelligence (AI) race. The world's most powerful countries and technology companies are competing for supremacy in a technology that promises to transform economies, industries, and societies. But the cost of that competition is increasingly being felt far beyond Silicon Valley and Beijing.

As AI giants such as OpenAI, Google, and Meta buy enormous quantities of chips, memory, and storage, manufacturers are prioritising these big-spending customers over the consumer electronics market. This is tightening supplies of components for laptops and smartphones, pushing up prices, and making devices less affordable for ordinary consumers. In Bangladesh, computer prices are becoming exorbitantly high, smartphone manufacturers are facing rising component costs, and businesses are postponing technology purchases.

For a country seeking to expand digital inclusion, develop an IT-enabled services industry, and prepare its youth for an AI-driven economy, this creates a troubling contradiction. The technology that could help Bangladesh leapfrog development barriers is making some of the tools needed to use it less affordable.

The AI boom is reportedly making computers significantly more expensive. Entry-level laptops that cost Tk 47,000-Tk 48,000 a year earlier are selling for Tk 65,000-Tk 70,000. Laptop and desktop sales volumes have fallen by around 20 to 25 percent over the past year, even as the total value of sales has increased.

Computer use in Bangladesh already remains very low, with only 11.8 percent of individuals and 9 percent of households using or owning computers. Fewer than 3 percent of manufacturing units in Bangladesh use computers or information technology (IT) in their production work, according to the 2024 Economic Census. And now, AI is making computers less affordable for individuals and industries alike.

Bangladesh's mobile phone industry is also facing rising component costs alongside domestic structural challenges. One report by this newspaper documented how rising memory prices are adding to the pressures on local manufacturers. RAM and storage components have become more expensive, increasing production costs for manufacturers already grappling with grey-market competition, weak factory utilisation, and policy uncertainties. Industry representatives have reported steep increases in memory prices since the beginning of the year, with further increases expected. Such pressures can feed through to handset prices, making affordable smartphones harder to produce and purchase.



'As AI giants such as OpenAI, Google, and Meta buy enormous quantities of chips, memory, and storage, manufacturers are prioritising these big-spending customers over the consumer electronics market.'

PHOTO: REUTERS

Computer use in Bangladesh already remains very low, with only 11.8 percent of individuals and 9 percent of households using or owning computers. Fewer than 3 percent of manufacturing units in Bangladesh use computers or information technology (IT) in their production work, according to the 2024 Economic Census. And now, AI is making computers less affordable for individuals and industries alike. Entry-level laptops that cost Tk 47,000-Tk 48,000 a year earlier are selling for Tk 65,000-Tk 70,000.

The difficulties facing local manufacturers could also undermine Bangladesh's ambition to build a stronger domestic digital device industry. The country's handset production fell from roughly 2.73 crore units in 2024 to 2.44 crore units in 2025. Global component shortages are not the only reason behind the industry's difficulties, but they add another burden in an already challenging business environment.

Bangladesh has also long struggled with low smartphone penetration, with nearly half of mobile users—47 percent—still relying on feature phones. To address this, the government is seeking to make low-cost smartphones more accessible and phase out 2G services by 2029 to accelerate digital inclusion. However, rising component prices driven by the global AI boom threaten to undermine these efforts. Indeed, digital penetration in Bangladesh is likely to remain constrained beyond 2027 due to shortages of components for laptops, desktops, servers and other essential digital infrastructure, as the intensifying global AI race continues to drive up component prices.

The United States and China increasingly treat AI as a strategic technology, with consequences for economic competitiveness, national security, and military power. Washington restricts China's access to advanced chips and chipmaking equipment, while Beijing is investing in domestic alternatives. The rivalry now extends to the models themselves.

On September 8, US law enforcement and intelligence officials accused six Chinese AI companies, including DeepSeek, Moonshot AI, and Alibaba, of using distillation—training a cheaper model on the outputs of a more powerful one—to copy US technology. The allegations were disputed and Beijing has called similar claims groundless. It is also building barriers of its own: on October 16, China proposed export controls on 40 technologies, 23 of them tied to AI.

The competition is not confined to governments. OpenAI, Google, Microsoft, Meta, and Anthropic compete with DeepSeek, Alibaba, and Tencent for customers, talent, and computing capacity. DeepSeek showed that Chinese developers can challenge established players with cost-efficient methods. Even so, the spending is enormous. Alphabet, Amazon, Meta, and Microsoft are expected to invest about $650 billion in AI infrastructure this year, up roughly 60 percent from $410 billion in 2025.

The infrastructure splurge is driving shortages of memory as manufacturers prioritise chips destined for data centres over those for everyday PCs and phones. Xiaomi's general manager in Bangladesh has said that AI companies are "effectively writing blank cheques" to memory makers. Counterpoint, a global technology market intelligence and research firm, expected memory prices to climb nearly 50 percent through the first quarter, while Gartner projects PC prices to be 17 percent higher and smartphones 13 percent higher than in 2025.

Bangladesh's computer importers and handset manufacturers are failing to match the purchasing power of global technology giants. They are absorbing higher costs or passing them on to consumers. Export restrictions and trade barriers also make sourcing costlier, and Bangladesh feels the effects through international prices. As wealthy countries and corporations invest billions of dollars to gain an AI advantage, developing economies are being forced to find more money simply to buy the devices needed for citizens to take part in the digital economy.

Connectivity alone can no longer deliver digital inclusion. People also need affordable devices, reliable internet, access to electricity, and necessary skills. If device prices outpace household incomes, expanded networks may not translate into wider participation. There is a longer-term industrial risk too, as higher-value digital services need a broad base of digitally equipped workers and businesses, not just a few well-funded companies.

Bangladesh cannot influence the strategies of Silicon Valley or Beijing, and it should not treat AI as a threat or be put off by it. The technology could create real opportunities in education, healthcare, manufacturing, agriculture, and public services. The challenge is to ensure those benefits are not reserved only for people who can afford increasingly expensive hardware. The government must keep cutting unnecessary duties on computers and components. It's commendable that the government withdrew import duties and VAT on laptops, desktops, servers, printers, and monitors in the FY2026-27 budget. But tax cuts cannot overcome global supply constraints, so their impact should be monitored and other price-raising barriers reviewed.

Support for local handset and electronics manufacturing must also become more predictable, with stable taxation, action against illegal imports, and incentives linked to productivity. Technology supply chains should be diversified, with procurement that values alternative suppliers, repairability, longer device lifecycles, and spare parts. Affordable access schemes—including targeted financing, quality-assured refurbished devices, institutional computer lending, and shared computing facilities—would help students and low-income households.

It is encouraging that Bangladesh plans to launch sovereign AI within a year. However, the initiative must be backed by thorough planning, adequate computing infrastructure, skilled manpower, reliable data, and sustainable investment to ensure meaningful, long-term benefits. Investment should also reach where it can build real strength: digital skills, Bangla-language applications, local software, responsible AI adoption, and higher-value services.

Each time an ordinary citizen or small business is gatekept out of buying necessary devices, it is a setback to the country's digital ambitions. Bangladesh must ensure its people and businesses do not become the casualties of global battles for AI supremacy.

What the US midterm results mean for Trump, Washington, and the wider world



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■ ZILLUR RAHMAN

As the saying goes, Americans have indeed spoken in the 2026 midterms. The Democratic Party's victory in both houses of Congress means not only the end of President Donald Trump's absolute dominance, but also dramatic changes for Washington and potentially for the world. President Trump will now face a divided government until the end of his term. Nevertheless, the results of this year's midterms have much broader implications for America than just division of power in Congress.

Democrats' sweeping victory in traditionally Republican states of Texas, Ohio, Kansas, North Carolina, and others demonstrates the depth of disappointment of Americans with Trump's administration. James Talarico's victory in Texas and Sherrod Brown's in Ohio are especially significant in this regard. However, reducing this event to an ideological swing towards the Democrats would mean failing to understand the real message Americans sent.

American voters made their decision mostly based on their personal economic situation. Inflation, rising gas prices, expensive groceries, and worries about their financial situation dominate Americans' view of the administration's political agenda. According to exit polling, about 39 percent of voters consider the economy the most important topic in this election, while almost one-third believes in the current state of democracy. Economic frustrations and worries about the state of institutions reinforced each other.

This is a very important lesson for any government. Governments can boast about their investment programmes, employment numbers, and growth of the stock market, but voters assess economic success through their purchasing power and economic safety. If people feel they cannot maintain their living standards, no impressive macroeconomic narrative matters.

Foreign policy entered this election directly through the average voter's budget. US military involvement in the war with Iran and Trump's tariff policies became a source of worry about prices, inflation, and economic uncertainty. Polls demonstrated that there is strong disapproval among Americans of the American military involvement in Iran. For many people, the link between military operations abroad and hard times at home becomes clear.

