

# Lynch mobs acting with impunity

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

Incidents of mob lynching spiked with 21 people beaten to death over the last 38 days, raising public safety concerns.

Although cases have been filed over most of these incidents, only eight people have been held in connection with two cases as of yesterday.

Legal experts and human rights activists say the interim government's response to lynching has so far been inadequate and that it failed to quickly take decisive actions against the perpetrators.

They also say the rising incidents indicate that law and order has not been properly restored and that perpetrators are not being penalised.

In just three hours between Wednesday night and early yesterday, two people were beaten to death by mobs in the country's two top universities.

A former Chhatra League leader of Jahangirnagar University Shamim Molla was beaten up by students twice on JU campus. He died of his injuries around 9:15pm on Wednesday.

At Dhaka University, Tofazzal Hossain, known to be a wanderer on campus, died early yesterday after a mob in Fazlul Huq Muslim Hall beat him.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



**"We'll not tolerate any mob violence or extrajudicial killings. If it happens, we will take stern actions."**

Law Adviser Prof Asif Nazrul

- » 21 people lynched in last 38 days
- » Only 8 held over two incidents
- » Cops cite 'chaotic state' for poor probe progress
- » Experts blame failing system

**"Why is there no attention to law and order? Do they [interim govt] not read newspapers? Do they not live in this country?"**

Veteran lawyer ZI Khan Panna

## SAVAGERY AT DU

### They beat him, fed him, then killed him

MASHFIQ MIZAN and SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL

Tofazzal Hossain was a familiar face to many resident students of Dhaka University. He would often wander about the campus, dorms, and gladly eat if somebody offered him food.

His cousins say he "lost his mind" after the death of his parents and brother and became a drifter.

The Dhaka University students who tortured the 35-year-old to death at Fazlul Huq Muslim Hall on Wednesday night thought he was a thief and assumed the roles of a judge, jury, and executioner.

From 6:30pm onwards, they tortured him, paused for a while, made him walk from one building to another, fed him, and then tortured him again. The dorm authorities and proctor's office were informed, SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

JU SUSPENDS 8 STUDENTS - PAGE 2

## MOB JUSTICE

### Three advisers warn of stern action against the culprits

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three advisers of the interim government yesterday warned of stern actions against those involved in the recent mob violence.

Their statements follow recent incidents of mob beatings, including two separate ones at Dhaka and Jahangirnagar university campuses that resulted in the deaths of two people.

Law Adviser Prof Asif Nazrul said that the interim government is shocked by recent incidents of mob violence and termed it "totally unacceptable".

"We'll not tolerate any mob violence or extrajudicial killings. If it happens, we will take stern actions," he said at a briefing at the Foreign Service Academy yesterday.

"Already, three accused have been arrested over the killing of a man at the Dhaka University."

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5

## CARRYING OUT REFORMS

### Commissions to file reports by December 31

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The reform commissions declared by the interim government will start work on October 1 and submit their reports by December 31, said Asif Nazrul, the law adviser.

After that, consultations will be held with the political parties and other stakeholders, he said at a press briefing yesterday after the first meeting with the heads of the six commissions.

Muhammad Yunus, the chief adviser to the interim government, presided over the meeting that was attended by advisers Rizwana Hasan, Ali Imam Majumder, Nazrul and Adilur Rahman Khan and Mahfuz Alam, special assistant to the chief adviser.

"We discussed how the commissions will work, their terms of reference, how the commissioners will be appointed," Nazrul said, adding the reports would contain recommendations.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

**The advisers will hold consultations with political parties, experts, professional bodies, student bodies and the general public.**

## Govt okays draft of an ordinance on its validity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government's advisory council yesterday approved the draft of the "Interim Government Ordinance - 2024", seeking to provide legal validity to the formation of the government and determine its authority and responsibilities.

The approval came at the seventh meeting of the council with Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus in the chair at the Chief Adviser's Office.

The Cabinet Division issued a press release that said prime minister Sheikh Hasina sent her resignation letter to the president on August 5 amid a mass uprising and left the country.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

## DU suspends politics on its campus

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka University Syndicate last night decided to suspend all kinds of political activities by teachers, students, and staff on campus until further notice.

The decision was made at an emergency syndicate meeting held at the DU Senate Bhaban, several members of the syndicate told The Daily Star.

They said the syndicate made the decision unanimously.

A committee would be formed to have expert opinions on whether such politics on campus should be completely banned in future, they said.

The 15 syndicate members present argued for and against it and then decided to suspend such politics.

The vice-chancellor of the university called the emergency meeting and presided over it.

Banning politics on campuses was one of the nine-point demands made by Anti-discrimination Students Movement leaders at one stage of the quota reforms movement.



SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## Rejoinder, our reply

The Orion Group has sent a rejoinder to our report headlined "BB's Strange Bid to Save Orion Plant" published on September 03.

Here is the full rejoinder:

"We carefully read your report and feel it lacks adequate research, resulting in incomplete information. Please find our clarification regarding the report published by you.

Firstly, regarding single borrower limit exemption, as coal power plants require significant LC facilities for coal import, Bangladesh Bank, through its BRPD Circular No. 2, exempted companies engaged in the energy sector from the single borrower exposure limit. All other companies in this sector have been allowed this benefit, and ORION is not an exception. Even currently the law for single borrower limit

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## Schoolgirl abducted 2 weeks after getting threat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A tenth grader was abducted in Kurigram's Phulbari upazila on Wednesday evening, just over two weeks after posters saying that the "girl of the family" would be picked up and converted to Islam were found pinned to trees near her home.

A resident of Anantapur village, home to around 30 Hindu families including the victim's, filed a general diary with police on September 4 about the threats.

The abduction took place around 5:00pm on Wednesday when the 15-year-old was returning home from a coaching centre.

Her father filed a complaint yesterday morning with Phulbari Police Station accusing one Alinur Rahman of kidnapping, said Nawabur Rahman, officer-in-charge of the police station.

Locals and police said Alinur, 32, a known drug smuggler from the same village, was behind the abduction.

Speaking to The Daily Star, the victim's father said, "My daughter is very gentle. She is dedicated to her studies. She was on her way home from the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



Traders set up makeshift shops along the rail lines in the capital's Jurain rail gate area. This not only puts the traders themselves at risk but also the shoppers and train passengers. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## LYNCHING OF SHAMIM JU suspends 8 students

A CORRESPONDENT, JU

Jahangirnagar University last night suspended eight students over beating to death former Chhatra League leader Shamim Molla.

It also formed a four-member committee to investigate the killing.

"The university's proctorial team identified the eight students after analysing video footage and still pictures of the incident and submitted their names to the vice-chancellor. They have been suspended as per the university's disciplinary regulations," said JU VC Prof Kamrul Ahsan.

He was briefing reporters after an administrative meeting at his office yesterday evening.

The suspended students are Mohammad Razon Mia, a student of 46th batch of government and politics department, Raju Ahamed of 45th batch of the same department, Mahmudul Hasan Rayhan of 50th batch of English department, Jubayer Ahmed of 44th batch of history department, Hamidullah Salamn of 49th batch of English department, Atikuzzaman Atik of 49th batch

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



Students, under the banner of Ganatantrik Chhatra Jote, take out a torch procession at Dhaka University last night protesting the lynching of two people at DU and Jahangirnagar University.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## 30 indigenous

FROM PAGE 1

started attacking indigenous people and torching their business establishments.

"Like many, we fled from the area and took shelter in the forest. From here, we could see the blaze and smoke. We fear many of our houses and businesses have been torched," she told The Daily Star in the evening over the phone.

Avenue Sangma, who owns a shop at Larma Square in Dighinala upazila town, said, "My shop was vandalised and later torched at around 5:30pm. As far as I saw, some 30 to 40 shops were torched in this area."

"We could barely save our lives by fleeing to the forest areas."

When contacted, former Dighinala upazila parishad chairman Dharma Joyti Chakma confirmed the arson attacks but could not specify how many houses and establishments were targeted.

He said the situation escalated when the settlers beat up a coconut hawk from an indigenous community.

"A similar incident almost took place yesterday [Wednesday] when a group of settlers gathered in Khagrachhari town and were shouting provocative slogans against indigenous people."

Md Arefin Jewel, superintendent of police of Khagrachhari district, told The Daily Star, "Tension is running high in Dighinala, centring the death of a man named Mamun, who was killed by a mob a day ago."

Citing the police database, he said Mamun was wanted in 17 cases, including 14 on theft charges.

He was beaten by locals on suspicion of possible theft on Wednesday.

"As the man was a Bangali... a group of people trying to incite violence over the incident started demonstrating and torched shops in Boalkhali Natun Bazar [adjacent to Larma Square]," SP Jewel told this newspaper around 7:30pm.

Asked if fires were doused yet, he said, "It is a remote place, and the fire service also needs an escort to reach the spot."

"Army is already on duty in Dighinala. We're trying to bring the situation under control along with the army and BGB members."

Till the filing of this report at 8:00pm, there was tension between hill dwellers and Bangali settlers in different areas of Khagrachhari, said locals.

Contacted, Ahsan Habib Palash, range DIG of Police in Chattogram, said the law enforcement agencies were trying to bring the situation under control, adding, "A joint patrol by the army, police and BGB is going on."

[Our correspondent from Rangamati and staff correspondent from Chattogram contributed to the report]

## DU suspends

FROM PAGE 1

Meanwhile, top leaders of various student organisations criticised the decision of the DU syndicate last night.

Nasir Uddin Nasir, general secretary of pro-BNP Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal, told The Daily Star, "The decision to stop student politics is undemocratic, unconstitutional and a violation of fundamental rights. The democratic environment of the Dhaka University will be destroyed and the activities of secret organisations will increase. We demand the withdrawal of this ill-advised decision."

Samajtantrik Chhatra Front President Salman Siddiqui said banning student politics means taking away the right to protest and assemble, which is contrary to the aspirations of the uprising and detrimental to freedom of expression.

On August 7, when DU dorms reopened, a group of students held protest marches, rallies, and sit-ins, demanding an end to partisan politics on campus.

They threatened not to go to classes or sit for exams if partisan politics were not stopped on campus.

## They beat him, fed him, then killed him

FROM PAGE 1

but nothing was done to stop the lynching.

By the time the university administration took Tofazzal to Shahbagh Police Station, nearly five hours had passed and he was barely breathing. Police were surprised that the officials brought a dying man to a police station instead of taking him to a hospital.

A vehicle of the DU Proctor's office then took him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors pronounced him dead.

Amid widespread outrage over the killing, the university administration yesterday filed a case.

As of last night, police arrested six students named Muhammad Jalal Mia, Suman Mia, Mottakin Shakin, Al Hussain Sajjad, Wajibul Alam, and Ahsanullah.

### THE LAST SUPPER

After the first round of torture, the students took Tofazzal to the canteen and bought him a meal.

Some took photos and filmed him eating and shared those on social media groups, writing, "A thief has been apprehended at FH Hall. After beating him up, we are feeding him. He will tell us the names of his gang members after eating."

Young men were heard laughing and joking in the background.

After dinner, Tofazzal was taken to the guest room of the extension building, where witnesses say he was tortured again.

### SCENES OF BRUTALITY

In another footage, Tofazzal is seen lying on the floor littered with blood stains. His body was covered in bruises.

A cricket stump was placed on his arm, and two students took turns jumping over it as Tofazzal pleaded for them to stop.

One of the students has been identified as Jalal, a student of physics. He was also a former deputy secretary of science and technology affairs of the dormitory's Chhatra League unit.

He resigned from Chhatra League to join the quota reform protests in July.

In another video, Shakin, a student of the Institute of Nutrition and Food Science, is seen repeatedly hitting Tofazzal with a stump.

Jalal told this newspaper that he was not involved with the beating.

### SIX STOLEN PHONES

After six phones were stolen while students were playing cricket in the afternoon, the students were looking for the thief.

Then a group caught Tofazzal

loitering near the gate. At least five students said Tofazzal was not near the place from when the phones were lost.

While students were hitting him at the guest room, Tofazzal said he was involved in the stealing and would tell them everything, but he needed to eat first.

The students fed him and later started beating him again.

Almost three hours after Tofazzal was caught, a team from the proctor's office arrived around 9:30 but failed to intervene.

A team member, requesting anonymity, said, "When we reached there, the students stopped us, saying we would have to return their phones if we wanted to rescue Tofazzal. Only when his condition became critical did they hand him over to us."

House Tutor Sheikh Zahir Raihan, who went to the scene minutes after Tofazzal was caught, said, "The students were not listening to us. We tried our best."

A witness said, "A student asked the house tutors, 'Have your phones been stolen? Why are you interfering? Let us handle this.'"



PHOTO: COLLECTED

CCTV footage shows that around 11:00pm, two students helping Tofazzal get into a vehicle of the proctor's office.

The vehicle went directly to Shahbagh Police Station. Contacted, the station's Officer-in-Charge Shahabuddin Shaheen said, "When the proctorial team brought him, his condition was critical. We told them to go to Dhaka Medical."

As per Dhaka Medical College Hospital records, Tofazzal had died before he was taken there.

The inquest report mentions he might have died from internal

bleeding and there were injury marks on his back, arms, and lower parts of his body.

When asked why they didn't take him directly to the hospital, an official of the proctor's office said, "We followed the protocol. We didn't think his condition was that severe. He was still alive when we took him to DMCH."

### WHO WAS TOFAZZAL?

Tofazzal's father died in an accident in 2016 and his mother died from cancer in 2019. His elder brother, who was a police officer, also died of cancer in 2023.

According to his cousins Riyazul Islam and Asma Akhter, his mental health deteriorated after that. He didn't live anywhere for long and drifted between his hometown Barguna and Dhaka.

"He often sought refuge at Dhaka University, where he felt safe," Riyazul said.

Asma said after 11:00pm on Wednesday, her father received two phone calls from men introducing themselves as DU students.

They demanded Tk 35,000, and asked him to go to the campus if



PHOTO: COLLECTED

he wanted to save Tofazzal.

Tofazzal's sister-in-law Shilpi, who lives in Pirojpur, also received calls from the same numbers. The callers demand Tk 2 lakh from her.

On Truecaller, the numbers are recorded as "Mafi Junior Inls" and "Mehedi Vai M".

DU Proctor Saifuddin Ahmed said, "The university authority is fully cooperating with the investigation."

Hundreds of students demonstrated on campus throughout yesterday, demanding justice for the killing.

## Lynch mobs

FROM PAGE 1

Between January and June this year, 32 people died in the hands of mobs across the country, according to rights organisation Ain o Salish Kendra.

But between August 11 and yesterday, during this interim government's rule, 21 people were lynched in 14 districts, The Daily Star found scanning media reports.

Of the victims, 12 were beaten to death after mobs accused them of theft, robbery, or mugging while the remaining nine were killed after being accused of other crimes.

Between August 11 and 31, at least nine individuals were killed in six districts. In September so far, 12 more were killed in 10 districts.

The Daily Star contacted 16 officers-in-charge concerned of police stations. They said 11 cases had been filed over the lynching incidents, no case was filed regarding two incidents, and that they knew nothing about the other three incidents.

At least 10 OCs told this newspaper that the frequent transfers of officers coupled with a lack of resources and the overall "chaotic state" made it difficult to properly investigate such cases.

So far, two people were arrested in a case filed for beating Siraj Hawlader dead in Khulna city on September 4.

Yesterday, police detained six DU students over the killing of Tofazzal.

Home Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury yesterday regretted the deaths in DU and JU.

Veteran lawyer ZI Khan Panna said, "What does it matter to the public if he [the home adviser] is upset? What steps has he taken..."

"Why is there no attention to law and order? Do they [interim government] not read newspapers? Do they not live in this country?"

He said the lack of concrete action by law enforcement agencies and the deteriorating law and order were enabling the mobs.

"These incidents are painful, shameful, and unspeakable," he added.

Supreme Court lawyer Jyotirmoy Barua said, "After the dictator was deposed through an uprising, a group of people now believe that they

## Singapore FIU seeks info

FROM PAGE 12

\$1 billion, acquiring hotels, homes, retail spaces, and other properties over the past decade without permission from Bangladesh Bank.

S Alam controlled six banks and a financial institution in Bangladesh. However, following former prime minister Sheikh Hasina's resignation on August 5 amid political unrest, it lost control of these banks.

The central bank has since restructured their boards, and S Alam allegedly withdrew over Tk 1 lakh crore from them.

In response, the government, Bangladesh Bank, BFIU, and the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) have taken strict measures against the controversial business conglomerate.

BFIU has frozen the personal accounts of individuals linked to S

## Orion Group sues Independent TV for defamation

Seeks Tk500cr in  
compensation

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Orion Group yesterday filed a Tk 500 crore defamation case against Independent Television for airing "defamatory and false reports aimed at damaging the company's reputation".

The case filed with the court of Dhaka's Fourth Joint District Judge Tamanna Farah set October 10 for a hearing on its acceptance, said Shahriar Ahmed, the plaintiff's lawyer.

Independent TV's Editor-in-Chief and CEO M Shamsur Rahman and reporter Abdullah Al Rafi are among the defendants.

According to the case statement, on September 13, Independent TV broadcasted a misleading report stating that Orion Group

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

## Commissions to file reports by Dec 31

FROM PAGE 1

In the second phase, under Yunus's leadership, the advisers will hold consultations with the political parties, experts, professional bodies, student bodies and the general public.

"We will try to ensure that people's expectations are reflected in what we do. The expectation of the students who led the mass upsurge was not limited to only good elections but reforming the state and establishing true democracy so that no fascist can come to power in Bangladesh," Nazrul added.

The commission will be fully independent, Alam said.

The people of Bangladesh were deprived of their democratic rights for long periods, said Badiul Alam Majumder, who will lead the Election System Reform Commission.

"We need some important reforms of the state institutions. With that objective, the commission heads were appointed. In the first meeting today, we got some clear ideas of who will be invited to join as commissioners. How we will work as a commission

was basically discussed," he said.

Asked how long it will take to complete the work of the commissions, Nazrul said some of the proposals that the commissions will make will be implemented in the mid-term and the others in the long term.

After Yunus's return from the UN General Assembly, the Election Commission will be reconstituted.

More commissions will also be formed to reform the education and health sectors.

"We will not only be confined to reforms thoughts but also go for implementation," Nazrul said, adding that accountability and transparency of the working of the commissions will also be ensured.

Asked how the reformed constitution will be accepted as there is no parliament, Nazrul said the constitutional reforms commission will be responsible for this.

"They will hold widespread consultation with the people and decide on the matter."

Asked about former Prime

Minister Sheikh Hasina's extradition from India, he said Bangladesh has a treaty with the neighbouring country.

"As per the treaty, Bangladesh can seek extradition of anyone convicted - whoever he or she is."

The prosecutors of the International Crimes Tribunal have already been appointed and there is other progress made for trying the ones accused of crimes against humanity during the July protest.

"Soon, the trial process will begin and then we will seek extradition of the former Prime Minister from India," Nazrul added.

Justice Shah Abu Naim Momtaz Rahman will lead the Judicial Reform Commission, Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury the Public Administration Reform Commission, Safar Raj Hossain the Police Administration Reform Commission, Iftekharuzzaman the Anti-Corruption Reform Commission and Ali Riaz the Constitutional Reform Commission.

## Myanmar flood death toll climbs to 268

AFP, Yangon

The death toll in Myanmar in the wake of Typhoon Yagi has reached 268, with 88 people missing, the junta has said, as state media reported the first arrival of foreign aid.

Yagi swept across northern Vietnam, Laos, Thailand and Myanmar more than a week ago, triggering floods and landslides that have killed 588 people across the region, according to official figures.

The floods in 56 townships in Myanmar had resulted in "268 deaths and 88 people missing", the junta's information team said in a statement on Wednesday.

It also said that nearly 270,000 hectares (more than 660,000 acres) of rice and other crops had been submerged, and more than 100,000 farm animals killed.

The previous death toll reported by state TV was 226, with 77 people missing.

## No honking in airport area starting Oct 1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Starting from October 1, the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport and its surrounding areas will be declared horn-free and single-use plastic-free, with mobile courts in operation to ensure compliance.

Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) made the announcement in a press release yesterday.

Stainless steel bins and biodegradable or reusable materials will replace plastic dustbins and polythene in the area.

CAAB also announced its plan to make the airport and surrounding areas free of noise pollution.

This initiative will cover a three-kilometre stretch from Le Méridien Hotel to Scholastica School, prohibiting vehicles from using horns.

Awareness banners and billboards will be placed to remind drivers not to honk, and promotional activities

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



A line of buses blocks the entrance to the Mohakhali flyover connected to Banani. Even though these buses are not heading onto the flyover, they irresponsibly block the entrance, causing a huge tailback. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## 'Expedite repatriation process of our stolen assets'

### TIB urges host countries like UK, US, Canada

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh yesterday called upon governments of the host countries of Bangladesh's laundered money like the UK, US, Canada, Dubai and Singapore to proactively identify and freeze any illegal assets owned by Bangladeshi nationals or entities in their respective jurisdictions.

The anti-graft watchdog also called upon governments to take immediate actions to dismantle and hold to account syndicates facilitators of accumulation of money and wealth through illicit transfers.

In a statement yesterday, TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman also urged host countries to cooperate with the government of Bangladesh to start and expedite the process of repatriation of the stolen assets and hold the money launderers to account through the available international processes including mutual legal assistance and technical support.

Host countries should do this as part of their international

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

# Debt, desperation and displacement

The vicious cycle of borrowing and repaying in Dhaka slums

**To repay, I took a microcredit loan and turned to lenders with 15-20 percent monthly rates to pay the microcredit installments. With no profits and lenders taking earnings, my debt ballooned to Tk 20 lakh.**

KABIR HOSSAIN  
A resident of Bhashantek slum



**As per the law, lending money with exorbitant interest rates by the informal moneylenders is illegal, and the High Court has multiple times ordered the authorities to take measures to address this issue.**

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and NILIMA JAHAN

Just six years ago, 37-year-old Kabir Hossain, a butcher from Bhashantek slum in the capital, enjoyed a comfortable life with his family of six.

By 2018, he owned Tk 12 lakh in cash, a meat shop, a motorcycle, and a leased car.

However, by 2020, he found himself indebted to 30 creditors, owing a total of Tk 20 lakh. Of this amount, only around Tk 5 lakh was the principal; the remainder consisted of high-interest charges from loan sharks.

To manage these debts, Kabir borrowed from microcredit organisations, only to fall into a cycle of borrowing to repay, further escalating his debts.

Facing mounting pressures, Kabir eventually fled his home, leaving his family to sell their belongings to survive.

Like Kabir, many slum dwellers in the city are enduring a miserable phase with mounting informal loan burdens.

While banks and Non-Bank Financial

Institutions (NBFIs) typically offer loans with annual interest rates ranging from 10-15 percent, these loan sharks provide loans at much higher rates, often between 15-20 percent per month.

The Daily Star found that such loans, in different slums of the capital, are known as "emergency loans", and are taken for urgent needs like paying microcredit loan installments, medical expenses, business stock purchases and spot gambling.

"After several months of constant losses that depleted most of my savings, I borrowed Tk 1.5 lakh to expand my business, agreeing to supply 15kg of meat monthly. However, I couldn't repay the amount on time, and had to keep supplying meat, which caused further losses," Kabir shared.

"To repay, I took a microcredit loan and turned to lenders with 15-20 percent monthly rates to pay the microcredit installments. With no profits and lenders taking earnings, my debt ballooned to Tk 20 lakh," he explained.

"At one point, a lender detained and beat me for money, but my father-in-law bailed me

out," he added.

"In 2019, I fled due to constant pressure, because they would crowd my house demanding money. A year later, upon my return after an arbitration, I resumed business, but if they didn't receive payment, they would take away my meat, preventing any profit," he explained.

"I then tried selling vegetables, but it wasn't profitable enough to repay loans," he said.

"Failing, I had no choice but to send my 11-year-old son to work at a hotel for Tk 6,500 per month. We had to sell everything - fridge, TV, furniture, plates, and glasses."

After Eid-ul-Azha this year, Kabir fled the slum again due to lender pressure. Despite promising to repay through sacrificial animal butchering, he couldn't earn enough to satisfy the creditors.

Two days before Eid, Kabir's son broke his hand while working, needing Tk 40,000 for surgery. Hindered by lenders, Kabir risked permanent damage to his son's hand.

