



## ELECTORAL SYSTEM

# EC opposes key reform proposals

Objects to polls timing, separate body for delimitation

MD ABBAS and AHMED DEEPTO

The Election Commission has objected to 10 key reform proposals, including those on the delimitation of constituencies, the timing of local government polls and the national election, and investigations against election commissioners.

In a letter sent to National Consensus Commission's Co-Chairman Prof Ali Riaz yesterday, the EC warned that holding local government polls before the national election would delay the parliamentary polls.

The EC differed with the proposal to complete national and all local government polls within a four-month timeframe, saying that experience shows local elections alone take nearly a year to complete as these polls are held in phases.

It also raised objection to the Electoral Reform Commission's proposal on authorising a parliamentary committee to investigate failures of election commissioners.

Additionally, the EC opposed the proposed Election Commission Ordinance 2025, which seeks to introduce criminal liability for election commissioners for failing to ensure fair elections. This provision would erode the commissioners' independence and expose them to political pressure, the EC said.

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### OPPOSED PROPOSALS

investigations against commissioners

separate body for NID services

budget allocation through parliamentary committee



**TOILING UNDER THE HOT SUN...** A worker collecting wheat that has fallen during shipment at a jetty at Anu Majhir Ghat on the Karnaphuli river, Chattogram. As the temperature rises, engaging in physical labour outdoors has become challenging. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

## BNP cautiously optimistic of polls in December

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA and SAJJAD HOSSAIN

The BNP wants to put its trust in the interim government but cannot do so confidently until a specific timeline for the next general election is unveiled.

Despite earlier assurances from the interim government that the polls would be held in December this year, varying statements from Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus have fuelled scepticism within the party leadership.

Addressing police officers, the chief adviser yesterday stressed the need for implementing reforms, saying that the interim administration has "limited time before the upcoming election in December".

Three days earlier, he said the election could take place either in December this year or in June next year, depending on the political consensus around proposed reform packages.

If the political parties agree to a "short reform package", the election could happen this December. However, if they opt for a "comprehensive reform package", the election would be postponed until June next year.

Until the election date is announced, such "floating remarks" are not reassuring, BNP Standing Committee member Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury told The Daily Star yesterday.

"What is the problem in declaring the election date? There has to be

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What is the problem in declaring the election date? There has to be a cut-off date for everything. Nothing can be open-ended.

AMIR KHASRU MAHMUD CHOWDHURY

## Be impartial during polls

Yunus asks cops, reiterates commitment to election, reforms by Dec

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Reiterating the government's plan to hold the next general election in December, Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday told police to act impartially and not give in to pressure from any group during the polls.

Prof Yunus also asked them to ensure the safety of women, minority communities, and the underprivileged people.

The interim government doesn't have much time left, he said at a special meeting with senior police officers at his office in the capital's Tejgaon.

"We have already spent seven months. We're saying the election will be held in December. So, within this time, we must accomplish what we want.... We should make the necessary reforms -- whether they are the ones we are discussing or the ones you suggest."

Those who run for office may become desperate, but

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## CHILD RAPE New DNA labs, tribunal for victims

UNB, Dhaka

The interim government has in principle decided to bring necessary changes to the existing Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, including introducing a provision to have a tribunal to deal with child rape cases.

"A final approval [on proposed amendments] is likely to come on Thursday," Law Adviser Asif Nazrul told reporters at the Foreign Service Academy yesterday afternoon.

The decision was taken at a special meeting of the advisory council held yesterday with Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus in the chair.

Forests and Climate Change Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan and Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam were also present at the media briefing.

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## Freeze stolen assets parked in UK

BB governor urges British parliamentary body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur sought help from the UK's All Party Parliamentary Group on Anti-Corruption in getting sanctions on stolen assets parked in Britain.

During a meeting at Portcullis House in London yesterday, the governor told the British MPs that a handful of business magnates directly syphoned \$20-25 billion out of Bangladesh's banking system.

The figure would stand at \$70 billion if assets pillered from general corruption were also accounted for, said Ifty Islam, who advises the Bangladesh government on asset recovery.

This is the largest asset recovery attempt in history, Mansur and Ifty said.

Former justice secretary Alex Chalk KC and Rupa Huq MP, among others, attended the meeting hosted by Lloyd Hatton MP.

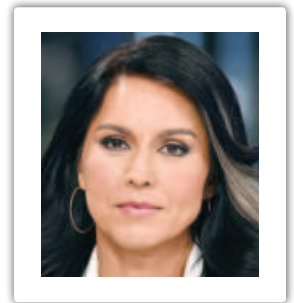
The governor said that the government had identified 160 potential cases and was approaching the issue from both criminal and civil law perspectives.

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The stolen assets would stand at \$70 billion if general corruption were also accounted for, said Ifty Islam, who advises govt on asset recovery.

## Bangladesh situation a 'concern' for US

Says Tulsi Gabbard; CA's press wing refutes her remarks



STAR REPORT

US Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard yesterday said the situation in Bangladesh is a "major area of concern" for the United States, citing "the long-time persecution of religious minorities."

In an interview with NDTV World, she said, "The long-time unfortunate persecution, killing, and abuse of religious

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**RENT-A-RALLY!...** The stage is set occupying this footpath in front of the Jatiya Press Club. Dozens of chairs have been put together in rows with a dais, equipped with a microphone and loudspeakers, nestled in between. For Tk 1,500, a party can rent this set-up for an hour and hold a meeting. The photo was taken yesterday morning.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## CAAB staffers stage protests across airports

Demand cancellation of plans for new airport security force

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) staffers demonstrated in airports across the country yesterday protesting the authority's perusal of a separate airport security force comprised of civil and military personnel.

Carrying banners, the staffers organised demonstrations in front of their headquarters in Dhaka as well as at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, Shah Amanat International Airport in Chattogram, Osmani International Airport in Sylhet, Hazrat Shah Makhdum International Airport in Rajshahi, Cox's Bazar Airport, Saidpur Airport and Jashore Airport.

On March 10, 2025, a proposal was made to the CAAB chairman, floating the idea of a new security outfit called "Bangladesh Airport Security Force".

According to the proposal, prepared by CAAB's security department, 70 percent of the people from the new force would be recruited from the air force, while 30 percent would be recruited from civilian staffers. A total of 10,632 people would be

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## BSF ‘tortures’ Bangladeshi on Jhenaidah border

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

A Bangladeshi was tortured allegedly by Indian Border Security Force members along Maheshpur border in Jhenaidah early yesterday.

The victim was Faruk Hossain, 42, of Berli village in Narail’s Kalia upazila.

Farmers found Faruk in the Cumillapara border area in the morning.

Later, the villagers informed his family members. After primary treatment, he was taken home.

Local UP member Obaidul Islam said Faruk was trying to enter Bangladesh through the Khosalpur border around 12:30am with his wife Hasi Sheikh and daughter Ayesha Khatun. At that time, he was detained by the BSF members and tortured brutally.

Injured Faruk told the media that he was tortured after being detained by the 194th Battalion BSF in Baranbera, India.

“They tied a rope around my neck and threw me towards the border, thinking I was dead,” he said. He regained consciousness around dawn.



The Ismail Shah Shrine at Bottola in Barguna’s Amtali upazila came under an arson attack early yesterday. The fire burnt down the shrine’s hall rooms and sheds. Inset, the photo shows the shrine engulfed in flames around 12:15am.

PHOTO: SOHRAB HOSSAIN

## 20 hurt in Barguna shrine attack

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

At least 20 people were injured as the Ismail Shah Shrine at Bottola in Barguna’s Amtali came under an arson attack during an urs early yesterday.

The shrine’s hall rooms and sheds were burnt in the attack carried out by Islami Andolan Bangladesh men around 12:15am, alleged Mostafizur Rahman Babul, the shrine’s custodian.

Firefighters managed to douse the flames around 2:45am.

Locals said the shrine, established in 1996, usually organises a two-day urs festival every year. This year’s event began on Sunday evening.

However at midnight, a group of over 100 supporters of Islami Andolan Bangladesh’s Amtali unit led by its President Omar Faruq Jehadi and General Secretary Gazi Bayezid stormed the shrine and demanded an end to the rituals and music, they alleged.

According to witnesses, when Mostafizur refused to stop the event, an altercation broke out between them. Eventually, the Islami Andolan supporters vandalised the shrine and beat up the devotees present, leaving 20 injured. Later, the attackers set fire to the shrine.

Of the injured, 11 were admitted to Amtali Upazila Health Complex while others received first aid.

On information, Amtali Upazila Nirbahi Officer Muhammad Ashraful Alam, Assistant Commissioner (Land) Md Tarek and Officer-in-Charge Md Ariful Islam went to the spot and

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## BNP cautiously optimistic of polls

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a cut-off date for everything. Nothing can be open-ended. Uncertainty surrounding this matter is creating doubts among people, which is unfortunate,” he added.

Salahuddin Ahmed, another member of the party’s standing committee, termed the chief adviser’s remarks “inconsistent”.

“Earlier, he [Yunus] said that the election would be held in December. Now he is saying the date may change depending on the undertaking of comprehensive or short reform packages. What we figure now is that constitutional reforms are a major issue, and for this, a parliament is needed.”

The other reforms could be done through ordinances if all political parties agreed, and it would not take more than three months.

“We don’t know why he [Yunus] is making inconsistent comments. We expect him to make it clear that the election will be held by December,” he added.

At a programme on Sunday, Mirza Abbas, another standing committee member, said: “We’ve heard many things – some say the election will happen, the others say it won’t. We don’t want to believe in anything. We want to believe that Dr Yunus will stand by his words. We hope to see an election

by December.”

The BNP’s suspicion deepened following a February 10 meeting between its senior leaders and Yunus. After the meeting, BNP leaders said they were assured that the election would be held in December.

However, two weeks later, Shafiqul Alam, the chief adviser’s press secretary, said the election could also be held in March next year depending on political consensus.

The BNP leaders believe that the government is trying to cater to the interests of multiple political groups, which may explain the conflicting statements.

They point to the emergence of the National Citizen Party (NCP) led by Nahid Islam as a factor influencing the interim government’s strategy.

Nahid recently told Reuters that holding the election in December may be difficult because of the current law and order situation.

