

People outside Dhaka more concerned about local polls

Says Prof Tofail Ahmed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People outside the capital are more concerned about local government elections, while national-level politicians remain largely silent on the issue, said Prof Tofail Ahmed, chief of the Local Government Reform Commission, yesterday.

He was speaking at a views exchange programme with journalists at the National Institute of Local Government in Agargaon.

"Local leaders of the parties advocating for early national elections are discussing two elections: local government elections and national polls. Some are proposing local government elections first, while others are calling for both elections to be held the same day," he added.

The interim government formed the reform commission on November 18, tasking it with submitting reports within 90 days.

Speakers also proposed non-partisan local elections, increased benefits for representatives, limiting MPs' control over local bodies, introducing a "no" vote option, and conducting local elections under a caretaker government, like national polls.

Tofail said locals feel a void in governance, with services disrupted as many representatives went into hiding or were later dismissed post Hasina's fall on August 5.

These include holding direct election for only member or councillor posts in local polls. These elected representatives will then select or elect the chairmen or mayors in local government institutions among themselves.

The commission is also considering holding local government elections without party symbols, creating a unified law for all local government institutions, and conducting all such elections on a single day to reduce costs.

Special attention is being given to the hill districts, where Hill District Council elections have not been held since 1989, with obstacles under review.

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BAHARCHHARA IN SREEMANGAL

Illegal sand extraction threatens livelihood

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

An influential group, allegedly led by a local Jubo League leader, has been engaged in illegal sand extraction near a sluice gate in the Baharchhara area of Sharsharshee village, located in Moulvibazar's Sreemangal upazila.

The sluice gate, constructed during the 2006-07 fiscal year with support from the World Bank, was intended to provide irrigation water for local farmers.

This illegal activity has severely compromised the sluice gate's functionality, endangered a nearby tea garden hill, and jeopardised the agriculture and livelihoods of around 25,000 farmers across seven villages.

Locals reported that parts of the sluice gate have already sunk, sinkholes have appeared in sections of the Dinarpur Tea Garden, and rural roads are being damaged

by heavy vehicles continuously transporting sand.

Despite a High Court order that banned sand extraction in the area for six months, following a petition by the Barachhara Water Management Cooperative Society



Limited, the group has continued its activities.

Residents allege that Jewel Mia, a Mirzapur union Jubo League leader, is orchestrating the illegal sand extraction.

Jewel, who faces several criminal charges, including violations of the

Explosives Act and the Balumahal and Soil Management Act, has reportedly used his political influence to carry out various illegal activities in the area.

During a recent visit to Sharsharshee village, this correspondent observed sand being extracted and stockpiled for sale at different points in Barachhara. Rural roads were found in poor condition due to the constant movement of sand-laden trucks and tractors.

A significant portion of the sluice gate's rear side has collapsed, while roads and bridges connecting to the Dinarpur Tea Garden hill are at grave risk of damage.

Local farmer Shafiq Mia said, "The sluice gate's present condition puts our livelihoods in jeopardy, while destroying the canal and endangering our homes."

Sheikh Sabuj Alam, general

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Cauliflower now a burden for farmers

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Farmers in the Rangpur region are facing significant losses despite a bumper cauliflower harvest this season.

Each cauliflower, weighing around 1 kilogramme, is being sold wholesale for just Tk 2-3, while the cost of production is Tk 5-6.

Last year, during the same period, each cauliflower fetched Tk 10-12.

Unable to cover even the cost of production, many farmers are leaving their cauliflowers in the field instead of harvesting them.



According to the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), cauliflower was cultivated on 20,000 hectares across five districts

in Rangpur division – Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Rangpur, Gaibandha, and Nilphamari. Early variety cauliflower was grown on 3,000

hectares, with the rest devoted to winter variety cultivation.

Officials noted that farmers who cultivated early variety cauliflower managed to make a profit.

Sekender Ali, a 50-year-old farmer from Fulgachh village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila, said he cultivated early variety cauliflower on one bigha and winter variety on four bighas.

"Around 4,000-5,000 cauliflowers can be grown on one bigha at a production cost of Tk 5-6 per piece. I sold the early variety at Tk 60-70 apiece

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Govt to ramp up drives against illegal vehicles

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to intensify its ongoing drives against illegal vehicles to improve Dhaka city's traffic management.

This decision was made during a meeting chaired by Chief Adviser's Special Assistant for Defense and National Reconciliation Affairs Abdul Hafiz.