According to Johura Hossain, Kabir's wife,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Vehicles pass through thick dust on the Dhaka-Narayanganj old road in the Pagla area, causing hardship for locals, drivers, and pedestrians. The dust clouds reduce visibility and pose health risks, highlighting the urgent need for action. The photo was taken recently.

## S ALAM Petition seeks restrictions on property transfer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Supreme Court lawyer has filed a petition with the High Court seeking its order on the authorities to attach all immovable properties owned by S Alam Group, its shareholder directors and their family members and to impose restrictions on transfer or sell of those properties.

Barrister Md Rukunuzzaman submitted the petition on September 17, praying to the court to direct Bangladesh Bank to provide information regarding total credit facilities availed by S Alam Group, its shareholder directors and other business concerns from the financial institutions or banks and the present status of outstanding liabilities and to bring laundered money back to Bangladesh from abroad.

In the petition, he urged

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

## Didn't need army magistracy power in peaceful areas

### Fakhrul tells discussion

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Giving magistracy power to the Bangladesh Army in areas where the environment is peaceful and where political leaders are addressing people's issues is unwise, said BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday.

He made the remark while speaking at a views exchange meeting at the Thakurgaon Press Club.



Highlighting the administration's failure to maintain law and order, Fakhrul supported the interim government's decision to give the army the magistracy power in areas that have gone out of control.

However, he requested that the interim government reconsider this decision and warned of actions that may have a boomerang effect on both law enforcers and the people.

Fakhrul stated that following the fall of the Hasina government, the interim government formed with the support of the countrymen is trying to ensure a trial for the crimes committed by the previous administration.

Fakhrul hoped for peaceful and acceptable elections with the participation of all parties.

"We believe in restoring democracy, and the only solution to resolve problems would be by allowing political leaders to work," he concluded.

On Tuesday night, the government gave magistracy power to commissioned army officers with immediate effect for 60 days to improve law and order situation in the country.

## METRO RAIL

### Kazipara station reopens today

#### Services to remain available on Fridays from now

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The metro rail authority is going to reopen the Kazipara station today with special arrangements, two months after the suspension of the operation of the station.

However, the Mirpur-10 station is to remain closed, and the authority could not give any possible date to reopen it.

In another development, the authority will start the operation of metro rail on Fridays from today to meet the passengers' demand.

Mohammad Abdur Rouf, managing director of the Dhaka Mass Transit Company Ltd (DMTCL), gave the announcement at a press conference at DMTCL's headquarters yesterday.

Unidentified people went on a rampage at Mirpur-10 and Kazipara metro stations on July 19 amid the student movement for quota reform, which later turned into a people's uprising and ousted the Sheikh Hasina-led government.

The then Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader had said the reopening of metro stations is not possible within even a year.

Following the ouster of the AL government, metro rail operations resumed on August 25, but the two stations remained closed.

Abdur Rouf said they have prepared the Kazipara station by bringing some equipment from Mirpur-10 station and DMTCL training centre, alongside using some local equipment.

He said the original glass used at the station was brought from abroad, but they have now used local glass.

The MD said they had to spend Tk 20.5 lakh,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## Chief justice to outline roadmap for judiciary tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed will address the lower court judges tomorrow (Saturday) to outline a roadmap for the country's judiciary.

The programme will be held at the Supreme Court where the chief justice will also elaborate on various issues related to the judiciary.

Around 2,000 judicial officers will participate in the programme which will start at 10:00am, said an SC press release yesterday.

Law Adviser Asif Nazrul and judges of the Appellate and High Court Divisions of the SC, among others, will attend the event.

## AL presidium member Zafarullah held in Gulshan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Awami League presidium member Kazi Zafarullah was arrested in Gulshan area early yesterday.

He fell ill after he was arrested, but he is well now, police said.

A team of police arrested him in a murder case filed with Paltan Police Station, said Taleb Rahman, deputy commissioner (media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

Zafarullah fell ill after he was taken to the DB office. He was later taken to the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases.

Several cases were filed against Zafarullah after Sheikh Hasina fled on August 5.

## Debt, desperation

FROM PAGE 3  
The informal loan system has made their life miserable. "If anyone wants to witness hell on earth, come see us," she said.

Fleeing in fear of loan sharks is common in cases when people can't repay their loans and interest. But these loan sharks take everything — belongings, homes, and other properties — leaving them with nothing.

Manik Sarder, a 45-year-old betel nut seller from Bhashantek slum, had a microcredit NGO loan before the pandemic. When Covid-19 halted his business, he borrowed Tk 1.5 lakh at 12 percent monthly interest from loan sharks to repay his previous loan.

"I planned to take another microcredit loan to settle the high-interest one, but the NGO stopped lending during the pandemic. With no income, my debt skyrocketed, forcing me to flee," he said.

"They sold my Tk 1.20 lakh home for Tk 65,000 and seized the deed of my Tk 6 lakh land in Tongi, claiming it was fake. Now, I fear returning," he added.

"Many of his lenders come to us, and we are enduring their pressure," said Milon Sarder, Manik's brother.

Abul Hossain, a resident of Bhashantek's Abul's slum, which houses 319 families, shared that the slum has around 12 loan sharks, mostly women, who offer high interest loans during emergencies.

"Since obtaining loans from financial organisations and microcredit NGOs involves formalities and time, people in the slum resort to these high-interest loans when they need money urgently," he explained.

Md Shukkur, 33, a carpenter from Abul's slum in Bhashantek, said he and his wife had an average life before. His wife used to earn around Tk 14,000 per month by working as a construction labourer.

## Expedite

FROM PAGE 3  
commitments and responsibility, he added.

TIB also called upon governments to contribute to building the necessary professional and international capacity of relevant Bangladesh state agencies, especially Anti-Corruption Commission, Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit, Criminal Investigation Department, National Board of Revenue and the Attorney General's Office.

It urged them to collaborate and coordinate with other host countries of Bangladesh's laundered money to take similar actions.

"The burden of responsibility to prevent, control and bring back laundered money lies mainly on Bangladesh's shoulders, but it is also no less a responsibility of countries or territories where the laundered money from Bangladesh has been invested and thereby helped the host economies," said the statement.

TIB said the richer and so-called developed countries are the main destinations and beneficiaries of the lion's share of Bangladesh's laundered money.

Itekhazuruzaman said, "Conventional hosts of money laundering like UK, USA and proverbial Switzerland have been joined in recent couple of decades by Canada, Australia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Middle East countries like UAE, especially Dubai and even many offshore island territories as attractive hosts of Bangladeshi laundered money."

In each destination of illicit transfers, there are powerful syndicates of highly skilled law firms, trust companies, offshore specialists, real estate agents, accountants, regulatory experts, and banking and financial services companies that facilitate the secret deals, he added.

## Rejoinder, our reply

FROM PAGE 1  
exemption remains and it has to remain for the proper supply of electricity in the country.

Secondly, many comments have been made on the granting of the loan to ORION Power Dhaka-2 Limited (OPDL-2). This loan was based on the financial capability of the company.

However, despite having the sanction, ORION Group voluntarily chose not to proceed with the disbursement of the loan and requested for cancellation of the same.

We fail to understand why this report was made about us, as both the allegations are not valid. Neither is Bangladesh Bank's exemption from the single borrower exposure limit "strange," nor was the granted loan ever disbursed, as it was voluntarily canceled by ORION Group.

The loan for Orion Power Dhaka Unit-2 Limited was approved on August 31, 2023, and later cancelled by Rupali Bank on April 30, 2024. We did not receive any inquiries from The Daily

Star during the approval or cancellation. However, we are concerned that this issue is now being highlighted so prominently, whereas it has been more than a year since the loan approval and four months since its cancellation."

**OUR REPLY**  
The Daily Star published the report based on meeting minutes of three state-run banks and central bank letters to those banks. In our report, we said that the central bank had relaxed section 26-kha (1) of the Bank Company Act-1991, or relaxed the single borrower exposure limit for coal-based power companies for the next five years.

We did not raise any questions about Orion's capacity in the report and our report criticised the lender's health, not Orion's.

The Orion Group's version has been highlighted in our report which stated that Rupali Bank cancelled its portion of the loan in April, effectively cancelling the entire syndicated credit.

We stand by our report.

## Bangladesh supports

FROM PAGE 5  
The resolution was tabled by Palestine and was co-sponsored by 53 countries, including Bangladesh.

It was adopted through a vote, with 124 countries in favour and 14 against, with 43 abstentions. As a co-sponsor, Bangladesh voted in favour.

The resolution also called for ensuring accountability for the atrocity committed by Israel, especially in light of the Fourth Geneva Convention on the protection of civilians.

Through adopting the resolution, the UNGA also decided to hold an international conference within one year on Palestine, with the objective to find out ways and means to establish an independent Palestinian state.

Addressing the event, Bangladesh Permanent Representative to the UN in New York, Ambassador

Muhammad Abdul Muhith expressed Bangladesh's grave concern about the ongoing atrocities and high death toll in Gaza.

He called for an immediate ceasefire and emphasised that the two-state solution, based on the pre-1967 border of the Palestinian state, is the only pathway for achieving sustainable peace in the Middle East.

## Petition seeks

FROM PAGE 3  
the HC to ask the Anti-Corruption Commission to hold an enquiry into the allegations of siphoning huge amount of money to foreign countries by S Alam Group and its associated companies.

Yesterday, the HC bench of Justice Md Kamrul Hossain Mollah and Justice Kazi Zinat Hoque fixed September 22 for further hearing.

## Mansura Fatema Rahman passes away

STAR REPORT

Mansura Fatema Rahman, who graduated from the University of Toronto, passed away on September 13. She was 36, said a press release.

She breathed her last in Toronto, Canada. Her family members have requested all of her relatives, friends and well-wishers to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

**PRAYER TIMING**  
SEPTEMBER 20

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-40 12-45 4-30 6-05 7-30  
JAMAAT 5-15 1-15 4-45 6-10 8-00  
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## Kazipara station

FROM PAGE 3  
apart from the equipment they brought from another station and training centre.

**METRO RAIL TO OPERATE EVERY DAY**  
Abdur Rouf also said they will operate metro rail on Fridays from today, meaning the service will be available every day from now.

He said the train will be operated from 3:30pm to 9:00pm on Fridays from Uttara end and 3:50pm to 9:40pm from Motijheel end.

The trains will be operated at 12-minute intervals, he said.

**PROBE BODY FORMED**  
A seven-member committee has been formed to investigate the 11-hour suspension of metro rail services on the Agargaon-Motijheel section on Wednesday.

Md Abdul Baque Miah, director (planning and development) of DMITCL, will head the committee.

The probe body has been asked to submit its report within five working days, the MD said.

The displacement of a bearing pad on a pier near Farmgate Station resulted in disruption of metro rail service on the Agargaon-Motijheel section.

Although the service remained functional from

Uttara to Agargaon, it remained off limits for passengers on Agargaon to Uttara section from 9:40am to 8:25pm, causing severe public suffering.

**METRO RAIL PROJECTS UNDER REVIEW**  
The Road Transport and Bridges Ministry is now reviewing all the ongoing and pipeline metro projects to assess whether additional money is being spent or not, Abdur Rouf said.

He, however, said they have not asked them to stop the activities of the ongoing projects.

DMITCL is currently implementing three projects — MRT Line-1, MRT Line-5 (northern route), and extension of MRT Line 6.

Three more projects — MRT Line-5 (southern route), MRT Line 4, and MRT Line 2 — are now at preparatory level.

The previous Awami League government prepared a time-bound plan to build a 140km metro rail network comprising six lines in and around Dhaka city by 2030.

Traffic control measures, proper parking inside the airport, and SMS notifications to drivers and vehicle owners via BRTA will also be implemented.

**No honking**  
FROM PAGE 3  
will be carried out through electronic, print, and social media.

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Although the service remained functional from

**Directorate General Defence Purchase**  
Ministry of Defence  
New Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215  
Web: www.dgdp.gov.bd  
E-mail: info@dgdp.gov.bd

**TENDER NOTICE**

1. Sealed tender in Foreign currency is invited from bonafide Manufacturer/ Dealer/ Supplier/ Importer (enlisted with DGDP) for supply of the following item for Bangladesh Navy:

Ser	Name of Item	Date of Selling		Date of Opening	Cost of Tender Schedule	Tender No	Currency
		From	To				
1.	SPARE PARTS FOR DIESEL GENERATOR (BRAND: MAN, Germany) (QTY: 56 LJ)	19-09-2024	30-10-2024	31-10-2024	BDT 1,000.00	254.07.082.2024	Foreign

2. Tender schedule with detailed specifications/conditions will be available in this Directorate General on payment as per invitation of tender selling rate (non-refundable) during office hours between 0900 hours to 1300 hours on the above mentioned date of selling. The tender can be dropped in the tender box latest by 1200 hours and the same will be opened at 1205 hours on the specified date of opening in the presence of the tenderers (if present).

Commander BN  
For Director General  
Directorate General Defence Purchase

আই এস পি আর/বিবিধ/২০২৪/৩৮৩  
১৯/০৯/২৪

GD-470

**Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC)**  
Krishi Bhaban, 49-51, Dilkhusha C/A, Dhaka-1000  
Movement Section, Fertilizer Management Division  
www.badc.gov.bd

1	Ministry/Division	: Ministry of Agriculture.
2	Agency	: Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC).
3	Procuring entity name	: General Manager (Fertilizer Management).
4	Procuring entity code	: Not used at present.
5	Procuring entity district	: Dhaka
6	Invitation for tender	: Appointment of Receivers and Carrying agent for Clearing & Forwarding (C&F), Survey, Stevedoring, Lightening, Bag supply, Bagging, Weighment, Stitching & Transportation of 8th lot 40,000 MT (±10%) bulk MOP fertilizer against contract dated: 23.01.2024 of which 16,000 MT (±10%) to be discharged in Chattogram and 24,000 MT (±10%) to be discharged in Mongla Port imported from Canada under G-2-G contract from outer anchorage of Chattogram Port (A/B/C anchorage)/Harbaria, Mongla Port to different destinations in the country.
7	Invitation Ref No.	: 12.06.0000.241.40.112.24-1814
8	Date	: 19/09/2024
9	Procurement method	: Open Tender Method
10	Budget and source of funds	: GoB fund
11	Project/programme name	: Fertilizer Procurement and Distribution Programme
12	Tender last selling date	: 15/10/2024
13	Tender receiving date and time	: Date: 16/10/2024 Time: 12:00pm
14	Tender closing date and time	: Date: 16/10/2024 Time: 12:01pm
15	Tender opening date and time	: Date: 16/10/2024 Time: 12:30pm
16	Name & address of the office(s)	: Address(s) i) Selling tender document : a) Cash Officer, BADC, Krishi Bhaban, 49-51, Dilkhusha C/A, Dhaka. b) Joint Director (Fertilizer) Office, BADC Bhaban, I/B Agrabad C/A, Chattogram. c) Joint Director (Fertilizer) Office, BADC, Boyra, Khulna. ii) Receiving tender document : a) General Manager (Fertilizer Management), BADC, Krishi Bhaban (7th Floor), 49-51, Dilkhusha C/A, Dhaka. b) Joint Director (Fertilizer), BADC, 16, Green Road, Dhaka. iii) Opening tender document : General Manager (Fertilizer Management), BADC, Krishi Bhaban (7th Floor), 49-51, Dilkhusha C/A, Dhaka
17	Eligibility of tenderer	: a) A certificate (original/attested copy) from government/semi government/autonomous/statutory bodies showing experience of discharging fertilizer, rice, seed, pulse, wheat, sugar, salt etc. of minimum 17,000 M Tons bagged/bulk cargo in the last 15 (fifteen) years from outer anchorage of Chattogram Port (A/B/C anchorage) Harbaria, Mongla Port. They should have carrying experience of above goods to different ghats/mukam/godowns of different destinations in the country. Private sector fertilizer importer under government subsidy scheme of Ministry of Agriculture/eligible international carrier of BCIC/Directorate of Food/BADC and Carrying Agent of BCIC/Directorate of Food/BADC are also eligible for this work. The experience certificate must accompany copy of the respective work order/contract. b) Tenderer has to submit document (Bank statement for the period of September/2023-September/2024 showing Tk 5 (five) crore liquid asset/credit facility from any schedule bank. c) Tenderer has to submit document (Bank statement for the period of September/2023-September/2024 showing average annual turnover Tk 5 (five) crore. d) Other terms and conditions are mentioned in the tender document.
18	Brief description of services	: Appointment of Receivers and Carrying agent for Clearing & Forwarding (C&F), Survey, Stevedoring, Lightening, Bag supply, Bagging, Weighment, Stitching & Transportation of 8th lot 40,000 MT (±10%) bulk MOP fertilizer against contract dated: 23.01.2024 of which 16,000 MT (±10%) to be discharged in Chattogram and 24,000 MT (±10%) to be discharged in Mongla Port imported from Canada under G-2-G contract from outer anchorage of Chattogram Port (A/B/C anchorage)/Harbaria, Mongla Port to different destinations in the country. Due to draughting restriction, sufficient portion of fertilizer may have to be discharged in Kutubdia of Cox's Bazar and Fairway Buoya of Mongla Port from among the fertilizer allocated for discharge in Chattogram Port and Mongla Port.
19	Tender document price	: Tk 2,000.00 (two thousand only) (non-refundable)
20	Tender security	: Tk 15,00,000.00 (fifteen lac only) (Except Pubali and Prime Bank Ltd.)
21	Name of official inviting tender	: Md Azim Uddin
22	Designation of official inviting tender	: General Manager (Fertilizer Management)
23	Address of official inviting tender	: General Manager (Fertilizer Management), BADC, Krishi Bhaban (7th Floor), 49-51, Dilkhusha C/A, Dhaka
24	Contact details of official inviting	: 02223384016
25	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all the Tenders or annul the Tender proceedings.	

BADC-65(10x3)

Md Azim Uddin  
General Manager (Fertilizer Management)  
BADC, Dhaka  
E-mail: gm.fert.badc@gmail.com

GD-479

**DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAM (DLP)**  
Diabetic Association of Bangladesh (BADAS)  
Website: www.dlpbadas-bd.org

**ADMISSION NOTICE**  
CERTIFICATE COURSE ON DIABETOLOGY (39th Batch)

Applications are invited from physicians (MBBS or equivalent with BMDC registration) for admission into the 39th batch of Certificate Course on Diabetology (CCD) session January to June 2025. The course was designed by a joint committee of Diabetic Association of Bangladesh (BADAS) and Distance Learning Programmers of Open University of UK for providing standard diabetes care. Students can join the course in Online mode or Offline mode according to their preference. Doctors willing to get admitted into 39th batch are requested to do online registration for both online and offline modes through the DLP website (www.dlpbadas-bd.org). Selected candidates will subsequently get instruction to complete admission procedure. Students are requested to register early as seats are limited. Offline centers will be conducted in Chattogram, Rajshahi and Sylhet together with existing offline centers in Dhaka if sufficient number of students are available. For any query please call DLP office (+8801552314634).

**National Prof A K Azad Khan**  
President, BADAS & Chairman, DLP  
Diabetic Association of Bangladesh

**Chattagram Maa-O-Shishu Hospital Medical College**  
(A project of Chattagram Maa-O-Shishu Hospital)  
02-33331457/02-333310534/02-333310536/02-333315822/02-333311432 (Direct)  
Fax: 08-02-333317799 E-mail: cmoshmedicalcollege@gmail.com Website: www.cmoshmc.edu.bd

**Job Opportunity**

- Professor/Associate Professor/Assistant Professor (Neuro Medicine)**  
Candidate should have educational qualification and experience as per BM&DC rules. Preference will be given to candidates with working experience.
- Professor/Associate Professor/Assistant Professor (Respiratory Medicine)**  
Candidate should have educational qualification and experience as per BM&DC rules. Preference will be given to candidates with working experience.
- Professor/Associate Professor/Assistant Professor (Radiology & Imaging)**  
Candidate should have educational qualification and experience as per BM&DC rules. Preference will be given to candidates with working experience about CT scan and MRI.

Candidates are requested to apply to the undersigned with pay order/bank draft of Tk. 500/- (In the name of "Chattagram Maa-O-Shishu Hospital Medical College"), full curriculum vitae, details of BM & DC qualifications, experiences and copies of publication with 2 copies of passport size photo within 05.10.2024. The application form is available at the college office.

**Mohammed Rezaul Karim Azad**  
Managing Trustee, Trustee Board, CMOSH Trust and  
Chairman, Governing Body,  
Chattagram Maa-O-Shishu Hospital Medical College  
Agrabad, Chattogram.

**ফ্ল্যাট বিক্রয়**  
বঙ্গুরা এফ-১ থেকে ১৫০০ বর্গফুটের শতভাগ রেডি ফ্ল্যাট।  
ম্যাজিক ব্রিকস হোল্ডিংস লিমি।  
০১৭০৪-১৭০০৭৬  
০১৭০৪-১৭০০৭৮

**ফ্ল্যাট বিক্রয়**  
লালমাটিয়া বি-১১-এ ১৬০০ বর্গফুটের শতভাগ রেডি ব্র্যান্ড নিউ ফ্ল্যাট।  
ম্যাজিক ব্রিকস হোল্ডিংস লিমি।  
০১৭০৪-১৭০০৭৮  
০১৭০৪-১৭০০৭৬

**ফ্ল্যাট বিক্রয়**  
বঙ্গুরা ডি-১ থেকে সেনি-ফোরফেস ২০৫০ বর্গফুটের নির্মাণাধীন ফ্ল্যাট।  
ম্যাজিক ব্রিকস হোল্ডিংস লিমি।  
০১৭০৪-১৭০০৭৭  
০১৭০৪-১৭০০৭৮

**INVITATION FOR TENDER**

- Institution:** Army Service Corps Centre & School, Jahanabad Cantonment, Khulna.
- Invitation for:** Training items for Institution, Class equipments, Daily Maintenance items, Training related equipments, Stationery, Firing Range maintenance items, Temporary camp kit and various training items, Equipments to develop training Aid and necessary equipment purchase.
- Tender selling commence date: 22 September 2024 (1000 hours).
- Tender last selling date: 05 October 2024 (1000 hours).
- Tender opening date and time: 06 October 2024 (1200 hours).

**Commandant**  
Army Service Corps Centre and School  
Jahanabad Cantonment, Khulna

আইএসপিআর/সেনা/২০২৪/৫১১  
১৯/০৯/২৪

GD-471



## Three more die of dengue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least three dengue patients died in 24 hours till yesterday morning, while 887 patients were hospitalised, the highest in a single day this year.

All three deaths were recorded from DSCC areas.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), with the new deaths and cases, the total number of deaths rose to 122, while the total number of cases rose to 21,966, of which 12,137 are from outside Dhaka.

Currently, 2,706 dengue patients are undergoing treatment, of whom 887 are from outside Dhaka.

A total of 19,138 patients have been released till yesterday, 10,889 of whom are from outside Dhaka.



In an effort to resolve waterlogging and restore the flow of rivers in the district's canals, a cleaning campaign was organised by the district administration in Barishal city. Workers, volunteers, and students from different colleges participated in the campaign. The photo was taken from the Morok Kholar Pool area yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

## Ctg sees rise in dengue cases

Specialised ward launched at CMCH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

In a bid to cope with the rising number of dengue patients, the Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) authorities have launched a specialised dengue ward at the hospital.

The old Covid-19 ward on the ground floor of the hospital's main building was turned into the specialised dengue ward on Wednesday.

A total of 10 ICU beds have also been installed in the ward to provide treatment to critically ill patients.

CMCH Director Brig Gen Taslim Uddin said at the ward, doctors, nurses, and other medical staffers have been on duty in three shifts.

Earlier, the dengue patients were admitted to different wards in the hospital, he said, adding, "As the

number of dengue patients has been increasing and some patients have recently died, we have launched the special ward for dengue patients."

He said at present around 50 dengue patients are admitted to CMCH.

Meanwhile, a total of 43 new dengue patients were admitted to different hospitals in Chattogram in the past 24 hours till 10:00am yesterday, said Dr Jahangir Alam Chowdhury, civil surgeon of Chattogram.

With them, so far a total of 986 dengue patients have been admitted to different hospitals in Chattogram this year till Thursday, he said, adding, "Of them, 12 patients have died."

"It has been raining at regular intervals this month in Chattogram, creating a favourable environment

for the breeding of Aedes mosquitoes," said Dr Jahangir.