However, he added that before polls can be held, it would be crucial to reach a consensus on the “July Charter” that the interim government plans to prepare in consultation with political parties and student activists.

“If we can reach that consensus within a month, we can call for polls immediately. But if it takes more time, the election should be deferred,” Nahid added.

Following Nahid’s remarks, the BNP standing committee held an emergency meeting where it discussed the possibility of a deliberate delay in the election.

“It is clear that the government is trying to play both sides. On one hand, it is trying to assure the BNP that an election would be held in December. On the other hand, it is trying to keep open the option of holding the election in June next year to satisfy the other political parties,” said a senior leader wishing not to be named.

Sarjis Alam, the chief organiser of the NCP for the northern region, made a controversial statement that reinforced BNP’s concerns.

Until the execution of Sheikh Hasina, no one should even talk about the election, he said.

Meanwhile, despite the uncertainty, the Election Commission is preparing for a December election.

However, logistical challenges remain.

If the election is delayed beyond December, the next feasible window might not open until October 2026 as there will be Ramadan, HSC exams and the monsoon season from February to June.

The BNP leaders argue that an election delay will only add to the political instability and distrust towards the government.

## EC opposes key reform proposals

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It also argued that the Supreme Judicial Council already handles this and such a provision would weaken the EC’s ability to make firm decisions.

The letter, signed by EC Senior Secretary Akhtar Ahmed, said that the formation of a separate commission for delimitation would weaken the commission’s constitutional authority and disrupt the electoral process.

During a press conference yesterday at the EC Secretariat, Akhtar said, “Implementing these recommendations will undermine the EC’s independence.”

The EC also disagreed on transferring voter list management and national ID card distribution to a proposed National Citizen Data Commission.

This would weaken the EC’s ability to conduct elections independently and violate article 119 of the constitution, which outlines the Election Commission’s functions, the EC said.

The commission objected to the inclusion of a proposal to bar fugitive individuals from contesting elections, saying such restrictions should be handled through existing legal mechanisms, not electoral reforms.

The EC differed with the proposal to make candidates submit nomination papers in person instead of allowing online submissions. In this regard, the EC cited concerns over adequate logistical support and previous incidents where candidates faced obstacles in filing nominations in person.

The EC rejected the idea of appointing returning officers solely from its own officials, emphasising that appointments should be based on competence and seniority rather than rigid rules.

The commission raised objection to a proposal to allocate its budget through

a parliamentary committee rather than the government’s consolidated fund, warning that the move would increase bureaucratic delays and compromise the EC’s financial independence.

It also differed with a recommendation on removing time restrictions for filing election-related cases, saying it would prolong disputes and increase political harassment.

The commission also objected to allowing aggrieved political parties to challenge results within 48 hours in the Supreme Court’s Appellate Division or a National Constitutional Council. It said that the Representation of the People Order of 1972 already provides for election challenges through tribunals.

The EC’s letter – copies of which were sent to the Cabinet Division and the principal secretary at the Chief Adviser’s Office – requested that necessary steps be taken on these issues.

### PROXY VOTING

The EC backed the proxy voting system as the “best available option” to ensure voting rights for expatriate Bangladeshis. This system will allow a designated voter in Bangladesh to cast a vote on behalf of an expatriate.

Election Commissioner Brig Gen (Retd) Abul Fazl Md Sanaullah briefed reporters about the matter at the EC Secretariat yesterday after a meeting with the heads of missions from Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) member states in Bangladesh.

“If we truly want to provide our expatriates with the opportunity to vote, we must adopt either one option or a combination of multiple options,” he said. The EC earlier said it was also considering a postal ballot system with a specified timeframe and an online voting system for the expatriates.

Asked whether proxy voting would lead to a lack of trust in the electoral

process during yesterday’s briefing, Fazl said, “If we aim to facilitate voting for expatriates on a large scale, proxy voting seems to be the only practical solution. The two other methods could be tested at the pilot level, but implementing them on a large scale may not be feasible.”

“This system [proxy voting] is already in place in India for defence personnel. Additionally, some European Union countries, such as France, Belgium, and the Netherlands, also have similar arrangements. Postal ballots are no longer effective for us. The time between printing the ballot papers and the actual voting day is too short to send, collect, and return the ballots for counting,” he said.

The commissioner further said, “The second option is online voting. However, as the Egyptian ambassador mentioned, their experience with online voting was not good, leading them to discontinue the system. On the other hand, while the Pakistani ambassador spoke positively about online voting, they have not been able to implement it on a full scale.”

During the meeting, Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin, along with three election commissioners and the EC secretary, briefed the heads of missions from the OIC member states on preparations for the upcoming 13th National Parliamentary Election.

The heads of missions from Afghanistan, Algeria, Brunei Darussalam, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Malaysia, the Maldives, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates were invited to attend. However, ambassadors or representatives from seven countries, including Saudi Arabia and Turkey, did not participate in the meeting.

## Be impartial during polls

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“you must operate within the boundaries of the law” regardless of what the political parties say.

“No matter who it is – whether it’s the newly formed political parties led by students or the established ones – if they make any demands, respond by saying, ‘We will adhere to the law.’”

Police’s special focus should also be on women’s safety, now “a critical topic of discussion”, and it is an enormous task, he said.

“Due to our negligence... half of our country’s population has become helpless, with no one to pay attention to them. Women are even afraid to walk on the streets.... They are unsure where to look – whether to gaze up or down. They are also uncertain about what clothes to wear.”

Every man has a personal responsibility to ensure women’s safety. “But as police officers, we have the greatest responsibility. The law has given every citizen their rights, and it is our duty to uphold those rights.”

The safety of minorities is equally important. It is the government’s responsibility to ensure the rights granted to them by the constitution, he said.

The country is going through a war-like situation. And as the election approaches, the “defeated forces” are likely to engage in more misdeeds to create unrest to disrupt peace, he said.

The government ultimately depends on the police to create the environment

for implementing its initiatives.

Terming the previous regime a dark period, Prof Yunus said the police were “active participants” in that era.

During the Awami League rule, police were influenced by bad individuals, he said, expressing hopes that they would prove that they are good people.

“To build a new Bangladesh, you must move away from that mindset and embrace the idea of building a truly new Bangladesh.... In this new Bangladesh, police must prove their commitment to maintaining law and order. The police must also demonstrate that they are victims of circumstance, not wrongdoers. They are now ready to help build a reformed nation.”

### THE MEETING

Senior officials told the chief adviser that only an independent commission could bring the police force back to the right track and make it service-oriented.

Baharul Alam, inspector general of police, said a proposal to form a police commission was placed before the Police Reform Commission, but the police do not know whether it would be implemented.

An independent commission is crucial for ensuring stability.

A high official, requesting anonymity, said that there were enthusiasms among the police over the meeting.

Police officers told Yunus that they wanted reforms in the force and an environment in which they could carry

out their duties without facing political pressure, according to officers who attended the meeting.

Ahsan Habib Palash, deputy inspector general of the Chattogram Range Police, told The Daily Star that he informed the chief adviser about logistical challenges.

“We often face problems in conducting anti-robbery operations, because in many places, we have a shortage of vehicles,” he said.

Palash also requested a raise in the travel and daily allowances for officers working in the hill tracts. In addition, he sought higher allowances for investigating general diaries.

Farzana Islam, superintendent of police in Rajshahi, requested the chief adviser for more living quarters for officers and improved living standards at the barracks.

Police personnel need daycare centres for their children and the traffic police need bathrooms and drinking water, she said.

Farzana said she requested posting women officers at the women and children’s desks.

The chief adviser assured that he would look into the demands.

Home Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury and Home Secretary Nasimul Gani also spoke at the meeting.

IGP Baharul later held another meeting at the Police Headquarters where he told officers that they must face the challenges in the coming days with utmost professionalism.

## CAAB staffers stage protests

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recruited for the new security body.

The proposed security force would be headed by an air vice marshal or an air commodore, given the status of a director general, according to the proposal.

Maintaining the force would cost the Civil Aviation Tk 397 crore, shows the project proposal budget.

A petition given to the chairman by the protesters yesterday demanded that CAAB immediately cease all proceedings to form this new paramilitary force.

CAAB Chairman Air Vice Marshal Md Monjur Kabir Bhuiyan verbally backtracked on the decision in the face of the protests.

“A proposal for a separate airport security force was placed before us, but

we are yet to take any steps about it,” he told The Daily Star.

The proposal recommended the formation of a new security force, saying there are security lapses across various areas of the airport.

“Even though Aviation Security (AvSec) is currently controlling and providing security to the airport terminals, there is scope to increase security across some sensitive locations, such as the boundary wall, the fuel depot, the communication control systems, controlling access airspace, cargo transport and others,” said the proposal.

“At the moment, people are brought in on deputation from other organisations making it difficult to responsibly provide security,” it said.

It said that AVSEC is not “entirely successful” in providing security to

these areas, and suggested that the new organisation will act as a supplementary body to AVSEC.

Petitioners on the other hand, demanded the de-militarisation of AVSEC.

In 2016, people from the disciplined forces were deployed to AVSEC for a temporary period “in aid to civil power”, but their stays have been extended multiple times such that they have become permanent, said the statement given by the protesters.

They demanded a clear cut-off date by which people from the disciplined forces been to be pulled out of AVSEC.

AVSEC and the Airport Armed Police Battalion have been involved in a dispute over the past months over security responsibilities at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.

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minorities – Hindus, Buddhists, Christians, Catholics, and others – have been a major area of concern for the United States government and of course President Trump and his administration.”

“The talks are just beginning between President Trump’s new cabinet coming in and the government of Bangladesh, but this continues to remain a central focus area of concern,” she added.

In reaction to Gabbard’s comments, the Bangladesh government said that her statement is both misleading and damaging to the image and reputation of Bangladesh.

A statement from the chief adviser’s press wing last night said, “Bangladesh as a nation traditionally practises Islam that is famously inclusive and peaceful and has made remarkable strides in its fight against extremism and terrorism.”

Talking to the NDTV World, Gabbard said, “The threat of Islamist terrorists, and their overall effort, the global effort of all of these different groups, are rooted in the same ideology and some objective – which is to rule or govern with an Islamist Caliphate.