The administration's political appeal has been partly based on promises made by Trump to avoid long, expensive military actions abroad, and put American interests first. Military involvement in Iran becomes a serious complication for this approach. However, this does not mean the midterm election should be seen as a call for Americans to embrace isolationism. Voters can oppose specific military actions but still reject internationalism entirely.

The election's consequences for America's internal situation could be dramatic too. A Democratic Congress opens the door to investigation, closer scrutiny of executive decisions, and budget oversight. The Trump administration's plans for future work will be challenged, and budget negotiations may become highly contentious.

However, a divided government does not necessarily mean a dysfunctional government. The American political system is built on confrontation among institutions and limits on power. Scrutiny by Congress can strengthen democratic accountability, but only if it does not turn into permanent confrontation. Democrats should also show they can govern, not just obstruct the administration.



A Democratic Congress in the US will mean closer scrutiny of executive decisions, but Bangladesh should approach the political shift in Washington without taking sides.

FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

However, the international implications of this event should be considered as well. For Europe, this result could mean increased congressional support for transatlantic relations and Ukraine, but disagreements over defense spending and strategic priorities will continue. In the Middle East, Congress could require more transparency about American military operations, their financial costs, and the possibilities of diplomatic resolution. However, Congress cannot fully revise American foreign policy because the president has broad authority over diplomacy and national security.

The issue of China is another example of complications in relations. Despite differences in rhetoric and strategic actions, competition with China has quite broad bipartisan support in Washington. This means the midterm result is unlikely to change the overall strategy towards Beijing. Instead, disagreements will likely arise about tariffs, technological restrictions, alliance-building, and the balance between confrontation and cooperation with China.

For the international community, the bigger question is that of predictability. America's decisions on trade, security, and international institutions have an impact far beyond its borders. Political confrontation in Washington could raise uncertainty about budgets, development assistance, and international obligations. However, closer scrutiny of Congress could contribute to more consultations and continuity in some areas of foreign policy.

Bangladesh should consider these events without taking a partisan position in American politics. Relations with Washington should be based not on the political preferences of any administration or political party, but on permanent national interests. There are many opportunities for cooperation on trade, investment, labour standards, maritime cooperation, technology, and regional security. Besides, Bangladesh should understand that the bipartisan concerns about institutions, human rights, and economic governance will continue to shape American foreign policy. It is important to build institutional relations, diversify partnerships, and expand cooperation across the political spectrum to pursue sustainable diplomacy.

For the Democrats, there is a test. Election victories achieved largely because of dissatisfaction with the incumbent administration do not automatically build public trust in the Democrats' alternative programme. Now they should offer a credible alternative on affordability, migration, health care, and international relations. Otherwise, today's successes could be temporary.

Trump faces an important limit on his presidential power, but not the end of his political influence. His executive power remains strong, and the Republican Party has a big constituency. Therefore, the next two years could be characterised by either increased institutional confrontation or bipartisan agreement.

In general, this US midterm election has demonstrated a democratic truth: the political mandate is never unconditional or eternal. Economic concerns, controversial foreign interventions, and worries about accountability can change electorates even in highly polarised societies. American voters have changed Congress. The future success of this change depends on Washington's actions.

Dameer returns with 'Dhaka Love', finds pieces of home in music

NAVEEN ISLAM TOREE

There is a peculiar kind of heartbreak that comes with leaving a place you have learnt to call home. It is not always about the people you leave behind or the streets you may never walk again. Sometimes, it is the unsettling realisation that you have built pieces of yourself in different corners of the world, and that no single place can hold all of them anymore.

For Bangladeshi singer-songwriter Dameer Khan, this feeling lies at the heart of his latest music video, ***Dhaka Love***. And as it turns out, the story is not entirely fictional.



For Dameer, a self-described "Bangladeshi Export", home and identity remain caught between Bangladesh and the life he has built abroad.

The video, which premiered on October 31, follows a Bangladeshi accountant spending his final hours in Toronto before his work permit expires. Through familiar streets, friendships, and the small comforts of everyday life, it captures the bittersweet experience of preparing to leave a place that has quietly become your own.

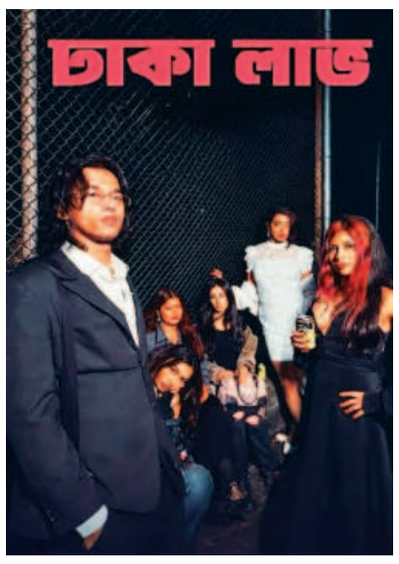
The music video also marks Dameer's directorial debut, with every creative choice being intentional, according to him. His collaboration with Saifi N began with a simple message and an instant creative chemistry. Armed with "two shitty laptops", they brought the video to life in just a couple of days.

For Dameer who calls himself a "Bangladeshi Export", the idea of home is rarely straightforward. "Identity somehow gets a little distorted along the way," Dameer reflected on the pull between the country one leaves behind and the life built elsewhere.

He explained that being Bangladeshi abroad often means condensing a complex cultural identity to familiar symbols like biryani, sarees, and panjabis, leaving little room for the country's history and deeper aspects. Yet, the colourful nights, friendships, and memories made abroad become just as personal. Nostalgia does not stay reserved for the place one came from, but also for the place one is about to leave.

This complicated relationship with identity is only one part of Dameer's journey. Having entered the music industry at a young age, he has witnessed his own position change over the years.

During the course of the interview, the artiste highlighted the lack of institutional support for musicians.



"There is no legal association that would defend musicians. I feel like a lot of problems would be solved if there were more protection for artistes," he said, raising concerns about royalties and contractual disputes.

"For someone trying to make a name for myself, it broke me completely."

Nevertheless, he believes Bangladesh has enormous potential to establish itself globally through music. Pointing to the international success of artistes such as Sanjoy Deb, particularly his performance at FIFA, Dameer stressed the importance of fair opportunities and stronger protections for emerging musicians.

For all the disillusionment he has experienced, his ambition remains intact. He has several projects lined up, including new singles, a collaboration with Shibu, and a film in which he will debut as the lead actor. He also plans to move to the United Kingdom next year, where he intends to release a dance album.

It is perhaps fitting that an artiste who has just released a song about the uncertainty of leaving one home is already preparing to begin again somewhere else. Dameer's new song became a reflection of every other youth pursuing a life and career abroad.



Ranbir Kapoor and Yash's 'Ramayana' eyes record-breaking box office run

Ranbir Kapoor, Yash and Sai Pallavi's ***Ramayana: Part 1*** opened worldwide yesterday, November 5, amid strong box office expectations. Directed by Nitesh Tiwari, the film casts Ranbir as Lord Rama, Sai Pallavi as Sita and Yash as Ravana.

According to early trade reports, worldwide advance bookings exceeded Rs 150 crore, including over Rs 80 crore for opening day. Early reviews praised the performances and visuals, while some raised concerns about pacing, music and visual effects.

Produced by Namit Malhotra and Yash, the film features a score by Hans Zimmer and AR Rahman, with visual effects by DNEG. The first of two planned instalments, it will be followed by a sequel scheduled for release in 2028, with Sunny Deol playing Lord Hanuman.



'Invisible Stories'

Invisible Stories brings Bengali ghost lore to life through evocative body puppetry and traditional Sundarbans folk music. Directed by French puppeteer Laurie Cannac, this cross-cultural production reimagines urban Dhaka as a surreal metropolis, blurring the boundaries between modern city life and the supernatural world.

Date: Friday–Saturday | November 6–7, 2026
Time: 6:00pm onwards
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, BSA



Phoebe Waller-Bridge donates London flat to help young writers

Fleabag creator, writer, and actress Phoebe Waller-Bridge has donated a London flat to Writers' Block, a new scheme helping early-career writers from disadvantaged backgrounds afford accommodation in the capital.

Waller-Bridge bought the property specifically for the initiative and will provide it rent-free, with residents paying only their bills. She has also made a financial contribution.

Screenwriter Jack Thorne is among the scheme's backers, alongside James Graham, Sally Wainwright, Peter Morgan and Martin McDonagh.

