

চুক্তি এ রিপোর্ট প্রিয়ের প্রয়োজন নে...

যেকোনো শাখা থেকে রোমটিয়েল গ্রহণ করলেই
পাবেন সরকার নির্ধারিত ২.৫% প্রশংসন

সাথে আরও আরও নিশ্চিত আকর্ষণীয় পুরস্কার

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Π



Various women's rights organisations held programmes, including processions and human chains, at Central Shaheed Minar and in front of Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka yesterday, marking International Women's Day. The participants particularly demanded the interim government's attention towards handling the crisis in women's safety throughout the country in the recent weeks.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



Equal rights for women a must
Say activists; systemic barriers hinder women's progress, says Prof Anu Muhammad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women's rights activists at a rally yesterday urged the government to ensure law and order at any cost.

They also demanded equal opportunities for women, the withdrawal of reservations on two clauses of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the abolition of child marriage, and equal property rights for women.

The rally was organised by the Social Resistance Committee, a platform of 67 women's and human rights, and development organisations, at Dhaka Central Shaheed Minar, marking International Women's Day 2025.

Dr Fauzia Moslem, president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, emphasised the ongoing struggles women face and called for unity to overcome these.

Nijera Kori Coordinator Khushi Kabir highlighted the rise in sexual violence against women in public spaces and the lack of accountability for perpetrators.

Shahnaz Sumi, director of Bangladesh Nari Pragati Sangha, pointed out that women, who make up half the population, are unsafe everywhere. She urged immediate government action to ensure their security.

Shahida Parvin Shikha, general secretary to the Trade Union Centre, stressed the need for strict legal action against perpetrators of violence against women.

Shakti Foundation Deputy Director Nilufra Begum voiced concern over the growing insecurity of women, criticising the culture of impunity for offenders.

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58pc want elections to be held this year: survey

BNP ahead in popularity, Jamaat follows

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 58 percent of participants in a recent survey said they want the national elections to be held before the end of this year.

The survey was conducted by Innovision Consulting, an international advisory and management consulting firm, using a random sampling methodology.

The findings were presented at a press conference at The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday, with assistance from the citizens' platform Voice for Reform and Bangladesh Research Analysis and Information Network (BRAIN).

Conducted between February 19 and March 3, the survey covered 10,696 individuals across all eight divisions and 64 districts, with 55 percent male and 45 percent female respondents. Meanwhile, 70 percent participants were aged below 45.

According to the study, 31.6 percent want polls by this June and 26.5 percent by December. Meanwhile, 7.9 percent preferred elections in June 2026, while 10.9 percent supported polls after December 2026.

MAJOR FINDINGS

- » 41.7% support BNP
- » 31.6% support Jamaat
- » 14% support AL
- » 5.1% support student-led party
- » **Total respondents: 10,696**

SOURCE: INNOVISION CONSULTING

31.6 percent, Awami League with 14.0 percent, and a new student-led political party with 5.1 percent.

Among Gen Z voters (aged 18-28), 35.5 percent showed support for BNP, 34.2 percent for Jamaat, 11.3 percent for Awami League, and 10.1 percent for the student-led party. BNP enjoyed stronger support among Generation X (47 percent) and Boomers (44.7 percent).

The study explored key factors influencing voting decisions. While 21.6 percent cited grassroots politics, 20.5 percent said religion-based politics played a key role. Additionally, 16.4 percent felt ideological alignment with the July Uprising could make the election an ideological contest.

Family influence remained significant, with 47 percent stating household discussions shaped their voting decisions. Social media also played a role, with 18.28 percent citing platforms like Facebook, YouTube, and TikTok as major sources of information.

However, 29.4 percent remained undecided. Among them, 49.3 percent said they needed more information.

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Six arrested over shooting gold trader in Banasree

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Detective Branch (DB) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) has arrested six suspects in connection with the gold heist and shooting of a jewellery trader in the capital's Banasree area on February 23.