Residents need to be cautious and keep their surroundings clean, he added.

Contacted, Sheikh Muhammad Taubidul Islam, chief executive officer of Chattogram City Corporation, said CCC conservatory workers have been spraying anti-mosquito repellent as well as larvicide in different areas of the port city.

He also said 41 CCC wards have been divided into 10 zones for the work.

Dr Abdullah Abu Sayeed, assistant professor of medicine at Chittagong Medical College, said if dengue patients show severe signs, including abdominal pain, vomiting, low blood pressure, and bleeding, they must be admitted to the hospital.

## HOLDING ISRAEL ACCOUNTABLE Bangladesh supports UN resolution

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The UN General Assembly has adopted a resolution that calls for establishing an international mechanism for reparations for all damage, loss, or injury caused by Israel's internationally wrongful activities in the occupied Palestinian territories.

It also requested the UN secretary-general to present a report on the implementation of the resolution.

The 10th Emergency Special Session of the UN General Assembly adopted the resolution, affirming the recent advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on July 19, 2024, that declared the occupation of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territories illegal.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

## Three advisers warn

FROM PAGE 1

Home Affairs Adviser Lt Gen (ret'd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury said that no one has the right to take the law into their own hands.

"If anyone commits any crimes, then the person should be handed over to the law. You have no right to take the law into your hands," he said, replying to reporters' query after a meeting with top police officials at the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) headquarters.

Referring to the incidents at Dhaka and Jahangirnagar universities, the advisor said, "It was not supposed to happen as they [university students] are highly educated, an awareness should be there among them."

The adviser suggested creating mass awareness among the people to stop such mob violence so that no innocent person becomes the victim of harassment at any point.

Terming the incidents

as "regrettable", Posts, Telecommunications, and Information Technology Adviser Nahid Islam said mob justice is not a solution.

In his Facebook post, he said the university authorities should take legal action against those involved with the incident.

Also via Facebook posts, two key coordinators of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement expressed their stands against mob beating and demanded justice for the incidents at DU and JU.

Sarjis Alam wrote: "How does a person get the right or courage to beat someone to death in this way, be it mentally unbalanced, a thief, or a convicted criminal?"

"There should be an exemplary punishment for taking the law into one's own hands," he said.

Hasnat Abdullah wrote those involved in the recent mob beating incidents should be identified and punished.

## BNP forms six panels

FROM PAGE 16

commission and public administration. The other members of the two committees are Ismail Zabihullah and former bureaucrat and BNP chairperson's adviser Bijon Kanti Sarker.

BNP standing committee member AZM Zahid Hossain will lead the panel on reforms to the education and health sectors, while Nazrul Islam Khan will head the committee on the reform to the Election Commission.

Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury will be chief of the committee on reforms to economy, banking and commerce sectors. Party Vice Chairman Abdul Awal

Mintoo will be its member.

Asked about the committees, Nazrul told The Daily Star that the bodies have been named in line with their tasks. He, however, refused to give details.

The six committees will finalise the BNP's stance and reform proposals after discussing the issues with different stakeholders. Those will also work to drum up public support for BNP's 31-point outline, said party insiders.

Unveiling the 31-point outline on July 13 last year, the party said it wants to implement the reform proposals to turn the country into a democratic state in the true sense.

পরীক্ষা বিভাগ  
EXAMINATION DIVISION

বাংলাদেশ উন্মুক্ত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়  
BANGLADESH OPEN UNIVERSITY

Schedule For BBA Examination-221 Term (1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, & 7<sup>th</sup> Level)

Date & Day	Course Code & Course Title Time (9:00 am - 12:00 noon) (1 <sup>st</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> Level)	Course Code & Course Title Time (02:00 pm - 5:00 pm) (3 <sup>rd</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup> Level)
04/10/2024 Friday	BBA 1301: Introduction to Business BBA 5320: Industrial and Company Law	BBA 3310: Business Law BBA 7330: Operations Management
18/10/2024 Friday	BBA 1302: Financial Accounting-I BBA 5321: Financial Management and Policy	BBA 3311: Macroeconomics BBA 7331: Project Appraisal and Management
25/10/2024 Friday	BBA 1305: Business English (Old Code 1303) BBA 5322: Entrepreneurship Development and Small Business Management	BBA 3312: Fundamentals of Statistics BBA 7332: Business Ethics
01/11/2024 Friday	BBA 1304: Business Mathematics BBA 5323: Socio-Economic Profile of Bangladesh	BBA 3313: Law and Practice of Banking BBA 7333: Portfolio Management
08/11/2024 Friday	BBA 5324: Business Statistics for Decision Making	BBA 3314: Fundamentals of Business Finance BBA 7334: Retailing Management

সুদূর বিদ্যালয়ে পরিচালিত BBA কোর্সের ২০১  
সিমেস্টারের ভর্তি স্বয়ং বিতরণ ক্লাসই ১১, ২০২৪ হতে  
০৯ অক্টোবর, ২০২৪ পর্যন্ত চলবে।

Controller of Examinations  
Bangladesh Open University

GD-474

## MURDER CASE Justice Manik shown arrested

COURT  
CORRESPONDENT

AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik, a retired judge of the Supreme Court, was shown arrested yesterday in a case filed over the death of Abdul Moteleb, 14, in Dhaka's Dhanmondi area during student protests on August 4.

D h a k a Metropolitan Magistrate Md Arifur Rahman passed the order after Md Khokon Miah, the case's investigation officer and an SI of Dhanmondi Police Station, submitted an application in this regard.

Dhaka North City Corporation  
Office of Executive Engineer  
Proposed Drainage Circle  
Level-9, Nagar Bhaban, Plot 23-26,  
Road-46, Gulshan-2, Dhaka-1212.

Memo NO : 46.10.0000.134.99.168.24-108 Date : 19/09/2024

e-Tender Notice (OTM)

e-Tenders are invited in the National e-Gp portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of :

SL No	Tender ID & Ref No.	Name of Works	Tender Closing & Opening Date & Time
1.	1015473, 46.10.0000.134.99.168.24 Date:12.02.2024	Supply, installation, testing & commissioning of different types of protection relays and mechanism for Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) panel at Rampura storm water pumping station under Dhaka North City Corporation.	10-Oct-2024 14:00

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline / hard copies will be accepted. To submit 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 online through any registered Bank's Branches. Further information and guidelines are available in National e-GP System Portal and e-Gp help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

(Mahbuba Akther)  
Executive Engineer (Electrical)  
Proposed Drainage Circle  
Dhaka North City Corporation.  
Phone: 02-222284822  
Email: [ee.elec.snd@dncc.gov.bd](mailto:ee.elec.snd@dncc.gov.bd)

GD-477

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH  
Department of Textiles  
BTMC Bhaban (9<sup>th</sup> Floor)  
7-9 Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215  
[www.dot.gov.bd](http://www.dot.gov.bd)

**Invitation for Tender**

Sealed Tender is hereby invited from the reputed Tenderers/ Service Provider for "Selection of Outsourcing Firm to Provide Manpower for Educational Institutions Under Department of Textiles". According to PPA-2006 and PPR-2008, terms and conditions are as follows:

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Textiles and Jute
2	Agency	Department of Textiles
3	Procuring Entity Name	Deputy Director (Finance)
4	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
5	Invitation for	Selection of Outsourcing Firm to Provide Manpower for Educational Institutions Under Department of Textiles
6	Invitation Ref No	24.02.0000.002.07.019.24-563, Date:18 September, 2024
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>		
7	Procurement Method	Open Tender Method (OTM)
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>		
8	Budget and Source of Funds	GOB (Revenue)
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>		
9	Tender Package No.	SR-01 and SR-02
10	Tender Package Name	<b>Package-1:</b> Selection of Outsourcing Firm to Provide 50 Manpower for 30 Textile Vocational Institutes. <b>Package-2:</b> Selection of Outsourcing Firm to Provide 17 Manpower for Sheikh Rasel Textile Engineering College, Sylhet.
11	Tender Publication Date	On or before 21 September, 2024
12	Tender Last Selling Date	06 October, 2024
13	Tender Submission Date and Time	07 October, 2024 Upto 2:00 P.M
14	Tender Opening Date and Time	07 October, 2024 at 2:30 P.M
15	Name & Address of the office - Selling Tender Document - Receiving Tender Document - Opening Tender Document	Department of Textiles, BTMC Bhaban (9 <sup>th</sup> Floor), 7-9 Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215.
<b>INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT</b>		
16	Eligibility of Tenderer	Updated Valid Trade License; Updated Income Tax clearance certificate; e-Bin (VAT) registration certificate; Other qualifications as specified in TDS.
17	Price of Tender Document (Tk)	Please purchase the tender schedule with a copy of invoice by depositing Tk.1,000/- (One Thousand Taka only) in code no. (1-4131-0001-2366) by Treasury Chalan (Any Schedule Bank) for each Package. A verified copy must be submitted to the office.
18	Tender Security Amount (Tk)	<b>Package-1:</b> Tk. 2,50,000/- (Two Lac Fifty Thousand Taka only) <b>Package-2:</b> Tk. 1,00,000/- (One Lac Taka only) by Pay Order (Any Schedule Bank) in favour of Director General, Department of Textiles.
<b>PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS</b>		
19	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Md. Abdur Rahman
20	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Deputy Director (Finance)
21	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Department of Textiles, BTMC Bhaban (9 <sup>th</sup> Floor) 7-9, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215.
22	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Tel. No.02-55011963 Fax No.9113545
23	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the tender proceedings.	

Md. Abdur Rahman  
Deputy Director (Finance) (Addl. Charge)  
On behalf of Director General

GD-466

## LEBANON PAGER ATTACKS Israel's Unit 8200 in spotlight

REUTERS, London

The mass pager attack against Hezbollah in Lebanon has turned the spotlight on Israel's secretive Unit 8200, the Israel Defense Forces' intelligence unit, which a Western security source said was involved in planning the operation.

Israeli officials remained silent on the intelligence operation that killed 12 people on Tuesday and wounded thousands of Hezbollah operatives. At least 20 people were killed on Wednesday when hand-held radios used by Hezbollah detonated.

A senior Lebanese security source and another source told Reuters that Israel's Mossad spy agency was responsible for a sophisticated operation to plant a small quantity of explosives inside 5,000 pagers ordered by Hezbollah.

One Western security source told Reuters that Unit 8200, a military unit that is not part of the spy agency, was involved in the development stage of the operation against Hezbollah which was over a year in the making.



Lebanese army members prepare to carry out a controlled explosion of a battery of a communications device in the town of Qlayaa, southern Lebanon yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Ammunition from India enters Ukraine Russia irked

REUTERS, New Delhi

Artillery shells sold by Indian arms makers have been diverted by European customers to Ukraine and New Delhi has not intervened to stop the trade despite protests from Moscow, according to eleven Indian and European government and defence industry officials, as well as a Reuters analysis of commercially available customs data.

The transfer of munitions to support Ukraine's defence against Russia has occurred for more than a year, according to the sources and the customs data. Indian arms export regulations limit the use of weaponry to the declared purchaser, who risks future sales being terminated if unauthorised transfers occur.

The Kremlin has raised the issue on at least two occasions, including during a July meeting between Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and his Indian counterpart, three Indian officials said.

Details of the ammunition transfers are reported by Reuters for the first time.

The foreign and defence ministries of Russia and India did not respond to questions. In January, Indian foreign ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal told a news conference that India had not sent or sold artillery shells to Ukraine.

## PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES UNGA demands Israel ends occupation

Hamas welcomes adoption of non-binding resolution

AGENCIES

UN member states voted Wednesday to formally demand an end to the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories within 12 months and the imposition of sanctions for non-compliance.

The non-binding resolution, which Israel claimed would fuel violence, calling it "distorted" and "cynical," is based on an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice (ICJ) saying the occupation since 1967 was "unlawful."

There were 124 votes in favour, 14 against and a notable 43 abstentions, with the Palestinian delegation heralding the adoption as "historic."

Arab countries called the special session just days before dozens of world leaders meet at UN headquarters to address the kick-off of this year's General Assembly.

The resolution -- the first introduced by the Palestinian delegation itself under new rights gained this year -- demands Israel "brings to

an end without delay its unlawful presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory."

It calls for a withdrawal "no later than 12 months" from the resolution's adoption. A previous draft gave six months, reports AFP.

"The idea is you want to use the pressure of the international community in the General Assembly and the pressure of the historic ruling by the ICJ to force Israel to change its behavior," said Palestinian ambassador Riyad Mansour on Monday.

Israel firmly rejected the resolution.

"This is what cynical international politics looks like," foreign ministry spokesman Oren Marmorstein said on X.

Hamas said it "welcomes the adoption", saying it reflected "the international community's solidarity with the Palestinian people's struggle."

The resolution "demands" the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Palestinian territories, a halt to new settlements, the return of seized land and property, and the possibility of return for displaced Palestinians.



## 'Life or death' for big cities should planet warm 3C

Researchers warn

AFP, Paris

Longer and more frequent heatwaves, soaring demand for air conditioning, and widespread disease: life in cities would become unbearable should the planet keep warming at current rates, researchers warned yesterday.

The World Resources Institute looked at what might happen in nearly 1,000 major cities if temperatures remain on track to rise 3 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

They found that the impact on these cities would be dire compared to a scenario where global warming is restricted to 1.5C.

"At 3 degrees C of warming, many cities could face month-long heatwaves... as well as a shifting risk for insect-borne diseases -- sometimes simultaneously," the authors wrote.

## 'Completely unwarranted'

Says India on US court  
summons over Khalistani  
separatist

NDTV ONLINE

A US court's summons to the Indian government over Khalistani separatist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun's civil suit, alleging a plot to murder him, was "completely unwarranted", India's Ministry of External Affairs said.

In a news briefing yesterday afternoon, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri was asked about the summons by the US District Court for Southern District of New York.

The summons names Government of India, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, former R&AW chief Samant Goel, R&AW agent Vikram Yadav, and Indian businessman Nikhil Gupta and seeks a reply within 21 days.

"When these issues were first brought to our attention, we took action. There's a high-level committee engaged (in this matter)," the foreign secretary said. He said this was a "completely unwarranted case." "I invite your attention to the person who filed this," Misri said, adding that Pannun's "antecedent is well-known" and that he is from an unlawful organisation.

Pannun heads the radical Sikhs for Justice and is known to put out incendiary speeches and threats against Indian leaders and institutions. New Delhi designated him a terrorist in 2020.

## Try some nature in your background to fight Zoom fatigue

AFP, Paris

Feel drained after a long video call? Your tiredness could be partly linked to the background on your screen, according to a study published yesterday which suggested trying an image depicting nature.

Whether for work meetings, distance learning at school or just catching up with friends and family, video calls have become a part of daily life for many people -- particularly since the Covid pandemic.

The amount of time spent communicating on these screens has given rise to a new phenomenon dubbed "videoconference fatigue", which can represent physical, emotional or cognitive exhaustion.

Two researchers in Singapore were interested in testing another element that could play a role -- the virtual background people choose to conceal what is really behind them.

This could be important because existing research "suggests that during videoconferencing, users spend the vast majority of their time focusing on themselves", researcher Heng Zhang of Singapore's Nanyang Technological University said.

Rather than focusing on the people they are talking to, it seems everyone just spends video calls checking themselves out.



### Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Limited

(A Company of Petrobangla)  
Birashar, Brahmanbaria

সৈতিকা ও সততা  
জীবনে আনে পরিবর্তা  
- আত্মীয় অস্বাচার বোধন

Reference No. 28.10.1213.806.00.336.24

e-Tender Notice

e-Tenders are invited in e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Civil Engineering Department, Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Limited, Birashar, Brahmanbaria for the procurement of following work:

SL No.	Package No.	Description of works	Tender ID No.	Tender last selling/downloading date & time	Tender closing date & time	Tender opening date & time
1	Civil/egp/27/2024-2025	Re-construction of bridge on approach road of Location-1 to Location 5 & 11 at Habiganj Gas Field, Habiganj.	1015511, (OSTETM)	01-10-2024 up to 16.00 Hrs.	02-10-2024 at 14.30 Hrs.	02-10-2024 at 14.30 Hrs.
2	Civil/egp/16/2024-2025	Re-Construction of Officer's accommodation at Narshingdi Gas Field, Narshingdi.	1015521, (OSTETM)	01-10-2024 up to 16.00 Hrs.	02-10-2024 at 14.30 Hrs.	02-10-2024 at 14.30 Hrs.
3	Civil/egp/07/2024-2025	Construction of 3 Nos. security post at Titas Location-A, Brahmanbaria.	1015543, (OSTETM)	01-10-2024 up to 16.00 Hrs.	02-10-2024 at 14.30 Hrs.	02-10-2024 at 14.30 Hrs.
4	Civil/egp/10/2024-2025	RCC palisading work including earth filling in North & East side for protection of boundary wall at Location-B of Bakhrabad Gas Field, Muradnagar, Cumilla.	1015552 (OSTETM)	01-10-2024 up to 16.00 Hrs.	02-10-2024 at 14.45 Hrs.	02-10-2024 at 14.45 Hrs.
5	Civil/egp/11/2024-2025	RCC palisading work including earth filling in outer side of boundary wall near Ansar camp at Location-A of Bakhrabad Gas Field, Muradnagar, Cumilla.	1015554 (OSTETM)	01-10-2024 up to 16.00 Hrs.	02-10-2024 at 14.45 Hrs.	02-10-2024 at 14.45 Hrs.
6	Civil/egp/20/2024-2025	Replacing of CI sheet of roof by colour coated profile sheet of 07 Nos. Caravan at Titas Location "B", Brahmanbaria.	1015556 (OSTETM)	01-10-2024 up to 16.00 Hrs.	02-10-2024 at 14.45 Hrs.	02-10-2024 at 14.45 Hrs.

- This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted;
- The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any members of registered bank's branches up to 16.00 Hrs. on 01-10-2024.
- To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).
- Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).
- The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

28.10.1213.876.09.053.24 (Civil)  
(8x4)

**Engr. Md. Mahabubur Rahaman Khan**  
Dy-General Manager (Civil Engg.)  
Phone: 02334428141, 02334427428, Extn.-113

GD-464

### গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

প্রধান উপদেষ্টার কার্যালয়  
জাতীয় দক্ষতা উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ (এনএসডিএ)  
বিনিয়োগ ভবন (১১-১২ তলা)  
ই-৬/বি, আগারগাঁও, শের-ই-বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭  
[www.nsd.gov.bd](http://www.nsd.gov.bd)

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে জাতীয় দক্ষতা উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ (এনএসডিএ) পর্যায়ক্রমিক ১২ (বারো) ক্যাটাগরিতে (দক্ষতা প্রশিক্ষণ প্রদানকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান, শিল্প দক্ষতা পরিষদ, শিল্প সমিতি, এনজিও, গবেষক প্রভৃতি) অর্থ বিভাগের আওতাধীন জাতীয় মানব সম্পদ উন্নয়ন তহবিল (এনএইচআরডিএফ) হতে আর্থিক সহায়তা প্রদানের নিমিত্ত সুপারিশ করবে।

২। এ লক্ষ্যে দ্বিতীয় পর্যায়ে এনএসডিএ কর্তৃক নিবন্ধিত এবং বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় যোগ্যতা কাঠামোর লেভেল অনুযায়ী ১-৬ পর্যন্ত দক্ষতা প্রশিক্ষণ প্রদানকারী সরকারি-বেসরকারি প্রতিষ্ঠান (এসটিপি) হতে শর্ট কোর্স (সর্বোচ্চ ৩৬০ ঘন্টা) পরিচালনার উদ্দেশ্যে আর্থিক সহায়তা প্রাপ্তির জন্য অনলাইনে আবেদন আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

৩। আর্থিক সহায়তা পেতে আগ্রহী দক্ষতা প্রশিক্ষণ প্রদানকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহকে এনএসডিএ কর্তৃক অনুমোদনপ্রাপ্ত অকুপেশনে ১২ (বারো) মাস সময়ে বাস্তবায়নযোগ্য প্রশিক্ষণ কর্মসূচির জন্য আর্থিক সুবিধা প্রাপ্তির লক্ষ্যে এনএসডিএ-এর ন্যাশনাল স্কিলস পোর্টালে (<https://www.skillsportal.gov.bd/#/>) আবেদন করতে হবে।

৪। এছাড়া, গবেষণা কার্যক্রমে বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠান দক্ষতা ও শ্রমবাজার সংশ্লিষ্ট গবেষণা পরিচালনার জন্য স্বয়ংসম্পূর্ণ আবেদনের ২ (দুই) কপি (আর্থিক প্রস্তাবসহ) সিলগালাকৃত খামে নির্বাহী চেয়ারম্যান (সচিব), এনএসডিএ বরাবর দাখিল করতে পারবে।

৫। এনএসডিএ কর্তৃক আবেদন গ্রহণ ও যাচাইবাছাই শেষে সুপারিশসহ আর্থিক সহায়তার প্রক্রিয়া সম্পন্ন করার জন্য এনএইচআরডিএফ কোম্পানি বরাবর প্রেরণ করা হবে।

৬। আগামী ২৪ অক্টোবর ২০২৪ তারিখের মধ্যে উপরোল্লিখিত উভয় ধরনের আবেদন (এসটিপি এবং গবেষক/গবেষণা প্রতিষ্ঠান) আবেদন দাখিল করতে হবে।

৭। আবেদন-সংক্রান্ত তথ্যাদি ও শর্তাবলি এনএসডিএ-এর ওয়েবসাইটে ([www.nsd.gov.bd](http://www.nsd.gov.bd)) পাওয়া যাবে।

৮। জাতীয় দক্ষতা উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ এ-সংক্রান্ত সকল আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ/যাচাই/বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।

**মোঃ জোহর আলী**  
সদস্য (প্রশাসন ও অর্থ)  
[member.admin@nsd.gov.bd](mailto:member.admin@nsd.gov.bd)  
ফোনঃ ০২৪৪৮২৬৭০২

GD-469

### We must stop this madness

Incidents of mob violence in universities deeply troubling

We are deeply alarmed by the recent incidents of mob violence in some prominent public universities that claimed three lives, two of them within hours of each other on Wednesday night. These killings, by students no less, mark an escalation in a whole catalogue of violence and subversion that generally characterised the fluid situation post-August 5. The breakdown of law and order, amid little field presence of police officers, has already forced the administration to grant magistracy powers to army officers so that they can intervene decisively to restore order. But that the malaise goes beyond a mere crisis of law enforcement is getting increasingly clear.

The case at Dhaka University's Fazlul Huq Muslim Hall, where a man identified as Tofazzal was beaten to death on mere suspicion of theft, is a chilling example of this. Despite being reportedly mentally unwell, he was subjected to hours of torture by students. A similar tragedy unfolded at Jahangirnagar University, where a former Chhatra League leader, Shamim Ahmed, was fatally beaten by students. The third case involved Abdullah Al Masud, another former Chhatra League leader at Rajshahi University. It happened last Saturday when Masud was mercilessly beaten before he was taken to a local police station and then to the hospital, where he died from his injuries.

These are not the first incidents of mob violence after August 5. In fact, according to an estimate, nearly two dozen citizens have fallen victim to mob lynching over the last 40 days. But the same happening in the highest seats of learning, at the hands of our brightest students, who not long ago rescued the nation from the grips of an authoritarian regime, makes one wonder where it all went wrong. The brutality that was on display is unthinkable. The question here is not just about universities becoming hotbeds of mob violence. The idea that it's alright to take the law into one's own hands to punish some perceived wrongdoing may have found a similar expression before the regime change, but its continuation now suggests a crisis that cannot be resolved overnight or through law enforcement measures alone.

It needs a critical rethink about the transformation of an increasingly radicalised society, the loss of faith caused by the failure of vital institutions like the judiciary and police, the cultivation of hate, distrust, and self-serving interests, and a growing belief that change only comes through force. While reversing this thought process will require a sustained campaign of education, awareness, and civic engagement, what the authorities can—and must—do now is ensure accountability for those involved in mob violence and restore faith in the justice system through proper reforms. Mob justice is just murder under the guise of collective action. It will happen again if we don't hold to account these murderers, regardless of their identity.