The meeting was held at the Chief Adviser's Office.

The meeting reviewed the progress of decisions taken on September 19 to reduce traffic congestion to a tolerable level and improve traffic management.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police officials reported that they have deployed 4,200 police personnel

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ATTACK ON FARUK HASAN 2 accused get bail hours after arrest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted bail to two persons arrested in connection with the assault on Faruk Hasan, senior vice president of Gono Odhikar Parishad, hours after their arrest.

They are Sharif Mizzi alias Abir Ahmed Sharif, 27, and Korban Sheikh Hillol alias Prakash Hillol, 35.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Mahub Alam granted bail after they were produced in court, sources said.

The two were arrested early yesterday, said Khalid Mansur, officer-in-charge of Shahbagh Police Station.

According to a forwarding letter by Sub-inspector

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প্রধান প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর
ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
ঢাকা-১০০০
তারিখ: ৫/১/২৫

e-GP Tender Notice

e-GP tender is invited in the National e-GP System (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of works mentioned below under University of Dhaka.

SL No.	Tender ID	Package No.	Name of work	e-Tender last selling date & time	e-Tender closing date & time
1	1059298	Z-1/AC/R/2024/09	Construction of a women's prayer room and ablution facility at the north side of Dhaka University TSC auditorium.	15-01-2025 14.00	15-01-2025 16.00

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 branches of any registered bank branches. Further information and guidance are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Md. Abdul Mannan
Executive Engineer (Zone-1)
University of Dhaka

GD-60

বাংলাদেশ পানি উন্নয়ন বোর্ড

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর
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Office of the Executive Engineer
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E-mail: xensirajbwdb@gmail.com

Memo No. T-7/32 Dated: 06-01-2025

Invitation for e-Tender

e-Tender has been invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following [work]

S. N.	Tender ID	Package No. & description	Location of the works	Tender document last selling date & time	Tender closing & opening date & time
1	1056391	Renovate of water supply line of BRE Colony under Sirajganj WD Division BWDB, Sirajganj during the FY-2024-2025.	BRE Colony Sirajganj.	21-Jan-2025 17:00	22-Jan-2025 13:30 Hours
2.	1056392	Repair of Residential Building of Executive Engineer under Sirajganj WD Division, BWDB, Sirajganj during the FY-2024-2025.	Amlapara Sirajganj.	21-Jan-2025 17:00	22-Jan-2025 13:00 Hours
3.	1056393	Residential repair work at Amlapara Colony under Sirajganj WD Division, BWDB, Sirajganj during the FY 2024-2025.	Amlapara Sirajganj	21-Jan-2025 17:00	22-Jan-2025 12:30 Hours
4.	1056394	Supply and Installation of CC Camera at Hard point under Sirajganj WD Division, BWDB, Sirajganj during the FY 2024-2025.	Hardpoint Sirajganj	21-Jan-2025 17:00	22-Jan-2025 12:00 Hours

This is the 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 fee for downloading the e-Tender document from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches up to banking hours on 21-01-2025. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd) (01762625528-31).

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পানি-৪৯৭/২০২৪-২০২৫ (৭/খ৩)
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BIGM Journal of Policy Analysis

Bangladesh Institute of Governance and Management (BIGM), a premier knowledge hub in Dhaka conducts academic, research, training and intellectual capacity building activities on broad areas of governance and public policy discourse, is inviting scholarly papers for its journal named 'BIGM Journal of Policy Analysis'. Manuscripts must be original and preferably, be of quantitative nature following interdisciplinary perspectives and approaches in areas of public policy, development, economics and adjacent fields. Papers that describe experimentation are earnestly encouraged.

All submitted papers will be considered based on the outcome of a double-blind peer review process. Aside from peer review, submitted manuscripts may undergo procedural review within the reviewer referee/ expert network of the Journal.

BIGM Journal of Policy Analysis follows the APA referencing style. The desired style of formatting is: Times New Roman font in 12 font sizes and 1.5 line-spacing in A4 size paper. Only a soft copy of the article, both in word and pdf format, should be submitted by email at journal@bigm.edu.bd on or before **March 31, 2025**. Every submission must be accompanied by a cover letter and should include contact details, institutional affiliation of author/authors and other relevant information, such as, non-submission of the article in other journals, funding information (if any), and authors' contribution in case of multiple authors.

Dr. Mohammad Tareque
and
Director, BIGM Editor-in-Chief,
BIGM Journal of Policy Analysis

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