Writers' Block grew out of the Adopt a Playwright Award, founded in 2008 by Sofie Mason and Diana Jervis-Read. The scheme offers spare rooms in London at reduced rates, capped at £30 a night or £500 a month, and has so far helped 12 writers find accommodation.

NEWS

No AI guidelines for universities

FROM PAGE 12

Persian Language and Literature at RU, said AI had fundamentally changed his reading habits. Instead of spending hours reading, he now relies on AI-generated summaries.

NM Ullash, a fourth-year journalism student at Chittagong University, said, "The constant availability of instant summaries has diminished students' focus during lectures and eroded their inclination to engage in deep, sustained reading."

The growing reliance on AI has also challenged traditional assessment methods, particularly take-home assignments.

Prof Imranul Hoque, chairman of Jagannath University's Marketing Department, said teachers were encountering assignments that appeared far beyond students' demonstrated abilities.

"But when we look at the content, we can see that, at this level, it is not possible for the student to produce something of that standard," he said.

He warned that excessive AI dependence could weaken critical reasoning, analytical skills and independent problem-solving, and called for common national rules.

Swakkhar Shatabda, professor of Computer Science and Engineering at BRAC University, raised similar concerns.

"I have seen students submit strong or sophisticated assignments but struggle to explain or defend them," he said.

In response, some teachers are placing greater emphasis on oral examinations, presentations, classroom discussions and project-based assessments to test students' understanding rather than simply evaluating their submissions.

Md Abdul Kabil Khan, associate professor and head of Journalism, Media and Communication at Daffodil International University, said teachers were reconsidering marking criteria for take-home assignments, giving greater weight to students' original ideas, creativity and knowledge.

Taspriya Labonno Progga, a student at DU's Institute of Education and Research, said instructors were increasingly assessing students through direct classroom interaction.

"Methods such as viva examinations, presentations, class discussions, and in-class assignments are being used more," she said. "This makes it more difficult for students to simply submit work generated by AI."

Prof Mamun of RU suggested more oral assessments and requiring students to preserve successive drafts of assignments and projects so teachers could evaluate their reasoning and work processes.

Prof Khairul said he also asked students to present their assignments, noting that those heavily dependent on AI sometimes struggled to explain their work.

Generative AI became widely available following ChatGPT's public release in November 2022, prompting universities worldwide to revise their academic policies.

A 2025 study, "Comparative analysis of artificial intelligence policies in universities across five countries", examined guidelines at 343 universities in Australia, Canada, China, the UK and the US. It found that 179, or 52 percent, allowed individual instructors to determine how AI could be used in their classes.

In Bangladesh, the UGC is still preparing a national framework.

UGC Chairman Prof Mamun Ahmed said the commission planned to introduce guidelines promoting ethical and transparent AI use. Universities would then develop their own policies, with departments preparing discipline-specific rules.

"There is no reason to think that one AI policy can cover all universities, or even all departments within the same university," he told The Daily Star.

"We hope that the guideline will be ready by January," he said.

Meanwhile, universities are at different stages of developing their policies.

DU Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Prof Abdus Salam said a committee had been formed around two months ago to prepare AI guidelines.

Chittagong University Vice-Chancellor Prof Mohammad Al-Forkan said the university had decided to formulate an AI policy and had been organising short training programmes for students across faculties.

At Daffodil International University, revised AI guidelines covering students, teachers, researchers and administrative staff were approved in 2026, according to Md Abdul Kabil Khan.

A 2025 study co-authored by Prof Khairul, based on 765 valid responses from teachers and students in social science disciplines at public and private universities, also found differing perceptions of AI use.

Students generally considered ChatGPT helpful for learning, while teachers were more cautious about its effects. The study identified concerns over excessive dependence, unreliable information and inadequate institutional guidance on ethical use.

Prof Khairul said university policies should clearly define acceptable AI use in assignments and research for both teachers and students, while considering unequal access to devices and paid services.

He supported AI-assisted literature searches, provided students independently verified the sources.

"AI is a reality. We cannot ignore it," he said.

He called for AI literacy to be incorporated into university courses and for teachers to receive training in the technology's effective and ethical use.

"There is no alternative to training teachers," he said.

Jamaat bloc plans council to pursue July charter reforms

FROM PAGE 12

committee, accused the government of disregarding the referendum verdict and backing away from its reform commitments.

"We have taken a policy decision on this. We will form a council. However, its size and other details will be decided after further discussions," he told The Daily Star.

The council would build public opinion, provide intellectual guidance and explore ways to implement the referendum verdict, he said.

Hamidur said discussions on the council's composition and action plan were underway, with details to be announced at a press conference.

Jalaluddin Ahmad, secretary general of Khelafat Majlis, said the alliance's top leaders decided to form the council at a meeting on October 27. The liaison committee discussed the matter the following day.

The plan is to include a few lawmakers from the alliance and one non-MP representative from each partner party, he said.

Jalaluddin said alliance lawmakers had taken oaths both as MPs and as members of the Constitution Reform Council, making them responsible for carrying out reforms.

"We want constitutional reform, while the government wants amendments. The 11 parties have been holding programmes on the streets. Since our lawmakers have taken the oath as members of the Constitution Reform Council, they also have a responsibility," he said.

The proposed council would hold discussions with businesspeople, professionals, journalists and diplomats to build support for constitutional reform.

Jalaluddin hoped its composition and action plan could be announced next week.

Jamaat MP from Pabna-1 Nazibur Rahman Momen said a 15-member proposal for the council had been submitted and would be finalised after discussions among alliance leaders.

Nazibur said discussions had previously taken place on forming a committee comprising all parties that signed the charter to oversee its implementation and constitutional reform.

He said lawmakers could not fulfil their responsibilities as the Constitution Reform Council had not been convened. The alliance was therefore considering a platform to organise meetings, including symbolic sessions, and other activities.

"We will present not just a framework but also a draft outlining what the constitution should look like in light of the July charter and the referendum. We will also undertake various programmes to raise public awareness," he said.

Those being considered for the council include Hamidur Rahman Azad, Nazibur Rahman Momen, opposition deputy leader and Jamaat Nayeb-e-Ameer Syed Abdullah Mohammed Taher, National Citizen Party (NCP) Member Secretary and Rangpur-4 MP Akhtar Hossen, the party's Senior Joint Convener Nasiruddin Patwary, lawyer Shishir Manir, and Rokeya Begum, mother of martyred Jabir Ibrahim and a Jamaat-nominated MP from a reserved women's seat.

No passport needed to bring Hasina back

FROM PAGE 12

Communist Party of China Central Committee.

Humaiun said there was no legal requirement to issue a passport or travel document to facilitate the return of a fugitive sought under an extradition process.

"Is she coming to visit her in-laws' home in Rangpur that we need to give her a passport? You do not need a passport to arrest terrorists and criminals. This is a matter of handover, and a judicial process is in place," he said.

Referring to Bangladesh's efforts to secure her return, the state minister said the country would continue pursuing the matter through established legal and diplomatic channels.

Questioned about the proposed Bangladesh-Myanmar-China Economic Corridor, Humaiun said the initiative had the potential to create a new connectivity and trade route for the region, but stressed that stability and a sustainable solution to the Rohingya crisis remained important prerequisites for Bangladesh.

Separately, Bangladesh and China reaffirmed their commitment to advancing bilateral relations under the framework of a "China-Bangladesh Community with a Shared Future in the New Era".

The commitment was reiterated during a breakfast meeting hosted by Humaiun in honour of Liu Haixing at State Guest House Padma yesterday.

2 DGFI men sacked

FROM PAGE 12

According to the case forwarding report, Sharif had gone there with Ansar member Sohel Rana, who had offered to help him buy a motorcycle. Four people later entered the flat, confined him and demanded the money.

Sharif handed over Tk 70,000, which he had brought to buy the motorcycle, before being assaulted and threatened again.

Around 3:00am, the suspects reportedly took Sharif out of the flat and forced him into a car. They stopped at a tea stall in Shyamoli, where Sharif spotted a police patrol vehicle, got out and informed the police.

Police then arrested the six, including Mamun, Nuruzzaman and Sohel, and seized the car.

Largest Arab party group backs Eisenkot

FROM PAGE 12

The party informed Herzog "that it has decided not to recommend any member of Knesset to form a government," the president's office said in a statement, referring to the 120-member parliament in which United Torah Judaism has won seven seats.

The party, which represents ultra-Orthodox Jews of Ashkenazi origin, who mostly hail from or have roots in Europe, as well as Shas, which represents the same community but of Sephardic, or mostly Middle Eastern and North African descent, have both been backed by Netanyahu as they push to maintain the exemption from military service for religious students.

Netanyahu has preserved the exemption but stopped short of enshrining it in law, in the face of major resentment from many other Israelis as reservists serve multiple tours due to the wars in Gaza, Lebanon and Iran.