“This obviously affects people of any other religion, other than the one that they find acceptable, and they chose to carry this out with terror and very

violent ways and means.”

She further said, “President Trump remains committed to identifying the ideology that drives Islamist terrorism, and working to defeat this ideology and their ability to exact that terror on people, the American people and others.”

Gabbard’s remarks came a day after she, along with Britain’s National Security Adviser Jonathan Powell and New Zealand’s intelligence chief Andrew Hampton, attended a security conference in New Delhi.

The event was hosted by India’s National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, along with RAW chief Ravi Sinha and Intelligence Bureau chief Tapan Deka.

Gabbard is the first senior-level official from the Donald Trump administration to visit India during the US president’s second term that began on January 20.

**STATEMENT FROM CA’S PRESS WING** “We note with deep concern and distress the remarks made by DNI Tulsi Gabbard, in which she alleged ‘persecution and killing’ of religious minorities in Bangladesh and that ‘the threat of Islamic terrorists’ in the country is ‘rooted’ in the ‘ideology and objective’ to ‘rule and govern with an Islamist caliphate,’ the government said in the statement.

Gabbard’s comments are not based

## New DNA labs, tribunal

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Adviser Asif Nazrul reiterated that time for trial and investigation will also be shortened in line with the government’s efforts to deal with cases in an expedited manner.

He said there is no relation between the proposed changes and the case of the Magura child, as her case will be settled on a priority basis.

The adviser said the DNA report of the Magura girl case will be prepared in two-three days and the trial of the case will begin soon.

Adviser Rizwana said a good number of amendments were placed from the Law Ministry before the meeting,

and the advisory council, in principle, agreed on those.

“We have already received some opinions and we will scrutinise these opinions tomorrow and the day after tomorrow. We expect the proposed amendments will get final approval on Thursday,” she said.

Adviser Rizwana said lack of adequate DNA labs is one of the reasons for the delay in settling rape-related cases, and at this moment, there is only one DNA lab.

She said the government decided to set up two more DNA labs quickly in Chattogram and Rajshahi.

The adviser also said some judges

will quickly be appointed through a special Judicial Service Commission so that the trial of rape cases and other cases can be expedited.

She said they are observing that anarchy is going on in the name of damaging shrines and the government remained reactive with appropriate steps.

Adviser Rizwana said the government will in no way accept any shrine destruction and urged all to refrain from such activities.

The government also warned of tougher actions in line with the law if anyone is found involved in damaging shrines.



জন্য ও নিরাপদে রেসিটিয়ান্স পাঠান  
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সাথে আরও আছে নিশ্চিত আকর্ষণীয় পুরস্কার

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## Abul Mansur Ahmad's death anniv today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 46th death anniversary of Abul Mansur Ahmad, a renowned litterateur, journalist, and politician of the sub-continent. He passed away in 1979.

One of the greatest satirists of Bangla literature, he was also a pioneer of modern and progressive journalism. He worked for prominent newspapers such as Krishak, Nabajug, Sultan, and Mohammedi, and was editor of the Kolkata-based Daily Ittehad from 1946 to 1948.

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Large crowds thronged the outpatient department at Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday, as many patients sought consultations and tests ahead of returning to their villages for Eid.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Interim govt overstepping elected govt's role

Says Amir Khasru

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP standing committee member Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury yesterday questioned why the interim government's structure and activities were expanding further.

It seems like a certain group is taking on the responsibility of carrying out all the tasks of the upcoming government, he said while speaking at an event at Jatiya Press Club.

"It looks like the future elected government of Bangladesh will have little to do, as the interim government wants to take responsibility for everything -- short-term, mid-term, long-term, and even beyond, if anything remains. As if all issues must be resolved by the interim government," he said.

"If that's the case, then why even talk about democracy and elections? Why do we talk about the ownership of the people of the country? Why do we mention accountability and responsibility?" he asked.

Meanwhile, at another programme, BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi yesterday accused advisers of the interim government of attempting to create a division between the long-standing anti-government movement and the recent July-August uprising and

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## DEATH IN CUSTODY Ensure fair, impartial investigation: MSF

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Manabadhikar Shongskriti Foundation (MSF) has called for an immediate, impartial, and fair investigation into the death of a murder suspect -- Hezaz Bin Alam, also known as Ezaz -- in police custody.

The rights organisation also urged that those responsible be held accountable and face legal action to ensure justice.

In a press statement issued yesterday, MSF said the death of an individual in police custody is a matter of grave concern.

The organisation emphasised that all custodial deaths require thorough investigations, as they raise serious public concerns.

The state has a legal obligation to ensure the safety of individuals in custody, said the statement, signed by rights activist and MSF Founding President Sultana Kamal.

Ezaz, 37, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital on Saturday, just hours after detectives detained him from the Japan-Bangladesh Friendship Hospital in Jigatola, Dhanmondi, where he was undergoing treatment.

An inquest report prepared on Sunday by Sheikh Kader Ahmed, a sub-inspector at Mohammadpur Police Station, in the presence of an executive magistrate, documented dark bruises on Ezaz's back, handcuff marks on his wrists, and additional bruises on his thighs, buttocks, and swollen legs.

Ezaz's father, Shah Alam, claimed his son was taken by a joint forces team from Mohammadpur's Baroikhal area on March 10 and tortured at a nearby camp before being handed over to Mohammadpur police early on March 11.

According to police, an army team arrested Ezaz and then handed him over to police on March 11 as his name was found in a murder case.

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## Visa suspension puts Umrah pilgrims in limbo

RASHIDUL HASAN

Several thousand Umrah pilgrims and hajj agencies are facing major disruptions as the Saudi government has almost completely stopped issuing Umrah visas without prior notice.

This sudden decision has left thousands of pilgrims stranded, while many travel agencies are facing huge losses, said the Hajj Agencies Association of Bangladesh (HAAB).

The abrupt policy change has created uncertainty for those planning to perform umrah.

Many Bangladeshi pilgrims are now in limbo due to the visa situation.

Amid this situation, the Religious Affairs Ministry will hold a press conference on Umrah visas at its office at the Secretariat office today.

The Saudi government had opened Umrah visas through the Nusuk app, allowing millions of pilgrims to travel.

However, due to overcrowding, particularly in Makkah and Madinah, visa issuance has been reduced by 90 percent, sources at the ministry said.

This situation is not limited to Bangladesh, as other countries are also facing similar issues.

According to ministry sources, Saudi Arabia is currently seeing a lot of visitors, more than it sees even during the Hajj season, making it difficult for people to worship properly.

**Saudi Arabia is currently seeing a lot of visitors, more than it sees even during the Hajj season, making it difficult for people to worship properly. Due to the overwhelming number of pilgrims during Ramadan, the Saudi government may have temporarily halted visa issuance.**

The Saudi government may have temporarily halted visa issuance due to the overwhelming number of pilgrims during Ramadan, they added.

Farid Ahmed Majumder, secretary general of HAAB, said around 45,000 to 50,000 Bangladeshis travel to Saudi Arabia for Umrah during Ramadan.

"The sudden visa halt has put these people in uncertainty," he said, adding that many have already purchased airline tickets and booked hotels, which has put them in trouble.

"In previous years, Saudi authorities informed us in advance before reducing or stopping visa issuance, but this time, they didn't give any prior notice," he added.

Farid also mentioned that around 30,000 to 33,000 Bangladeshis have already bought air tickets for Umrah.

The Religious Affairs Ministry has already written to the Saudi ambassador expressing concerns but has not yet received a response.

Regarding ticket refunds, a ministry official said they are in contact with the respective airlines to ensure refunds.

Unlike Hajj, there is no formal agreement between Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia for Umrah.

## Man gets life term over rape in Dhaka 5 sent to jail, 2 arrested in 3 districts on same charges

STAR REPORT

A Dhaka tribunal yesterday sentenced a 22-year-old man to life-term imprisonment for raping a seven-year-old girl in South Keraniganj in 2014.

Judge Munshi Md Mashiar Rahman of Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-4 of Dhaka delivered the verdict in presence of the lone convict, Md Arshad.

The tribunal also fined him Tk 1 lakh, in default of which he will have to serve one year more in jail.

Meanwhile, at least five people were sent to jail and two others were arrested yesterday over rape charges in three districts.

In Jashore, a youth was arrested on charge of raping a woman keeping her four-year-old child at knife-point at their home.

The accused is Hasan Ali, 18, from Sadar upazila, said Babul Hossain, OC of Jashore Kotwali Station.

While leaving the scene, Hasan also stabbed the woman and the child, according to the case.

In another incident, four Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leaders allegedly gangraped an 18-year-old girl in the district on Sunday.

A court sent Al Mamun Hossain, 20, is general secretary of Gadkhali union unit of JCD; Yasin Arafat, 21, office secretary; Jaber Hossain, 22, executive member; and Amirul Islam, 20, activist, to jail yesterday, said Jhikargachha Police Station OC Bablur Rahman Khan.

Ashrafal Alam Rana, Jhikargachha upazila JCD convener, said the four were expelled from their organisational positions.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

## HC scraps food adulteration case against Yunus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday scrapped the trial proceedings of a food adulteration case filed in 2010 against Prof Muhammad Yunus, the then chairman of Grameen Danone Food Limited.

The HC bench of Justice KM Hafizul Alam and Justice Md Atabullah delivered the verdict after hearing a petition filed in 2011 by Prof Yunus, challenging the legality of filing the case and its trial proceedings.

Dhaka South City Corporation filed the case with the Pure Food Court on the charge of storing adulterated dairy products against Grameen Danone Food Limited.

The HC quashed the case proceedings after examining an affidavit submitted by the DSCC's chief health officer on March 13.

## A DAY IN COURT Shajahan's smirk gives way to tears

EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

The smirk was still there as Shajahan Khan stepped out of the Dhaka Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court lockup. His lips curled into the familiar expression that had become his signature -- whether in moments of controversy, tragedy, or now, as an accused in a murder case.

But the confidence that once fuelled it seemed to waver.

At 10:08am, he silently stood in the dock, a stark contrast to his earlier demeanour in the holding area, as he was usually seen chatting and laughing before.

The prosecution argued for a five-day remand, linking him to the death of Rafiqul Islam in Badda on July 19 last year.

