

Indo-Pacific minister of UK arrives in country

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The United Kingdom's Indo-Pacific Minister Anne-Marie Trevelyan arrived in Dhaka yesterday on her first visit to Bangladesh to discuss security, democracy, human rights, trade and the Rohingya crisis.

She will meet Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen as well as hold talks with civil society organisations, humanitarian actors, climate experts, and business groups.

She will also sign the UK-Bangladesh Climate Accord, which aims to enhance cooperation in climate action bilaterally and multilaterally, to help deliver the outcomes of COP26 and COP27, the UK High Commissioner said in a statement yesterday.

Minister Trevelyan will also visit Cox's Bazar to have a first-hand observation of the UK's

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Saudi minister of commerce reaches Dhaka

BSS, Dhaka

Saudi Commerce Minister Majid bin Abdullah Al Qasabi arrived in Dhaka yesterday afternoon. Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen welcomed him at Bangabandhu Bangladesh Airforce Base around 05:15pm, according to a Foreign Ministry press release.

The Saudi commerce minister is visiting Bangladesh to attend "Bangladesh Business Summit 2023", scheduled to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today.

PRAYER  
TIMING  
MARCH 11

Fajr

Zohr

Asr

Maghrib

Esha

AZAN 5-05 12-45 4-30 6-12 7-30

JAMAAT 5-40 1-15 4-45 6-15 8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

SYLHET CITY POLLS

# Battle to get AL nomination heats up



The air of anticipation can be felt in the air of Sylhet ahead of the city polls. Tensions are high among those who are vying for mayoral nomination from Awami League. Meanwhile, the city has been covered with posters, banners and festoons supporting UK returnee Anwaruzzaman as AL's mayoral candidate.

PHOTO: STAR

DWOHA CHOWDHURY

As the Sylhet City Corporation election is approaching, tensions are high among those who are vying for mayoral nomination from Awami League.

Since AL leader and former mayor Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran died of Covid-19 on June 15, 2020, at least seven AL leaders have entered the conversation about prospective nomination.

However, the debate intensified after a UK-based AL leader entered the scene last January.

Tenure of the incumbent BNP-backed mayor Ariful Haque Chowdhury will expire on November 6, and the election needs to be held 160 days before the tenure's end.

For years, AL's former central organising secretary Misbah Uddin Siraj, city unit's vice presidents Asad Uddin Ahmad and Abdul Khalique, general secretary Md Zakir Hossain, and joint secretaries ATMA Hasan Zebul and Azadur Rahman Azad have been in talks of getting nominated.

After Kamran passed away, his son and the city unit's organising secretary Dr Arman Ahmad Shiplu also got involved in the conversation.

Meanwhile, Anwaruzzaman Chowdhury, joint secretary of AL's United Kingdom unit, returned to Bangladesh on January 22 and claimed to have received a special message from the party high-ups to start campaigning for the Sylhet city polls.

Sources in AL said Anwaruzzaman got the green signal from the ruling party's leaders and returned to Sylhet.

Anwaruzzaman has been an MP aspirant for the Sylhet-2 constituency for the last several national elections. He feuded with former AL lawmaker Shafiqur Rahman Chowdhury, who is the president of Sylhet district unit AL.

AL sacrificed the constituency to Jatiya Party (JP) in the 2014 election, and in the 2018 polls, the Gono Forum candidate won after defeating the JP parliamentarian.

Senior leaders of AL in Sylhet said to pacify the conflict between the Chowdhurys of Sylhet-2, the AL nomination for the constituency will be given to Shafiqur, while Anwaruzzaman will be awarded the mayoral nomination.

Meanwhile, Sylhet city has been covered with posters, banners and festoons supporting Anwaruzzaman as AL's mayoral candidate.

The tension over Anwaruzzaman's

statement heightened on February 6, following a speech of AL central organising secretary Shafiul Alam Chowdhury Nadel.

At a programme in the city, he said, "Under the leadership of Anwaruzzaman, this city will become more dynamic and people-oriented. We have all gathered here on the orders of our leader Sheikh Hasina. Anwaruzzaman is working for you on Sheikh Hasina's instruction."

The next day, the Sylhet city unit of AL released a statement, signed by its president Mashuk Uddin Ahmed and general secretary Md Zakir Hossain, in which they mentioned that the city unit has not received any instruction from the prime minister or any central leader as Shafiul's speech claimed.

Besides, Shafiul is responsible for the Mymensingh division, not Sylhet, it stated.