"In whatever government is next formed, our immediate item is sorting out the status of Torah students," United Torah Judaism lawmaker Isaac Pindrus said.

Eisenkot, a former military chief seeking to unite the centre and centre-right, has been adamant about closing exemptions to military service, with some of his opposition allies harshly criticising the ultra-Orthodox as self-serving.

Observers say United Torah Judaism's approach may be aimed more at punishing Netanyahu and showing that their votes cannot be taken for granted, while they could still serve in a government if he were to form one.

Army member killed

FROM PAGE 12

A joint team comprising personnel from the army's 10 Infantry Division, Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and local police launched an operation in the area around 5:00pm.

The traffickers opened fire upon seeing members of the joint force approach, prompting security personnel to return fire, the ISPR said.

Titas was critically injured and suffered heavy blood loss. He was taken to a nearby hospital for initial treatment before being transferred to the Combined Military Hospital in Ramu, where doctors declared him dead.

During the operation, the joint force rescued 57 hostages and detained five suspected members of the trafficking gang. A pistol, a locally made firearm and four rounds of ammunition were also recovered, the release said.

The Bangladesh Army expressed condolences to Titas's family and paid tribute to him for sacrificing his life in the line of duty.

Thailand bans textbook on nat'l security grounds

AFP, *Bangkok*

Thailand has banned a textbook about the country on national security grounds, with the tome's exiled editor saying yesterday it was outlawed over its content on the Thai monarchy.

The royal family holds revered status in Thai society and is shielded from criticism by a strict defamation law that critics say is used to muzzle dissent.

Garment unrest

FROM PAGE 2

In Dhaka's Mirpur, no worker unrest was reported throughout the day, and most factories resumed operations around 2:00pm. However, the situation remained tense in Ashulia, where garment workers continued demonstrations, triggering fresh clashes with police and prompting more than 100 factories in Savar and Ashulia to declare holidays.

The protests took place in the Jamgora area along the Abdullahpur-Baipail road yesterday morning. At Dosaid in Ashulia, demonstrators vandalised two factory gates.

"Overall, the situation in Savar and Ashulia was fairly good today [Thursday]. However, amid concerns over possible unrest in some areas, authorities of more than 100 of the 1,863 factories in the two industrial zones declared holidays," Mohammad Mominul Islam Bhuiyan, superintendent of Ashulia Industrial Police-1, told The Daily Star.

Samanta Shermeen

FROM PAGE 2

outset, arguing that it was neither an ideological nor a strategic fit for the NCP. According to Samanta, Jamaat lacked a genuine programme for constitutional, legal and political reforms, and the alliance had weakened NCP's identity while eroding confidence among reform-minded people.

She also questioned the party's strategy for the 2026 parliamentary election, alleging that the leadership had prioritised electoral considerations over political transformation.



Artworks by artist Rashid Khan displayed at his solo exhibition "The River Script", which opened at Dhaka Gallery in Banani yesterday, exploring the connection between rivers, human memories and emotions. *Inset*, a discussion about the paintings.

PHOTO: COURTESY

A mounting trail of deaths

FROM PAGE 3

In 2025, the association recorded 2,493 crashes, leaving 2,983 people dead and 2,219 injured.

Saidur Rahman, executive director of RSF, told The Daily Star that motorcycles account for 71 percent of registered motor vehicles in Bangladesh, with many ridden by teenagers and young adults.

He said reckless riding among young people is becoming increasingly common, partly due to advertisements by motorcycle manufacturers and marketers that encourage thrill-seeking and speeding.

"As a result, motorcyclists themselves are becoming victims of crashes, while pedestrians and other road users are also being put at risk."

He also blamed reckless driving by bus and goods vehicle drivers, many of whom were physically and mentally unfit to drive.

Rahman said 58 percent of motorcycle crash victims were aged between 13 and 35.

Motorcycles are 30 times riskier than four-wheeled vehicles, he said, adding that inadequate public transport and traffic congestion are pushing more people towards two-wheelers.

He also identified the use of poor-quality helmets as a major factor behind the rising death toll. "Quality helmets reduce the risk of death in a crash by 48 percent."

Kazi Md Saifun Newaz, assistant professor at Buet's Accident Research Institute, said motorcycle numbers and the associated risks are increasing.

Controlling motorcycle numbers should be considered to reduce crashes, he said, adding that authorities must ensure both riders and pillion passengers wear helmets meeting proper safety standards.

"Although the existing law requires motorcyclists to wear helmets, the standards specifying what kind of helmets must be used need to be clearly defined," he said.

Contacted, Anisur Rahman, additional secretary at the Roads and Highways Department, said the government has taken initial steps under the road safety law to reduce motorcycle crashes.

He said motorcycles on highways could carry no more than two people, including the rider, and must have digital registration plates. Riders must use designated service lanes, follow speed limits, and ensure that both they and their pillion passengers wear BSTI-approved helmets. Violators would be fined.

"However, enforcing the law alone is not enough. Road users must also follow traffic rules and government instructions," he added.

44,000 clearances later, govt tightens migration rules

FROM PAGE 12

5,374, and Serbia with 4,255.

The others were Japan (1,876), Belarus (1,262), Vietnam (1,220), Moldova (241), Libya (113), Kosovo (20), and Ukraine (seven).

These figures represent clearances, not independently verified departures.

The October 8 TIP report placed these four countries in Tier 3, indicating their governments that do not meet minimum anti-trafficking standards and are not making significant efforts to do so. The classification assesses government responses, not the direct risk faced by every migrant.

Bangladesh remained in Tier 2. The report acknowledged increased anti-trafficking efforts but cited shortcomings in convictions, victim protection, and recruitment practices. It also warned that worker-paid recruitment fees left many migrants indebted and vulnerable to trafficking.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Gazi Md Shahed Anwar, deputy secretary of employment-3 branch of the expatriates' welfare ministry, said Japan was included to ensure agencies followed its recruitment regulations, including workers' training and documentation requirements, to prevent complications or misunderstandings.

For the other destinations, he cited concerns about suspected trafficking, deception, and workers ending up in detention.

WORKERS TRAPPED

The directive follows repeated reports of Bangladeshis being deceived into jobs, particularly in Cambodia and Russia.

Bangladeshis promised legitimate jobs in Cambodia were found handed over to cyber-scam networks. Victims described having their passports confiscated, being confined and forced into online fraud. Some alleged torture, intimidation, and demands for money for release.

Survivor Al Amin said he was promised a data-entry job but given a tourist visa and sold to a scam compound for $1,500, where he was forced into online fraud.

The bodies of three Bangladeshis, including 23-year-old Sohag Ahmed, were brought home from Cambodia on October 8. Sohag had travelled there in April 2025 with BMET clearance.

In Russia, Bangladeshis promised civilian jobs were allegedly forced into military service and sent to fight in Ukraine.

The UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine identified Bangladesh among 29 countries whose nationals were recruited into Russian forces through deception or coercion -- showing how seemingly legitimate arrangements could expose workers to exploitation.

A Brac study found that 98 percent of cyber-scam victims did not get promised jobs, 90 percent were forced or deceived into online scams, and 66 percent were recruited through middlemen.

MEASURES

Migration expert Asif Munier said the directive appeared to respond to trafficking and deception concerns involving Cambodia and Russia, but questioned why regular monitoring had failed to prevent such incidents.

"This should be a temporary measure, not a permanent solution," he told this newspaper, calling for proper verification of job offers and recruitment arrangements before clearance.

"Ultimately, it is BMET that puts the final seal of approval and issues the clearance. Those issuing it must also take responsibility," he said, adding that officials should not rely solely on recruiting agencies' information.

Munier urged verification through Bangladesh's diplomatic missions, including those in neighbouring countries where necessary.

He warned that repeatedly permitting and restricting recruitment could confuse workers, push unscrupulous recruiters elsewhere and hurt legitimate jobseekers unless a permanent monitoring and verification system was established.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Chief Commercial Manager (East)
Bangladesh Railway, CRB, Chattogram.