### Dengue inaction is increasing the risk

Conduct regular mosquito control drives, manage hotspots

The dengue situation seems to be gradually getting out of control amid a lack of proper initiatives by the government. While 27 people died of dengue in August, already 36 people have died in the first 18 days of this month. The infection rate is also steadily increasing, with 865 patients hospitalised in the 24 hours till Wednesday morning. If the city corporations, municipalities, and the health authorities fail to respond properly, we may have another disastrous dengue season this year.

In Dhaka, the anti-mosquito drives have been largely inadequate since the fall of the Awami League regime on August 5. In many areas, workers of the city corporations have been found to be sitting idle, not having the equipment ready to spray insecticides, or are unable to work due to a lack of space to keep spraying equipment. Although the authorities were made aware of the situation, the problem has not been resolved. At the Pallidibidyt area of Ashulia, residents have themselves carried out anti-mosquito drives in the absence of official measures. The question is: why are responsible government institutions failing to perform their duty in this regard? While we understand that the administrative void created in the aftermath of the regime change hampered mosquito control drives, what justification can there be now when administrators have been appointed to properly steer all city corporations and municipalities?

These institutions are supposed to keep their cities and towns clean, and conduct regular mosquito control drives and awareness campaigns. Meanwhile, the health authorities are supposed to hold at least three surveys around the monsoon to learn about the real dengue situation so that area-wise measures can be taken. The pre-monsoon survey was reportedly done in April by the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), but there has been no development on the remaining surveys. There is then the question of taking proper action based on survey findings, which is rarely done. Clearly, the authorities have to step up efforts on all fronts to control the dengue situation.

For the city corporations and municipalities, it is vital that they start anti-mosquito drives without delay and with full vigour. They can engage local residents, including students, in their activities including cleaning. As for the DGHS, they should regularly identify dengue hotspots through surveys, and ensure proper hotspot management which is the best way to contain the spread. In addition, the health ministry should be able to provide treatment to all dengue patients in the coming days. Only coordinated efforts from all concerned can contain the disease satisfactorily.

### THIS DAY IN HISTORY

#### Italy occupies Rome

On this day in 1870, Italian troops occupied Rome, leading to the eventual incorporation of Rome into the Kingdom of Italy and the limiting of papal governing authority to the Vatican itself and a small district around it.

# July uprising and some thoughts of Bangladeshi-Americans

Snapshots from my latest conversations with Gregorians in North America



THE THIRD VIEW

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MAHFUZ ANAM

It was heartwarming to see so many old faces from my school days as I attended the second reunion of Gregorians of North America (GNA), held on September 14 in New Jersey, US. Nearly 200 former students of St Gregory's High School, Dhaka had gathered—many with their spouses—from all over the US and Canada. The occasion was one of reconnecting, reminiscing, and exchanging stories, anecdotes and school-era jokes.

The most popular session was the one that focused on how Bangladesh became a Test-playing cricket nation and how we can build upon our recent extraordinary Test performance against Pakistan. There were many exciting comments regarding the ongoing tour of India. The session consisted of our early cricket heroes such as Syed Ashraful Huq, Yousuf Babu, and Khandker Nazrul Quader Lintu. Their personal stories of early failures, hard work and subsequent success entertained us all. Their experience-rich comments about the future kept everyone in rapt attention, and we wondered why these three stars are not a part of our present day cricket board leadership, especially when so much is changing at the top echelon of professional bodies.

Shahudul Haque—Gullu to us all—kept the audience enthralled with the story of his incredible journey of walking more than 15,300 miles in 1,425 days (three years and 11 months). Starting on October 17, 2020, he has walked every day. Everyone gasped when he recounted that on rainy days, when he cannot go out, he climbs up and down the stairs of his 13-storey apartment building for as many times as it takes to complete his daily routine of minimum five miles. The circumference of Earth is nearly 25,000 miles, of which he has already passed the halfway mark. For someone who is in his mid-70s, such a feat of endurance made him an instant hero of the event.

Where I had the privilege to speak was a session titled "Recent events in Bangladesh and how NRBs can contribute in the changed

circumstances." Everyone spoke in a manner that proved that they had been following the recent uprising most meticulously. There was a lot of pride in what has been achieved, accompanied with some feeling of uncertainty, especially regarding the various forces that appear to have been unleashed. While there were some uncertainties regarding reforms, a consensus seemed to prevail about significantly trimming the prime minister's power and fixing their tenure in office to a maximum of two terms.

Generally, they all welcomed the toppling of the previous government, having suffered the humiliation for many years of belonging to a country whose reputation of corruption, nepotism, abuse of power, cronyism and unaccountable power surpassed most others of similar category. Like us at home, the non-resident Bangladeshis (NRBs) also wondered how the Sheikh Hasina government could become so unbelievably oppressive. Whatever details I could provide led to more in-depth questions about the gradual deterioration of the quality of governance in Bangladesh. They wondered, like many of us, how a powerful regime like Sheikh Hasina's could fall so fast, so completely, and so ignominiously. People's power made it all possible.

They marvelled at the bravery of our young. Though we have a long tradition of student movements, the distinguishing feature of the July uprising was the participation of younger generation—boys and girls from schools. The Road Safety Movement in 2018 seemed to have broken the psychological barrier of school students to get down to the streets to fight for what they considered to be right and just. Families descended on the streets of Dhaka with courage and bravery that armies get trained for years to master. What amazed the NRBs over and over again were the stories of these students, spontaneously joined by the general public—including women, the elderly and young mothers—who

continued to demonstrate for days in spite of police killing. To defy the trigger-happy police, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) members for days, without the slightest sign of fear or despondency, will surely be recorded as one of the most courageous mass demonstrations in the world. The GNA audience were mesmerised by how young women participated with equal intensity and courage as their male counterparts in the daily battles with police and other forces. This marked a new phase in their sense of equality, confidence and self-assertion.

The NRBs' faith in Prof Muhammad Yunus seemed boundless. They all believe that he is the right person for the job, but are worried as to whether he would be given the time he needs for the reforms people expect him

engineering, IT, medicine, pharmacy, and even cybersecurity. Those present mostly consisted of mid- to high-level professionals who, though they were US citizens, were eager and willing to partake in the new journey. They cited the example of their Indian counterparts who have made significant contributions to India's march forward. They greatly regretted the failures of past governments to tap into these highly trained intellectual resources, who have now gained strength and momentum and are ready to assist their country of origin. What they eagerly wanted was a dependable conduit—either governmental or through the private sector—to channel their professional and academic expertise to their counterparts in Bangladesh. Given Prof Yunus's experience and personal expertise on knowledge transfer, these



VISUAL: ANWAR SOHEL

to deliver. The length of his tenure remained a lively topic throughout the event.

Fear was expressed about too many issues being placed on the agenda and that the enormity of the task would jeopardise the interim administration's success. The formation of six commissions with highly competent leaders somewhat assuaged the fear among the audience that substantive work could now be expected in some crucial areas.

What impressed me immensely was the eagerness of the NRBs gathered in New Jersey to assist in the journey of the new Bangladesh forward, which has so suddenly emerged. The whole session was full of questions as to how these highly qualified Bangladeshi-Americans could help in the progress of their country of origin. There were professionals from academia, business,

NRBs feel confident that their long-cherished wish is on the verge of being fulfilled.

My brief exposure and fragmented exchanges convinced me that it's high time we established professional linkages with these highly qualified and equally highly motivated NRBs, and use their knowledge to assist in our journey in the potential-rich 21st century. We need to urgently set up some sort of mechanism to make use of this huge reservoir of talent that can help transform Bangladesh.

If knowledge is the most important resource of future advancement, then the global citizens of Bangladesh origin are eagerly waiting to serve Bangladesh in providing that crucial resource. It has been foolish on our part not to seek their collaboration earlier. It will be self-defeating, in fact suicidal, to continue in that direction.

### PROSECUTING THE PERPETRATORS OF JULY-AUGUST MASSACRE

## A case for restorative justice

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MUHAMMAD ASADULLAH and  
NOUSHEEN SHARMILA RITU

Just a month and a half ago, Bangladesh witnessed abominable atrocities and mass killings perpetrated by Sheikh Hasina's fascist regime. In response to these grave human rights violations, the interim government has initiated the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) to prosecute Hasina and her government for ordering the killings between July 1 and August 5. In this context, it is essential to reflect on the utility of a criminal tribunal and reconsider whether prosecution alone constitutes justice. While punishing the key perpetrators of mass killings is indeed an essential component of transitional justice, other crucial aspects of justice must also be considered, particularly from the perspective of restorative justice.

International crimes tribunals are usually based on punitive frameworks that seek justice through the prosecution of those involved in mass killings or war crimes. Although the International Criminal Court (ICC), established by the Rome Statute, incorporates both punitive and rehabilitative elements, it has been criticised for its lack of meaningful victim participation, reparation, relational restoration, and healing. This gap has led to the development of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) grounded in the principles of restorative justice. TRCs recognise the importance of truth, accountability,

reparation, relationship building, reconciliation and healing in post-conflict societies—elements that are often missing in the adversarial and punitive justice systems of criminal courts or tribunals.

The restorative justice approach has gained growing acceptance in several post-conflict nations, including Canada, Rwanda, Cambodia and Sierra

**With a focus on addressing the 'social harm' caused by crime, restorative justice advocates for the involvement of all stakeholders in the justice process, promoting meaningful dialogue between victims and perpetrators instead of a simple 'punitive blame allocation exercise.'**

Leone, due to its holistic, participatory, empowering and empathetic approach to justice. With a focus on addressing the "social harm" caused by crime, restorative justice advocates for the involvement of all stakeholders in the justice process, promoting meaningful dialogue between victims and perpetrators instead of a simple "punitive blame allocation exercise." The truth and reconciliation process aims to uncover the truth about past atrocities, mend societal relations, and prevent future human rights violations. This justice mechanism is especially valuable in political contexts where victims and perpetrators often need to coexist in the same society,

thus requiring a structural reform, rather than the mere criminalisation of one group.

In contrast, international criminal courts and tribunals have faced increasing criticism over the past decade for their narrow and decontextualised approaches to justice. The legal constraint on individual criminal accountability makes these institutions ill-suited to address the complexities of conflicts in Global South countries, which are often shaped by local or domestic actors. Additionally, punitive and adversarial forms of justice frequently result in polarisation, dominance of the victor's narrative, and ultimately unsustainable justice outcomes.

For instance, in Bangladesh, in addition to law enforcement officials, local goons, Jubo League and Chhatra League members, and local government representatives affiliated with the Awami League government played significant roles in perpetrating violence against the protesters in July and August. Therefore, punishing only a few state leaders or law enforcement officials while ignoring the local actors who enforced violence and intimidation within communities would be insufficient. Moreover, the conflict has already sown distrust, hatred and division among people who have witnessed members of their own communities participating in violence and killings. In such a context, punitive justice alone could further weaken community bonds, social cohesion, and peacemaking efforts. Hence, it is crucial to reconsider the ICT as the sole tool for justice and instead explore a more grounded and holistic approach to addressing these mass atrocities.

Bangladesh is an ideal candidate for a restorative justice approach if it seeks to establish accountability for the mass

killings while fostering reconciliation, healing, and the reintegration of various societal stakeholders. The restorative approach offers victims a diverse range of justice outcomes, including reparation, healing and empowerment—outcomes that are absent from criminal prosecutions alone. According to recent reports, as many as 875 people have been killed and over 30,000 injured during the quota reform movement and the subsequent student-led mass uprising. A key component of justice lies in ensuring reparation and restitution for these victims, which is just as important as criminal prosecutions. Under a restorative justice model, community reparative boards could be established to address the diverse needs for reparation and compensation of the victims.

Additionally, Bangladesh's genocidal past and the failure of the ICT to punish war criminals in an uncontroversial manner have long fuelled political tensions, civil unrest, and polarisation. Over the years, the Awami League government has constructed a linear political narrative, forcing people into a dichotomy of either supporting the party as the champions of independence or being branded as Razakars (traitors). This political culture of intolerance, polarisation and discrimination has not only marginalised a significant portion of the population, but is also one of the main drivers of the anti-discrimination movement. Therefore, it is imperative to adopt a justice mechanism that does not exacerbate existing fault lines, but rather fosters amnesty, reconciliation, and healing within the country. Because of that, while the restorative justice approach may be new to Bangladesh's justice landscape, it is worth serious consideration.

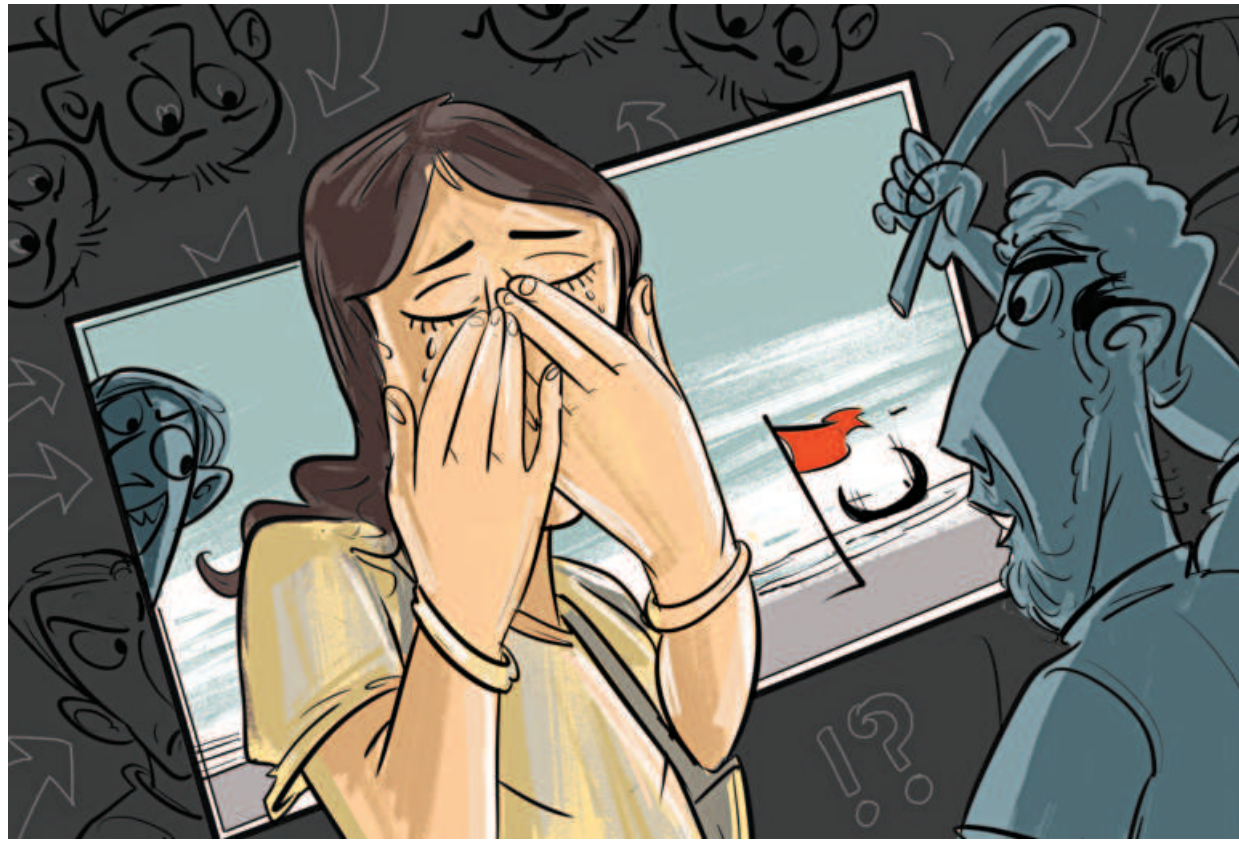


ILLUSTRATION: BIPOB CHAKROBORTY

COX'S BAZAR ATTACKS

# A sickness far from being cured



**NO STRINGS ATTACHED**

Aasha Mehreen Amin  
is joint editor at The Daily Star.

**AASHA MEHREEN AMIN**

One of the most remarkable features of the student-led mass uprising was how easily women protesters could blend in with the crowd, reportedly without facing harassment from fellow protesters. Side by side with their male counterparts, we saw women and girls in all kinds of attire walking towards Shahbag and other areas to celebrate a people's victory. Throughout the movement, female students took an active role in chanting slogans and supporting their brothers.

Which is why the attacks on women in Dhaka and Cox's Bazar only a few weeks later and the way the attackers have shared their "crusade against immorality" on social media are all the more jarring. It also indicates a newfound boldness in moral policing, giving some credence to the idea that the end of the previous regime has further emboldened ultra-right groups. But it would also be disingenuous to suggest that such self-appointed defenders of propriety were not there before August 5.

For cons, women's conduct, what they should or should not wear, and which spaces they may or may not occupy have been the preoccupation of many self-righteous groups who justify violence against women as a way to "cleanse" society. By giving their opinions a religious tag, these groups or individuals have managed to get away with vicious assaults on women, both physical and verbal. The recent attacks remind us of the 2022 incident where both men and women assaulted a young woman at a railway station in Narsingdi for wearing "indecent clothes." The victim barely saved herself from the mob after managing to escape to the station master's room to take shelter.

In the recent incidents in

Cox's Bazar, a young man named Mohammad Farukul Islam decided to take it upon himself to chastise women for being out alone on the beach or for wearing clothes he did not approve of. In one of the videos that went viral, Farukul, who falsely claimed to be a student coordinator, is seen holding a stick while his chums verbally abuse a woman and force her to do sit-ups while holding her ears. In another video, the same group approaches another woman sitting by herself on the beach and asks her what she was doing there so late at night, and then chases her away, after she said she was a tourist.

There are also clips of the same man repeatedly hitting a woman with a stick, and chasing women after dragging them down from a rickshaw. Another clip shows a terrified woman at a police box with Farukul where she is crying and telling the police that the attacker had taken her mobile phone. What is most frightening is the enthusiasm of the onlookers who are seen egging on the perpetrator. It was only after Environment Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan was informed of the incident by a female journalist, and after one of the victims found the courage to file a case against Farukul and six other men, that police arrested him. Before these incidents came to light, another man with the same intention of "cleaning the streets" of Dhaka posted a video of him chasing a sex worker and beating her with a pipe.

Disturbingly, both this man and Farukul were proud of their heinous actions. They announced what they were about to do on Facebook and later uploaded and shared videos of their deeds on social media themselves. In an opinion piece in Prothom Alo,

Qurratul-Ain Tahmina describes how brutally some sex workers have been beaten in various areas of Dhaka by men armed with sticks. They also robbed them and threatened them so they wouldn't report these incidents. The pictures she took of the victims show the severity of their injuries. One of the victims was eight months pregnant.

This raises the question: who gave these men the right to humiliate and assault these women? Why were they so confident that in some cases they publicised their acts, thinking them to be "good deeds"? Clearly, these men committed heinous crimes. But in a society in which misogyny in the name of religious piety has become entrenched, how likely is it that they will be punished?

Members of the "moral police"—both men and, unfortunately, women—feel entitled to humiliate and even physically assault women who they think are not conforming to their idea of how a "good girl" should carry herself. Social media is the most popular place for this hatred for women to be displayed. The vulgar and abusive remarks in the comments section of posts or videos in which women are featured or talked about give an idea about the perverted obsession with females and their bodies among certain groups of people.

This year alone, around 250 women were raped between January and June, according to Ain O Salish Kendra. Fourteen victims were killed, and three died by suicide after rape.

On August 5, there were among the revellers thousands of women and girls who thought the country was finally free from all kinds of repression. Perhaps they forgot for a few moments that freedom is selectively distributed, and seldom are women part of the deal. We still live in a society that is far from being free from the regressive notions of the past. A 70-year-old woman being gang-raped near Dhaka University, a 19-year-old being raped on a moving bus in Chattogram, and women being beaten and humiliated on the city streets and the sea beach—these incidents just weeks after August 5 don't give us any reason to believe otherwise.

# Ensuring decent and dignified work in Bangladesh



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**LUBABA MAHJABIN PRIMA**

On August 5, 2024, after ruling Bangladesh with an iron fist for over 15 years, Sheikh Hasina fled the country following month-long protests that turned deadly due to the brutal tactics employed by her government. The protests initially opposed the reservation of quotas in government jobs. However, the grievances of the young protesters, their disapproval of such quotas, and their aspirations for government employment stem from deeper issues—namely, the desire for decent jobs in a struggling economy.

In Bangladesh, government jobs symbolise dignity—which many of the nation's youth crave. The central issue underlying

In 2015, Bangladesh signed onto the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with Goal 8 emphasising sustained, inclusive economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all. However, even after a decade, Bangladesh has failed to meet these targets. And the absence of decent jobs has severely impacted the lives of young people and their families, whose earnings have not kept pace with the rising cost of living.

Bangladesh's job crisis can be attributed to a lack of foreign direct investment (FDI) and the stagnant industrial and manufacturing sectors. For years, the business environment in Bangladesh has been

populations. High-paying, formal private sector jobs sought by young people often require strong communication skills (in both native and English languages), computing, data management, and teamwork—skills that are largely absent from Bangladesh's education curriculum. Consequently, underprivileged youth, who lack access to alternative avenues for acquiring these skills, are left at a disadvantage. The prevalence of favouritism and nepotism in the job market, coupled with a mismatch between academia and industry, further compounds the challenges faced by youth from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Each year, many Bangladeshis migrate to Gulf countries as labourers, but most of them are unskilled or low-skilled workers. The treatment of these workers is often inhumane, with passports confiscated upon arrival and long, abusive work hours becoming a daily reality. Female domestic workers are particularly vulnerable to sexual abuse. Successive



The young protesters' disapproval of government job quotas stems from the desire for decent jobs in a struggling economy.

FILE PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

their frustrations is massive unemployment. While the national unemployment rate is around three percent, youth unemployment is significantly higher, at about eight percent, reflecting a troubling trend of jobless growth.

Between 2013 and 2016-17,

inhospitable to new enterprises, due to burdensome administrative red tape and widespread extortion of business owners. As a result, new investments have not flowed into productive sectors of the economy. While there is much talk about encouraging self-employment and

governments in Bangladesh have turned a blind eye to these abuses, prioritising remittances over the well-being of our workers. While foreign exchange earnings are important, ensuring the safety and dignity of migrant workers must be the topmost priority.

Bangladesh should enhance its migrant workforce by sending more skilled labourers abroad, thereby increasing their earning potential. To this end, it is crucial to re-evaluate the role of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) programmes. Unfortunately, social stigma still surrounds these institutions, which are seen as inferior to traditional education, despite the opportunities they offer. It is also essential to modernise TVET curricula and strengthen ties with industries. The emphasis should be on the quality of jobs rather than their quantity. Moreover, given how dependent Gulf countries are on our relatively cheap labour, Bangladeshi authorities should pressure these governments to ensure their agencies adhere to international labour standards.

The labour market in Bangladesh is exploitative. Youth are often forced to work for extremely low wages, with no adjustment for inflation, leaving them vulnerable to price shocks. Meanwhile, high-paying jobs frequently demand sacrifices in work-life balance, underscoring the inadequacy of labour laws.

As Bangladesh continues its journey towards economic restructuring, it is imperative to create jobs that provide dignity and security for its people. Engaging all relevant stakeholders in dialogue can help pave the way for incorporating safety nets and social protections into job creation strategies. Social cohesion and peace can only be achieved if no segment of society feels marginalised or ignored in the country's development process. As such, providing decent jobs is one of the keys to addressing the long-ignored concerns of the youth.

**In Bangladesh, government jobs symbolise dignity—which many of the nation's youth crave. The central issue underlying their frustrations is massive unemployment. While the national unemployment rate is around three percent, youth unemployment is significantly higher, at about eight percent, reflecting a troubling trend of jobless growth.**

Bangladesh's GDP grew at an average annual rate of 6.6 percent, yet employment grew by only 0.9 percent annually—less than one-eighth of the economic growth rate during that period. This suggests that the benefits of growth have been concentrated among a small elite, leaving the general population increasingly frustrated and angry, as evidenced by the protests.