During the hearing, Shajahan raised his hand, trying to get Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate MA Azharul Islam's attention. No response. He tried again -- nothing. Only after his lawyers had spoken did the court permit him to speak. "Honourable court, please give me some time to speak. I want to say something," he began.

With permission granted, his tone turned pleading. "The public prosecutor mentioned that police fired

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



Manik Howlader and his wife Baby Akter spray pesticides on their sunflower plants to protect them from pests. They sowed the seeds in mid-November last year and are now waiting for the flowers to fully mature. The photo was taken from South Char Aicha village of Barishal Sadar upazila yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS



## Ensure fair, impartial Man gets life

FROM PAGE 3

According to the inquest report, Ezaz received primary treatment twice after being handed over to the police. On March 12, he was produced before a Dhaka court, which granted him bail.

A local trader claimed that Ezaz was linked to top criminal Emon and engaged in criminal activities.

Ezaz's father refuted this claim, accusing law enforcement of falsely labelling his son and torturing him to death.

The family alleged that despite being out on bail, DB police forcibly took Ezaz from the hospital, leading to his death in their custody. However, DB police have denied this claim.

MSF quoted Dhaka Metropolitan Police Deputy Commissioner Talebur Rahman as saying, "Ezaz did not die in DB custody. He was arrested earlier and later released on bail. Since then, he had been undergoing treatment at Japan-Bangladesh Friendship Hospital. The hospital referred him to DMCH, where he was admitted at 4:40am on Saturday. He died in the evening while receiving treatment. As there were ongoing legal cases against him, both local police and DB police were present at DMCH."

MSF stated that the explanation given by the deputy commissioner regarding Ezaz's death was not satisfactory.

## Shajahan's smirk gives way

FROM PAGE 3

shots during the movement. Such an order can only be given by senior police officials. I cannot order them to fire. I am not involved. Why was this case filed against me? Not only me, my son Asibur Rahman has also been accused. He is now in jail."

Then, before the packed courtroom, Shajahan Khan broke into tears.

"I am getting old. I haven't seen my son... What did my son do? While I stayed in Dhaka, he was in

Madaripur. You can check this right now!" His voice cracked as he wiped his eyes with tissue paper.

The judge remained impassive. "Your lawyer has already spoken on your behalf."

But Shajahan wasn't done. Folding his hands, he begged for more time. "They [lawyers] could not explain the matter properly. Local Sirajul chairman is accused in six murder cases. I was not on his side. That is why this case has been filed

## Man gets life

FROM PAGE 3

In Netrakona, one Abdul Hamid, 67, was sent to jail yesterday on charge of raping a 16-year-old girl.

According to the case, the incident happened at an abandoned house in the town on March 10.

Hamid was arrested early yesterday in a case filed by the victim's mother, said Sadar Model Police Station OC Kazi Shahnewaz.

In Lalmonirhat, police arrested a 15-year-old boy early yesterday over raping a 5-year-old girl on Sunday, said Hatibandha Police Station OC Mahmudun Nabi.

The girl was undergoing treatment at a hospital, said doctors.

[Our correspondents from the respective districts contributed to this report]

## Abul Mansur Ahmad

FROM PAGE 3

Marking Abul Mansur Ahmad's death anniversary, a discussion titled "Bangladesh's Culture and Our Politics" will be held at the capital's The Daily Star Centre at 4:00pm on March 22.

Prof Serajul Islam Choudhury will preside over the event to be attended by journalist Shubo Kibria, Prof Md Abul Fazal, essayist Shahul Ahmed, and poet Tuhin Khan. The event will be open to all.

Abul Mansur Ahmad wrote about the language issue from the early 1940s and contributed to the Language Movement as the editor of the Ittehad.

A very successful politician, Abul Mansur Ahmad played a key role in the formation of the Awami Muslim League. He served as vice-president of the organisation from 1953 to 1958.

Abul Mansur Ahmad was the author of the famous Ekush Dafa (21-point programme) election manifesto of Jukta Front in the 1954 election through which the Muslim League was ousted from power.

The Ekush Dafa was the first comprehensive articulation of the political, economic and cultural demands of the Bangalees of the then eastern part of Pakistan.

He was elected a member of East Bengal Provincial Assembly in that election, and served as health minister in the United Front

## Prevention

FROM PAGE 5

He added that the country's healthcare system is not equipped to manage NCDs solely through treatment. Therefore, an integrated, multi-sectoral approach involving primary healthcare facilities is essential to addressing these diseases.

Imran Ahmed Chowdhury, programme head of BRAC Health Programme, observed that the existing healthcare system is largely curative. However, with 70 percent of deaths linked to NCDs, such an approach may not be sustainable in the long run.

"Prevention should be our priority," he emphasised.

He highlighted the need for raising awareness, early detection, and behavioural change, noting that both government and non-government agencies have important roles to play.

PPRC Executive Chairman and UHC Forum Convener Hossain Zillur Rahman stressed that addressing NCDs requires a shift from a fragmented, vertical approach to a more integrated and systemic transformation.

He underscored the importance of reimagining the role of community health workers, strengthening knowledge-sharing mechanisms among organisations, and advancing preventive strategies.

Prof Syed Zakir Hossain, line director for NCD Control at DGHS, said the government has established 435 NCD corners at the upazila level to facilitate early detection and provide referral services.

Former DGHS Director Aminul Hasan, DGHS Deputy Director Abu Hena Mohammad Rihanuzzaman Sarkar, and representatives from various organisations also spoke at the event.

## Chemically-treated

FROM PAGE 5

We use chemicals to ensure that an entire field's harvest can be taken to the market at a time."

"However, we did not need to use chemicals on the pineapples this year as the fruits ripened on the orchard naturally due to favourable weather conditions," he claimed.

Physicians and nutritionists said that hormones are commonly used in ripening fruits worldwide and that those are not harmful if used in the right amount.

However, some local pineapple farmers are using high doses of the growth

hormones to increase their yields, which is harmful for human organs, they added.

"Regular consumption of chemically treated fruits can cause various diseases and is very harmful for pregnant women," said Dr Jahangir Alam, an associate professor of Tangail Medical College Hospital.

Prof Abdullah Iqbal, a teacher at Bangladesh Agricultural University in Mymensingh, said most of the farmers are unaware of the harm that can be caused by chemically treated fruits.

"So, it is necessary to raise awareness against this ill practice," he added.

## Interim govt

FROM PAGE 3

prolong the interim government's tenure.

"One of your advisers told students that if the country continues to be run this way for the next five years, it will be much better. Does that mean elections are unnecessary?" he asked.

"The people believe that under the leadership of Chief Adviser Dr Yunus, a free and fair election will take place," said the BNP leader.

He said, "As long as you [interim govt] remain in power, you must ensure an impartial election and hand over power to the people's representatives. The public deeply trusts this process.


But if there is any delay, it will take a different turn."

At the same event, BNP standing committee member Selima Rahman urged the chief adviser to uphold his image as a beacon of peace by ensuring a fair election and restoring stability in the country.

In another programme yesterday, BNP standing committee member Nazrul Islam Khan said the fall of fascism has been an achievement.

"However, our efforts to establish democracy must continue. We must remain united to stop any conspiracy against this cause," he added.

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH  
HIGH COURT DIVISION  
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)  
COMPANY MATTER NO.262 OF 2025  
IN THE MATTER OF:  
COCO Foods Company Limited,  
Incorporation No.C-157565 dated 04.12.2019, represented by its Managing Director Yang Zhuanni, Registered address: 243, Aragon, Gangabandhu Road, Ashulia, Police Station-Ashulia, District-Dhaka.  
— Petitioner.  
—VERSUS—  
The Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms, TCB Bhahan, 01, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.  
— Respondent.  
Notice is hereby given to all concerned that an application under Section 81(2) and Section 85(3) read with Section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994, filed and moved by the petitioner before the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh praying for condonation of delay in holding the Annual General Meeting of the respondent No.1 Company for the years 2020, 2021 and 2022 has been admitted on 23.02.2025 for hearing by his Lordship Mr. Justice Ahmed Sohel. The Hon'ble Court has fixed the matter for filing an Affidavit-in-Compliance on or before 20.04.2025.  
Any person interested in the said application may appear either in person or through his duly authorised Advocate. A copy of the application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of the prescribed charge.  
S.M. Shakhatat Hossain  
Advocate for the Petitioner  
LEGAL ARENA, Suite3/4, Eastern Arzon, 61, Bijoynagar, Dhaka-1000.  
Mobile : 01741164511.



**সামরিক চিকিৎসা সার্ভিস মহাপরিদপ্তর**  
**প্রতিরক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়, ঢাকা সেনানিবাস**  
**জরুরি দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

১। সশস্ত্র বাহিনীর জন্য দেশীয় মুদ্রায় ছকে উল্লেখিত চিকিৎসা সামগ্রী ক্রয়াদি প্রতিরক্ষা জমা মহাপরিদপ্তরে তালিকাভুক্ত ব্যবসায়ী/প্রস্তুতকারী/আমদানীকারক/হিজেবিস প্রতিনিধির নিকট হতে সীল মোহরকৃত বামে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।

২। দরপত্রের সিডিউল নিম্নের ছকে উল্লেখিত তারিখ ও সময় মোতাবেক সামরিক চিকিৎসা সার্ভিস মহাপরিদপ্তর, ঢাকা সেনানিবাস থেকে নগদ মূল্যে (অফেরথযোগ্য) সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্যাবলীসহ দরপত্র সীল মোহরকৃত বামে এই মহাপরিদপ্তরে রক্ষিত স্টোরে বসে নিম্নবর্ণিত ছকে নির্ধারিত তারিখ এ ০৯০০ ঘটিকা হতে ১০০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত জমা নেয়া হবে এবং একই দিন ১৩০৫ ঘটিকায় দরপত্রাদির উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র উন্মুক্ত করা হবে।

ক্রমিক নং	দ্রব্যের বিবরণ	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের তারিখ	দরপত্র জমা এবং উন্মুক্তের তারিখ	দরপত্র নম্বর
ক।	ডিসপোজেশন	১৩-০৩-২০২৫	২৭-০৩-২০২৫ ১২০০ ঘটিকা	174/2024-2025/ Corres/Open

