

'Preserve indigenous languages'

Urges Bangla Academy president

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangla Academy President Prof Abul Quasem Fazlul Huq at a seminar yesterday stressed the need to preserve the languages of indigenous communities and provide education in their mother tongues.

"We need to expand the use of mother tongues in the education sector. The languages of indigenous communities must be preserved," he said.

He made these remarks at a national seminar at the International Mother Language Institute in Dhaka.

The organisation arranged the seminar under the theme "Multilingualism and Mother Tongue-Based Multilingual Education".

Fazlul Huq, a former professor of Bangla at Dhaka University, said the standard of the Bangla language in the country is declining.

He attributed this to the decreasing interest in Bangla literature among the younger generation, largely due to the dominance of the English language and the influence of social media.

"This is also causing the distortion of Bangla, which is significantly lowering the quality of our language," he added.

While delivering the keynote speech, Prof Mohammad Moniruzzaman Rashid of the Institute of Education and Research at DU underscored the necessity of preserving and promoting cultural diversity through the advancement of multilingualism.

Three more papers were presented at the seminar.

BNP Khulna city council today after 16 years

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

Khulna city unit of BNP is set to hold its council today after 16 years.

For the first time, the council will elect its leadership for the posts of unit's president, general secretary and organising secretary through direct voting.

The council will be held at the city's Circuit House ground in the morning, followed by the voting in the afternoon at the Khulna District Stadium's gymnasium.

Amid the current political landscape and in the aftermath of the July-August uprising, this conference holds particular significance for BNP in Khulna.

A total of 12 candidates are contesting for the three key positions, while 505 councillors from the city's five thanas will exercise their voting rights.

Party leaders and activists are showing great enthusiasm for the council, and expectations for new leadership are running high. Candidates are actively engaging with councillors, promising to work for the party's betterment, and even apologising for past mistakes.



For the first time, the council will elect its leadership for the posts of unit's president, general secretary and organising secretary through direct voting.

The council is being held three years after the formation of the BNP's convening committee in Khulna. Acting BNP Chairman Tarique Rahman has been announced as the chief guest, while Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir will be the special guest.

Election Commissioner Advocate Masud Hossain Roni declared the election schedule on February 16.

For the past 15 years, BNP faced numerous challenges in Khulna, including political repression from the ousted Awami League government, said party leaders.

Many leaders have been targeted with lawsuits and attacks, lost their businesses, or forced to withdraw from politics due to pressure. Internal conflicts within the party also led to significant obstacles, weakening the party's organisational strength and limiting grassroots activities in the city.

BNP's last Khulna city unit committee was formed

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A worker busy crafting boats on the banks of the Shitalakkhya river. The work is going on in full swing so to ensure the boats are ready for the rainy season. This photo was taken at Bandar Central Ferry Ghat in Narayanganj yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: SAURAV HOSSAIN SIAM

RANGPUR HI-TECH PARK Uncertainty looms as work stalls for six months



KONGKON KARMAKER

The construction of Rangpur Hi-Tech Park has remained suspended for six months following the fall of the Awami League government on August 5 last year, raising concerns over its future.

Indian contractor Larsen & Toubro Limited (L&T) withdrew its workforce after the change in government. Authorities have yet to provide a timeline for resumption.

To cut costs, plans for a dormitory and cineplex have been scrapped, project officials confirmed.

Construction materials at the 10.77-acre site in Rangpur City Corporation's Ward 9 lie scattered, cranes and heavy machinery stand idle, and only a handful of security personnel remain present.

Initiated in 2017, the hi-tech park was envisioned to develop skilled manpower and boost employment in the ICT sector.

On April 25, 2017, the Ecnec approved Tk 1,846.09 crore for 12 district-level hi-tech parks. Of this, the government allocated Tk 302.09 crore, with the remainder coming from

an Indian loan. The project is being implemented by the Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority under the Ministry of Information and Technology.

The original plan included three buildings: a seven-storey Multi-Talent Building (MTB) with a steel structure, a three-storey canteen and cineplex, and a dormitory. Construction was supposed to start in 2017 and conclude by 2020. However, after repeated delays, work was officially inaugurated on May 26, 2022, with a revised completion deadline of July 2024. To date, only 25 percent of construction has been completed.

According to sources, the last recorded construction activity took place on August 2, 2024. Security concerns led Indian contractors to leave, they added.

Project Director AKM Fazlul Haque said construction would resume within a week, confirming the revised plan now excludes the dormitory and cineplex.

The focus remains on the seven-storey MTB, along with electrical substations, boundary walls, underground tanks, gates, guard

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Idol damaged in Pabna temple; one arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

An idol of the goddess Kali was vandalised at a temple in Pabna town early yesterday.

Hindu community leaders said the incident took place at Shree Shree Rokhkhla Kali Matar Mondir in the Dilalpur area.

This marks the second attack on the temple within 24 hours, they told The Daily Star.