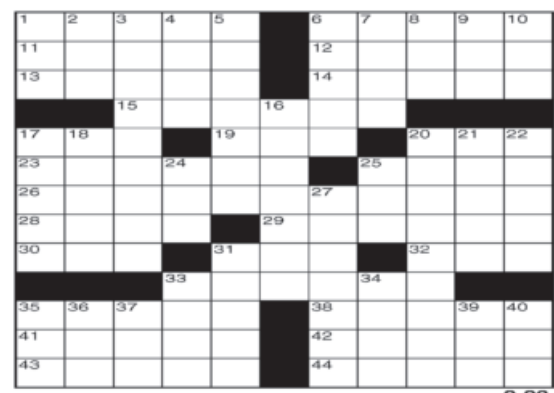
Bangladesh is at a demographic crossroads, with youth (aged 15-29) comprising 36.7 percent of the total labour force (LFS 2022). Yet the country is missing out on the opportunity to capitalise on this "demographic dividend," as 40.67 percent of youth are not in employment, education, or training (NEET). Alarmingly, 14.7 percent of the long-term unemployed (those jobless for over two years) have tertiary education. This has only deepened the frustrations of young people, whose investments in education have not yielded much tangible benefits. If the growing segment of the population neglected both by the education and job sectors is not addressed, the societal consequences—such as rising crime and unrest—could become much worse.

entrepreneurship among young people, significant structural barriers remain. These include limited access to credit, inadequate market access, and insufficient infrastructure. These political and economic challenges underpin the lack of investment in job-creating industries.

Other than the ready-made garment (RMG) sector, Bangladesh has failed to foster the growth of new industries, thereby limiting opportunities for economic expansion. The RMG industry has been a reliable source of employment, particularly for women, but it is rife with worker exploitation. Long hours and a lack of breaks take a heavy toll on workers' health, and many women leave the industry as they age. Instances of sexual and verbal abuse in the workplace are also common. And the threat of automation poses additional risks, particularly for female workers. One potential solution is to develop the care industry, providing specialised training and capacity-building for women. This could create sustainable, decent employment opportunities abroad, especially in developed countries with ageing

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

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|--|-----------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                              | <b>DOWN</b>                 |
| 1 Impressed greatly                        | 1 Gum mass                  |
| 6 Foxx of "Ray"                            | 2 Low digit                 |
| 11 Cartoon genre                           | 3 Rooftop turners           |
| 12 Undermine                               | 4 Mideast ruler             |
| 13 Jeans material                          | 5 Lovers                    |
| 14 Bar seat                                | 6 Track great Owens         |
| 15 Formal                                  | 7 Pretentious               |
| 17 Big D player                            | 8 Cattle call               |
| 19 Pub pint                                | 9 Wedding words             |
| 20 Kids' card game                         | 10 Twisty fish              |
| 23 Galahad's mother                        | 16 Didn't get up early      |
| 25 Prudent                                 | 17 Imitated a kitten        |
| 26 They help to develop breathing capacity | 18 Full of energy           |
| 28 Preceding nights                        | 20 Sources of sudden wealth |
| 29 Frozen expanse                          | 21 The Jetsons' dog         |
| 30 — Moines                                | 22 Utter over               |
| 31 Martini base                            | 24 Passport, license, etc.  |
| 32 Claire of "The Crown"                   | 25 Victory                  |
| 33 Second-largest nation                   | 27 Out of control           |
| 35 Yellow gem                              | 31 Peered                   |
| 38 Character found in kids' books          | 33 Soap unit                |
| 41 Not dozing                              | 34 Secluded spot            |
| 42 Patriot Ethan                           | 35 Letter after sigma       |
| 43 Single                                  | 36 Possess                  |
| 44 Question type                           | 37 Pussy foot               |
|  | 39 Bear abode               |
|  | 40 Lennon's love            |



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# We need an independent commission to resolve labour disputes

**Chowdhury Albab Kadir,** barrister at law, is an advocate currently working at International Labour Organisation in Bangladesh. Views expressed in the article are the author's own.

**CHOWDHURY ALBAB KADIR**

Labour disputes and grievances are an inherent part of any industrial relations system. However, effective policies and functional labour administration institutions play a crucial role in maintaining the harmonious relations between employers and workers by establishing legislative and structural mechanisms to prevent and mitigate such conflicts before escalation.

Bangladesh has a workforce heavily reliant on labour-intensive industries. Since the 1980s, industrialisation has resulted in an upsurge in the workforce in Bangladesh. This fast-paced growth of industrialisation in Bangladesh has not been accompanied by similar developments in labour market institutions, resulting in significant challenges in working conditions and labour rights, which need to be addressed urgently.

The practice of social dialogue across the enterprise, sectoral, and national level, combined with policies and structural barriers in the practice of industrial relations, has hindered the growth of economic activities. All of this has necessitated strong institutions that can manage labour conflicts and provide various avenues of resolution crucial for Bangladesh to maintain economic stability

**An independent ADR commission stands as the best possible solution to ensure agreements are reached and decisions are made solely on the merits of the case, as well as an increased trust of the people in these labour administration institutions.**

and enhance workers' rights. As a country graduating from the Least Developed Country (LDC), it is now imminent for Bangladesh to consider an independent alternative dispute resolution (ADR) commission for labour dispute resolution. With institutional reform being one of the primary mandates of the interim government, this is even more crucial as it will help foster better labour relations and alleviate the burden on the traditional labour judicial system, i.e. the labour courts, who are currently over-burdened with over 21,000 labour disputes. Needless to say,

considering the large number of workforces in the country, the density of labour cases in the labour court, also raises question on the limited access to justice.

**Why is an independent ADR Commission necessary?**



FILE PHOTO: STAR

**ADR is beneficial for both employers and workers, as it also allows for minimised disruption to production and their livelihoods.**

A study conducted by BLAST in 2019 shows that the average time taken to dispose a labour case was 630 days for awarded cases and 571 days for dismissed cases. The combined average time taken for both awarded and dismissed cases stands at 601 days, which is more than 11 times the statutorily prescribed limit of 55 days. Coupled with the all-encompassing jurisdiction of the labour courts, this means that courts are not well equipped to dispose of cases in time. The long delay of these proceedings bears unequal significance to the concerned parties, as workers are likely to be more affected due to delay in attaining justice as well as for the costs associated with continuing litigation. According to a 2018 report titled, "Baseline Study on Status of Legal Services to Workers by the Labour Courts," by Bangladesh Institute for Labour Studies (BILS), the number of cases has risen sharply in recent years, from 5,923 in 2006 to 13,739 in 2010; and in April 2018, a total of 17,394 cases were pending, of which 10,001 cases were pending in the three labour

courts in Dhaka alone. As of now, over 21,000 cases are pending in the labour courts.

Despite efforts by the Ministry of Labour and Employment to increase the number of courts, the number has not seen a decline in recent years. An independent ADR

as the best possible solution to ensure agreements are reached and decisions are made solely on the merits of the case, as well as an increased trust of the people in these labour administration institutions. For Bangladesh, as a ratifying country of the

addressed by ensuring an independent ADR commission consisting of labour experts, who will be better equipped to handle complex situations and disputes more effectively and efficiently.

All of these challenges become even more pronounced in the absence of a sufficient workforce in DIFE and DOL. Currently, conciliation in both these institutions are carried out by labour inspectors and officials in charge of multiple responsibilities. The system, as it stands now, is fragmented and overseen by different government agencies, sometimes with unclear or overlapping mandates. As seen, industrial accidents and incidences of fire often bring to attention the lack of sufficient number of labour inspectors. Therefore, entrusting them with more responsibilities, is not only impeding the conciliation, but also possess a practical challenge for them to perform their duties as a labour inspector.

While gradual shifting of these responsibilities from one department to another is a temporary solution to address the challenges pertaining to dispute resolution, the formation of an independent ADR commission is likely to reduce the burden on the entire system and allow for quality delivery of work from all these institutions.

**International precedents for ADR in labour disputes**

Several countries around the world have adopted and, through trial and error, successfully established ADR mechanisms that address labour disputes. These institutions can provide a blueprint for Bangladesh to adopt to its national context and economic reality. The Fair Work Commission in Australia, the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation, and Arbitration (CCMA) in South Africa, the National Conciliation and Mediation Board in Philippines, are all examples of dedicated bodies that resolve labour disputes without the need for costly and time-consuming litigation procedure. Statistically, since its inception in 1996, the CCMA in South Africa, deals with around 180,000 to 200,000 new cases annually. Of these, about 70 percent of disputes are settled at the conciliation stage, either through mutual agreement or withdrawal of cases. In cases where disputes proceed to arbitration, around 60 percent to 70 percent of cases result in a binding decision. These numbers reflect the role that can be played by an independent ADR commission in maintaining harmonious industrial relations.

By learning from the challenges and global best practices, it is high time that Bangladesh took a bold step towards the establishment of an independent ADR commission, that can uphold justice and contribute to the overall stability of the economy.

ILO Labour Inspection Convention, 1947 (No. 81), labour inspectors shall not be involved in resolving conflicts as it can be a potential impediment to the effective discharge of their primary duties as labour inspectors can bring into question their impartiality.

An ADR commission specifically focused on labour disputes would be technically more suited to address the unique challenges faced by workers and employers in the world of labour. As of now, in Bangladesh, the law has not provided any criteria of judicial knowledge, experience in labour law matters, or minimum qualification for members in the labour court, except for the chairman (same for civil judges). This is also true for labour inspectors and government officials acting as conciliators. In the absence of any provision requiring prior experience (in dealing with labour law matters) or minimum training, it is often difficult for judges and conciliators to resolve disputes requiring technical understanding. This problem can be largely

commission for handling labour disputes will allow for disputes to be resolved in a timely manner, as ADR methods such as mediation and arbitration are designed to be quicker, less adversarial and more flexible. Due to the quick disposal of cases, it is beneficial for both employers and workers, as it also allows for minimised disruption to production and their livelihoods.

The government in the recent past has suggested for the ADR to be conducted by the existing labour administration institutions, mainly the Department of Labour (DOL) and Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments (DIFE). However, impartiality of the ADR processes, particularly in the political reality of the country remains a question. Recent cases that have attracted global attention have shown us that tendency of undue influence, political pressure, and sometimes corporate pressure being applied to impact the outcomes of legal disputes.

An independent ADR commission stands

## Optimising Bangladesh's universal pension framework



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**SAMIHA CHOWDHURY**

Social protection for the elderly, in the form of the Old Age Allowance (OAA) programme, has been operational in Bangladesh since FY1998, offering monthly financial support to senior citizens from poor and vulnerable households. As of FY25, the programme has approximately 6 million elderly as beneficiaries, each receiving Tk 600 per month distributed on a quarterly basis. Apart from this, retirement benefits for the government employees and their families can also be considered a social protection programme for senior citizens. However, following the identification of a lack of support for over 70 percent of elderly individuals (aged 65 for male, and 62 for female) of Bangladesh, the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) has introduced the Universal Pension Scheme (UPS), with an aim to establish a comprehensive pension system to ensure a minimum income for the country's senior citizens, especially from impoverished households.

The National Pension Authority (NPA) was established in 2023 to oversee the Universal Pension Scheme (UPS), which includes all citizens aged 18 to 50 (citizens over age 50, can also join under certain conditions); targeting employees/workers from private and informal sectors; workers with disabilities; and expatriates—to provide them with a monthly pension as a social safety net, whereas only government employees used to receive pension benefits earlier. The UPS was launched in August 2023 with four sub-schemes: Progoti, Surakkha, Samata, and Probash that cater to beneficiaries from different target groups with different eligibility criteria, premium costs, and pension benefits. These four schemes require monthly subscriptions ranging from Tk 500 to Tk

10,000 based on different criteria. Prattay, which is another scheme, had recently been scrapped following the protests of public university faculties within a month after getting launched for officers and employees of self-governed, autonomous, state-owned, and statutory organisations.

All the mentioned schemes require a minimum contribution period of 10 years and offer benefits starting at age 60, with payments continuing to nominees if the pensioner dies before 75 and their enrolment is voluntary. Against the target of covering 10 crore citizens under the UPS, around 3.5 lakh pensioners have registered in the first 10 and a half months, with a milestone of Tk 100 crore investment in treasury bonds as of

**The introduction of the UPS in Bangladesh allows beneficiaries to enrol (voluntarily) for life-cycle benefits, using a mix of defined benefit (DB) and defined contribution (DC) plans. Apart from the explicit benefits to pensioners, the banks will benefit from the call money rate on premiums (0.01 percent) not withdrawn immediately. A portion of employers can also enjoy indirect advantages, i.e., the private companies that maintain a Contributory Provident Fund (CPF); as switching to the UPS scheme incurs no extra costs.**

July 3, 2024.

The introduction of the UPS in Bangladesh allows beneficiaries to enrol (voluntarily) for life-cycle benefits, using a mix of defined benefit (DB) and defined contribution (DC) plans. Apart from the explicit benefits to pensioners, the banks will benefit from the call money rate on premiums (0.01 percent) not withdrawn immediately. A portion of employers can also enjoy indirect advantages,

highlight why Bangladesh should take lessons from some of the best global examples to strengthen the UPS to avoid the loopholes in the current models.

California Public Employees' Retirement System, or CalPERS, manages the largest public pension fund in the United States, with \$462.8 billion in assets under management as of June 30, 2023, with a preliminary net return of 5.8 per cent on its investments and

classes, including equities, real estate, private equity, and infrastructure (CAIA Association, 2016). Bangladesh can adopt a similar strategy to diversify its pension fund investments and manage volatility as alternative investment reduces risks and helps to ensure steady growth of pension funds, achieving higher returns over the long term.

Bangladesh can develop strategies similar to CalPERS' to mitigate investment risks by incorporating advanced risk management strategies such as regular stress testing, scenario analysis, actuarial assessments, and contingency planning. A balance between liquid and illiquid assets should be maintained to meet payout obligations without compromising on investment returns.

Additionally, Bangladesh can take lessons from Asian countries as well, specifically Vietnam and South Korea.

While sharing similar economic and environmental challenges with Bangladesh, Vietnam's pension system has been able to cover a wide range of beneficiaries especially from the formal sector. Vietnam's social insurance system requires contributions from both public and private sector employees, where employers contribute 14 percent against eight percent contribution of the salary by the employees (Dinh, et al., 2022). This ensures a steady inflow of funds into the pension system. Bangladesh can adopt a similar approach to broaden the coverage and ensure the financial sustainability of the UPS.

Lastly, Bangladesh can learn from the experiences of South Korea, which established a National Pension Research Institute in 1995 after its pension service was inaugurated in 1987. Collaboration with private financial institutions and pension fund managers to harness their expertise and resources and engaging with international organisations for technical assistance, training, and capacity building are some of the areas that Bangladesh can explore further through research.

Despite the various institutional challenges and ambiguity regarding the benefit and contribution amounts, Bangladesh can adopt lessons from some of the best global examples and strengthen its UPS to avoid the loopholes in the current models.



VISUAL: SHAIKH SULTANA JAHAN BADHON

i.e., the private companies that maintain a Contributory Provident Fund (CPF); as switching to the UPS scheme incurs no extra costs. This ensures employee welfare, offering a cost-effective alternative to managing their own funds.

Nonetheless, institutional challenges such as public management systems, governance, accountability, transparency, public fund management; and beneficiary-related challenges such as the diversity of the population, perception of the beneficiaries, domination of the informal sector and the attitude of the private enterprises, etc. have raised concerns regarding the existing model of the UPS (Rajib, Mondal & Hassan, 2023). Furthermore, no actuarial analysis has been performed, while the benefit and contribution amounts are decided based on the NPA's assumptions about the country's socio-economic conditions. The stated issues

public equity with an estimated 14.1 per cent return in FY23. These assets comprise about 45 per cent of the total fund.

When it comes to pension fund management, CalPERS has robust governance frameworks to ensure accountability and transparency, while it engages with its members and stakeholders actively to ensure their interests are represented. Bangladesh should also develop clear and comprehensive regulations and policies through the NPA to govern pension funds and ensure transparency, accountability, and security. The NPA can implement programmes to enhance financial literacy, helping individuals make informed decisions about their retirement savings. In addition, the NPA can conduct regular audits and evaluations of the pension funds to ensure proper management and adherence to regulations.

CalPERS invests in a wide range of asset

US DELEGATION VISIT

# A new chapter in Bangladesh-US relations?



Shamsheer M Chowdhury, Bir Bikram  
is a former foreign secretary of Bangladesh.

SHAMSHER M CHOWDHURY

As expected, the recent visit to Dhaka by the US delegation led by Brent Neiman, assistant secretary for international finance at the US Department of Treasury, accompanied by Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs Donald Lu, and USAID and trade officials, was the subject of much speculation by all and sundry here, both prior to their arrival and since their departure.

The symbolic value of the visit and its timing cannot be overemphasised, this being the first such visit from any country since the change of guards in Dhaka on August 5—that, too, from Washington. Added to this is the fact that Donald Lu, a key figure in Bangladesh-US relations, landed in Dhaka after spending four days in Delhi attending the 2+2 dialogue, a regular event in the framework of Indo-US bilateral strategic relations, in which the confluences outweigh the divergences—or more appropriately, the diversions.

Official comments from both sides following the meetings between the US delegation and Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus, Foreign Affairs Adviser Touhid Hossain, Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed, Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Ahsan H Mansur, and the foreign secretary focused, among other things, on an “expression of strong commitment [from the US] to work with the interim government.” The US embassy in Dhaka posted on its Facebook page, “Our delegation met Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus, affirming our dedication to fostering inclusive economic growth, institution building, and development to benefit the people of Bangladesh. As Bangladesh looks to chart a more equitable and inclusive future, the US stands ready to support those efforts.”

On the face of it, the emphasis was on Washington’s readiness to provide economic, technical and financial support for reforms in areas such as the banking sector, which has



US delegates hold a talk with Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus in Dhaka on September 15, 2024.

FILE PHOTO: COLLECTED

been weakened as a primary vehicle for large-scale corruption and money laundering over the last decade and a half. The signing of an agreement under which the US would provide \$200 million to Bangladesh as development support was possibly the first step in this journey.

For his part, Prof Yunus highlighted his administration’s goals to quickly “reset, reform and restart” the economy, initiate financial sector reforms, and strengthen

institutions. He then spelt out the steps taken so far in this pursuit, including the formation of six separate commissions to address reforms in key areas and state institutions, the most important of which was amending, or refixing, the country’s constitution. The US delegation, in response, praised the chief adviser’s leadership and expressed Washington’s willingness to support his reform agenda.

implicit in this is a possible assessment of the role of military junta in Myanmar. Were they alluding to a regime change in Myanmar to facilitate the return of the Rohingya? One can only speculate.

In reviewing the public language from the US delegation, three words that should stand out are “support,” “equitable,” and “inclusive.” It appears that Washington is focused on helping Prof Yunus and his team advance

Hudson Institute in Washington, where he said, “It is in everyone’s interest to support a democratic, peaceful, and lawful transition in Bangladesh,” adding that “the timing of fresh elections and the duration of the interim government is for the people of Bangladesh to decide.” Verma’s remarks should be viewed within the broader context of the US position on the dramatically changed situation in Bangladesh.

It is perhaps necessary to try and discern, if at all possible, what the hard political content of the discussions with the chief adviser was and what, if anything, was discussed in Delhi regarding the current situation in Bangladesh. Understandably, there were no public statements by either side on this. The US delegates’ meeting with the chief adviser lasted at least an hour, and it is reasonable to assume that this time was not solely spent discussing the reform process, which is already publicly known.

Further inquiry should focus on the political talking points, as well as the immediate, mid-term and long-term implications for Bangladesh on the broader geopolitical stage, especially given Washington’s visible support for the interim government in Dhaka. In the prevailing global political climate, relations between states, large and small, do not remain confined to the bilateral frame only—they spread wider into the region and beyond. Similar visits, therefore, from others including Washington’s allies before the year is over cannot be ruled out. It will also be of great interest to watch what transpires at the meeting between Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bangladesh Chief Adviser Prof Yunus on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly this month in New York, assuming such a meeting takes place.

Observers believe the visit signals a retooling of Bangladesh-US relations, which have been noticeably strained in recent times. The imposition of sanctions on the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and some of its officials by the US Department of Treasury, along with a visa restriction policy affecting certain officials, did not go down well in Dhaka. At the same time, repeated public references by the former prime minister to the US seeking a military base in St Martin’s Island in exchange for Washington’s support were cases in point. Washington’s open criticism of the non-participatory and severely flawed national elections, particularly in 2018 and 2024, further strained the relationship.

## WAVE OF ATTACKS IN LEBANON

# Israel needs to be stopped from provoking an all-out war



Ramisa Rob  
is in charge of Geopolitical Insights at The Daily Star.

RAMISA ROB

For months, Israel and Lebanon—particularly Hezbollah, Iran’s powerful proxy in the nation—have been engaging in tit-for-tat attacks. At some points, such as when Hezbollah’s senior commander Fuad Shukur was killed in Beirut in late July, and Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran around the same time, it seemed as if a shadow war was on the brink of erupting into an expanded conflict. Since Tuesday, that fear is now closer, when hundreds of paggers used by Hezbollah exploded across Lebanon and parts of Syria, killing more than a dozen people and injuring thousands. The next day, more explosions of electronic devices, including walkie talkies, laptops and radios, killed at least 20 people and injured hundreds, according to Al Jazeera. A Hezbollah official has referred to the ominous, action thriller movie-like attack tactics as the “biggest security breach” that the group has faced since Israel launched its military campaign in Gaza post-October 7 attacks, after which cross-border exchanges between Hezbollah and Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) have become near-daily occurrences.

Volker Turk said on Wednesday, but such is hardly ever a consideration for today’s Israel.

Though Israel has not claimed responsibility, it does not simply need to spell it out. Beyond official statements, attacks of such sophistication in Lebanon would only be carried out by Israel’s Mossad, to send a tough message to Hezbollah: we can invade your space. It’s the kind of political warfare that Netanyahu—who recently faced the largest protests in the history of Israel with his citizens calling for a ceasefire and hostage deal—would wage, to start a wider military war. And to make it more obvious, Netanyahu announced the same day of the attacks, that Israel’s war aims have expanded to include displaced Israelis. The statement and decision, also came a day after Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant told the visiting US envoy that “military action” is the “only way left to ensure the return of Israeli northern communities.” After almost a year, the northern Israeli residents have been added to an “updated” plan of the war. On Wednesday, Gallant said, “We are at the start of a new phase in the war...

the covert operation needed to happen before Hezbollah or Iran got wind of it. Whatever the reason, these attacks, just a grim three weeks shy of one year of Hamas’ attacks and Israel’s genocide in Gaza—can have grave implications which will be seen in the days to come.

Hezbollah has now promised to retaliate but this promise now holds more weight as chief Hassan Nasrallah now faces pressure

rather surprise attacks by Israelis infiltrating Hezbollah. They underscore the capabilities of the Israeli intelligence, and signal further to Hezbollah, that Netanyahu’s Israel could also have more sadistic surprises planned. But as coordinated as they may be, Israel knows Hezbollah is, without question, one of the most well-trained and resourced non-state stores in global politics with an arsenal upwards of 150,000 rockets and precision-

far-reaching to the larger countries covertly or overtly involved in the conflict. In other words, once again, Israel is bringing Iran and the US closer to a confrontation. Ahead of a high-stakes US presidential election, a regional war with Iran no less, would likely hurt the prospects of Democratic nominee Kamala Harris who has been part of the Biden administration, which stands accused of complicity in the Gaza genocide. The Harris campaign has stressed on the need for a ceasefire, which, after these attacks will definitely not happen before the elections. The Biden administration will be in a more precarious position, as will the Harris campaign. They cannot sanction Israel were it to start a war with Hezbollah before November, as that would alienate Zionist voters. On the other hand, inaction and tepid diplomacy will show their continuous incompetency in foreign policy and the lack of a ceasefire will continue to alienate Arab and young pro-Palestinian voters. Domestically, Israel’s war with Lebanon is far from US interest at the moment.

Some US experts on the other hand feel that Israel is falling into Khamenei and Nasrallah’s trap. Since Haniyeh’s death, Iran has vowed to retaliate but there has been no action yet. Iran has been restrained, yet ominous, in playing with fire. One of the reasons, which have been clear, is that they too don’t want an all-out war which would also involve the US. But their desire to restrain from doing so now remains contested after the death of Haniyeh and Fuad Shukur. Iran and Hezbollah play the opposition with attrition. The opposition here, Netanyahu’s Israeli cabinet, is driven with short-term impulsive strategies with no long-term goal that can be gleaned, from its actions in Gaza, its actions in the northern border with Lebanon, and recently, its attacks in the West Bank. Collectively, Israel is engaged in doing everything that would give Iran the political upper hand to justify a large retaliation, even if it may come late, and that would be disastrous for Israel itself and its allies as well.