54.01.1500.107.05.325.26-2731 Date: 05-11-2026

Corrigendum-01
For
Invitation for Proposal for
Integrated Facility Management and Operation of Cox's ICONIC Station
Reference No: 54.01.1500.107.05.325.26-2440, dated 30 September 2026
Package No: CCM/East/CMG/CXB-01

SL NO.	Reference Details:	
	Published Notice Reference No.:	54.01.1500.107.05.325.26-2440
	Issued Bid Document Reference No:	54.01.1500.107.05.325.26-2440
	Package No:	CCM/East/CMG/CXB-01

In partial modification of the above-referenced Invitation for Proposal, the following amendments are hereby made:

SL NO.	Section, Clause & Page No.	Clause Description (As Published in Original Notice/Bid Document)	Amendment/Modification (Revised Clause)
01	Invitation for Proposal Notice Para 3 Page No. 1	Bid documents may be purchased up to 08 November 2026	Bid documents may be purchased up to 23 November 2026
02	Section 2: Proposal Data Sheet ITB Clause 29.1 Page No. 22	Proposals must be submitted no later than 09 November 2026 at 12:00 PM	Proposals must be submitted no later than 24 November 2026 at 12:00 PM
03	Section 2: Proposal Data Sheet ITB Clause 28.3(vi) Page No. 22	Proposal Opening Date is 09 November 2026 at 12.15 PM	Proposal Opening Date is 24 November 2026 at 12.15 PM

ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR BIDDERS

A. Interested bidders may purchase Bid Documents up to 23 November 2026 during office hours from the locations mentioned in Para 2.f original Invitation for Proposal notice (Reference No. 54.01.1500.107.05.325.26-2440, dated 30 September 2026).

B. For Bidders Who Have Already Purchased Bid Documents:
Bidders who have already purchased the Bid Document (Reference No. 54.01.1500.107.05.325.26-2440, dated 30 September 2026) are not required to purchase a new document. This corrigendum shall form an integral part of the original Bid Document.

C. Bid Security Validity:
Bidders must ensure that their Bid Security (Bank Draft/Pay Order/Irrevocable Bank Guarantee) remains valid until 28 days beyond the new proposal opening date of 24 November 2026. If necessary, an extension of Bid Security validity or a new Bid Security must be submitted before the new submission deadline.

D. All Other Terms Unchanged:
All other terms, conditions, specifications, and evaluation criteria of the original Bid Document remain unchanged.

This corrigendum shall form an integral part of the original Bid Document.

এস (২৬) (৯৭)

SUJIT KUMAR BISWAS
Chief Commercial Manager (East),
Bangladesh Railway, CRB, Chattogram.

GD-2691

Dhaka North City Corporation
Office of the Executive Engineer
Zone-4, Mirpur
Mirpur-10, Dhaka.

e-Tender Notice (OTM)

Memo no: 46.10.0000.004.058.16.06.2026 Date: 05.11.2026

e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of the following work. Details are given below for Packages.

Sl No.	Tender ID/ Package No	Name of work	Tender Document last Selling/ Downloading Date and Time	Last Date and Time for Tender Security Submission	Tender Closing Date & Time
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
01	1361432	Improvement of roads with lane-bylanes including drain of kutbari and baghbari area under ward no-9.	22-Nov-2026 12:00:00	22-Nov-2026 12:30:00	22-Nov-2026 13:00:00
02	1362114	Improvement of roads with bylanes including pipe drain from holding no-101/4 darussalam jame mosjid to mirbari jame mosjid by holding no-1/1A and lalkuti 2nd colony holding no-36/A/B to holding no-52-A/A and lalkuti 1st colony holding no-16-E/B to holding no-22-B under ward no-10.	22-Nov-2026 12:00:00	22-Nov-2026 12:30:00	22-Nov-2026 13:00:00
03	1362185	Improvement of roads with bylanes including pipe drain from vanga bridge to holding no-185/1, south monipur holding no-296 to holding no-306/1 of south pirerbagh under ward no-13.	22-Nov-2026 12:00:00	22-Nov-2026 12:30:00	22-Nov-2026 13:00:00
04	1362209	Improvement of roads with bylanes including pipe drain from holding no-219/b to holding no-151/2/a, holding no-151/2/kha to holding no-145/4/b of south pirerbagh under ward no-13.	22-Nov-2026 12:00:00	22-Nov-2026 12:30:00	22-Nov-2026 13:00:00
05	1361417	Improvement of roads with lane-bylanes including drain from holdingno-787 to holding no-779/2/1, holding no-676 to holding no-677/3 andholding no-760/2 to holding no-758/1 of West Kazipara under ward no-14.	22-Nov-2026 12:00:00	22-Nov-2026 12:30:00	22-Nov-2026 13:00:00
06	1362279	Improvement of roads with including pipe drain from holding no-288/4 to holding no-1320 of Ibrahimpur Bazar under ward no-16.	22-Nov-2026 12:00:00	22-Nov-2026 12:30:00	22-Nov-2026 13:00:00
07	1362287	Improvement of roads with bylanes including pipe drain from holding no-1038 to holding no-154 by holding no-1 kuchukhatbazar of Ibrahimpur primary school under ward no-16.	22-Nov-2026 12:00:00	22-Nov-2026 12:30:00	22-Nov-2026 13:00:00
08	1367901	Improvement of roads with including pipe drain from holding no-87 to holding no-288/4 of Ibrahimpur Bazar under ward no-16.	22-Nov-2026 12:00:00	22-Nov-2026 12:30:00	22-Nov-2026 13:00:00
09	1367925	Improvement of roads with including pipe drain from holding no-654/1 to holding no-473 of Ibrahimpur Ashi dag road under ward no-16.	22-Nov-2026 12:00:00	22-Nov-2026 12:30:00	22-Nov-2026 13:00:00
10	1367780	Construction of grill fencing around the residential buildings periphery at ground floor with collapsible gate, guard room and toilet at Gabtoli City Polli.	22-Nov-2026 12:00:00	22-Nov-2026 12:30:00	22-Nov-2026 13:00:00

On the above works only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-Gp Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.
To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required.
The fees for downloading the e-Tender Document from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited by online through any registered Bank's branches as mentioned in e-Gp portal.
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Motiur
০৫/১১/২৬
(Md. Motiur Rahman)
Executive Engineer
Zone-4 (Mirpur)
Dhaka North City Corporation

GD-2689

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Health Service Division
National Electro-Medical Equipment Maintenance
Workshop & Training Center (NEMEMW & TC)
Office of the Chief Technical Manager
Mohakhali, Dhaka-1213.
www.nememw.gov.bd

Memo No- 45.07.0000.004.07.015.16- 2144 Date: 05/11/2026

e-Tender Notice

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

Sl No	Tender ID	Package No. & Description	Last Selling Date & Time	Opening and Closing Date & Time
1.	1358208	eGP/EL/2026/Online_UPS_120KVA Repair of 1 Nos. 120KVA Online UPS (Brand: Inform; Model: PDSP-T-33120; SN:1897W0189004; Origin: Turkey) by replacing 12VDC, 45AH-54 Nos Battery at National Institute of Kidney Disease & Urology (NIKDU) with 2 years Comprehensive Warranty of the whole machine.	10-Nov-2026 12:00	10-Nov-2026 14:30

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no office/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal (https://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 through any registered banks, branches.
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and also from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

(M N Nashid Rahman)
Technical Manager (Training)
Tel: 0258810613

GD-2685

DHAKA FRIDAY NOVEMBER 6, 2026, KARTIK 21, 1433 BS

SPORT



It was not a bad game, but players need to understand how important it is to stay consistent throughout 90 minutes instead of being casual. If Pakistan had five to 10 minutes more, the game could have been different.

India head coach **Naushad Moosa**, after his team began their SAFF Championship title defence with a 3-2 win over Pakistan.



Centre-back Bishwanath Ghosh was the centre of attention during Bangladesh's SAFF Championship opener against Bhutan yesterday after head coach Thomas Dooley unexpectedly deployed the 27-year-old as a lone striker. The tactical gamble, which circulated as pre-match rumours, raised eyebrows at the National Stadium. While Bishwanath made promising runs, he ultimately lacked a natural forward's finishing instinct and spurned several chances. He was replaced in the 65th minute alongside Jamal Bhuyan in a double substitution for Mohammad Sohel Rana and Mohammad Ibrahim, with the latter eventually netting the match-winning goal. PHOTO: **STAR**

Fanfare without fever at SAFF's Dhaka return

RAMIN TALUKDER

The apprehension was there from the outset. Even on the eve of the SAFF Championship, more than 70 per cent of tickets remained unsold. Despite some matchday sales, the opening day's turnout at the National Stadium in Dhaka yesterday proved even bleaker than feared.

Only a few hundred spectators turned up for the opening fixture between subcontinental rivals India and Pakistan. Afterwards, the stadium hosted a laser show, fireworks and a cultural programme featuring British-Bangladeshi performer Sanjay Deb. Yet the spectacle failed to bring the stands to life.

There was still hope that the crowd would swell when Bangladesh faced Bhutan in the second match. Numbers rose to several thousand as kick-off approached, filling much of the upper tiers, but the lower sections remained conspicuously empty.