Police recovered 4.9 tolas of gold, Tk 2,44 lakh from the sale of stolen gold, a 7.62mm revolver with four rounds of ammunition, and a motorcycle used in the robbery.

DMP Commissioner SM Sazzat Ali disclosed the details at a press briefing at the DMP media centre yesterday.

The arrestees are Md Kawsar, 31, Md Farhad, 64, Md Khalilur Rahman, 50, Md Suman, 30, Dulal Chowdhury, 43, and Aminul, 35.

Detectives apprehended

Tarique for women empowerment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Acting Chairman Tarique Rahman yesterday called for equal opportunities, dignity, and security for all women in Bangladesh, drawing inspiration from the three most important women in his life—his mother, wife, and daughter.

In a Facebook post marking International Women's Day, he reaffirmed BNP's commitment to women's empowerment and highlighted the party's initiatives to support women.

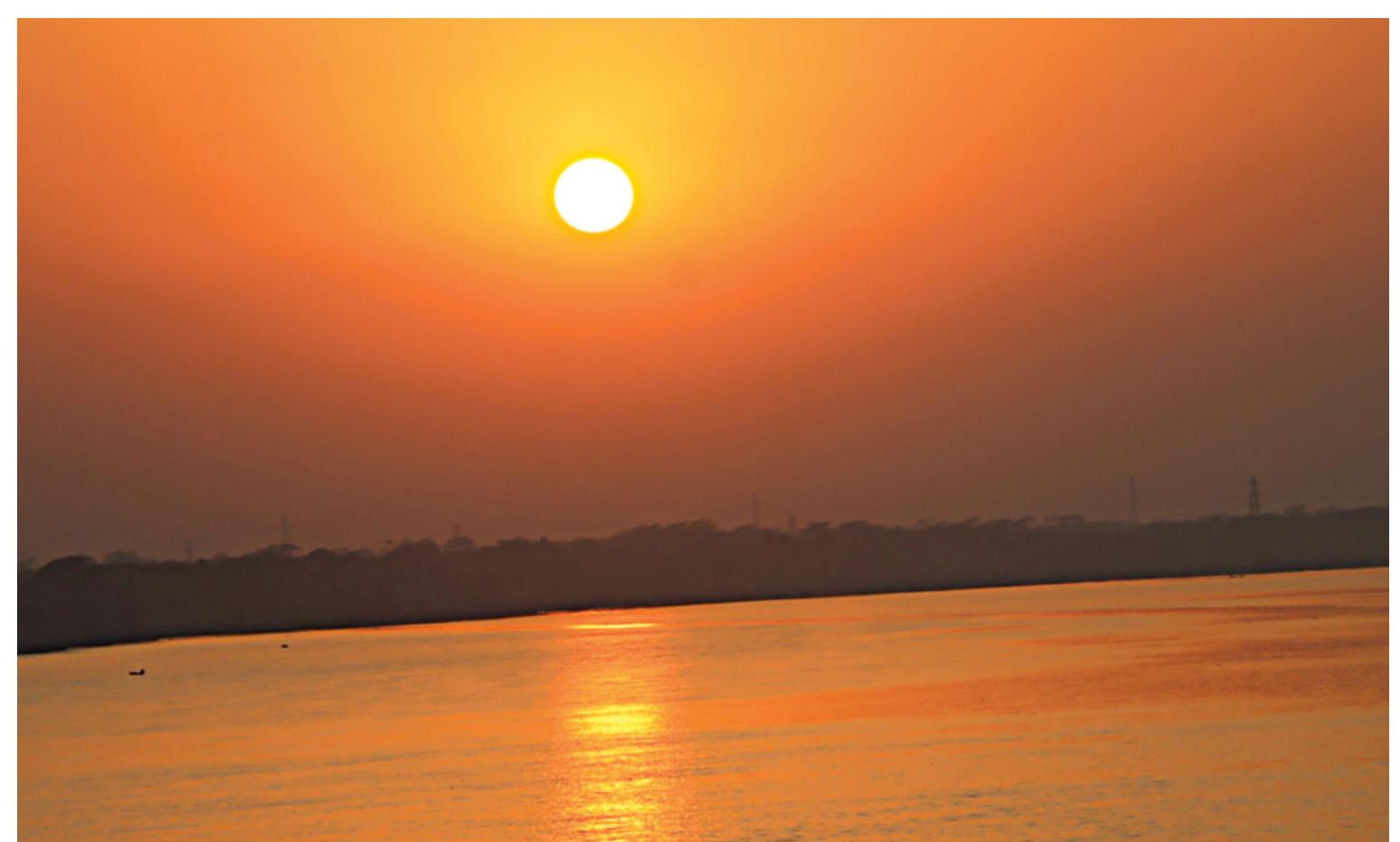
"The three most important people in my life are my mother, wife, and daughter—three remarkable women. I have always wanted every opportunity, success, and happiness for them. I am sure many of you reading this can relate to the same feeling," Tarique wrote.