৩। দরপত্রের সাথে নিম্নলিখিত তথ্যাদি/খসড়া সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।

ক। প্রিন্সিপাল এর নিকট থেকে স্থানীয় এজেন্সি সনদপত্র।

খ। প্রস্তুতকারক কোম্পানির নাম ও দেশ।

গ। দরপত্রের সাথে আইটেমের নম্বর/ক্যাটাগরি।

ঘ। বাংলাদেশ গুণ্য প্রদানস অধিদপ্তর কর্তৃক প্রদানকৃত রেজিস্ট্রেশন নম্বর/এমএ নম্বর/অনাপত্তি সনদ (NOC) এর কপি।

ঙ। দরপত্রের হার্ড কপির সাথে MS Word এ প্রস্তুতকৃত সফট কপির সেনা ড্রাইভ।

চ। দরপত্রের কয় রশিদ।

৪। কার্যাদেশ প্রাপ্তির ২৮ (আঠাশ) দিনের মধ্যে আইটেম সমূহ রেডি ষ্টক হতে সরবরাহ করতে হবে।

৫। কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ছাড়াই যে কোন দরপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা রাখে।

তারিখ : ০৬ মার্চ ২০২৫

আই এস পি আর/বিবিধ/১০৩

GD-690

লে. কর্নেল  
সহ-মহাপরিচালক (স্টোরাগ)  
সামরিক চিকিৎসা সার্ভিস মহাপরিদপ্তর  
প্রতিরক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়

**NOTICE**  
In the Supreme Court of Bangladesh  
High Court Division  
(Statutory Original Jurisdiction)  
**Company Matter No. 393 of 2025**  
**Mohammad Foyez Ullah**  
-----Petitioner.  
**Volumezero Limited and another**  
-----Respondents.  
Notice is hereby given to all concerned that an application under section 81(2) and Sections 85(3) read with 396 of the Companies Act, 1994 and Rule 8 of the Company Rules, 2009 praying for condonation of delay in holding AGM for the year of 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 of the Respondent No. 1 company, namely "**Volumezero Limited**", was moved before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh on behalf of the Petitioner and Mr. Justice Ahmed Sohel was pleased to admit the said application on 10.03.2025. Any one desirous of opposing the matter may appear before the Hon'ble Court either personally or through Advocate on the date fixed. Copy of the application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of necessary charges.  
**Omar Sadat**  
LL.M (Cantab), Barrister-at-Law  
Senior Advocate, Appellate Division, Supreme Court of Bangladesh  
Sadat Sarwat & Associates  
Chamber: House No. 28, Road No. 23, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212.  
Phone: 0222260355

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH  
HIGH COURT DIVISION  
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)  
**COMPANY MATTER NO. 443 OF 2025**  
An application under Sections 81 (2) read with 85(3), 183 and 396 of the Companies Act 1994 IN THE MATTER OF: Mir Zakir Hossain, son of Mir Abdul Awal  
And  
Hamida Khatun, Managing Director, **Power Matrix Ltd.**, Khan Tower, 12th Floor, Plot-14 & 16, Sonargaon Janapath, Sector-11, Uttara, Dhaka-1230  
-VERSUS-  
.....Petitioner  
**Power Matrix Limited and Another**  
.....Respondent  
Notice is hereby given that an Application under Sections 81 (2) read with 85(3), 183 and 396 of the Companies Act 1994, for condonation of delay in holding Annual General Meeting of the Company and for necessary directions, was moved by the Petitioner before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh comprising **Mr. Justice Ahmed Sohel** and after hearing the learned Advocate and considering submission, the Hon'ble Court was pleased to admit the said Application on 11.03.2025. Any person interested in the said Application may appear on the next date as per the daily cause list of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh before the Hon'ble Court either by himself/herself or through his learned Advocate. A copy of the said application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of charges. (**Ahmed Farzad Bin Raunak**), of Lincoln's Inn, Barrister, Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh, Accord Chambers, Suite 101, Eastern Antik, House 155, Road 04, Niketon, Block A, Gulshan-1, Dhaka 1212, Bangladesh, Ph: 01717200036

**NOTICE**  
In the Supreme Court of Bangladesh  
High Court Division  
(Statutory Original Jurisdiction)  
**Company Matter No.394 of 2025**  
**Mohammad Foyez Ullah**  
-----Petitioner.  
**Spacezero Limited and another**  
-----Respondents.  
Notice is hereby given to all concerned that an application under section 81(2) and Sections 85(3) read with 396 of the Companies Act, 1994 and Rule 8 of the Company Rules, 2009 praying for condonation of delay in holding AGM for the year of 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 of the Respondent No. 1 company, namely "**Spacezero Limited**" was moved before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh on behalf of the Petitioner and Mr. Justice Ahmed Sohel was pleased to admit the said application on 10.03.2025. Any one desirous of opposing the matter may appear before the Hon'ble Court either personally or through Advocate on the date fixed. Copy of the application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of necessary charges  
**Omar Sadat**  
LL.M (Cantab), Barrister-at-Law  
Senior Advocate, Appellate Division, Supreme Court of Bangladesh  
Sadat Sarwat & Associates  
Chamber: House No. 28, Road No. 23, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212.  
Phone: 0222260355

**STATUTORY NOTICE**  
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH HIGH COURT DIVISION  
(ORIGINAL STATUTORY JURISDICTION)  
COMPANY MATTER NO. 399 OF 2025  
IN THE MATTER OF:  
An application under section 12 read with section 13 of the Companies Act, 1994, AND, IN THE MATTER OF  
**Aureate Jute Mills Ltd.**, a Private Limited Company incorporated under the provisions of the Companies Act, 1994 and having its Registered Office at Rupayan Shopping Square C-9 (9th Floor), Plot-2, Sayem Sobhan Anvur Road, Block-G, Bashundhara R/A, Dhaka, represented by its Managing Director **Quazi Didar Ahmed**.  
-----Petitioner.  
-----VERSUS-----  
The Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms, 1, Kawran Bazar, 6th Floor, TCB Bhahan, Dhaka.  
-----Respondent.  
Notice is hereby given that an application under Sections 12 and 13 of the Companies Act, 1994, was moved in the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh by the petitioner for add 04(four) new sub-object clauses of the Memorandum of Association of the Company name & style as **Aureate Jute Mills Ltd.**, the Hon'ble Company Judge **Mr. Justice Ahmed Sohel** has admitted the said application on 09.03.2024 and Hon'ble court directed the petitioner to publish the notices within 3(three) weeks and also to submit affidavit-in-compliance on or before 22nd April, 2025 from the date of publication. Any person interested in the said application may appear before the Hon'ble Court. A copy of the said application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of charges.  
(**Mohammad Shariful Islam**)  
Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh, Hall Room No. 1,  
Supreme Court Bar Association Bhahan, Dhaka-1000. Mobile: 0171173360

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Office of the Registrar General, Birth and Death Registration  
Local Government Division  
Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives  
Transport pool Building (8<sup>th</sup> Floor), Secretariat Link Road, Dhaka-1000.

Memo No. 46.04.0000.000.101.36.001.17.465

Date: 17/03/2025

**e-Tender Notice**

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the following package-

Tender ID No.	Reference No.	Description	Tender/Proposal Publication Date and Time	Tender/Proposal Closing & Opening Date and Time
1072595	46.04.0000.000.102.07.0003.25.6	Procurement of North South Layer 4 Firewall (Next Generation Firewall) for BDRIS	19 March 2025 10.00 AM	09 April 2025 3.00 PM
1072597	46.04.0000.000.102.07.0002.25.7	Procurement of 68 TB Storage for Live Server (Capacity Upgrade of Existing Storage System)	19 March 2025 10.00 AM	09 April 2025 2.00 PM

These are online Tender, where only e-Tenders 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 last selling/downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to date & time.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk([helphdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helphdesk@eprocure.gov.bd))

GD-695

Md. Akhtar Jamil  
Assistant Registrar General  
(Administration & Finance)  
Birth and Death Registration  
Telephone-02-41052363  
Email: [arg.admin@orgbdr.gov.bd](mailto:arg.admin@orgbdr.gov.bd)



**বড়পুকুরিয়া কোল মাইনিং কোম্পানী লিমিটেড**  
(পেট্রোব্যাংলার একটি কোম্পানি)  
**BARAPUKURIA COAL MINING COMPANY LIMITED.**  
(A COMPANY OF PETROBANGLA)  
No. 28.12.0000.831.04.006.23.151  
Date: 13/03/2025

**e-Tender Notice**  
(Goods)

For the Financial year 2024-2025, e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following packages.

Tender ID	Package No.	Description of Goods	Procure ment Method	Tender Publication Date & Time	Tender Document Last Selling/Dow nloading Date & Time	Tender Closing Date & Time
1084248	Mkt/BCMCL/ 2024-25-10	Supply of Goods for Coal Yard Management System, Reclaiming Belt, Steel Fabrication Plants, Moisture Lab and Others	OSTETM (NCT)	18-Mar-2025 10:00	08-Apr-2025 17:00	09-Apr-2025 12:00
1084249	Mkt/BCMCL/ 2024-25-11	Supply of Stationery and Printing Goods	OSTETM (NCT)	18-Mar-2025 10:00	08-Apr-2025 17:00	09-Apr-2025 11:00
1084250	Mkt/BCMCL/ 2024-25-12	Supply of Pumps	OSTETM (NCT)	18-Mar-2025 10:00	07-Apr-2025 17:00	08-Apr-2025 12:00

These are online tenders, 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 required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP portal and from e-GP help desk (<http://www.helphdesk@eprocure.gov.bd>).

The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all Tenders/Proposals / Pre-Qualifications / EOIs.

GD-684

(Engr. Md. Nozmul Hoque)  
General Manager  
Marketing Division





Under the scorching sun, dozens wait for hours at a TCB truck distributing essentials at subsidised prices for Ramadan. The photo was taken at Boyra Pujakhola Mor in Khulna city yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Prevention, early detection key to tackling NCDs: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With non-communicable diseases (NCDs) like cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, and cancer causing nearly 70 percent of deaths in the country, health experts have stressed the need for stronger prevention, early detection, and integrated risk management.