It was a stark contrast to the carnival atmosphere that usually accompanies Bangladesh's home matches. Just a few months ago, supporters scrambled for tickets, queued outside the gates and filled the surroundings with red-and-green jerseys and chants. Hosting an entire international tournament, however, failed to recreate that euphoria.

The SAFF Championship has returned to Dhaka after eight years, but its 15th edition has struggled to generate excitement across the capital. High ticket prices, inadequate publicity and the limited purchasing power of ordinary supporters appear to have kept spectators away.

General gallery tickets cost Tk 1,000, rising to Tk 1,070 online after service charges. While the ticket covered both matches, spectators interested only in Bangladesh's evening fixture still had to pay the full price. At that rate, a family outing could cost Tk 3,000-4,000 in tickets alone, excluding transport and food.

For Rakibul Hasan, a service holder from Hazaribagh, the total expense could reach Tk 1,500 per person. Many who might have attended for Tk 300-400 were discouraged by the thousand-taka price tag.

Businessman Saiful Islam, who travelled from Mirpur, also found watching both fixtures impractical for working spectators. Separate tickets could have made the arrangement more convenient.

The pricing was particularly striking compared with Bangladesh's recent Asian Cup qualifiers, when general gallery tickets cost Tk 400 and sold out quickly for matches against Singapore and India.

Ekramul Haque Shuvo, a cellphone technician from Kaptanbazar in Old Dhaka, closed his shop to attend because of his love for football. Rasel, an expatriate living in Malaysia who travelled from Narsingdi, bought his ticket online for Tk 1,000 but found it exceptionally expensive compared with what he was accustomed to paying in Malaysia.

Despite criticism from supporters' groups, organisers held firm on ticket prices. A last-minute 50 per cent discount was offered to just 100 students, bringing their tickets down to Tk 500. Even then, transport and food could push the expense to Tk 700-800, hardly affordable for many.

Some measures were taken to improve the matchday experience. Following complaints about water shortages and high bottled-water prices during last year's Singapore match, free drinking water was provided in the galleries and food was sold at relatively affordable prices. Neither concession drew a bigger crowd.

Publicity was another major shortcoming. Despite the tournament's return after eight years, Dhaka lacked the banners, festoons and street-level buzz expected of a regional football showpiece. Jersey vendors, supporters waving national flags and fans with red-and-green face paint were largely absent around the National Stadium.

The buzz may grow, the stands may fill as the stakes rise in the six-team extravaganza, but the opening-day turnout raises questions about the groundwork laid to bring the tournament closer to the public.

Off the bench, Ibrahim seals it for Bangladesh

SPORTS REPORTER

Forward Mohammad Ibrahim came off the bench to spare Bangladesh embarrassment, scoring a 69th-minute winner in a laboured 1-0 victory over Bhutan in their opening match of the SAFF Championship 2026 at the National Stadium in Dhaka on Thursday.

The Fortis FC forward, who has been in fine form recently in domestic circuit, struck four minutes after coming off the bench, netting in from close range after Shamit Shome's header took a slight deflection off a Bhutan defender and fell kindly for him.

The goal brought relief to around 8,000 spectators in the stands and millions watching across the country, as Bangladesh struggled to break down a lower-ranked opponent despite enjoying home advantage and being billed as title contenders.

The timing of Ibrahim's introduction and his immediate impact also raised questions about head coach Thomas Dooley's decision to deploy centre-back Bishwanath Ghosh as the lone striker from the start.

Bangladesh were dealt an early setback when captain-designate Topu Barman suffered a muscle injury during the warm-up, forcing Dooley to reshuffle his starting XI and tactical setup.

Tariq Kazi moved into central defence, while Quazem Shah Kirmanee came into midfield. Jamal Bhuyan wore the captain's armband and partnered Shamit in central midfield, with Bishwanath was given an unfamiliar role up front.

Bishwanath was involved in several attacking moves but lacked the composure and finishing touch required of a centre-forward. He had an opportunity to score in the 26th minute when a corner created a goalmouth scramble, but could only poke the ball without finding the target.

In the 40th minute, he cleverly ran on to a through ball from Rakib but failed to keep his effort on target from the edge of the box.

Bangladesh made a like-for-like change at the start of the second half, bringing on Fahamedul Islam for Foysal Ahmed Fahim on the left wing, but the hosts continued to struggle for a breakthrough.

Dooley eventually turned to Ibrahim in the 65th minute, replacing Bishwanath. Ibrahim needed little time to make his presence felt, converting the opportunity created by Shamit's header to settle the contest.

"I had been preparing myself at club level ever since the SAFF schedule was announced. I knew that if I performed well for my club, I would get a call-up to the national team.... Whenever I have got an opportunity, I have always tried to prove myself."

Goalscorer **Mohammad Ibrahim**

"When he gets in front of goal and has a chance to head the ball, he puts it away. I wasn't expecting Ibrahim to score; I thought he would set someone else up. But that's good for us that he scored."

Coach **Thomas Dooley**

With three points in the bag, the home team will watch Bhutan play against Sri Lanka in the second Group A match on November 8 before they take on the islanders three days later.

Earlier in the day, the six-team competition began with a frenetic encounter as defending champions India edged Pakistan 3-2. India raced to a 3-0 lead by the 32nd minute before Pakistan mounted a late fightback with two stoppage-time goals, but the defending champions held on for victory.

WHAT TO WATCH

T Sports
Bangladesh vs West Indies
2nd Test, Day two
Live from 9:30 am

LaLiga
Sevilla FC vs Deportivo Alaves
Live from 2:00 am (Saturday)

Rajdhani TV
Premier League
Everton vs Coventry
Live from 2:00 am
(Saturday)

Spin plans flop as Taskin seeks the 'EXTRAORDINARY'

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI *from Sylhet*

Bangladesh pacers Taskin Ahmed and Hasan Mahmud accounted for three West Indies wickets within first hour of the second and final Test yesterday, but by the day's end, they were left reflecting on what might have been.

There were no other pacers to share the workload. Taskin was hoping for the "extraordinary" after a dull day from the spinners, as the visitors reached 235 for four before bad light ended play early at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium.

Skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto banked on the same trio of spinners from the preceding Mirpur Test, which they lost by eight wickets, and they turned up with a sterile performance.

What could've led to such a decision when spinners not only struggled of late, but the Sylhet surface too provides something for the quicks?

The decision was not easy to gauge, with Shoriful Islam and Ebadot Hossain waiting in the wings, ready to fire. There are suggestions that humidity led Bangladesh to believe the ball would not stay dry enough for the quicks to generate movement as the day progressed. They might have been right on that count, but there was caution regarding spin.

The deck, as per sources, may not develop cracks to help spinners due to overcast conditions. Taskin and Hasan moved the ball around in the morning, troubling batters, finding edges and castling a few.

"We utilised the moisture in the first hour, and another seamer could have allowed us to bowl longer and potentially take a few more wickets."

Bangladesh pacer **Taskin Ahmed**

But Windies recovered and started dominating as spinners came on. Taijul Islam was nullified. He was bowling at 86-88 km/h in his first spell, not looping the ball, unable to produce turn. It was a significant indication of how the surface was. The two other spinners in Mehidy Miraz and Nayeem Hasan did not ask enough questions, the former often erring in length.



PHOTO: **FIROZ AHMED**

Nayeem bowled only eight of the 70 overs, while Taskin and Hasan delivered 14 each and would have bowled more had play not ended early. With extra bounce on the surface and the ball zipping around in the morning, the absence of another pacer was keenly felt.

"At one point it definitely felt that having another seamer would have been better. We utilised the moisture in the first hour, and another seamer could have allowed us to bowl longer and potentially take a few more wickets," said Taskin, who bowled a seven-over opening spell.

He spelled out how the wicket behaved. "As time passed, conditions got better for batting and the margin of error for bowlers was low."

After the pacers' early burst, Aamir Jangoo and debutant Kevin Wickham put on 131 for the fourth wicket. Even that stand was broken just before tea by Hasan, who bagged two, as did Taskin. Wicketkeeper-batter Jangoo was unbeaten on 111 at stumps. "The plan was that, at the end, spinners will get help to get a result," Taskin felt.

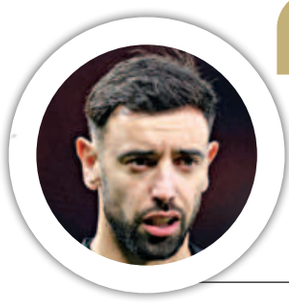
Forty-two overs of spin, 114 runs and no wicket on the opening day. There are suggestions the wicket may stay good for batting even on day four. Taskin and Hasan have been resilient even after grass was shortened in the morning from four millimeters.