He stressed that young girls and women across Bangladesh must feel empowered and supported, enjoying the same dignity, security, and opportunities as men.

"On this International Women's Day, I reaffirm that, just like the previous BNP governments led by Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman and Begum Khaleda Zia, we should all work tirelessly to create a just, tolerant, and respectful society that doesn't discriminate based on gender, race, or religion," he said.

Tarique emphasised that daughters should have equal opportunities as sons, be able to step outside their homes or use the internet without harassment,

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At the dusk on a Falgun day, nature takes a new look with the golden rays of the setting sun glistening in the water of Sugandha river. The photo was taken yesterday in Barishal's Babuganj upazila.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Women's leadership in admin on the rise

WOMEN IN SERVICE

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-----|------------------------------|-----|
| Deputy Commissioner | 18 | Additional Secretaries | 69 |
| Upazila Nirbahi Officer | 158 | Joint Secretaries | 173 |
| Addl deputy commissioner | 63 | Deputy Secretaries | 390 |
| AC Land | 141 | Senior Assistant Secretaries | 668 |
| Secretaries | 14 | Assistant Secretaries | 306 |

BAHARAM KHAN

The presence of women in key administrative positions is increasing, with a growing number of female officers taking on leadership roles in field administration.

According to the Ministry of Public Administration, at least 18 women officers are currently serving as deputy commissioners (DCs), 158 as upazila nirbahi officers (UNOs), 63 as additional deputy commissioners (ADCs), and 141 as assistant commissioners (AC land).

Women are also making strides in central administration, with at least 14 women serving as secretaries, including one senior secretary. Additionally, 69 women hold the rank of additional secretary, 173 are joint secretaries, 390 are deputy secretaries, 668 are senior assistant secretaries, and 306 women serve as assistant secretaries.

Women are leading field administration across Bangladesh, although some regions still lack female representation in key positions. Among the 18 female DCs,

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US ROLE DURING 1/11
Prioritising polls over reforms was a 'great mistake'
Says former diplomat

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Washington made a "great mistake" during Bangladesh's 2007-08 political crisis by prioritising election timelines over public aspirations and fundamental reforms, said former US diplomat Jon Danilowicz yesterday.

Speaking at a discussion on "Navigating the Dynamics of Bangladesh-US Relations After the Mass Uprising," organised by the Centre for Governance Studies (CGS) at the BISS Auditorium yesterday, he said the current interim government has taken a more effective approach by fostering national consensus on reform.

Danilowicz, who served as political and economic counsellor at the US embassy in Dhaka from 2007 to 2011, witnessed the military-backed caretaker government's tenure following mass protests against the BNP-Jamaat alliance.

He said the US and other stakeholders focused too heavily on the army's position rather than the demands of the Bangladeshi people.

"I am the first to acknowledge that the United States made great mistakes in the 2007-08 period," he said. "We put too much emphasis on

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