Meanwhile, police have detained a suspect, Jahid Hasan Happy, 40, from the Kalachandpara area in connection with the incident, said Md Abdus Salam, officer-in-charge of Pabna Police Station.

According to OC Salam, during preliminary interrogation, the detainee admitted to his involvement in the attack.

On Saturday, the same idol was found overturned on the temple floor, according to the temple authorities.

Provash Chandra, president of the Pabna Puja Uddipan Parishad, said following Saturday's attack, the temple committee filed a case with Pabna Sadar Police Station.

However, another attack took place early yesterday, they said.

They urged the authorities to investigate the incidents and ensure safety and security of the temples in the area.

AC blast kills two in Sonargaon

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Two electricians were killed as an air conditioner exploded during repair at Eastern Bank's branch in Kanchpur area of Narayanganj's Sonargaon upazila yesterday.

The incident took place around 1:00pm at the rear of the ground floor of Sonargaon Mega Complex along the Dhaka Sylhet highway, said Jahangir Alam, senior station officer of Kanchpur Fire Service.

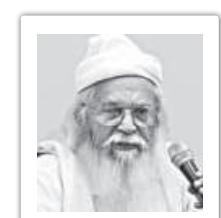
The deceased are Md Tuhin, 25, and Md Rafi, 22.

According to security personnel of the building, three workers were repairing the AC unit when it exploded, leaving Tuhin and Rafi critically injured.

All banking operations at the branch were suspended after the explosion, he added.

Firefighters took the injured to Narayanganj General Hospital, where doctors declared them brought dead.

Defeated forces behind anarchy
Says Farhad Mazhar



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Poet, writer, and thinker Farhad Mazhar has claimed that the recent chaos and disorder in the country are being fuelled by defeated forces.

He made these remarks on Saturday night while speaking as chief guest at the 57th memorial festival and folk fair of the spiritual figure Abdul Qadir Shah (RA) in Sharifpur village under Ashuganj upazila of Brahmanbaria.

Regarding the demand for immediate elections, he said, "Those opposing Bangladesh's reconstruction are the ones demanding immediate elections and government formation. The former ruling party [Awami League] has looted for 15 years, and now they [the opposition] want to loot for another 15 years."

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ARMED SHOWDOWN
Jubo Dal leader expelled, 4 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Police have arrested four individuals following an armed showdown led by a local Jubo Dal leader in Sreepur, Gazipur on Saturday night.

The arrested individuals are Hashem, 39, Asadul Islam, 24, Suman Mia, 28, and Hridoy Hasan Rakib, 26 -- all residents of Sreepur, said Mohammad Shamim, investigation officer of Sreepur Police Station.

The arrests came after a case was filed by shopkeeper Hazrat Ali, whose store was allegedly vandalised and looted by the group.

The case names five accused and lists 25-30 unidentified individuals.

The armed procession, reportedly led by Jahangir Alam Pintu, a member of Sreepur upazila Jubo Dal, took place on Saturday afternoon in MC Bazar, Mauna Union.

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Principal
Golapganj Govt. Technical School and College , Golapganj , Sylhet

Memo No : 57.03.9138.502.07.001.22.1118

Date : 20/02/2025

e-Tender Notice(OTM)

This is notifying to all concern that the following tenders are invited in the national e-GP portal .

Sl no	Tender ID	Procurement Title	Online Notice publication Date & Time	Last selling Date & Time	Closing Date & Time
1	1077394	Procurement and Supply of Furniture.			
2	1077395	Procurement and Supply of Others Stationery	24-Feb-2025 10:00AM	10-Mar-2025 17:00PM	11-Mar-2025 14:30 PM
3	1077396	Procurement and Supply of Raw Materials and spare parts.			

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 portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is must required. Further information and guidelines are available in the national e-GP portal helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

20-2-2025
(Sajal Kumar Pal)
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GD-495



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Higher Education Acceleration and Transformation (HEAT) Project
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(www.heat.ugc.gov.bd)



Date:23.02.2025

1st Corrigendum

Time Extension for Submission of Request for Expression of Interest (REoI)

This is to inform all concerned that the following amendment has been made for The Request for Expression of Interest (REoI) - Individual Consultant (National) (Time-based) which was published in 02 (two) national dailies titled "Dainik Samakal" and "The Daily Star" on 11 February 2025 vide Ref. No: 101/2025-401. The REoI was also published on CPTU, HEAT website.

Sl	Actual Date & Time	Amended Date & Time
1.	EoI Closing Date and Time: Date: 27 February, 2025; Time: 03:00 PM (Local Time)	EoI Closing Date and Time: Date: 05 March, 2025; Time: 03:00 PM (Local Time)

All other terms and Conditions of The Request for Expression of Interest (REoI) will remain unchanged.

SD/=
Project Director
Higher Education Acceleration and Transformation (HEAT) Project