

**HEALTHCARE**  
Coordination  
between govt,  
NGO needed

**Says Hossain Zillur**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

NGOs play a crucial role in Bangladesh's healthcare system by delivering essential services, raising awareness, and advocating for policy reforms, speakers said at an event yesterday.

They said NGOs help provide basic healthcare to underserved communities and strengthen engagement with public infrastructure.

However, financial sustainability and integration challenges hinder their effectiveness, they said, raising concerns about duplication of efforts and short-term project-based approaches without lasting impact.

They were speaking at the Health Debate held at CIRDAP auditorium, organised by Power and Participation Research Centre and UHC Forum.

At the discussion, PPRC Executive Chairman Hossain Zillur Rahman emphasised the need for better government-NGO coordination, improved financial governance, and strategic policy engagement to strengthen healthcare system.

"We must integrate services from government, private sector, and NGOs," he said. "Defining clear roles and creating parallel structures for underserved areas is essential."

He acknowledged that foreign donor dependence won't end soon, urging NGOs to focus on maximising local resources.

The debate explored govt financing for NGOs. "There are many activities the government won't directly implement, but can utilise NGO structures and personnel," said Zillur.

## Preserving the taste of puffed rice

**KM HABIBUR RAHMAN, Pirojpur**

The day begins at dawn every day for Rekha Mondal.

She cleans the utensils, heats the earthen stove, and soaks rice in brine for the first steps after waking up.

These are the initial stages of preparing puffed rice in the traditional way.

With machine-made puffed rice gaining ground, traditional methods are gradually fading over time.

A few families in Lara village, under Pirojpur's Nazirpur upazila, are still striving against the odds to keep the tradition alive.

Rekha Mondal's family is among



them.

The process of making puffed rice traditionally is simple yet labour-intensive.

"It takes two people to do the work, both usually women. My mother-in-law and I do it at our house from dawn till dusk," said Rekha, 45.

During a recent visit, this correspondent saw Rekha and her mother-in-law, Kanan Mondal, 65, sitting around a triple-top earthen stove, making puffed rice.

On the stove were three pots – two earthen and one aluminum – being heated with rice inside.

Each pot serves a different purpose. One of the earthen pots is used to heat rice that was previously soaked in salt water.

The rice is then heated again in the aluminum pot before being placed in hot sand in the other earthen pot.

Once the rice is heated in the hot sand, it turns into white puffed rice in the blink of an eye.

Later, it is separated from the sand using a sieve and packed for sale.

Kanan's son, Biplob Mondal, 25, oversees selling their puffed rice to buyers.

With the help of family members, Biplob Mondal has been producing puffed rice naturally for the last 25 years.

"Apart from salt for taste, we add nothing to the puffed rice. It is completely natural and safe to consume," Rekha said.

Kanan Mondal, who has been preparing puffed rice for the last 25 years, said it is very uncomfortable to work all day amid the heat inside the kitchen.

"However, I have become accustomed to it by now," she said with a smile.



Biplob said they produce around two maunds of puffed rice daily.

"Around 24 kilogrammes of puffed rice can be prepared from one maund of paddy. As such, we need around 400 maunds of paddy every year. Our production usually peaks during Ramadan since the demand for puffed rice rises at that time," he said.

He also mentioned that their puffed rice has good demand even beyond their locality.

"However, the spiraling price of paddy and the commercial production of machine-made puffed rice at lower costs have made it difficult for us to survive," he said, adding that they cannot sell their product at the expected price.

"Dishonest businessmen deceive consumers by selling machine-made puffed rice with harmful additives while falsely claiming it to be traditionally made. They can sell it cheaply and still make a profit, whereas it is hard for us even to recover our production costs," Biplob added.

### Govt cancels Jai Jai Din permit

**STAR REPORT**

The government has cancelled the permit of the daily Jai Jai Din in response to an application from the newspaper's former editor Shafik Rehman, alleging that it had violated publishing rules.

This information was revealed in an order signed by Dhaka District Magistrate and Deputy Commissioner Tanvir Ahmed yesterday.