"If we can do something extraordinary in the first hour, it's possible to get them all out [quickly]," Taskin said.

But the plans, just as in Mirpur, appear to be backfiring in Sylhet.

DHAKA FRIDAY NOVEMBER 6, 2026, KARTIK 21, 1433 BS

SPORT



Thank you for the inspiration. It was a privilege to share great moments for our team with my childhood idol.

Portugal midfielder **BRUNO FERNANDES** on Ronaldo's retirement.

A FAREWELL MEASURED

BEYOND RECORDS



NABID YEASIN

"I spent my life working to become the best player in the world. Today, I realise that my greatest victory was earning the honour of representing the best country in the world. Thank you for these 23 years."

Those words formed part of Cristiano Ronaldo's lengthy farewell speech as the 41-year-old brought the curtain down on his 23-year international career with Portugal yesterday.

The sentiment perfectly captured the significance of the moment for a player who had spent much of his career chasing individual and collective greatness. Ronaldo never made a secret of his ambition to become the best in the world, and his fiercely competitive nature rarely allowed him to accept defeat – even in friendlies.

Defeats, however, were part of his journey, as were countless occasions when he fell short of his targets. What made this farewell different was the realisation, perhaps for the first time, that his greatest achievement extended beyond the staggering numbers he had accumulated over the years.

With 146 goals in 246 appearances, Ronaldo retires as international football's all-time leading scorer. He was also at the heart of Portugal's three major triumphs during his international career: the 2016 European Championship and the UEFA Nations League titles in 2019 and 2025.

He leaves as his country's leading World Cup scorer, with 11 goals in 26 appearances, and as the only player to have scored at six different editions of the tournament.

Yet those numbers, which meant everything to a player driven by goals, victories and trophies, now seem to carry a different significance. For years, Ronaldo made his ambitions clear through his words, expressions and relentless determination. Looking back, however, his career reveals a man who refused to settle for anything less than the top – and, in his own mind, was always there.

His first crowning moment with Portugal came at Euro 2016. By then, he had already won three Ballon d'Or awards, established himself as Real Madrid's all-time leading scorer and collected club honours that most footballers can only dream of winning.

But the significance of finally conquering Europe with his country was evident when he broke down in tears after being forced off the pitch in 25th minute of final against France.

Even then, the five-time Ballon d'Or winner Ronaldo refused to let his contribution end there. With his knee bandaged, he spent extra time pacing the technical area, shouting instructions, reacting to every moment and celebrating wildly when Eder struck the late winner.

Portugal also never missed a World Cup during Ronaldo's international career, with the 2014 qualifying playoff against Sweden providing one of his defining performances. With a place at the tournament in Brazil at stake, Ronaldo effectively carried his country through the two-legged tie. After scoring the winner in the first leg, he produced a sensational hattrick in the return fixture to seal Portugal's qualification.

Of his record 67 career hattricks, including 10 for Portugal – the most by any player in international football – perhaps the most memorable came at the 2018 World Cup against Spain. With Portugal trailing late in the game, Ronaldo stepped up for a freekick, bent the ball over the wall and beyond the goalkeeper to rescue a thrilling 3-3 draw.

As Ronaldo acknowledged in his farewell speech, those numbers and defining moments mattered immensely at the time. But beyond them lay something he perhaps only fully appreciated towards the end: the privilege of a boy from humble beginnings in Madeira wearing Portugal's number seven shirt. Through his achievements, he has elevated the significance of that jersey for generations to come.

His departure, however, has not been without controversy. It followed an ugly episode involving a fallout with the coach and a suspension after he walked out of Portugal's Nations League camp last month.

That episode will remain part of his story, but it will hardly define it. For all the goals, records and trophies, Ronaldo's greatest legacy in a Portugal shirt may ultimately be the pride he brought to a nation and the standard he set for those who follow.

The Portuguese Football Federation said it intends to organise a tribute to Ronaldo "in which the fans and the country can one more time applaud and celebrate a player who has given us so much."

RONALDO'S CAREER IN NUMBERS

234 APPEARANCES, 146 GOALS, 46 ASSISTS

- UEFA European Championship winner (2016)
- Two-time UEFA Nations League winner (2019, 2025)
- All-time leading scorer in men's international football (146)
- Most-capped player in men's international football (234)
- Portugal's all-time leading assister (46)
- Most goals in UEFA European Championship history (14)
- Most consecutive Euro tournaments scored in (5)
- Most hattricks in men's international football (10)
- Most wins in men's international football history (143)
- Only player to have scored in six different World Cups (2006, 2010, 2014, 2018, 2022 and 2026)
- Portugal's leading scorer in World Cups (11)
- Oldest player to score in a FIFA World Cup knockout match (41 years and 147 days)

'Football is about people'

AGENCIES

Cristiano Ronaldo has announced his retirement from international football, bringing a 23-year journey with Portugal to an end. The five-time Ballon d'Or winner shared the news in an emotional Instagram post, reflecting on his career and what representing his country meant to him.

Addressing the Portuguese people, Ronaldo said: "The day has come to hand back the shirt and the captain's armband of the national team that belongs to all of us."

Describing the decision as difficult, he added: "Some decisions are not made with the head alone. They are also made with the heart."

Looking back on his journey, which began in August 2003, Ronaldo said: "I don't just see matches, goals, records, or trophies. I see people."

"I see immigrants who, for 90 minutes, felt a little closer to Portugal. I see millions of Portuguese people whom I never met personally, but who became part of my life."

He added: "Because, at the end of the day, football is much bigger than a game. Football is about people."

Ronaldo, Portugal's all-time leading goalscorer, said he had always pushed beyond his limits and given everything for the national team. Reflecting on the highs and lows, he wrote: "There were perfect afternoons and nights. There were victories I will never forget. There were defeats that still hurt to remember today."

He also acknowledged the support of his teammates, coaches, staff and family, saying: "I had the privilege of being your captain, but no captain walks alone, and you are all part of my story."

On the unity football brought to the nation, he recalled the moments when the national anthem played: "There are no clubs. There are no colours. There are no classes. There are no professions. There are no opinions. There is only one passion: Portugal."

Although his international career has ended, Ronaldo said: "I will continue to suffer, to feel the excitement, and to celebrate every Portuguese victory, just as I always have."

He concluded: "The number 7 shirt remains, but the pride of having worn it will be mine forever. Portugal will always be a part of me. Forever."

Como's historic high, Liverpool hit the wall

AGENCIES

Como produced a Champions League performance for the ages, thrashing Lens 9-1 to record the biggest away victory in the competition's history, while Liverpool suffered a stunning 3-2 defeat to Fenerbahce in Istanbul on Wednesday.

At the heart of Como's historic night was Argentine playmaker Nico Paz, whose brilliance helped Cesc Fabregas's side turn an already remarkable journey into an unforgettable European chapter.

Having played in Italy's fourth tier as recently as 2019, Como are now making waves in the Champions League just two years after reaching Serie A.

Their nine-goal demolition of last season's Ligue 1 runners-up showcased the attacking philosophy Fabregas has instilled in the side.

Greek striker Tasos Douvikas stole the headlines with a hat-trick, while Como's relentless attacking football left Lens helpless. The Italian side scored nine times from 15 shots, with



Real Madrid came from behind to beat AEK Athens 3-2, with Federico Valverde scoring a stoppage-time winner after Kylian Mbappe equalised. Jude Bellingham had earlier produced a spectacular backheel finish.

11 on target, becoming the first team to win a Champions League away match by an eight-goal margin.

Teenager Matteo Papaccioli added the final touch to the historic rout, scoring on his debut in stoppage time.

While Como celebrated a night that will live long in the club's history, Liverpool endured a nightmare in Turkey, surrendering a 2-1 lead to lose 3-2 against Fenerbahce.

The Reds appeared to be on course for a fourth consecutive Champions League victory after Alexander Isak scored his first goal in the competition for the club.

But Liverpool's defensive frailties proved costly as Archie Brown equalised before Vedat Muriqi headed home the winner in the 79th minute.

The defeat ended Liverpool's perfect Champions League record and marked their second consecutive loss. Former Liverpool favourite Dirk Kuyt, in charge of Fenerbahce on an interim basis, oversaw a memorable victory for the Turkish side, their first in the competition since 2008.

Elsewhere, Real Madrid came from behind to beat AEK Athens 3-2, with Federico Valverde scoring a stoppage-time winner after Kylian Mbappe equalised. Jude Bellingham had earlier produced a spectacular backheel finish.

Manchester City edged RB Leipzig 3-2, with Erling Haaland scoring the decisive goal, while Arsenal secured a 2-1 away win over Slavia Prague through Viktor Gyokeres, who scored and assisted.