As such, the onus is on the US, the “superpower” and the Arab states that have altogether failed to control the conflagrations in the Middle East, to make Israel stop and figure out a strategy to end the cycle of locking heads with Iran. Diplomacy efforts a little too late can be costly, as has been shown by the genocide in Gaza, which has left the world in tatters. Israel needs its most powerful ally to slam the brakes—whether it be internally—because as recent history has shown, stopping the train after it has left the station does not work with Netanyahu’s government.



People gather outside American University of Beirut Medical Center as more than 1,000 people, including Hezbollah fighters and medics, were wounded when paggers exploded across Lebanon.

PHOTO: REUTERS

within the group to respond to these attacks. There’s an important context to such pressure. Nasrallah and Hezbollah have thrived with an image of invincibility after confronting Israel in 2006, when their commandos launched a cross-border raid on an Israeli armoured patrol, killing two IDF soldiers and taking two hostages. It spiralled into a costly war, especially for Lebanese citizens, 1,200 of whom were approximately killed. More than 100 IDF soldiers were killed, while 43 Israeli civilians died in rocket attacks carried out by Lebanon. Both sides had declared victory, but victory was not defined in the number of killings but rather that Israel failed to achieve its strategic objectives, including retrieving the two hostages alive. Since then, Hezbollah has only been emboldened in the region with its military prowess—with advanced weaponry, more armed personnel, and political legitimacy beyond Lebanon.

The attacks in fact do threaten a wider conflict, and it’s the first of covert, sinister

guided munitions. According to Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi, Israel is pushing the entire region towards the abyss of regional war, which would have “drastic ramifications not only for the region, but for the world.”

It must also be noted that the attack happened on Tuesday as Blinken arrived in Egypt, yet again, to discuss another ceasefire deal in Gaza. Diplomatic talks have continued for nearly a year, and proved nothing but futile. These attacks have unquestionably put the ceasefire talks on ice, and if it wasn’t clear before, Netanyahu has no interest in bringing back the hostages, over a wider war. Israel’s objective to “defeat Hamas,” as they say, still hangs in the air. Engaging in an existential fight with Hezbollah would not be the same as carpet bombing a strip, and killing civilians at historic pace. Hezbollah is no easy opponent, and a full scale war would also harm Israeli cities and Israeli civilians.

And the implications of an all-out war are

**Ahead of a high-stakes US presidential election, a regional war with Iran no less, would likely hurt the prospects of Democratic nominee Kamala Harris who has been part of the Biden administration, which stands accused of complicity in the Gaza genocide. The Harris campaign has stressed on the need for a ceasefire, which, after these attacks will definitely not happen before the elections.**

The attacks, where objects used by civilians were rigged, has led experts to interpret a weakness of Hezbollah’s defense apparatus to Israeli cyber warriors and Israeli infiltration. Videos have since emerged of Hezbollah fighters blown to the floor by their own communication equipment. It is probable that Israel strategically attacked to disrupt the command centre of Hezbollah. Targeting thousands of people, breaching security, without knowledge of who held the devices or where they were located violates international law, as United Nations human rights chief

the center of gravity is shifting to the north by diverting resources and forces.”

First and foremost, the question is why now? Politically, Israel is continuing its operations in Gaza, while its climate in the home front is in ruins—Netanyahu’s pressure to resign has been at an all-time high. The current cabinet’s relationship with the Biden administration is on eggshells; despite all the pro-Israel rhetoric, Biden said earlier this month that Netanyahu has not done enough to bring the hostages back. On the other hand, the timing of attack could also be that

# 'WE WANT REAL CHANGE'

## Tariq Anam Khan on Actors' Equity reform

**To address controversial concerns, an interim reform committee has been formed to prevent the current leadership from making further decisions. The new committee, led by renowned actor Tariq Anam Khan, will serve for four months.**

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

With over five decades of experience in stage, television, and film, Tariq Anam Khan has long been a pillar of Bangladesh's entertainment industry. Now, he's stepping into a new role—at the forefront of a movement demanding reform within Actors' Equity Bangladesh.

The organisation has recently faced intense scrutiny, marred by its silence during the Anti-Discrimination Movement and the country's ongoing political turmoil. Adding fuel to the fire, some members were implicated in the controversial "Alo Ashbei" WhatsApp group, further damaging the institution's credibility.

These controversies have shattered the trust of many artistes, sparking widespread calls for reform. In response, a group of reformist actors has publicly rejected the current leadership, accusing the elected executive and advisory councils of abandoning their artistic principles and failing to protect the integrity of the profession.

The announcement came during an open discussion titled *Kotha Bolte Chai, Kotha Shunte Chai* (Want to Speak, Want to Listen), held on September 10 at Dhanmondi's Rabindra Sarobar, where over 50 actors gathered to voice their discontent.

In response to the call for reforms, Actors Equity scheduled an emergency meeting on Wednesday (September 18) at a convention hall in Mohakhali in the capital.

To address these concerns, an interim reform committee has been formed to prevent the current leadership from making further decisions. The new committee, led by renowned actor Tariq Anam Khan, will serve for four months.

"We're at a point where we want reform," said the actor, in conversation with The Daily Star. "Just a few days ago, we held a special general meeting for Actors' Equity. Many members voiced their opinions, and now it's clear—we need reform. Our profession demands more discipline and a brighter future for the artistes. That's the heart of what we discussed."

While the previous committee remains in place, Khan was quick to clarify its reduced role. "The previous committee will remain in place," Khan explained, "but now, we'll decide how to implement the necessary reforms. Our



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

focus will include everything from revisiting the constitution to creating a better work environment for actors. We'll move forward with everyone's advice."

When asked about his position as the head of the interim committee, Khan confirmed, "Yes, I've been chosen to lead this committee. It's an interim body, and we're looking to add around four to five members, maybe even six or seven. We'll be working as a team."

But this isn't about just maintaining the status quo. Khan clarified that the interim committee will consist of neutral individuals—"those who are unbiased," he added. "No one in this reform committee will be running for the next Actors' Equity election. We're here to lay the foundation, not campaign for future roles."

When asked about the previous committee's duties, Khan said, "The old committee will handle routine work, but will not make any new decisions. They won't initiate anything new either. Their job now is to assist us in making the necessary reforms."

This transition period is designed to pave the way for the upcoming Actors' Equity

election, which is set to take place in four months. "Their term is still valid for about four months," Khan continued. "Once the new leadership is elected, they'll move forward with the work."

As for what lies ahead, the actor shared some insight into how the reform process will unfold. "We'll decide in the normal course who can become new members, what rights they'll have. If someone isn't a member yet, they'll need to follow the rules and join properly. We're aiming to create a more refined and inclusive space for everyone."

Above all, Khan emphasised neutrality and fairness in this process. "We're going to approach this from a neutral standpoint, focusing on the actors and their needs. That's our priority," he said.

Among the demands from reformists are official recognition of acting as a profession, improved registration systems, and the creation of benefits for professional actors. There's also a push for clearer guidelines around shifts, overtime pay, cancellation fees, and a minimum wage for artistes.

## Raihan Rafi's latest web-film 'Mayaa' to make OTT debut this month



The highly anticipated Raihan Rafi's directorial web-film *Mayaa* is finally set to release this month.

The film explores the complex struggles of modern women and family dynamics, with Sarika Subrin starring in the titular role. She is joined by Mamnun Hasan Emon, who makes his OTT debut with this project.

The teaser for *Mayaa*, released on Wednesday, gives a tense preview of the film. In the 40-second clip, Sarika's character desperately searches for her missing husband and encounters tough questions from the police instead of help.

*Mayaa* is set to premiere on the OTT platform Binge on September 30.

## Kusum Sikder's directorial debut 'Shoroter Joba' teaser drops today



Earlier, it was announced that actress Kusum Sikder would be making her directorial debut with *Shoroter Joba*. Now, there's exciting news for her fans—the film's teaser is set to release today.

After completing filming for *Shoroter Joba*, Kusum unveiled the movie poster on Wednesday. Sharing the news on social media, she wrote, "*Shoroter Joba* will

soon be in theatres near you. Stay tuned for the teaser, which drops on September 20 on Channel i, iScreen, and the official Facebook page of *Shoroter Joba*."

The cast includes Yash Rohan, Jeetu Ahsan, Shahidul Alam Sachchu, Naresh Bhuiyan, and Ashoke Bepari, among others.

# NEWS

## Ex-AL minister has property empire

FROM PAGE 16  
titled 'The Minister's Millions'.

However, Ripon Mahmood, managing director and chief executive officer of the London-based real estate agency Moving City that handled Chowdhury's property purchases in the UK and the UAE, told Al Jazeera's journalists that the Awami League politician's real estate empire is worth \$675 million.

In the 25-minute video from Al Jazeera's Investigative Unit — which in 2021 produced the documentary 'All the Prime Minister's Men' on the corruption by former army chief Aziz Ahmed and his family — Chowdhury can be seen telling the undercover reporters that he also has properties in Singapore and Malaysia.

"My father was very close to the Prime Minister (Sheikh Hasina), actually, and I am also... She is my boss... She knows I have a business here (in Britain)," Chowdhury told the undercover reporters who posed as property investors from China.

Chowdhury is the eldest son of

Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury Babu, the former president of the South Chittagong District unit of the Awami League.

The Al Jazeera journalists met Chowdhury last year in his \$14 million London home where he bragged about spending thousands of dollars on hand-made crocodile shoes from the luxury department store Harrod's and bespoke suits from the Italian luxury menswear brand Canali.

Chowdhury gave the undercover reporters a tour of his London house featuring a cinema, gym, private elevator and secure underground parking for his new Rolls Royce.

Questions hang over how Chowdhury managed the funds for his property purchase spree.

His property buying gained pace in 2017 when he set up UK companies but accelerated in 2019 when he was made the land minister.

Strict currency laws restrict citizens from taking more than \$12,000 a year out of Bangladesh, and tough government rules ban ministers from

holding directorships or profiting from private businesses.

Chowdhury's family owns Aramit Group, a manufacturer of construction materials, and has stakes in United Commercial Bank.

In the video, Mahmood is seen telling the journalists that he managed mortgages for Chowdhury's property purchases despite being a politically exposed person.

"All we have is that he had trading between his Dubai and Bangladesh businesses — we don't have hard evidence beyond that. The mortgage is easy to get once you have money in Dubai. The bank lends to Chowdhury based on the property he buys in Dubai — that acts as a guarantee for borrowing. Or, when sells the property in Dubai it can be used as a deposit," Khan told The Daily Star.

In his response to Al Jazeera, Chowdhury said his properties were purchased with funds earned by his legitimate businesses in the UK, the UAE and the US, and that he is the victim of a political witch-hunt.

Speaking at the rally, student leaders demanded punishment for Shamim's killers and ban on all kinds of politics by students, teachers, and employees on the campus.

Reading out the report, Nirmal said nearly 50,000 people belonging to minority communities have been

## Tigers show pace mettle

FROM PAGE 16  
Have done too.

The Tigers banked on their pace attack and Hasan in particular delivered, picking four wickets for 58.

Taskin Ahmed had an average day while Nahid Rana impressed with his pace and picked up a wicket as Bangladesh had India surprised and dazed at 144 for 6.

But as the day wore on, the wicket settled down under the afternoon sun and a seventh-wicket partnership between Ashwin and Jadeja slowly got India back in the game.

The partnership stands at 195, still unbroken, and India in the end reached 339 for 6 at stumps.

Even though the day ended in a

disappointing manner for Bangladesh, the pace trio did make quite an impression on the Indian journalists who watched the match from the press box.

"In the first innings, pacers always come into play. I'm seeing a three-pronged pace attack for the very first time from Bangladesh as far as I am concerned. That is magical because unless you have a good pace attack, you can't step up in Tests," an Indian journalist told The Daily Star yesterday at the press box.

Chances are, the Tigers might have already enjoyed the best pace bowling conditions this match will have on offer and the going would get tough for the faster bowlers as the match

progresses.

Hasan, who is one wicket away from claiming a second successive five-wicket haul in Tests, was still hopeful despite India's strong fight back. In his words, 'anything can happen'.

"We dominated the morning. Wicket has gotten better and bowlers are trying to keep runs in check. The momentum was with us and now it has shifted. That's cricket. Anything can happen now. We have to make a comeback tomorrow [today] morning," he said.

With a brand new cherry, Hasan and Co might just again make their case, carrying on the confidence gained from the series win against Pakistan and do something special in Chennai.

## At least 9 killed from Aug 4 to 20

FROM PAGE 16  
160 incidents, Chattogram 100 incidents, Barishal 86 incidents and Sylhet 62 incidents, according to the report.

At least 69 places of worship, 915 houses, and 953 business establishments were vandalised, set ablaze, or looted. Another 21 business establishments were captured, and 38 people were physically tortured, it added.

Reading out the report, Nirmal said nearly 50,000 people belonging to minority communities have been

affected by the attacks, and about 2 crore people of these communities are now living in fear.

He called for an independent and impartial investigation into these incidents under the supervision of the United Nations.

He also demanded an end to the ongoing violence, and the arrest and punishment of the perpetrators.

The Parishad will bring out processions and hold rallies at 4:00pm tomorrow across the country, including in Dhaka, to press home their demands.

At the briefing, the Parishad also placed an eight-point demand, including the enactment of a minority protection act, the formation of a national minority commission, and the establishment of a ministry for minorities.

The organisation also demanded a proportional representation of minorities in the government and parliament. It also sought a three-day holiday for the Hindus during Durga Puja, one day each for Buddhists during Buddha Purnima and for the Christians on Easter Sunday.

## JU suspends

FROM PAGE 2  
of management studies department, Sohagh Mia of 47th batch of computer science and engineering department, and Md Ahsan Labib of 49th batch of biotechnology and genetic engineering department.

Of the eight, Ahsan Labib was a coordinator of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement and Hamidullah Salman is a Chhatra Dal activist.

Labib was relieved of the post yesterday following allegations of his involvement in the killing, said a statement of the students' platform.

"The suspension will remain in force until a proper investigation is completed. We are also urging all to ensure exemplary punishment of Labib if he is found guilty," reads the statement.

The administrative meeting yesterday also decided that a case will be filed in connection with the incident.

PROBE BODY

The university authorities have formed a four-member committee, led by Prof Swadhin Sen of the archaeology department, to investigate Shamim's killing.

They also formed a seven-member committee to probe the attacks on students on July 15 and 17 and the attack on the house of Mehedi Iqbal, an

associate professor of geography and environment department.

Shamim was beaten up on Wednesday afternoon by some JU students for allegedly leading an attack on July 15 on students demonstrating under the banner of Anti-discrimination Student Movement. When he was taken to the proctor's office later on Wednesday, angry students assaulted him again before handing him over to police.

Police later moved Shamim to Savar Gonoshasthaya Hospital where he breathed his last.

During interrogation by police at the proctor's office, Shamim admitted his involvement in the July 15 attack and disclosed the names of the others involved, said Proctor AKM Rashidul Alam.

"The body was sent to Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College morgue for an autopsy. We are trying to identify the perpetrators through analysing video footage," Abu Bakkar Siddique, OC of Ashulia Police Station, told The Daily Star.

Meanwhile, some JU students under the banner of Anti-Discrimination Student Movement took out a procession on the campus around 11:00am yesterday protesting the killing of Shamim.

They also held a rally in front of the

administrative building.

Speaking at the rally, student leaders demanded punishment for Shamim's killers and ban on all kinds of politics by students, teachers, and employees on the campus.

## Govt okays

FROM PAGE 1  
The president, who dissolved the 12th parliament the following day, took opinions from the Supreme Court as per article 106 of the constitution to form an interim government to conduct the executive work, the release read.

Explaining the context of the interim government assuming office, the release said there was a necessity to have a rule to determine the authority and responsibilities of the interim government, and status and facilities of the chief adviser and other advisers, and other related issues.

The advisory council meeting also approved a draft of a guideline for submitting statements of assets and income for all advisers and other government officials holding the same status.

As per the draft, they will have to submit the statements to the chief adviser through the Cabinet Division within 15 working days after paying their income tax every year, read the press release.

## Schoolgirl abducted

FROM PAGE 1  
coaching centre when Alinur and his cohorts abducted her.

"They are keeping my daughter somewhere," he said.

Police and locals said the Hindu community members in the village were facing threats.

Between the night of September 2 and the morning of September 3, the

posters were pinned to trees in the village.

They read, "The girl of this house will be picked up and converted to Islam."

Ranjit Chandra, who filed the general diary with Phulbari Police Station regarding the threats, told The Daily Star, "If police had investigated into the incident sincerely, the girl

## Orion Group sues Independent TV

FROM PAGE 2  
had embezzled funds from the government and laundered money abroad, using political connections in business, all the while failing to supply electricity from its seven power plants.

The statement said the allegations

that Orion has misappropriated large sums through loans taken for power plant projects and transferred these funds abroad are baseless.

"Due to Independent TV's false report, Orion has suffered significant damage to its reputation and

business. As a result, Orion has filed a defamation suit seeking Tk500 crore in damages," the statement added.

It further said the accusations involving the ownership of two foreign companies, one in Dubai and the other in China, are also false.

ESSAY

# The boundless possibilities of books



ILLUSTRATION: AMREETA LETHE

SYEDA FATEMA RAHMAN

Books are often staple travel companions. But as the reader leafs through its pages, they are blanketed by the warmth of its faint yet familiar scent, and submerged into a linguistic hinterland hiding infinite possibilities. As pages and letters metamorphose into a world unfettered by human limitations, books become much more than mere companions we literally travel with. Rather, they are transfigured into vehicles through which we embark on a more figurative journey—one of the intellect and the imagination.

In the classic modernist bildungsroman, *The Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* (1916) by James Joyce, the reader witnesses young Stephen's soul-searching journey of self-growth on the path to becoming an independent artist. The

novel recounts a spiritual odyssey, autobiographical in its parallels with Joyce's own life. For instance, it ends as Stephen is about to begin his journey away from home, with the beautiful note "O Life! I go to encounter for the millionth time the reality of experience and to forge in the smithy of my soul the uncreated conscience of my race"—echoing Joyce's own relationship as an artist, with his Irish origin.

Traversing time, space, and continents, let us zoom in on "When Mr. Pirzada Came to Dine" (1991), a short story by Jhumpa Lahiri that concerns itself with the tense concoction of American and Bengali culture. It is narrated by 10-year-old Lilia, daughter of Indian immigrants to America. Although the whole story is physically set in their serene house in Boston, the turbulent Dhaka of 1971 and a Bangladesh in the throes of its birth are the central components of

its setting. This is because the lives and habits of Lilia's family and their visitor, Mr. Pirzada, become dictated by the Liberation War, which they apprehensively view together through a television screen. Mr. Pirzada, a Muslim scholar in America with a family back home in Dhaka, is invited to dine with the Indian family. Without a television in his own dormitory, he routinely visits the Hindu household, "bearing confections in his pocket and hopes of ascertaining the life or death of his family." More so, Mr. Pirzada's visits to seek refuge appear representative of how the people of East Bengal travelled to India for refuge during the war.

Thus, this story presents the home as a transnational space—a third space. A small house somewhere in Boston, America, is transmuted into a multi-cultural space that defies the divisive demarcation of the 1947 Partition of

India which cracked the country into two and fomented communal violence. Yet, in the said third space, "the three of them [Lilia's mother, father, and Mr. Pirzada] operat[ed] during that time [of Bangladesh's independence] as if they were a single person, sharing a single meal, a single body, a single silence, and a single fear." On good days, they ate "mincemeat kebabs with coriander chutney" and, during the grave days of war, they observed an austere diet of nothing "other than boiled eggs with rice." Food becomes an integral literary device that depicts the waves of emotions sweeping through the lives of the inhabitants of this third space. In doing so, food constructs the multicultural or, in the words of scholar Homi Bhabha, the "hybrid" nature of the third space itself. The family's erratic changes in diet, attuned with the tumultuous political environment of a nation continents apart, reflect also the "pregnant chaos" characteristic of Bhabha's third space.

At one point during the nationwide curfew and internet shutdown, I restlessly resorted to a reread of "Travels in Ceylon" (1982)—Michael Ondaatje's absurd yet bittersweet short story about tales of his alcoholic father's drunken train rides

throughout Sri Lanka, during which he once uncovered a Japanese bomb and, thereby, saved the train. Ondaatje uses such narratives of travel to construct a kaleidoscopic memoir of a "picture-perfect" family—with all its blotches and individual idiosyncrasies. Owing to its total detachment from my disturbing physical reality, the story offered scope for figurative travel at a time when physical movement was restricted. Trapped within the four walls of my room, silenced by a tyrannical regime, I leafed through the pages of Ondaatje's narrative and was transported, only for a moment, to distant shores devoid of walls that threaten to close in on me. Instead, I was swayed by the honey-dipped-humour of his tale, as if floating weightlessly upon the whims of a wave-cresting and crashing—until finally the story ended, and with it, cracked the outer crust of my reverie.

All in all, the works of fiction discussed in this piece offer a multifaceted overview, or rather, merely a glimpse into the boundless, figurative journey that one can embark on through books. From hops and leaps through time and space, to dives, in and out of minds and bodies, books come to embody hope in times of crisis. To those willing to listen to its tales, a book offers ambrosia for the intellect. I hope you will forgive me for not being able to resist the temptation to conclude an essay with a quote but—hear me out—the vocals on Frank Ocean's song "White Ferrari" fades out with the following note: "You dream of walls that hold us in prison / It's just a skull, least that's what they call it / And we're free to roam." This highlights the arbitrariness of words that limit—such as "skull"—and thus, the constructedness of such limitations. At the end of the day, what are books but vehicles that whisper promises of endless possibilities, broaden the horizons of your mind, and give you freedom to roam?

Syeda Fatema Rahman is an undergraduate student majoring in literature at the Department of English and Modern Languages, North South University. Reach her at [bazlurzaeb@gmail.com](mailto:bazlurzaeb@gmail.com).

**Traversing time, space, and continents, let us zoom in on "When Mr. Pirzada Came to Dine" (1991), a short story by Jhumpa Lahiri that concerns itself with the tense concoction of American and Bengali culture.**

THE SHELF

## Books on wheels

**A well-written travelogue can make one feel as if they are transcending through space and time, being transported to a whole new place.**

Whether you're planning your next trip or just dreaming with a wanderlust of far-off places, these travel book recommendations by our readers will take you on unforgettable journeys—one page at a time. From classic travelogues to the best epistolary novels, here are six essential books that will fuel your passion for adventure.

**The Historian**  
Elizabeth Kostova

A young woman embarks on a perilous journey across Eastern European churches, cathedrals, ruins, and universities, following her missing father's trail. Her father's relentless pursuit leads him to the perpetrator of her mother's murder—Vlad Tepes, the historical figure who inspired the enduring legend of Dracula.

**Recommended by Sarazeen Saif Ahana**

**The Braided River: A Journey Along the Brahmaputra**  
Samrat Choudhury

In *The Braided River*, journalist Samrat Choudhury embarks on a journey to follow the river's braided path from the edge of Tibet, where it enters India, down to its confluence with the Ganga, near Bangladesh's largest red-light district. Throughout his travels, he has had several fascinating experiences—from encounters with suspicious Indian spies to visiting a shelter for baby rhinos and elephants in Kaziranga and moving between river islands and riverside towns, engaging with the locals. These vibrant tales delve into the history of the India-China border in Arunachal Pradesh and the formation of the Assamese identity, a topic highly relevant to the National Register of Citizens, the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, and the ecological threats posed by

proposed dams.  
**Recommended by Sharmee Hossain**

**Truckbahone**  
McMahon Nabaneeta Dev Sen

This travelogue is an account of Nabaneeta's impulsive trip from Jorhat in Assam all the way to the Indo-Tibetan border's McMahon line. During her journey, she encounters numerous ordinary people, and captures their reactions to a middle-aged woman embarking on a solo road trip across India in 1977. As extraordinary events unfold along the way, the narrative of her travel, both reflective and humorous, explores her feelings of liberation.

**Recommended by Shararat Islam**

**Deshe Bideshe**  
Syed Mujtaba Ali

Syed Mujtaba Ali's *Deshe Bideshe* is a classic travel memoir. Based on the writer's experiences in Kabul from 1927-1929, where he worked as a teacher, including his journey from Peshawar and Khyber's Pass, this travelogue is filled with sharp observation and wit—as Syed Mutaba Ali navigates the Afghan society of that time. Ali finds himself reflecting and questioning his own identity while navigating throughout the book, finding similarities and dissimilarities between Bangali culture and customs with that of Afghanistan.