Shafik Rehman had complained that the newspaper is not being printed from the authorised press and that false information is being given in the printers' line. In view of this, after taking all necessary measures including issuing a show-cause notice and finding the facts of the complaint, the permit declaration has been cancelled.

According to the order, the publication of Jai Jai Din has violated Section 10 of the Printing and Publications (Declaration and Registration) Act, 1973.

The order said that considering this violation of rules, the permit under the name of Sayeed Hossain Chowdhury (brother of former Awami League lawmaker and minister Saber Hossain Chowdhury), publisher and printer of the daily Jai Jai Din newspaper, has been cancelled.

The HC also clarified

that those who have already used "Dr" before their names without completing MBBS or BDS degrees till yesterday cannot be punished. But if they use it from today, they can be punished.

Association, and others filed a writ petition with the HC in 2013 alleging that the law has discriminated against the DMF degree holders.

The president and secretary of the same organisation filed another writ petition with the HC last year challenging the legality of section 29 of the law.

Following the first writ petition, the HC on March 11, 2013 issued a rule asking the respondents to show causes as to why the denial of the right to the petitioners by an arbitrary construction and application of the BMDC Act, 2010 should not be declared illegal and unconstitutional.

In response to the second writ petition, the HC on November 25 last year issued another rule asking respondents to explain why section 29 of BMDC Act, 2010 should not be declared contradictory to Constitution.

After the verdict, Deputy Attorney General AFM Saiful Karim said, "No one except MBBS or BDS degree holders can use 'Dr' before their name."

Meanwhile, outdoor operations at Dhaka Medical College Hospital remained suspended since 10:30am yesterday due to a strike.

While visiting the outdoor unit around 1:00pm, this correspondent found the ticket counters still closed, with many patients waiting for services.

Interns and medical students called the strike to press home their five demands, including restricting the use of the "doctor" title exclusively to MBBS and BDS degree holders.

## 'Dr' title only for MBBS, BDS degree holders: HC

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The High Court yesterday ruled that only individuals who completed their MBBS and BDS can use the title "Dr" before their names.

"None other than the people qualifying for the MBBS and BDS degrees can use the prefix 'Dr' under the Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council Act, 2010," the court said.

Delivering a verdict on two separate writ petitions, the HC directed the respondents to take necessary steps to designate the writ petitioners, who hold the degree of Diploma in Medical Faculty (DMF), with appropriate prefix within six months.

The respondents are the secretaries at the ministries of health and law; director generals of directorate of health services and directorate of family planning; and the president and registrar of Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council.

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The HC bench of Justice Razik Al-Jalil and Justice Shathika Hossain delivered the verdict after holding hearing on the writ petitions.

After the Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council Act, 2010 was formulated, Md Shamsul Huda, the then convenor of the Bangladesh Diploma Medical

Date: 12/03/2025

### Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Food  
Directorate General of Food  
Procurement Division  
16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka  
[www.dgfood.gov.bd](http://www.dgfood.gov.bd)

No. 13.01.0000.093.46.021.25-271

### International Tender Notice for Import of Non-Basmati Parboiled Rice

(Package-11, FY- 2024-2025)

International tender in sealed cover are invited from bonafide traders for supply of 50,000 (Fifty thousand) (5%±) Metric Tons of Non-Basmati Parboiled Rice. The particulars of international tender are furnished below:

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh			
1 Ministry/Division	Ministry of Food		
2 Agency	Not applicable		
3 Procuring entity name	Director Procurement		
4 Procuring entity code	Not applicable		
5 Procuring entity district	Dhaka		
6 Invitation for	Procurement of 50,000 MT (5%±) Non-Basmati Parboiled Rice		
7 Invitation Ref. No. & date	13.01.0000.093.46.021.25-271 Dated: 12/03/2025		
KEY INFORMATION			
8 Procuring method	International Open Tender Method		
FUNDING INFORMATION			
9 Budget and source of fund	GoB Fund		
10 Development partners (if applicable)	Not applicable		
PARTICULAR INFORMATION			
11 Project programme / code (if applicable)	Not applicable		
12 Project programme name (if applicable)	Not applicable		
13 Package No.	Package-11		
14 Package name	Procurement of 50,000 MT (5%±) Non-Basmati Parboiled Rice		
15 Notice publication date	13 March, 2025		
16 Setting of tender schedule	13 March, 2025 to 25 March, 2025 up to 3:00pm (BST)		
17 Date and time of closing	27 March, 2025, Upto Time 1.00pm (BST)		
18 Date and time of opening	27 March, 2025, Time 1.30pm (BST)		
19 Name and address of the office(s):			
Selling tender documents	Office Chamber of Director, (Procurement), Room No. 501, Directorate General of Food, 16 Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka		
Receiving place of tender	1) Office Chamber of Director, (Procurement), Room No. 501, Directorate General of Food, 16 Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka 2) Office Chamber of Joint Secretary, Room No. 114, (14 <sup>th</sup> floor), Building No. 04, Ministry of Food, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka		
Opening place of tender	Office Chamber of Director, (Procurement), Room No. 501, Directorate General of Food, 16 Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka		
20 Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	Not applicable		
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER			
21 Eligibility of tenderer	Necessary papers to be submitted complying the conditions mentioned in the tender documents. 50,000 (5%) MT of Non-basmati Parboiled rice at Chattogram (60%) and Mongla (40%) port on CIF Liner Out term. Cost of the Cargo, Insurance and Freight including Stevedoring, Overseas Handling and Lightering are on seller's account. Single price per MT is to be quoted in US\$.		
22 Brief description of goods or works			
23 Brief description of related services	Not applicable		
24 Price of tender document (Tk.)	Tk 5,000 (five thousand) or USD 100 (One hundred) non-refundable by Pay Order/Bank Draft drawn in favour of Director General, Directorate General of Food.		
Mode of payment	Through Letter of Credit (L/C).		
Crop year	Late 2024 or latest		
Validity of the offer	10 April, 2025 Upto 5.00pm (BST)		
25 Quality & Specification:			
Quality parameters	Specification	Margin of tolerance with claim for deviation beyond specification	Rejection
Moisture (maximum)	13.5%	14.0%	above 14.0%
Broken grain (Maximum)	5.0% (Rice of size 3/4th and below will be considered as broken and less than 1/4th broken should not be more than 2%)	6.0% (Rice of size 3/4th and below will be considered as broken and less than 1/4th broken should not be more than 2%)	above 6.0%
Foreign matter (Maximum)	0.3%	0.5%	above 0.5%
Dead, damaged & discoloured grains (Maximum)	3% in total	4.0%	above 4.0%
Radio-Activity (maximum)	50 Bq/Kg of 137Cs/134Cs (Relaxable for the crop of SAARC and South-East Asian country)	50 Bq/Kg of 137Cs/134Cs (Relaxable for the crop of SAARC and South-East Asian country)	above 50 Bq/Kg of 137Cs/134Cs

All the parameters must be limited to percentage mentioned against each item individually and separately.

Pack No.	Identification of Shipment	Country of origin	Location	Tender security amount (US\$.)	Shipment period
Pack-11	50,000 MT (5%±)	Any country of the world except Israel	Chattogram port-60% and Mongla port-40%	US\$ 300,000 (Three hundred thousand) in favour of Director General of Food for 50,000 MT Parboiled rice (5%±) in the form of a Bank Draft/Pay-Order (No Bank Guarantee is allowed)	40 (forty) days from the date of opening of the L/C. Note that at least 50% of the total quantity must be shipped within 25 days of opening of the L/C.
<b>PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS</b>					
26	Name of official inviting tender	Md. Moniruzzaman			
27	Designation of official inviting tender	Director (Procurement)			
28	Address of official inviting tender	Office Chamber of Director, (Procurement), Room No. 501, Directorate General of Food, 16 Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka.			
29	Contact details of official inviting tender	Phone: +88-02-41050178 E-mail: <a href="mailto:dgproc@dgfood.gov.bd">dgproc@dgfood.gov.bd</a>			
30	(i) Incomplete, conditional tender and alternate offer shall not be considered. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders partly or wholly without assigning any reason. (ii) Tenderer who has been awarded two NOAs (Notification of Award) waiting for signing the contract or has signed two contracts but shipment under any of the contracts has not yet set sail				