Despite the alarming rise in NCDs, they noted that the existing healthcare infrastructure remains inadequate, underscoring the urgency of integrating NCD care into primary healthcare services.

They made the suggestions at a multi-stakeholder health debate, the fifth of its kind, at the CIRDAP auditorium in the capital yesterday.

The workshop was organised by Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC) and the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Forum with support from Unicef.

Prof MA Faiz, former director general of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), said NCDs are responsible for 70 percent of deaths in the country. However, reducing premature deaths caused by NCDs is a key target under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Citing a recent survey, he pointed out that one in four people in Bangladesh has hypertension, while one in ten has diabetes.

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# Chemically-treated pineapples raise health concerns

## Madhupur farmers use excessive hormone to maximise profit during Ramadan

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

Pineapple farmers in Madhupur upazila of Tangail have been using chemicals to enhance the fruit's size and hasten ripening process in hope of maximising their profit by grabbing the market early amid Ramadan season.

Madhupur region is a key hub of pineapple cultivation in Bangladesh.

Due to this ill practice, the harvested pineapples lose the sweet and aromatic flavour characteristic of the fruit, while also becoming a health hazard for consumers due to the blatant use of chemicals.

The Honey Queen variety of pineapples cultivated in Madhupur, locally known as Joldungi, usually arrives in the market during May and June, according to local farmers and officials of the Department of Agricultural Extension.

Rakib Al Rana, upazila agriculture officer in Madhupur, said Joldungi pineapples mainly grow and ripen during monsoon. However, some greedy farmers and traders, seeing the increasing demand for the fruit during Ramadan, have started treating their pineapples with chemicals to hasten the harvest process.

According to DAE in Madhupur, pineapples have been cultivated on 6,630 hectares of land in the upazila this year.

Giant Q, locally called Calendar, is the main variety grown in Madhupur. It has been cultivated on 4,220 hectares,

while the Honey Queen variety is being grown on 2,392 hectares and MD variety on 18 hectares.

The Honey Queen variety is harvested in May-June, while the Giant Q variety in July-August.

DAE officials said the government approved use of hormones to slightly quicken the yield process. Hormones are supposed to be used 15 days before and after the budding stage for better flowering and preventing shedding of buds.

However, some local farmers are using the chemicals excessively, disregarding the government directives, in hopes of earning more profits, they added.

A section of local chemical shop owners have encouraged them to use chemicals to increase their sales and profits, DAE officials alleged.

Several pineapple growers in Madhupur, however, said they use chemicals as there is a high demand among buyers for chemically treated fruits, as they stay fresh for longer. Wholesalers do not like buying the naturally organic pineapple, as it spoils quickly after the harvest.

Due to a lack of access to DAE officials, farmers have no choice but to rely on these local chemical shops for their suggestions on how to apply the chemicals, the farmers said.

Chan Miah, a pineapple grower, said, "In one field, all the pineapples do not ripen at the same time. So, sometimes

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# Functionally dead canal grabbed

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

A functionally dead canal in the Gamoirtola area of Patuakhali's Kalapara upazila has allegedly been encroached upon by a local resident, causing concern among farmers and residents.

Locals say the Gamoirtola canal lost its natural flow after its connection to the Pakhimara canal was cut off during the construction of the Kalapara-Kuakata road.

While the canal remains dry for most of the year, it retains waist-deep water during the monsoon, providing essential irrigation for nearby croplands and benefiting local farmers.

However, residents allege that one Habib Gazi has illegally filled parts of the canal and constructed structures on it, threatening its complete disappearance.



"During monsoon, the canal still holds enough water for irrigation," said Abul Basher, a local farmer. "But Habib Gazi is grabbing it to build a house and pond. If this continues, the

canal will vanish, and our farming will suffer due to lack of irrigation water."

Hanif Talukder, a resident of Nayamotpur village, added, "The section near our village has already been filled to merge with adjacent farmland. Only the part in Gamoirtola holds water in monsoon, making it vital for irrigation."

He also criticised the upazila land office for allegedly allocating the canal's land for settlement, which has encouraged illegal occupation.

"Immediate action is needed to restore the canal," he said.

When contacted, Habib Gazi claimed he legally obtained 1.5 acres of land -- including the canal --

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

সেনাবাহিনী সদর দপ্তর			
এ্যাডজুটেন্ট জেনারেল শাখা			
ক্যাডেট কলেজ পরিচালনা পরিষদ			
ঢাকা সেনানিবাস, ঢাকা			
বাংলাদেশ ক্যাডেট কলেজসমূহে ১০ম-২০তম গ্রেডের শূন্য পদে নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি-২০২৫			
১। ক্যাডেট কলেজসমূহের নিম্নে বর্ণিত শূন্য পদসমূহ পূরণের নিমিত্তে প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের নিকট থেকে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।			
ক্রমিক	পদের নাম, গ্রেড ও বেতন স্কেল (জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল, ২০১৫ অনুযায়ী)	পদের সংখ্যা	প্রয়োজনীয় যোগ্যতা
১।	ওয়ার্কশপ ইন্সট্রাক্টর গ্রেড-১০ম (১৬০০০-৩৮৬৪০)	০৯টি	বীকৃত কোন বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় বা প্রতিষ্ঠান হইতে সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ বিষয়ে ০৪ (চার) বছর মেয়াদী ডিপ্লোমা অথবা সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ বিষয়ে অনুল দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণির স্নাতক বা সমমানের ডিগ্রী বা সিজিপিএ ২.৫ (স্কেল ৪.০)
২।	ল্যাবরেটরী এ্যানালিস্ট গ্রেড-১৮তম (৮৮০০-২১৩১০)	০৫টি	বীকৃত কোন বোর্ড হইতে বিজ্ঞানে অনুল মাধ্যমিক স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ। সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ কাজের সার্টিফিকেট কোর্স ও বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা অতিরিক্ত যোগ্যতা হিসেবে বিবেচিত হইবে
৩।	বার্ভার গ্রেড-১৯তম (৮৫০০-২০৫৭০)	০৩টি	অনুল জুনিয়র স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট (জেএসসি) বা অষ্টম শ্রেণি বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণসহ সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ কাজে অনুল ০৪ (চার) বৎসরের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা
৪।	বাস হেল্পার গ্রেড-২০তম (৮২৫০-২০০১০)	০৪টি	অনুল জুনিয়র স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট (জেএসসি) বা অষ্টম শ্রেণি বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ। ড্রাইভিং লাইসেন্সপ্রাপ্ত ও গাড়ী চালনার পারদর্শী প্রার্থীদের অগ্রাধিকার প্রদান করা হইবে
৫।	নিরাপত্তা গ্রহরী গ্রেড-২০তম (৮২৫০-২০০১০)	০৭টি	অনুল জুনিয়র স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট (জেএসসি) বা অষ্টম শ্রেণি বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ। উচ্চতা অনুল ৫ ফুট ৬ ইঞ্চি। অস্ত্র-শস্ত্রাচীর (উপজাতি) প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে ৫ ফুট ৪ ইঞ্চি পর্যন্ত শিথিলযোগ্য। আনসার ও ভিডিও প্রশ্নোত্তর প্রার্থীদের অগ্রাধিকার প্রদান করা হইবে
৬।	মালী গ্রেড-২০তম (৮২৫০-২০০১০)	০৪টি	অনুল জুনিয়র স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট (জেএসসি) বা অষ্টম শ্রেণি বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ। কোন প্রতিষ্ঠানে বাগান পরিচর্যা ০২ (দুই) বছরের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা থাকিতে হইবে
৭।	গ্রাউন্ডসম্যান গ্রেড-২০তম (৮২৫০-২০০১০)	০৩টি	অনুল জুনিয়র স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট (জেএসসি) বা অষ্টম শ্রেণি বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ। প্রাথমিক সুস্থ্যহোর অবিকারী হইতে হইবে
৮।	সহকারী বার্ভার ২০তম (৮২৫০-২০০১০)	০২টি	অনুল জুনিয়র স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট (জেএসসি) বা অষ্টম শ্রেণি বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ। রান্নার কাজে দক্ষ প্রার্থীদের অগ্রাধিকার প্রদান করা হইবে
৯।	পরিষ্কারকারী গ্রেড-২০তম (৮২৫০-২০০১০)	০৪টি	অনুল প্রাইমারী স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট (পিএসসি) বা পঞ্চম শ্রেণি বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ। সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ কাজে ০২ (দুই) বছরের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা থাকিতে হইবে। পেশাদার পরিষ্কারকারী। হাবিজন সম্প্রদায় প্রার্থীদেরকে অগ্রাধিকার প্রদান করা হইবে
১০।	গ্রন্থক (বীর্বিজ্ঞান) গ্রেড-১০ম (১৬০০০-৩৮৬৪০)	০১টি	বীকৃত কোন বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হইতে বিজ্ঞান অথবা সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ বিষয়ে অনুল দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণির স্নাতক বা সমমানের ডিগ্রী বা সিজিপিএ ২.৫ (স্কেল ৪.০)
১১।	গ্রন্থক (পদার্থ বিজ্ঞান) গ্রেড-১০ম (১৬০০০-৩৮৬৪০)	০১টি	বীকৃত কোন বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় বা প্রতিষ্ঠান হইতে গ্রন্থপার বিজ্ঞান বিষয়ে ডিপ্লোমাসহ অনুল দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণির স্নাতক ডিগ্রী বা সিজিপিএ ২.৫ (স্কেল ৪.০)। কম্পিউটার পরিচালনার দক্ষতা অতিরিক্ত যোগ্যতা হিসেবে বিবেচিত হইবে
১২।	ল্যাবরেটরিয়ান গ্রেড-১০ম (১৬০০০-৩৮৬৪০)	০১টি	বীকৃত কোন বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় বা প্রতিষ্ঠান হইতে কম্পিউটার বিষয়ে ডিপ্লোমাসহ অনুল স্নাতক বা সমমানের ডিগ্রী
১৩।	কম্পিউটার অপারেটর গ্রেড-১০ম (১৬০০০-৩৮৬৪০)	০১টি	বীকৃত কোন বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় বা প্রতিষ্ঠান হইতে অনুল ফার্মেসী বিষয়ে ডিপ্লোমা প্রাপ্ত হইতে হইবে
১৪।	ফার্মাসিস্ট গ্রেড-১১তম (১২৫০০-৩০২৩০)	০৮টি	বীকৃত কোন প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে অনুল ফার্মেসী বিষয়ে ডিপ্লোমা প্রাপ্ত হইতে হইবে
১৫।	অফিস সহকারী-কাম কম্পিউটার মুদ্রাক্ষরিক গ্রেড-১৬তম (৯০০০-২২৪৯০)	০৪টি	বীকৃত কোন বোর্ড হইতে অনুল উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় অনুল দ্বিতীয় বিভাগ বা জিপিএ ২.৫ (স্কেল ৫.০)। ওয়ার্ড প্রসেসিং ও ভাটা এন্ট্রিতে পারদর্শী হইতে হইবে এবং কম্পিউটার টাইপিং এ প্রতি মিনিটে সর্বনিম্ন গতি বাংলা ২০ (বিশ) শব্দ ও ইংরেজি ২০ (বিশ) শব্দ
১৬।	ল্যাবরেটরী এ্যানালিস্ট (কম্পিউটার) গ্রেড-১৬তম (৯০০০-২২৪৯০)	০১টি	বীকৃত কোন বোর্ড হতে বিজ্ঞানে অনুল উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় অনুল দ্বিতীয় বিভাগে উত্তীর্ণ বা জিপিএ ২.৫ (স্কেল ৫.০)। কম্পিউটার পরিচালনার পারদর্শী হইতে হইবে
১৭।	হাসপাতাল এ্যানালিস্ট (পুরুষ) গ্রেড-১৮তম (৮৮০০-২১৩১০)	০১টি	বীকৃত কোন বোর্ড হইতে অনুল মাধ্যমিক স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় অনুল দ্বিতীয় বিভাগে উত্তীর্ণ বা জিপিএ ২.৫ (স্কেল ৫.০)। সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ কাজের সার্টিফিকেট কোর্স ও বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা অতিরিক্ত যোগ্যতা হিসেবে বিবেচিত হইবে
১৮।	সহকারী ইলেক্ট্রিশিয়ান গ্রেড-১৮তম (৮৮০০-২১৩১০)	০২টি	অনুল জুনিয়র স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট (জেএসসি) বা অষ্টম শ্রেণি বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণসহ কোন বীকৃত প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ বিষয়ে ট্রেড সার্টিফিকেট বা ইলেকট্রিক লাইসেন্সপ্রাপ্ত হইতে হইবে এবং সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ কাজে ০২ (দুই) বছরের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা থাকিতে হইবে
১৯।	সহকারী ম্যান গ্রেড-১৯তম (৮৫০০-২০৫৭০)	০২টি	অনুল জুনিয়র স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট (জেএসসি) বা অষ্টম শ্রেণি বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণসহ সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ কাজে ০৩ (তিন) বছরের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা
২০।	বিপুলার পলিন গ্রেড-১৯তম (৮৫০০-২০৫৭০)	০১টি	অনুল জুনিয়র স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট (জেএসসি) বা অষ্টম শ্রেণি বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণসহ সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ কাজে ০৩ (তিন) বৎসরের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা। বিউথলার কোর্স সম্পন্ন প্রাক্তন সেনাসভ্যদের অগ্রাধিকার প্রদান করা হইবে
২১।	অফিস সহায়ক গ্রেড-২০তম (৮২৫০-২০০১০)	০৭টি	অনুল জুনিয়র স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট (জেএসসি) বা অষ্টম শ্রেণি বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ
২২।	ড্রমমেট্রী বোয়ার (পুরুষ/মহিলা) গ্রেড-২০তম (৮২৫০-২০০১০)	০৩টি	
২৩।	মেসওয়েটার গ্রেড-২০তম (৮২৫০-২০০১০)	০৮টি	