**Recommended by Sabrina Sazzad**

**In Xanadu**  
William Dalrymple

As he waits for the results of his college exams, William Dalrymple decides to take a trip on his summer break. However, this is no ordinary student vacation—he decides to follow the iconic journey of Marco Polo from Jerusalem to Xanadu, the ruined palace of Kubla



ILLUSTRATION: MAISHA SYEDA

Khan in the north of Peking. For the first half of the trip, he travels with Laura, whom he met at a dinner party just two weeks before he had left. In the second half, he is accompanied by Louisa, his very recent ex-girlfriend. *In Xanadu* is a sharp and witty example of travel writing at its finest.

**Recommended by Zarif Faiaz**

**Letters to a Young Poet**  
Rainer Maria Rilke


In 1903, a military academy student

sent his poems to a renowned Austrian Poet, seeking an assessment of their value. The established artist, Rainer Maria Rilke, responded to the young poet with a series of letters—an incredible archive containing profound insights into Rilke's greatest poetry. The 10 letters included here were written during a pivotal period in Rilke's artistic development and feature the themes that would later appear in his best works. Rilke himself had later

remarked that these letters embodied a part of his creative genius, making this volume a must-read for scholars, poetry enthusiasts, and anyone interested in Rilke, German poetry, or the creative process altogether.

**Recommended by Tahsinul Islam Aurko**

**To read the rest of the recommendations, keep an eye out for Saturday's Star Literature page.**


**Bangladesh Land Port Authority**  
 Ministry of Shipping  
 Accelerating Transport and Trade Connectivity in Eastern South Asia (ACCESS) –  
 Bangladesh Phase 1: (BLPA Component) Project  
 Land Port Building, Plot No. F-19/A, Shere-E-Bangla Nagar,  
 Agargaon, Dhaka-1207

Memo No. 18.15.0000.023.11.008.24-685 Dated: September 19, 2024.

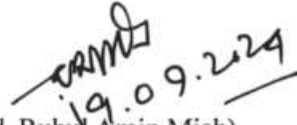
**Amendment of Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI)**  
(Consulting Services – Firms Selection) (International)

The REOI published vide Memo No.: 18.15.0000.023.11.008.24- 01, Dated: September 2, 2024 for the Consultancy Services for Construction Supervision and Contract Management (CSC), Reference No.: BLPA-S1 will have the following amendment.


The original deadline of submission of the REOI is September 23, 2024 up to 03.00 p.m. (Bangladesh Time)

The amended deadline of submission of the REOI is September 30, 2024 up to 03.00 p.m. (Bangladesh Time, GMT + 6 Hours)

Other text of REOI will remain unchanged.

  
 (Md. Ruhul Amin Miah)  
 (Service ID-15346)  
 Project Director (Joint Secretary)  
 Land Port Building  
 F-19/A, Shere-e-Banglanagar, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207  
 E-mail: pdaccessblpa@gmail.com

GD-476


**Zila Parishad, Sylhet**  
 (www.zpsylhet.gov.bd)

Memo No. 46.60.9100.001.01.002.24.169(100) Date: 19-09-2024


**e-Tender Notice No. 02/2024-2025 (LTM)**

e-Tenders are invited for 07 (Seven) Nos. package in National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of following works under Zila Parishad, Sylhet.

SL No.	e- Tender ID No. & Package No.	Name of works
01.	Tender ID No: 1016846 e/ZPSYL/2024-25/OF-01	Installation of thai windows at rooms, Hall room (Ground Floor) at Zilla Parishad (1st Part).
02.	Tender ID No: 1016847 e/ZPSYL/2024-25/OF-02	Supply of Furnitures for meeting room (2nd Floor), officer-employee rooms at Zilla Parishad, Sylhet (2nd Part).
03.	Tender ID No: 1016848 e/ZPSYL/2024-25/OF-03	Supply and Installation of AC for CEO and Chairman/Administrator's office room & Supply of fan, Computer, TV and other accessories in various rooms at Zilla Parishad, Sylhet.
04.	Tender ID No: 1016849 e/ZPSYL/2024-25/OF-04	Supply and Installation of Sanitary fittings in various bathrooms of Zilla Parishad, Sylhet (1st part).
05.	Tender ID No: 1016850 e/ZPSYL/2024-25/OF-05	Interior Painting rooms in the ground floor of Zilla Parishad office (1st Part)
06.	Tender ID No: 1016851 e/ZPSYL/2024-25/OF-06	Electrical works of Zilla Parishad office Building (2nd Part)
07.	Tender ID No: 1016852 e/ZPSYL/2024-25/OF-07	Supply of Furnitures for officer- employee rooms at Zilla Parishad, Sylhet (1st Part).

Tender publication date & time : 19 September 2024 14.00  
 Tender documents last selling date & time : 03 October 2024 11.00  
 Tender closing & opening date & time : 03 October 2024 14.00

These are 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 (www.eprocure.gov.bd) as well as Sylhet Zila Parishad Contractor License (2023-2024/2024-2025) shall be 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. The Authority reserve the right to reject all the Tenders or annul the Tender proceeding. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

  
 Surjoson Ray  
 Assistant Engineer (Acting)  
 Zila Parishad, Sylhet

GD-465


**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
 বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি মন্ত্রণালয়  
 বাংলাদেশ বিজ্ঞান ও শিল্প গবেষণা পরিষদ  
 সংস্থাপন শাখা-১  
 ড. কুদরাত-এ-খুদা সড়ক, ধানমন্ডি, ঢাকা-১২০৫  
 www.bcsir.gov.bd

No. 39.02.0000.007.14.053.21-846 Date: 18/09/2024

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Science and Technology			
2	Agency	Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR)			
3	Procuring Entity Name	Secretary, Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR)			
4	Procuring Entity District	Chittagong			
5	Invitation for	Supply of manpower under the Hydrogen Energy Laboratory, Chittagong			
6	Invitation Ref No & Date	39.02.0000.007.14.053.21-846	18/09/2024		
7	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)			
8	Budget and Source of Funds	GoB			
9	Tender Publication Date	20/09/2024			
10	Tender Last Selling Date	20/10/2024 up to 05:00 P.M.			
11	Tender Closing Date and Time	21/10/2024 up to 12:00 P.M.			
12	Tender Opening Date and Time	21/10/2024, 12:05 P.M.			
13	Name & Address of the officer(s)	Office of the Secretary, Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR), Dr. Qudrat-i-Khuda Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205			
	a) Selling Tender Document (Principal)	Do			
	b) Selling Tender Document (Other's)	Do			
	c) Receiving Tender Document	Office of the Secretary, Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR), Dr. Qudrat-i-Khuda Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205			
	d) Opening Tender Document	Office of the Secretary, Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR), Dr. Qudrat-i-Khuda Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205			
14	Eligibility of Tenderer	Valid and Updated license of Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments, Valid and Updated Trade License, VAT, TIN, Income Tax, Bank solvency certificate, Original money receipt of purchasing tender document and satisfactory manpower supply certificate. (Without the licence of Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments, the tender will not be accepted for evaluation).			
15	Brief Description of Goods	Supply of manpower under the Hydrogen Energy Laboratory, Chittagong.			
16	Brief Description of Related Service	Supply of manpower under the Hydrogen Energy Laboratory, Chittagong.			
17	Tender Document Price	Tk. 1000/- (One Thousand Taka only), Nonrefundable.			
18	Lot No.	Identification of Lot	Location	Name of Services	Completion Time in weeks/months
	01	None	Chittagong	Supply of manpower under the Hydrogen Energy Laboratory, Chittagong.	As per tender document (12 months)
19	Tender Validity Time	60 days			
20	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Dr. Md. Selim Reza			
21	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Secretary			
22	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR), Dr. Qudrat-i-Khuda Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205			
23	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	☎ 02 58610717	e-mail: secretarybcsir@gmail.com		
24	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.				

  
 18-09-24  
 Dr. Md. Selim Reza  
 Secretary

GD-475


**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
 বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ  
 কমান্ড্যান্ট এর কার্যালয়  
 পিএসটিএস, বেতবুনিয়া  
 রাঙ্গামাটি

**উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি (OTM)**

স্মারক নং-পিএসটিএস/২০৮৮ তারিখ: ১৮/০৯/২০২৪খ্রিঃ

২০২৪-২০২৫ অর্থ বছরে পুলিশ স্পেশাল ট্রেনিং স্কুল (পিএসটিএস), বেতবুনিয়া, রাঙ্গামাটির নিম্নলিখিত 'লট' ভিত্তিক কাজের টিকাদার নিয়োগের নিমিত্ত 'পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন, ২০০৬ ও পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা, ২০০৮' এর সংশোধনী বিধি মোতাবেক প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশী, অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন ব্যবসায়ী/টিকাদার/উৎপাদনকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান/সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে নিম্নলিখিত শর্ত সাপেক্ষে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে প্রতিযোগিতামূলক দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

০১।	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	স্বল্প মন্ত্রণালয়/ পুলিশ বিভাগ।			
০২।	সংস্থা	বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ।			
০৩।	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী স্বত্বাধিকারীর নাম	কমান্ড্যান্ট (অতিরিক্ত ডিআইজি), পিএসটিএস, বেতবুনিয়া, রাঙ্গামাটি।			
০৪।	কি কারণে দরপত্র আহ্বান	ক্রমিক নং-১৯ এ বর্ণিত লট ভিত্তিক।			
০৫।	দরপত্রের সূত্র নম্বর ও তারিখ	পিএসটিএস স্মারক নং-২০৮৮ তারিখ: ১৮/০৯/২০২৪খ্রিঃ।			
০৬।	দরপত্রের পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (OTM)।			
০৭।	বাজেট ও অর্থনৈতিক কোড	অর্থনৈতিক কোড-৩২৫৪১০২ খাদ্যক্রম খাত এবং অর্থনৈতিক কোড নং-৪১১২০১৪ "আসবাবপত্র" সরবরাহ।			
০৮।	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তারিখ	২২/০৯/২০২৪খ্রিঃ।			
০৯।	দরপত্র সিডিউল সর্বশেষ প্রারম্ভের তারিখ	০৬/১০/২০২৪খ্রিঃ বেলো ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।			
১০।	দরপত্র জমা-প্রদানের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	০৭/১০/২০২৪খ্রিঃ বেলো ১২.০০ ঘটিকা।			
১১।	দরপত্র বাজ খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	০৭/১০/২০২৪খ্রিঃ বেলো ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা।			
১২।	দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারী অফিস ও ঠিকানা	কমান্ড্যান্ট এর কার্যালয়, পিএসটিএস, বেতবুনিয়া, রাঙ্গামাটি।			
১৩।	দরপত্র তফসিল প্রারম্ভের স্থান	(১) অতিরিক্ত ডিআইজি, এপিবিএম হেডকোয়ার্টার্স, বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ, ঢাকার কার্যালয়। (২) কমান্ড্যান্ট এর কার্যালয়, পিএসটিএস, বেতবুনিয়া, রাঙ্গামাটি। (৩) পুলিশ সুপার এর কার্যালয়, রাঙ্গামাটি পার্বত্য জেলা।			
১৪।	দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান	কমান্ড্যান্ট এর কার্যালয়, পিএসটিএস, বেতবুনিয়া, রাঙ্গামাটি।			
১৫।	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান	কমান্ড্যান্ট এর কার্যালয়, পিএসটিএস, বেতবুনিয়া, রাঙ্গামাটি।			
১৬।	দরপত্র মূল্যায়নের তারিখ ও সময়	০৮/১০/২০২৪খ্রিঃ বেলো ১৪.০০ ঘটিকা।			
১৭।	দরপত্রদাতার যোগাযোগ	'পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন, ২০০৬ ও পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা, ২০০৮' এর সংশোধনী বিধি মোতাবেক যে কোন সরকারী সংস্থা/পুলিশ/এপিবিএম/সেনাবাহিনী/বিজিবি এ সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজের অভিজ্ঞতা এবং ১৮শং কলামে উল্লেখিত দলিলাদি।			
১৮।	দরপত্রের সাথে যে সকল কাগজপত্র জমা প্রদান করতে হবে এবং দরপত্র ক্রয়ের সময় প্রদর্শন করতে হবে	(১) হালনাগাদ বৈধ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স (২) হালনাগাদ আয়কর সার্টিফিকেট (৩) হালনাগাদ ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সার্টিফিকেট (৪) হালনাগাদ ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সার্টিফিকেট (৫) সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ কাজের অভিজ্ঞতার সনদ (৬) স্বাক্ষরিত পরিচয়পত্র (৭) দরপত্রদাতার কর্ম/প্রতিষ্ঠান কালো তালিকাভুক্ত নয় মর্মে নিজ প্রতিষ্ঠানের পক্ষে প্রমাণিত যুক্তিসঙ্গত (৮) প্রতিষ্ঠানের পক্ষে ০৬ (ছয়) টি মনুনা স্বাক্ষর যথা ১ম শ্রেণীর কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত (৯) সদ্যমোহো পাসপোর্ট সাইজের সত্যায়িত ০২ (দুই) কপি ছবি (১০) সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ কাজ বাস্তবায়নে টিকাদারী লাইসেন্স (১১) অন্যান্য যোগাযোগ যথা টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্ট/সিডিউলে উল্লেখ আছে। দরপত্র ক্রয়ের সময় ০১নং হতে ০৮নং পর্যন্ত মূল কাগজপত্রের প্রদর্শন করতে হবে।			
১৯।	লটের পরিচিতি	পরিমাণ/সংখ্যা	সিডিউলের মূল্য (অনুমানিত)	দরপত্র জামানত	কাজের সময়সীমা
০১।	২০২৪-২০২৫ অর্থ বছরের ২য় কোয়ার্টারের বিএসটিআই কর্তৃক অনুমোদিত ডিআইজি "এ" সন্মুক্ত কোম্পেন্সিভ মূল্যায়ন (সাবান) সরবরাহ	১,৫০০ লিটার (এক হাজার পাঁচশত)	৪০০/- (চারশত) টাকা	৭,৫০০/- (সাত হাজার পাঁচশত) টাকা	২০২৪-২০২৫ অর্থ বছরে ২য় কোয়ার্টার (অক্টোবর/২০২৪খ্রিঃ হতে ডিসেম্বর/২০২৪খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত)
০২।	২০২৪-২০২৫ অর্থ বছরের ২য় কোয়ার্টারের প্যাকেজিং ছোট দানার উন্নতমানের দেশী মজর ডাল (স্বচ্ছ পলিপ্যাকে প্যাকেজিং করা) সরবরাহ	৭৫০ কেজি (সাতশত পঞ্চাশ)	৪০০/- (চারশত) টাকা	৩,০০০/- (ত্রিশ হাজার) টাকা	২০২৪-২০২৫ অর্থ বছর কার্যক্রম প্রদানের তারিখ হতে ১৫ (পনের) দিন
০৩।	২০২৪-২০২৫ অর্থ বছরের ২য় কোয়ার্টারের উন্নতমানের চিনি সরবরাহ	৫০০ কেজি (পাঁচশত)	৪০০/- (চারশত) টাকা	২,০০০/- (দুই হাজার) টাকা	
০৪।	২০২৪-২০২৫ অর্থ বছরে পুলিশ বাজেটের ১২২০২১-১০৫৯৪ সদর সঞ্চয়, অর্থনৈতিক কোড নং-৪১১২০১৪ এর "আসবাবপত্র" সরবরাহ	চাহিদা মোতাবেক	৪০০/- (চারশত) টাকা	৩,০০০/- (ত্রিশ হাজার) টাকা	
২০।	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম	ড. মোঃ আব্দুল নোবাহান পিপিএম			
	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী	কমান্ড্যান্ট (অতিরিক্ত ডিআইজি)			
	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা	পুলিশ স্পেশাল ট্রেনিং স্কুল (পিএসটিএস), বেতবুনিয়া, রাঙ্গামাটি।			
	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার যোগাযোগের মাধ্যম	ই-মেইল: cmdpstis@police.gov.bd			

বিশেষ জ্ঞাতব্যঃ

ক) নির্দিষ্ট সময়ের পর আর কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না।  
 খ) যদি বা প্রতিষ্ঠানের স্বত্বাধিকারীর লিখিতভাবে স্বাক্ষরিত পত্রের আবেদনপত্র ১০ নং কলামে উল্লেখিত অফিস সূত্র হতে অফিস চারকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত দরপত্র সংগ্রহ করা হবে।  
 গ) দরপত্র সংগ্রহে অন্যান্য তথ্যবলী দরপত্র তফসিল সজ্ঞাহকালীন নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর কার্যালয় হতে জ্ঞাত হবে।  
 ঘ) পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স হতে অর্থ বরাদ্দ প্রাপ্তি সাপেক্ষে বিল পরিশোধ করা হবে। এতদসম্বন্ধে কোন আপত্তি গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।  
 ঙ) দরপত্রে উল্লেখিত যে কোন আইটেম এর পরিমাণ বৃদ্ধি অথবা কমানোর বিষয়ে কর্তৃপক্ষের ক্ষমতা রয়েছে।  
 চ) সর্বমুখ্য দরদাতার দর গ্রহণের কর্তৃপক্ষ বাধ্য নয়।  
 ছ) দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন সময় কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতীত দরপত্র বাতিলের ক্ষমতা রাখে/সংশোধন করেন।  
 জ) দরপত্র খোলার তারিখে যদি সরকারী ছুটি/বন্ধ ঘোষণা করা হয় তাহলে পরবর্তী কার্যক্রমে একই স্থান ও সময়ে দরপত্র বন্ধ খোলা হবে।

ড. মোঃ আব্দুল নোবাহান পিপিএম  
 বিপি নং-৭০১০১০১০৬৫  
 কমান্ড্যান্ট (অতিরিক্ত ডিআইজি)  
 পিএসটিএস, বেতবুনিয়া  
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GD-463

LAW VISION

# Empowering victims

## Addressing right to compensation in trafficking cases

**Restitution is one of the key components of restorative justice which seeks to compensate victims to restore their well-being. This is particularly significant in cases where victims need immediate financial assistance for medical services, transportation, childcare and other projected needs as a result of the offenses.**

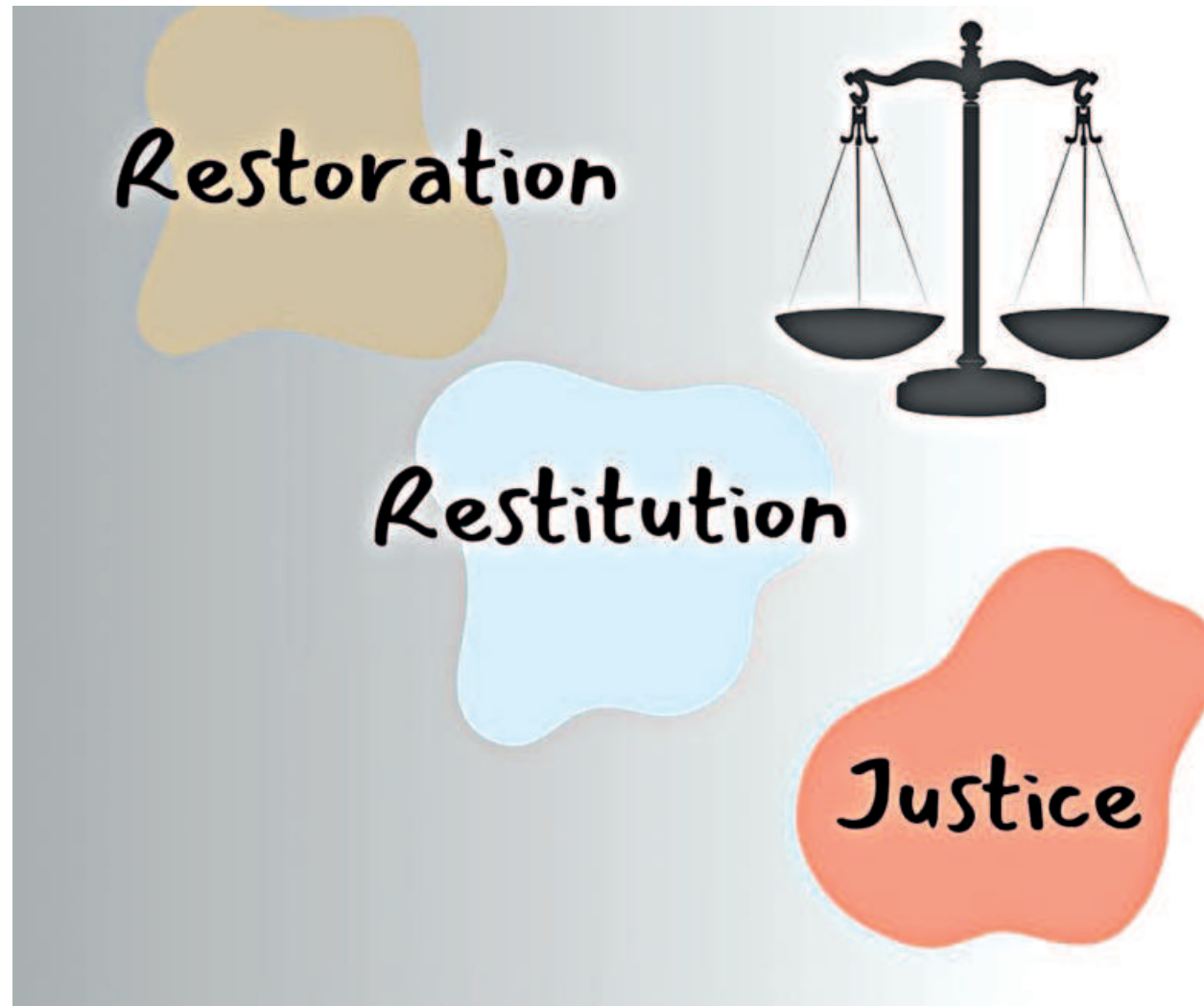
FARZANA RIFAT SIDDIQUE

In the conventional criminal justice system, victims often wait for years to obtain a court decision, which may or may not include compensation. Restorative justice system offers a more effective alternative as it focuses on understanding the extent of harm caused by the crime and tries to amend the damage rather than only punishing the offender. Restitution is one of the key components of restorative justice which seeks to compensate victims to restore their well-being. This is particularly significant in cases where victims need immediate financial assistance for medical services, transportation, childcare and other projected needs as a result of the offenses. Restitution aims to minimise the suffering of the victims as much as possible, though trauma and its effects can never be undone with compensation.

In Bangladesh, however, a crime victim has to go through complex procedures to obtain compensation. As per section 545 of the Code of Criminal Procedure 1898, court has the power to impose a monetary fine on the criminals either as the sole punishment or in addition to other penalties and it can direct the whole or a part of it to be paid to the victim. However, in practice, the judges very rarely exercise this discretionary power, and even when they do, the amount of compensation is often found insufficient. Moreover, if the offender is not apprehended, the victim has no route to compensation.

Conversely, in our neighboring country, India, the scope of compensation for crime victims has been broadened by the insertion of section 357A in the Code of Criminal Procedure 1973, which is known as the Victim Compensation Scheme. This scheme allows the crime victims to submit a request for additional compensation if they are dissatisfied with the already awarded amount of compensation, even in cases where the offenders cannot be identified or located.

To assess the situation in Bangladesh, particularly regarding the scope of compensation for victims of human trafficking, it is necessary to understand the notion of human trafficking in line with its domestic legal framework.



Under section 3(l) of the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act 2012, human trafficking is defined as the act of selling or buying, recruiting or receiving, deporting or transferring, sending or confining or harboring any person, either inside or outside Bangladesh, for the purposes of sexual or labor exploitation or any other form of exploitation or oppression. This crime is committed through the use of threat, force, deception, or abuse of the victim's socio-economic or environmental vulnerability, or financial inducement.

Aligning with the severity of the offences, this Act prescribes fines ranging from Tk. 20,000 to Tk. 5 lacs as well as various terms of imprisonment

till imprisonment for life, upon conviction of human trafficking and ancillary offences. For instance, section 6 of this Act criminalises the offence of human trafficking by imposing a punishment from 5 years to life imprisonment, along with a fine of at least Tk. 50,000. Again, to point out international obligation, Bangladesh is a party to various international conventions, including the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children (Palermo Protocol). These international instruments encourage the availability of compensation and support to the human trafficking victims.