While talking to several aspirants, it is clear that there is serious dissatisfaction regarding Anwaruzzaman's appearance and his claim of getting a special message from high-ups.

Weeks after Anwaruzzaman's arrival, Misbah on February 16 publicly declared that he wants AL's mayoral nomination.

At a programme organised by Sylhet District Bar Association, he said, "I wish to

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## Reform EC, create caretaker govt before next polls

Says Mirza Fakhrul

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The Election Commission must be reformed before the national election, said BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday.

"We have declared a 10-point demand. The government must resign, parliament has to be dissolved, a caretaker government must be formed, and the Election Commission has to be reformed so that people can vote..."

He was addressing the biennial council of Sylhet city unit of BNP at the city's Registrar Field.

Fakhrul said, "Awami League tore the 1972 Constitution whenever they were in power. Now they want the election as per the Constitution, which means an election under their government."

"Do the country's people trust Awami League? Do they believe that there will ever be a fair election under the leadership of AL and Sheikh Hasina? People have seen two such elections," he said.

The BNP leader also said, "They [AL government] have destroyed the economy in such a way that it is very difficult to pull it back. Only for their own sake... today they have crippled the economy."

"They are spending three times the actual cost of mega projects. But at the hospitals, patients are not even getting proper beds, medicines and doctors," he said.

About the recent issue of the robbery at a bank's cash loading van, the BNP leader said, "This shows how bad the law and order situation is. Robbers publicly slapped and took Tk 11 crore in broad daylight."

Fakhrul also criticised the agreement between the government and Adani Group. "We will incur a loss of Tk 1.5 lakh crore due to the contract."

He also criticised the price hike of electricity and commodities.



## DEMOCRACY INDEX

### Country progresses amid BNP's claims

Says Hasan Mahmud

BSS, Dhaka



Information Minister Hasan Mahmud yesterday said amid BNP's continuous hue and cry about the absence of democracy and freedom of speech, Bangladesh moved one notch up the democracy index, as per a new report of the Washington-based research institute Freedom House.

"It means the practice of democracy continues in Bangladesh. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, progress has been achieved in all sectors, including freedom of speech," he said while exchanging views with reporters at his Minto Road residence in the capital.

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## ELEPHANT ATTACK

### Govt to compensate in case of any loss: minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environment Minister Md Shahab Uddin urged people not to kill elephants, as the government will provide compensation in case of any loss caused by the critically endangered animal.

The minister made the appeal at an event organised to hand over cheques of compensation to the families who lost their near ones in human-

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Office of the Quality Assurance Manager  
Quality Control Lab  
Department of Fisheries, Dhaka.

Memo No: 33.02.0000.314.22.125.16-408  
Date: 11.03.2023

Invitation for Tender (Goods)  
e-Tendering Notice No: 01/2022-2023

e-Tender is invited in the national e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following goods, details are given below.

Sl. #	Tender ID #	Package #	Name of works and location	Tender last selling (date & time)	Tender closing (date & time)	Tender Opening (date & time)
01.	799424, 33.02.0000.314.22.280.23-409	GR 22-23/1	Procurement of Fish estradiol ELISA kits and Oxolinic acid ELISA kits for Quality Control Lab, Dhaka.	27-March-2023, 15:00	28-March-2023, 14:00	28-March-2023, 14:00
02.	799478, 33.02.0000.314.22.224.23-410	GTF 4	Procurement of Spare Parts for ICP-MS for Quality Control Lab, Dhaka	27-March-2023, 15:00	28-March-2023, 14:00	28-March-2023, 14:00
03.	799505, 33.02.0000.314.22.224.23-411	GTF 5	Procurement of Equipment and Spares for Quality Control Lab, Dhaka	27-March-2023, 15:00	28-March-2023, 14:00	28-March-2023, 14:00
04.	799511, 33.02.0000.314.22.122.23-412	GTF 10	Procurement of Glassware for Quality Control Lab, Dhaka	27-March-2023, 15:00	28-March-2023, 14:00	28-March-2023, 14:00
05.	799516, 33.02.0000.314.22.122.23-413	GTF 11	Procurement of Filters, Centrifuge tube and Pipette tips for Quality Control Lab, Dhaka	27-March-2023, 15:00	28-March-2023, 14:00	28-March-2023, 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 documents from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks branches up to 27-March-2023,15:00. Further information and guideline are available in the National e-GP system portal and e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@procure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@procure.gov.bd)).

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