Porto beat Napoli 4-1, Club Brugge defeated PSV 2-1, Borussia Dortmund edged Real Betis 2-1, and Viking claimed their first group-phase victory with a 4-1 win over Sabah.

After four matchdays, Real Madrid and Paris Saint-Germain remain the only teams with perfect records, while Como sit fourth following their extraordinary triumph.

JESÚS DE MIGUEL



Como's Nico Paz holds up a tribute shirt in memory of CD Tenerife forward Jesús de Miguel, who died after suffering a cardiac arrest following an on-field collision during a match in Spain. Paz dedicated his goal to De Miguel after scoring in the 40th minute of Como's historic 9-1 victory over Lens, the biggest away win in Champions League history. The Argentine also provided two assists in the emphatic triumph.

PHOTO: **REUTERS**





Jamaat bloc plans council to pursue July charter reforms

MAMUNUR RASHID

The Jamaat-e-Islami-led 11-party alliance has decided to pursue an alternative process outside parliament to implement the July National Charter and the referendum verdict, rejecting the government's parliamentary approach to constitutional amendments.

The alliance plans to form a "Constitution Reform Implementation Council" to prepare a draft framework for constitutional reform, build public opinion and pursue implementation of the referendum verdict.

To this end, the alliance plans to form a "Constitution Reform Implementation Council" to prepare a draft framework for constitutional reform, build public opinion and pursue implementation of the referendum verdict.

The proposed council may include lawmakers and other representatives of alliance partners. Discussions are also underway on involving other parties that signed the July charter.

The move comes after the alliance refused to join the parliamentary special committee on constitutional amendments, objecting to the government's proposed process.

Hamidur Rahman Azad, assistant secretary general of Jamaat-e-Islami and coordinator of the alliance's liaison

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4



Substitute Mohammad Ibrahim (left) celebrates with Rakib Hossain after scoring the only goal in Bangladesh's 1-0 win over Bhutan in their SAFF Championship 2026 opener at the National Stadium in Dhaka yesterday. After a goalless first half, Ibrahim broke the deadlock from close range in the 69th minute, just four minutes after coming on. PHOTO: STAR

Army member killed in a gunfight with trafficking gang

57 hostages rescued, 5 detained in Teknaf

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Bangladesh Army soldier was killed during a joint operation against a human trafficking gang in Cox's Bazar's Teknaf upazila yesterday.

The operation led to the rescue of 57 hostages and the detention of five suspected traffickers.

The deceased, Sepoy Md Titas Sheikh, 27, sustained a gunshot wound to his left shoulder after suspected traffickers opened fire on a joint force in the Rangikhali hills around 5:00pm, according to an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) press release.

The release said intelligence reports indicated that a group of 15 to 16 armed traffickers had been holding around 120 Rohingya and Bangladeshi nationals hostage in the remote hill area.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

44,000 clearances later, govt tightens migration rules

Ministry approval made mandatory for 12 countries amid trafficking concerns

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

The government has made prior ministry approval mandatory for issuing immigration clearance to workers bound for 12 countries, including Cambodia and Russia, after more than 44,000 Bangladeshis received clearance for these destinations over nearly 22 months.

The directive comes amid concerns over recruitment fraud, human trafficking, and Bangladeshis being deceived into forced labour abroad.

An analysis of the Bureau of Manpower, Employment, and Training (BMET) clearance portal shows that 44,122 Bangladeshis were granted clearance for the 12 countries between January 1, 2025, and October 30 this year.

Of them, 27,647 received clearance for Cambodia, Russia, Laos, and Belarus. The four countries are placed in Tier 3, the lowest category of the US State Department's 2026 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report.

In a letter to the BMET director general on Wednesday, the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment

The expatriates' ministry instructed not to issue clearance without ministry permission for Serbia, Moldova, Belarus, Kosovo, Russia, Japan, Iraq, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Ukraine, and Libya.

instructed the bureau not to issue clearance without ministry recruitment permission or approval for Serbia, Moldova, Belarus, Kosovo, Russia, Japan, Iraq, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Ukraine, and Libya.

The Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (Baira) has already informed its members of the instruction in a circular signed by Secretary Md Nazrul Islam.

BMET data show Cambodia recorded the most clearances, at 15,235, followed by Iraq with 8,743, Russia with 5,776, Laos with

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FORMING ISRAELI GOVT

Largest Arab party group backs Eisenkot

Netanyahu loses religious party's support

AFP, *Jerusalem*

Israel's largest Arab party grouping, the Joint List, said yesterday it would recommend opposition bloc leader Gadi Eisenkot for the formation of a new government after last week's election.

"The Joint List announced today, Thursday, that it will inform the President of the State, Isaac Herzog, this evening of its decision to recommend that Gadi Eisenkot be tasked with forming the government," the list said in a statement.

Arab-majority lists won an unprecedented 19 parliamentary seats in the election out of 120, making them potential kingmakers in Israel's next government.

Meanwhile, an ultra-Orthodox Jewish party long aligned with Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday declined to recommend him to stay as Israel's prime minister.

Herzog was holding a second day of consultations with political parties after the October 27 election, in which neither Netanyahu -- a polarising right-winger who has led Israel through three years of war -- nor Eisenkot secured enough votes for a majority.

United Torah Judaism, which backed Netanyahu after the previous five elections, in its meeting with Herzog declined to recommend Netanyahu again as prime minister, although it also did not side with Eisenkot.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

No AI guidelines for universities

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR *and* ARAFAT RAHAMAN

Despite the widespread use of generative artificial intelligence tools among Bangladeshi university students, educational institutions have made little progress in developing policies to regulate their use, raising concerns over academic integrity and the quality of learning.

While universities worldwide have introduced rules governing AI use, Bangladesh's University Grants Commission (UGC) has yet to issue guidelines, leaving universities to adopt differing approaches.

"AI has become a regular tool in my overall study workflow," said Tanjil Ahmed, an MBA student at Dhaka University. He recalled recently using AI tools to complete an assignment from start to finish.

Subscriptions to major AI tools such as ChatGPT and Claude are readily available in Bangladesh. Although these tools can support learning, their growing use has raised questions about students' independent thinking, creativity and the originality of their academic work.

"Some students are using AI to write for them. They are submitting that writing under their own names," said A Al Mamun, professor of Mass Communication and Journalism at Rajshahi University.

The National Education Policy 2010 identifies critical thinking, creativity, original research and problem-solving as key objectives of higher education.

Concerns over education quality, however, predate AI. The World Bank's Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project, launched in 2009, sought to improve teaching and research, while a 2014 WB overview identified inadequate funding for research, laboratory equipment, books and journals.

- UGC yet to issue AI guidelines
- Students increasingly rely on AI for assignments
- Teachers fear loss of critical thinking, creativity
- Universities adopt different approaches to AI use

Prof Md Khairul Islam of DU's Institute of Education and Research, who has researched ChatGPT use among university teachers and students, said excessive dependence on AI was affecting students' ability to think independently and critically.

Students increasingly use AI to find research literature, summarise readings and complete assignments.

Hlathoaicha Chak, a third-year student of

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1



Residents welcome tourists with flowers and sweets as the first tourist vessel of the season arrives at St Martin's Island in Cox's Bazar. The MV Baro Awlia carried around 800 passengers to the country's only coral island. Two other vessels, MV Karnaphuli and MV Teknaf, will also operate on the route this season. Under the government's decision, the island will remain open to tourists until March 15. Daily visits will be capped at 3,500. PHOTO: COLLECTED

NEWS IN FOCUS

No passport needed to bring Hasina back

Says Humaiun Kobir

UNB, *Dhaka*

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Humaiun Kobir yesterday said Bangladesh wants former prime minister Sheikh Hasina to be handed over under the existing extradition treaty with India, dismissing suggestions that she would require a passport or other travel documents to return.

"We want Hasina to be handed over. She will be handed over. She is a terrorist. She is a fugitive. There is an active extradition treaty between Bangladesh and India," he told reporters.

The state minister made the remarks while responding to questions at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport after seeing off a visiting Chinese delegation led by Liu Haixing, minister of the International Department of the

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

EXTORTION BID

2 DGFI men sacked, jailed for a year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two members of the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI), arrested over an alleged extortion attempt and assault on a businessman in Dhaka's Mohammadpur, have been dismissed from service and sentenced to one year in prison each, intelligence sources have said.

Sergeant Al Mamun and Lance Corporal Md Nuruzzaman faced a court martial, where the allegations against them were proved, sources familiar with the development told The Daily Star.

The two were among six people arrested by police on October 25 after motorcycle trader Mohammad Sharif was allegedly confined to a flat in Chandrima Model Town, Mohammadpur, and asked to pay Tk 10 lakh.

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