Furthermore, according to the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report, 2024 of the US State Department, although the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act mandated a victim compensation fund back in the year 2012, the government has allocated funds for this purpose for the very first time in 2024. Indeed, compensation from this fund is rarely awarded, and out-of-court settlements between victims and traffickers are common. Most of these settlements require victims to withdraw their testimony, effectively eliminating the probability of the trafficker to face criminal conviction.

Despite these challenges, a recent

judgement has set a noteworthy precedent for victim compensation in human trafficking cases. In the Human Trafficking Case No. 01 of 2022, corresponding to the General Registered case No. 151 of 2019 of Durgapur, Rajshahi, the Human Trafficking Prevention and Suppression Tribunal of Rajshahi has granted compensation to the victim. Brief facts of the case are: in 2019, the victim, a 16-year-old student of Class 9 at a High School of Durgapur Thana, was deceived by an organised gang of human traffickers. The traffickers deceived her with a false promise of marriage and took her to India for their financial gain. After about one and a half months of this incident, victim's father was informed by a police station of Malda, India that his daughter was in police custody. Consequently, this case was filed by victim's father in the Human Trafficking Prevention and Suppression Tribunal of Rajshahi.

The issues raised in this case were, whether the charges brought against the accused were proven beyond every reasonable doubt and if they were liable to be punished under the Act. The tribunal, after hearing both parties and considering facts and circumstances of the case, passed the decision in favor of the victim on 24 January 2024. The traffickers were sentenced to five years of rigorous imprisonment with a fine of Tk. 20,000 each under Section 8 for instigating and conspiring to traffic the victim. Shridam Karmaker was sentenced to life imprisonment with a fine of Tk. 1 lac under Section 6 for committing human trafficking against the victim. The judge declared that the total fine of Tk. 1 lac 60 thousand be handed over to the victim.

In essence, while the recent judgment in Rajshahi represents an optimistic step towards ensuring compensation for human trafficking victims in Bangladesh, significant challenges remain. In order to restore the rights of victims, it is vital to strengthen the implementation of existing laws and to ensure that compensation mechanisms are more accessible and effective to the victims.

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE

# Remits of the defence of "FOLLOWING SUPERIOR ORDERS"

KANNY SAHA

The objective of this piece is to explore the extent to which section 76 of the Penal Code, 1860, can protect individuals who merely follow the orders of their superior and apparently have no independence in their decision-making powers, the challenges associated with prosecuting them, and similar provisions from other jurisdictions.

As per section 76 of the Penal Code, 1860, "[n]othing is an offence which is done by a person who is, or who by reason of a mistake of fact and not by reason of a mistake of law, in good faith, believes himself to be bound by law to do it." According to the text of the provision, the two issues that need to be considered are the mistake of fact and whether there was good faith or not. The reason behind this is that it often puts the prosecution in a difficult position because the defendant may use section 76 of the Penal Code, 1860 as a defence, claiming that they acted under their superior's authority, believing to do so in good faith and the same to be justified by law.

Individuals who regularly follow their superior's commands or believe they are legally bound to do so simply because the order came from someone higher up raise the question of their understanding of the law. They believe they must follow every order from their superior. However, no one is obligated to follow an order that is manifestly illegal. Therefore, following an illegal order cannot be justified as acting in good faith, and cannot be protected under section 76 of the Penal Code, 1860.



Article 33 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court is instructive here. It states that a person shall be held liable if a crime is committed pursuant to an order from a government or superior, whether military or civilian. However, such a person shall not be held liable if it can be proven that: (a) they were legally obliged to follow the order; (b) the person did not know that the order was unlawful; and (c) the order was not manifestly unlawful. The law also emphasises that committing

crimes such as genocide or crimes against humanity under a superior's order is manifestly unlawful, and no defence can be upheld in such cases by claiming that the person was merely following orders and acting in good faith. Additionally, a reasonable person cannot claim that they did not know orders for committing genocide or crimes against humanity are in fact unlawful orders. Therefore, the defence cannot use the exceptions under Article 33 of the Rome Statute of

the International Criminal Court unless it is clear that the defendant honestly and in good faith believed the order was legal, and this belief will still be examined to determine whether the order was objectively (i.e., actually) legal or illegal.

The defence of following a superior's order, can be traced back to the Nuremberg Trials. Indeed, per the "Nuremberg Defence", many of the accused claimed that what they did was because of their superior's command, and it was heavily criticised to the effect that such defence cannot be used to avoid punishment but can only be used as a tool to mitigate the severity of the punishment.

During the murder trial against four Australian officers in the Second Boer War, where it was claimed in defence that they were acting under their superior's order,

such orders were deemed "illegal orders", and they were accordingly found guilty. In the case of Dostler, where Anton Dostler claimed that he carried out the execution of prisoners under the command of Adolf Hitler's Commando Order of 1942, the tribunal explicitly rejected this defence and found Anton Dostler guilty, stating that he carried out illegal orders and should be held accountable for the same.

For the defence, section 76 of the Penal Code, 1860 protects individuals only if they genuinely or in good faith believes that they are following a legal order and are required by law to act under their superior's authority. However, considering the Nuremberg Trials, the Second Boer War, and the case of Anton Dostler, where illegal orders were followed, section 76 of the Penal Code, 1860 should not be used as a defence in such circumstances to eliminate punishment, but it may be used to lessen the severity of the punishment, as the superior who gave the order should also be held responsible and accordingly punished. The test is if a person with ordinary prudence and reasonableness believes that such orders are deemed illegal or criminal, and still follows them, then they should be held accountable. It should also be recommended that freshers and those currently working within a hierarchised setting under a superior's authority be trained to understand the law and distinguish orders that should be followed from those that should not be.

**For the defence, Section 76 of the Penal Code, 1860 protects individuals only if they genuinely or in good faith believes that they are following a legal order and are required by law to act under their superior's authority.**

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# Ashwin's T20 approach tips the scale against Tigers



PHOTO: AFP

### SPORTS REPORTER

Ravichandran Ashwin emerged as Bangladesh's chief tormentor on the opening day of the first Test in Chennai yesterday, catching the Tigers off guard with his counterattack and putting India in a position of strength heading into the second day.

Ashwin, a local lad, came to the crease in the second session when India were six down for just 144, and joined Ravindra Jadeja, Chennai's adoptive son through his lengthy association with Chennai Super Kings.

The duo remained unbeaten for the rest of the day, adding 195 runs for the seventh wicket -- the most ever at the MA Chidambaram Stadium, a venue that has been hosting Tests since 1934 -- and pushed India's total to 339.6.

Ashwin, who completed his sixth Test century and remained unbeaten on 102 off just 112 balls, said his recent stint with the Dindigul Dragons in the Tamil Nadu Premier League (TNPL), a local T20 competition which ended in August, helped him figure out a way to score runs.

"It helps that I have come here at the back of a T20 tournament [TNPL], worked quite a bit on my batting,"

Ashwin said after the day's play, referring to his recent stint with Dindigul, where he made 252 runs -- the fifth-highest in the season -- at a strike rate of 151.80.

The 38-year-old also said that playing positively was the best option to score on the surface.

"On a surface like this with a bit of spice, if you're going after the ball, you might as well go after it really hard. It's an old Chennai surface with a bit of bounce and carry. The red-soil pitch allows you to play a few shots if you are willing to just get in line and give it a bit of a tonk when there's width."

Ashwin also credited his partner Jadeja, who is unbeaten on 86 off 117 balls, for his support.

"He [Jadeja] was of real help. There was a point in time where I was really sweating and getting a bit tired, he noticed it quickly and guided me through that phase."

Ashwin also believes that the surface still has enough in it for the pacers, and that spinners will come into play later in the match.

"The wicket will start doing its tricks much later in the game. There's enough in it for the quicks -- good carry, good bounce if we present the seam nice and hard."



## U-17s aim to overcome India challenge

### SPORTS REPORTER

With the SAFF U-17 Championship title in their sights, Bangladesh are aiming for a strong start against a formidable India in the tournament opener at Changlimithang Stadium in Bhutan today. The match kicks off at 6:00pm (Bangladesh time).

A win against India would all but secure Bangladesh's place in the semifinals from Group A, which also includes Maldives.

In their most recent meeting, during last year's SAFF U-16 Championship, Bangladesh lost twice to India -- once in the group stage and again in the final. This time, the Nazmul Huda Faisal-led side are eager to reverse the trend.

"We will try to give our best against a strong India and minimise mistakes, as the team that makes fewer mistakes will come out on top," said Faisal at the pre-match press conference yesterday.

Head coach and technical director AKM Saiful Bari Titu wants to "show our quality against India".

"Playing against India brings pressure, but we have prepared accordingly. The players have worked hard so that we can overcome the pressure, because our target is to get points and show our quality against India," he said, adding that his charges would face difficulties due to the high altitude in Bhutan.

# Hasan earns Chepauk's admiration through simplicity

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI from Chennai

When he arrived in Chennai for the first Test against India yesterday, Bangladesh pacer Hasan Mahmud's Test career was three matches old. From an unknown entity to earning the appreciation of the proud cricket-loving fans of Chennai, Hasan has certainly created a mini ripple.

India had already regained the stronghold in the game by the time it was close to stumps on Day 1 at the MA Chidambaram Stadium, known simply as Chepauk to its cricket crazy locales, as Ravichandran Ashwin had just notched his sixth Test ton and Ravindra Jadeja was assertive at the crease in their rescue act. Yet, when Hasan stood at the ropes just in front of the press box side, the fans in the crowd cheered 'Hasan! Hasan!' as if they were calling one of their own heroes.

The irregularity of the gesture -- given that a number of fans in that crowd were donning the Indian team's jersey with 'Kohli' printed on their backs -- could only be unraveled by the meticulous spells Hasan put in during the day, bagging first four of the Indian wickets to fall.

Hasan left India skipper Rohit Sharma up in a knot a couple of deliveries early in his spell before he finally got the nick off his willow. The channel and the length he hit were precise from the beginning --



PHOTO: WALTON

### SCORES IN BRIEF (DAY-1)

#### INDIA

First innings-339.6 in 80 overs (Jaiswal 56, Pant 39, Rahul 16, Jadeja 86 not out, Ashwin 102 not out; Hasan 4-58, Nahid 1-80, Miraz 1-77)

enticing enough for drives but not so full as to be played comfortably.

The movement off the seam was deliberate. Yashasvi Jaiswal, who applied himself staunchly, tried to walk across to negotiate Hasan's movement and was the most successful batter during those first two sessions that Bangladesh dominated with pace.

Hasan would soon get Shubman Gill out for duck when the batter chased a delivery down the legside and edged one back to the wicketkeeper.

The usually composed Virat Kohli went

for a drive to find the edge as the ball zipped away. Rishab Pant, meanwhile, was late to his shot, not quite judging the length to get a faint outside edge through to the wicketkeeper.

None of Hasan's four wickets were unforced errors, and the simplicity of his execution saw him do what he wanted.

Although India would recover, the skill that he possesses and the simplicity of execution was a point of discussion amongst Indian media.

Unwilling to celebrate his wickets, Hasan made no secret in mentioning that

his skill of moving the ball in or out is what kept the batters guessing.

"Since I use it, it's my skill. I can do that and I try to do it better. Credit goes to those who worked hard on me. At the same time, it also happened through my own effort," Hasan said at the press conference yesterday when his attention was drawn to both the indippers and the outswingers he managed.

Like he was singled out by the crowd at Chepauk, this skillset of Hasan could see the 24-year-old stand out among his peers as well.

India did fight back in the end through an unbroken 195-run seventh-wicket stand between Ashwin and Jadeja.

But Hasan finished the day at 58 for four, with the chance of being the first Bangladeshi bowler to claim a fiver in a Test in India still in the offing.

"My plan was very simple. I bowled to my strength with the new ball. I wanted to do what I do well and I got the results," he said.

A simple plan sufficed for Hasan because he knew that he was in his element. "I was in my zone," he had added on exploiting the conditions.

It indeed was quite a memorable day for Hasan, who was able to garner the attention of a cricket-crazy nation simply by being in his zone, and his smile at the presser certified it later in the day.

### SHORT CORNER

#### Swadhin Bangla football team member Bimal Kar passes away



Bimal Kar, a member of Swadhin Bangla football team, passed away at a city hospital today. He was 83. Kar, who played Azad SC before joining the Swadhin Bangla football team during the liberation war and then played for Victoria SC after liberation, had also been involved with Chittagong Mohammedan SC and Chittagong Referees Association a few years back.

#### Bangladesh slip to 186 in FIFA rankings

Bangladesh have fallen two places to 186th in the FIFA rankings, the latest published on Thursday, while reigning world champions Argentina retain their top position despite a 2-1 defeat to Colombia.

#### Playing Nadal is 'kind of a nightmare': Alcaraz

Carlos Alcaraz has admitted to being starstruck when he first faced Rafael Nadal, saying that facing the 22-time Grand Slam champion was "kind of a nightmare". Speaking in Berlin on Thursday ahead of the Laver Cup, the 21-year-old Alcaraz reflected on his on-court battles with fellow Spaniard Nadal.

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

# Guardiola, Inzaghi share points and sentiments

AGENCIES

Both Inter Milan manager Simone Inzaghi and Manchester City coach Pep Guardiola shared the same sentiment following a 0-0 draw to open their Champions League campaign on Wednesday night.

While Inzaghi said the Italian champions produced a "giant performance" to leave Manchester City frustrated, his counterpart Guardiola was more than happy with his players' performance at the Etihad Stadium.

"I said 'well done guys' to my team in the dressing room. They put in a giant performance," said Inzaghi following a game that had a lot of hype built up for it being a repeat of the 2023 final, won 1-0 by City.

But the game did little to set the pulses racing as Inzaghi also rued the missed opportunities that could have helped Inter inflict a first home European defeat in six years for Guardiola's men.

"The players did really well, we knew the quality of our opponents, but we worked well and could have hurt them more in some situations."

"We did this and had some good chances too. I fell into a state of despair when Mkhitarian didn't score," Inzaghi added.

Henrikh Mkhitarian had City fans breathing a huge sigh of relief when he missed a late chance, launching a rocket just over the bar from about

eight metres out, then holding his head in disbelief.

But it was Marcus Thuram who had the visitors' best sight of goal in the first half and sidefooted wide from the edge of the box.

City have started the defence of their Premier League title in relentless fashion with four consecutive wins but failed to hit their stride as Inter comfortably held out.

The Italians caused problems with their defensive formation and attacked in numbers in what proved to be a tricky opening Champions League test.

"We faced a really, really difficult team, the champions from Italy," said Guardiola.

"They are physical and they have [strength in] all departments."

"They build up from Sommer and Bastoni, playing on the transition. I am really satisfied for the game we played."

"They are masters of defending deep. They help each other unbelievably so you cannot expect to create a lot of chances. We created some chances."

"We played much better than two years ago in the final of the Champions League. I like everything from my team today. We would prefer to win but still seven games, see what happens."

Erling Haaland, however, found Inter a far harder nut to crack than he has faced in scoring nine times in four Premier League games this season.



New Zealand batter Kane Williamson walks back to the pavilion after being dismissed by Sri Lanka off-spinner Dhananjaya de Silva in the final session on Day 2 of the first Test between the sides in Galle yesterday. Williamson hit four boundaries and a maximum for his 55-run knock and put together a 73-run stand with Tom Latham (70) to propel the visitors to 255 for four in reply to the Lankans' 305-run first-innings total.

PHOTO: AFP



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## Tigers show pace mettle but need another comeback

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI from Chennai

Hasan Mahmud's incredible showing nearly made the opening day of the Chennai Test Bangladesh's but after the fightback in the final session from India's Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja, the visitors are need of a 'comeback' on the second day.

In the days leading up to the Chennai Test, the conditions had been hot and punishing, as is the norm in this part of the world. But in the morning of first day, the weather was gloomy and overcast, which the commentators termed peculiar.

The red soil in the wicket, which is usually an indication that there will be prodigious spin on offer in the later in the Tests, must have in the back of the mind of the Bangladesh think tank. Moreover, In 42 years, no visiting team had put India to bat first in India in a Test match.

But in the end, the weather dictated Bangladesh's plan, as they opted to bowl first, something India skipper Rohit Sharma said he would

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



India's star batter Virat Kohli was one of four prized scalps of Bangladesh pacer Hasan Mahmud, who singlehandedly dismantled a strong Indian top order before the hosts bounced back through a mammoth 195-run unbeaten seventh-wicket stand between Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja on Day 1 of their first Test in Chennai yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Ex-AL minister has property empire worth \$675 million

Finds Al Jazeera investigation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former land minister Saifuzzaman Chowdhury has built a property empire worth at least \$675 million, with plush properties in the UK, the US and the UAE, according to the latest documentary of Al Jazeera's Investigative Unit.

The investigation found Chowdhury, a close ally of the now deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, bought over 360 luxury properties in the UK worth \$250 million, 54 properties in Dubai worth \$190 million, nine properties in the US worth \$20 million, said Zulkarnain Saer Khan, the lead investigator of the documentary



Saifuzzaman Chy

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

## ATTACKS ON MINORITY COMMUNITIES

# At least 9 killed from Aug 4 to 20

Oikya Parishad says; more than 2,000 incidents of violence took place

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 2,010 incidents of violence against minorities took place across the country from August 4 to 20, inter-religious group Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Oikya Parishad said yesterday.

At least nine minority people were killed and four minority women were raped during the violent attacks, the Parishad said in a report revealed at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU).

The organisation collected the data through its local representatives across the country, said Nirmal Rozario, one of the three presidents of the organisation.

A six-member central monitoring cell oversaw the data collection.

"We did not include any incidents of political violence in our report. Our report deals only with the attacks on minority people," Nirmal said, explaining the data in response to a question about

the potential political link of the victims. Earlier on September 5, Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus in an interview with PTI said the attacks on minorities in Bangladesh are more political than communal.

According to the Parishad report, 1,705 families were attacked in 68 district and metropolitan areas. Of them, 157 homes were also looted, vandalised, and set ablaze. Thirty-four of the victim families belong to indigenous communities. The attackers also grabbed land of some people.

"These families are now living a miserable life,"

Nirmal said.

Khulna division saw the highest 810 attacks. All four rape incidents also took place in this division. One of the rape victims is speech-impaired. Among the other divisions, Rajshahi saw 297 incidents, Rangpur 271 incidents, Mymensingh saw 224 incidents, Dhaka

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

- 915 homes attacked
- 954 businesses, homes attacked, looted
- 69 places of worship vandalised
- 38 people physically tortured
- 21 businesses captured

## OVERSEAS ASSETS Singapore FIU seeks info on S Alam Group

MD MEHEDI HASAN

The Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) of Singapore has requested details about the Chattogram-based conglomerate S Alam Group and its owners, including information on their domestic and foreign assets, from Bangladesh's Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU).

BFIU officials, speaking to The Daily Star on condition of anonymity, confirmed that the FIU recently contacted them via email.

"We are preparing the details on S Alam Group and are ready to send this information to Singapore's FIU," the officials added.

A senior BFIU official said that the agency is responsible for exchanging information related to money laundering and terrorist financing with foreign counterparts.

Contacted, Bangladesh Bank Executive Director and Spokesperson Husne Ara Shikha also confirmed the matter to this newspaper and said the BFIU has yet to provide any information to Singapore.

The overseas assets of S Alam Group, including those in Singapore, came under scrutiny following recent media reports.

The Daily Star revealed last year that S Alam Group's owner, Saiful Alam, had built a business empire in Singapore worth approximately

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

# BNP forms six panels for reforms

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

The BNP has formed six committees to formulate the party's reform proposals in line with its 31-point outline aimed at reforming the constitution and state system and ensuring economic emancipation, said party sources.

The party will put forward the proposals to help the interim government carry out reforms.

The BNP, which has not formed any government since 2006, is making this move at a time when the interim government has formed six commissions, led by six eminent personalities, to amend the constitution, reform the judiciary, election system, police administration, the Anti Corruption Commission, and the public administration.

According to BNP sources, the number of panels and their size may be expanded.

The party thinks that different government organs have become almost ineffective due to the misrule of the previous Awami League government and that long-term reforms are necessary.

If the BNP is voted to power, it intends to carry out sustainable reforms. Keeping this goal in mind, the party has taken an initiative to finalise its plans from now.

Before discussing reforms with the interim government, BNP wants to determine its position on reforms so it can put forward specific sector-wise reform proposals. The party's standing committee discussed this issue in its last meeting on Monday.

Sources said BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir will lead the party's panel on state reforms. The other members of the committee are BNP standing committee members Nazrul Islam Khan, Salahuddin Ahmed, Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury, former bureaucrat and BNP chairperson's advisory council member Ismail Zabihullah and party media cell Convenor Moudud Alamgir Pavel.

Salahuddin will head two committees on reforms to the public service

SEE PAGE 5 COL 7



## Yunus to leave for NY on Sept 24

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus is set to leave Dhaka for New York to attend the 79th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on September 24.

He will lead a delegation of around 20, including Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain, Energy Adviser Fouzul Kabir Khan, foreign ministry officials said.

Touhid said only those with direct responsibilities at the UNGA will accompany the chief adviser, reported UNB.

There might be some meetings on the sidelines, but due to his limited stay in New York, the scope will also be limited. Bilateral meetings on the sidelines usually get finalised at the last moment.

This is seen as a big opportunity for him to share his government's reforms and economic plans, Rohingya crisis, climate change and other areas that require the engagement of the international community, foreign ministry officials said.

Yunus is likely to address the UNGA on September 27 before returning to Dhaka the same day.

## Ex-planning minister MA Mannan held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Police arrested former planning minister MA Mannan at his home in Sunamganj's Shatiganj upazila yesterday evening.

AFM Anwar Hossain, superintendent of Sunamganj police, said, "He [MA Mannan] is accused in a case filed with a court. After being informed that he was at his village home, police arrested him."

"We will produce him before a Sunamganj court in the morning as per the legal procedure," the SP said while talking to journalists.

On September 2, a case was filed accusing Mannan and 98 others with Sunamganj Senior Judicial Magistrate Court over a clash between protesters and police and Awami League activists on August 4, reports our Sylhet correspondent.



**NESTLED IN LOVE ...** A young Capped Langur safely nestled in its mother's embrace while they rest on a treetop in the Hazarikhil Sanctuary in Chattogram's Fatikchhari. Locally known as "Lalche Hanuman", these primates are native to northeast India, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Myanmar, where they inhabit lowland, wet, evergreen rainforests and temperate forests. There, they feed mainly on leaves, flowers and fruits. Capped Langurs are predominantly arboreal and can be found leaping through the forest canopies. They usually live in groups with one male and around seven females, who all share the responsibility of looking after the children. Capped Langurs have witnessed a 30 per cent drop in their population in all their ranges over the past 40 years due to rampant deforestation and thus, have been categorised as "endangered" in the IUCN Red List. Their numbers are expected to keep dropping over the next three generations if immediate conservation measures are not taken on a wide scale.

PHOTO: KAMOL DAS

## Israel bombs Lebanon after walkie-talkie blasts

Continues deadly assault on Gaza

AGENCIES

Israel bombed southern Lebanon yesterday and said it had thwarted an Iranian-led assassination plot after explosions in booby-trapped walkie-talkies and pagers in the past two days caused bloody havoc in the ranks of its arch-foe Hezbollah.

The attacks on Hezbollah's communications equipment killed 37 people and wounded around 3,000, raising fears that a full-blown war was imminent. The action also sowed disarray across Lebanon as panicked residents abandoned their mobile phones.

Israel has neither confirmed nor denied being behind the attacks but multiple security sources have said they were carried out by its spy agency Mossad.

Hezbollah chief Hassan Sayyed Nasrallah said the attacks on his group's communications devices will be met with "just punishment".

The Lebanese army said yesterday it was blowing up pagers and suspicious telecom devices in controlled blasts in different areas. It called on citizens to report any suspicious devices.

Lebanese authorities banned walkie-talkies and pagers from being taken on flights from Beirut airport until further notice, the National News Agency reported.

In Beirut yesterday, a distant roar in the skies could be heard from what state media said was Israeli warplanes breaking the sound barrier - a noise that has become common in recent months.