২। আবেদনপত্র পূরণ এবং পরীক্ষার ফি জমাদান কর্তৃক ৩ শেখ হুজুর তারিখঃ আগামী ২০ মার্চ ২৫ হতে ২৪ এপ্রিল ২৫ তারিখ পর্যন্ত ক্যাডেট কলেজসমূহে উপরোক্ত পদসমূহে নিয়োগের আবেদনপত্র পূরণ, পরীক্ষার ফি জমাদান কার্যক্রম চলমান থাকবে।

৩। আবেদনপত্র প্রেরণের পদ্ধতিঃ অনুচ্ছেদ ১-এ বর্ণিত যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন অ্যাহী প্রার্থীগণ ক্যাডেট কলেজ পরিচালনা পরিষদের ওয়েবসাইট ([www.cadetcollege.army.mil.bd](http://www.cadetcollege.army.mil.bd)) হতে APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYEE IN CADET COLLEGE ডকুমেন্ট ডাউনলোডকরঃ আগামী ২৪ এপ্রিল ২০২৫ তারিখের মধ্যে নিম্নবর্ণিত ঠিকানায় প্রেরণ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

ক। অনুচ্ছেদ ১ এর ক্রমিক নং ১ হতে ০৯ পর্যন্ত পদবীর প্রার্থীগণ নিম্নবর্ণিত ঠিকানায় আবেদনপত্র প্রেরণ করবেন।

অধ্যক্ষ

ফৌজদারহাট ক্যাডেট কলেজ

খ। অনুচ্ছেদ ১ এর ক্রমিক নং ১০ হতে ২৩ পর্যন্ত পদবীর প্রার্থীগণ নিম্নবর্ণিত ঠিকানায় আবেদনপত্র প্রেরণ করবেন।

অধ্যক্ষ

ঝিনাইদহ ক্যাডেট কলেজ

৪। আবেদনপত্রের সাথে নিম্নে বর্ণিত কাগজপত্র সংযুক্ত করতে হবেঃ

ক। শিক্ষাক্রম যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতার সকল সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি।

খ। সম্প্রতি তোলা পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ০৪ (চার) কপি সত্যায়িত রঙীন ছবি।

গ। চারিত্রিক সনদপত্র (১ম শ্রেণির সরকারী গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত)।

ঘ। নাগরিকত্ব সনদপত্র (স্থানীয় ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের চেয়ারম্যান/পৌরসভার মেয়র/ওয়ার্ড কমিশনার কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত)।

ঙ। মুক্তিযোদ্ধা সনদ হিসেবে আবেদনকারী প্রার্থীদের উপযুক্ত কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক প্রদানকৃত বৈধ সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি।

চ। আবেদনপত্রের খামের উপর ডান পার্শ্বে পদের নাম উল্লেখ করতে হবে।

৫। আবেদন ফিঃ অ্যাহী প্রার্থীগণকে নিম্নে বর্ণিত নির্দেশনা মোতাবেক পরীক্ষার ফি প্রেরণ করতে হবেঃ

ক। অনুচ্ছেদ-১ এর ক্রমিক নং ১, ১০, ১১, ১২ এবং ১৩ এর জন্য - ২০০/-

খ। অনুচ্ছেদ-১ এর ক্রমিক নং ১৪ এর জন্য - ১৫০/-

গ। অনুচ্ছেদ-১ এর ক্রমিক নং ১৫ ও ১৬ এর জন্য - ১০০/-

ঘ। অনুচ্ছেদ-১ এর ক্রমিক নং ২, ৩, ৪, ৫, ৬, ৭, ৮, ৯, ১৭, ১৮, ১৯, ২০, ২১, ২২ এবং ২৩ এর জন্য - ৩০/-

৬। পরীক্ষার আবেদন ফি প্রেরণের ঠিকানাঃ অ্যাহী প্রার্থীগণ অনুচ্ছেদ-৫ এ উল্লেখিত নির্দেশনা মোতাবেক নির্ধারিত পরিমাণ টাকার অফেরতযোগ্য ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে অর্ডার নিম্নবর্ণিত ঠিকানায় প্রেরণ করতে হবেঃ

ক। অনুচ্ছেদ ১ এর ক্রমিক নং ১ হতে ৯ পর্যন্ত পদবীর প্রার্থীগণ।

অধ্যক্ষ, ফৌজদারহাট ক্যাডেট কলেজ, অ্যাহী ব্যাংকে লিমিটেড শিএলসি, ক্যাডেট কলেজ শাখা।

খ। অনুচ্ছেদ ১ এর ক্রমিক নং ১০ হতে ২৩ পর্যন্ত পদবীর প্রার্থীগণ।

অধ্যক্ষ, ঝিনাইদহ ক্যাডেট কলেজ, ট্রাষ্ট ব্যাংকে লিমিটেড শিএলসি, ক্যাডেট কলেজ শাখা।

৭। ০১ মার্চ ২০২৫ তারিখে প্রার্থীর বয়স ১৮ হতে ৩২ বছরের মধ্যে হতে হবে।

৮। চাকুরীরত প্রার্থীদেরকে যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে হবে। এক্ষেত্রে অ্যাহী আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়।

৯। অত্রিপূর্ণ ও অসম্পূর্ণ আবেদনপত্র বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।

১০। প্রার্থীকে সাাক্তের সময় সকল সনদপত্রের মূলকপি এবং অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র প্রদর্শন করতে হবে।

১১। সরকার কর্তৃক অনুমোদিত বেতন-ভাতা এবং ক্যাডেট কলেজে প্রচলিত অন্যান্য সুবিধা প্রদান করা হবে।

১২। প্রাপ্ত আবেদনপত্র বাছাইয়ের পর কেন্দ্রমাল উপযুক্ত প্রার্থীদের লিখিত পরীক্ষা আগামী ০৩ মে ২০২৫ তারিখ সকল ১০০০ ঘটিকার নিম্নবর্ণিত কেন্দ্রে অনুষ্ঠিত হবে।

ক। অনুচ্ছেদ ১ এর ক্রমিক নং ১ হতে ৯ পর্যন্ত পদবীর প্রার্থীগণ।

ফৌজদারহাট ক্যাডেট কলেজ, চট্টগ্রাম।

খ। অনুচ্ছেদ ১ এর ক্রমিক নং ১০ হতে ২৩ পর্যন্ত পদবীর প্রার্থীগণ।

ঝিনাইদহ ক্যাডেট কলেজ, ঝিনাইদহ।

১৩। পরীক্ষার জন্য কোন প্রকার টিএ/ডিএ প্রদান করা হবে না।

১৪। নিয়োগ সন্ক্রান্ত বিষয়ে নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।

১৫। সার্বিক পরিহিত্তি/যেকোন প্রাকৃতিক সুযোগ বিবেচনা করে অথবা কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তক্রমে উল্লিখিত পরীক্ষার তারিখ ও সময় পরিবর্তনযোগ্য।

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e-mail: eerhdfaridpur@gmail.com

## “গড়াই সেতুর ইজারা সংক্রান্ত গণ-বিজ্ঞপ্তি”

এতদ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, ২০২৪-২৫, ২০২৫-২৬, ২০২৬-২৭ অর্থ বছরে ফরিদপুর সড়ক বিভাগের অধীন দৌলতদিয়া-ফরিদপুর-মাগুরা-ঝিনাইদহ-যশোর-খুলনা-মংলা (দীঘরাজ) (এন-৭) জাতীয় মহাসড়কের ৬৬তম কিঃমিঃ এ অবস্থিত “গড়াই সেতুর” ইজারা কোটেশন নং- এফআরডি-০১/২০২৩-২৪ (১৬তম আস্তান) (সংশোধনীসহ) বিজ্ঞপ্তি অনিবার্য কারণবশত স্থগিত করা হলো।

(খালিদ সাইফুল্লাহ সরদার)  
পরিচিতি নং-৬০২২৮৭  
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী (চ.দা.), সওজ  
সড়ক বিভাগ, ফরিদপুর।



# Anticipation builds for a cinematic showdown this Eid



With Eid-ul-Fitr fast approaching, the Bangladeshi film industry is buzzing with excitement. Audiences are eagerly waiting for the new titles to release, and the promotional whirlwind has already begun.

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

From those tantalising teaser reveals to dialogues that are already winning over the hearts, this year's Eid promises a cracking line-up that has gotten everyone talking. Let's have a proper look at some of the most discussed teasers and promotional campaigns that are setting the stage for these grand releases.

Two years ago, Afran Nisho made a real splash with his silver-screen debut in *Surongo*, directed by Raihan Rafi. This Eid, after a bit of a break, he's back with *Daagi*, directed by Shihab Shaheen. Nisho's fans have been eagerly waiting for this one, and the recently released teaser has only cranked up the anticipation. Showing off a brand-new look for the actor, *Daagi's* teaser has certainly made an impression, with audiences especially taken by the line: "The stench of prison, once it's on you, makes you forever a *Daagi*." That dialogue has already become quite the talking point, buzzing across social media. This project will see Nisho and Tama

Mirza duo once again.

Meanwhile, another much anticipated Eid release is *Jongli*, starring Siam Ahmed. The film's teaser, packed with intensity and raw energy, hints at a proper cinematic treat. Over the years, Siam has successfully shifted from those romantic roles to more diverse characters, and *Jongli* seems to be pushing

**Celebrated actor Mosharraf Karim makes his big screen return with *Chokkor 302*, where he plays Detective Moinul, a character dedicated to solving intricate mysteries. Directed by Sharaf Ahmed Zibon, the teaser has been widely appreciated, giving audiences a taste of the suspense and intrigue.**

that transformation even further. The teaser introduces a rugged, bearded Siam, walking purposefully with sunglasses on, while the dialogue "Gunpowder, fire, and air—when they unite, smoke rises" has already found its way into everyday conversations among film enthusiasts.

The film unites Bubly and Siam after they

collaborate on the web-film *Taan*, alongside Siam's first collaboration with Dighi.

No Eid is complete without a Shakib Khan blockbuster. The superstar returns with *Borbaad*, sparking quite the debate about how it will fare against the other Eid releases. Social media is abuzz with reactions to its teaser, particularly the chemistry between

Directed by Sharaf Ahmed Zibon, the teaser has been widely appreciated, giving audiences a taste of the suspense and intrigue. Additionally, a promotional video has been released, which has caught the attention of film enthusiasts.

Shajal Noor and Nusraat Faria's upcoming supernatural thriller, *Jinn 3*, is taking a slightly different approach to its promotional campaign. Instead of a teaser, the film has focused on songs and posters to build anticipation. The film's romantic track *Konya* was released yesterday, featuring the lead pair in a captivating performance. The film's team has been actively engaging audiences with visually striking posters, making sure the hype stays strong ahead of its release.

The festive cinematic landscape is shaping up to be one of the most exciting in recent years, with a diverse range of films catering to all sorts of tastes. From those intense action-packed thrillers to supernatural dramas, the industry is set to deliver a memorable festive season for cinephiles.

## NEWS

### Freeze stolen assets parked in UK

FROM PAGE 1

"It's a challenge to try to recover these assets. One reason I'm here is because I'm seeking your support in building a consensus and creating political pressure," said Mansur, briefing the group.

The government is cognisant of the fact that money recovery takes four to five years, and that goes beyond the time the interim administration has, he said.

"What we are looking for is the kind of asset freeze that becomes difficult to undo for the next government."

The Bangladesh side pointed out that major destinations of the stolen funds included the UK, Singapore, Dubai, Canada, and the US. In the UK, properties were bought with the money.

"The UK is the first country we would like to get help from.... If something positive happens in the UK's legal system, there are global ramifications," said the governor. He also sought the British government's support in lobbying other countries to do the same.

He said that the government is already in discussion with asset tracing firms and would meet with

law firms and litigation sponsors on Wednesday.

"There is limited information about assets abroad. We are counting on information sharing between the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit and financial investigation units of different countries."

The governor sought action against former land minister Saifuzzaman Chowdhury Javed and Sheikh Hasina's former adviser Salman F Rahman.

"You may have heard of Saifuzzaman Choudhury, former land minister of Bangladesh and also a chairman of one of the private banks. He diverted funds from his bank and misused power. We are looking at those banks which have been seriously impacted by people like Bexinco Group's Salman F Rahman, who has \$4.5 million worth of non-performing assets diverted."

Mansur also spoke about how large sums were taken out of Islami Bank. "This is the largest private sector bank and the second largest bank. Between 2017 and 2024, 85 percent of new loans were taken by the same family. On average, their portfolio was

impacted by 55 percent.

"Since 2017, there has been a systematic robbing of our banking system. The banks were being handed over to a few key groups who were known to be fund diverters."

The chosen people were put in the banks using government machinery, including the intelligence agencies.

"It was very unfortunate that the former government gave some people superpowers to divert funds. In some cases, for example, 87 percent of the bank deposits were taken away, directly or indirectly by one group. The money is gone."

Bangladesh Bank has hired global accountancy firms EY, Deloitte, and KPMG for an "asset quality review" of six banks, the governor said. Five of these banks have shares linked to S Alam Group.

"We, the government, have to compensate for the money that has been taken away. There is no free lunch. The gap that has been created has to be filled either by printing money or by some other type of loan financing, which will cost general taxpayers. The ordinary people will have to pay the full price."

### AL govt sought to pour Tk 277cr

FROM PAGE 12

The entire cost was borne by the government exchequer, with planned expenditures of Tk 47.25 crore this fiscal year, Tk 49.48 crore in fiscal 2025-26, Tk 55.75 crore in fiscal 2026-27, Tk 60.61 crore in fiscal 2027-28, and Tk 64.54 crore in fiscal 2028-29.

This plan came crashing down with the fall of the Hasina-led government.

The Bangladesh government should have managed the financial transaction-related systems, but the previous regime snatched control from the central bank to financially benefit individuals

close to the administration, Ahmad said.

For this, they deliberately weakened the National Payment Switch Bangladesh, he added.

"The interoperability of MFS is facing challenges because the previous government handed it over to the ICT ministry and a shell company has been created by Joy, introducing a platform called Binimoy, which is no longer functioning," said BB Governor Ahsan H Mansur on January 29.

Binimoy is currently non-operational.

"The deal was made with the companies for maintenance and

operation. But after August 5, they disappeared. We are not willing to continue with such companies," said Arif Hossain Khan, the central bank's spokesperson.

BB is now working to replace Binimoy with a new platform under its control.

"We are in discussions with the Gates Foundation, which has an internationally applied application already launched in 15 countries. We plan to test it and quickly implement it," Mansur said in the roundtable on January 29.

The Daily Star could not reach Velwire, Zareef and Zarif Munir for comment.

ACC DG Akhtar.

In the cases, Shahin has been accused of obtaining illegal wealth worth Tk 42.47 crore. Additionally, he allegedly conducted suspicious transactions amounting to Tk 341.62 crore in 29 bank accounts under his name.

His wife Farhana has been accused of amassing illegal assets worth Tk 11.20 crore.

### Conspiracy unfolding against BNP, Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 12

Zia Cyber Force organised the iftar at a city hotel to honour online activists.

Tarique said there had been a plot in the past against the country, its people, and democracy.

In recent days, he said, they have observed that the BNP has been subjected to a media trial, as the party has the highest chances of gaining support from voters.

The BNP acting chief also said he came across media reports yesterday involving party leaders and activists in an untoward incident.

After gathering information from the party's central office, he found that the incident was misrepresented in newspapers.

"A vested quarter, or those conspiring against the BNP, the nationalist forces, and the independence and sovereignty of the country, are gradually trying to create a scenario similar to the media trial the BNP was subjected to during the 1/11 political changeover, by using certain media houses to which they are connected," Tarique observed.

Tarique called upon the nationalist cyber forces to be vigilant about such plots, saying, "Those of you who are online activists must realise this."

He also urged pro-BNP online activists to play a crucial role in countering such plots by circulating facts and genuine information on social media.

He recalled with gratitude the role of the pro-BNP online activists in mobilising anti-fascist public support during the Hasina regime.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir too acknowledged the role of online activists in "movements against the Awami League regime over the last 17 years".

"They made many sacrifices and endured serious repression during the fascist regime," he said.

Referring to online activists as cyber warriors, Fakhrul said they have to once again play a major role in thwarting the plot against the country and BNP.

### 20 hurt in Barguna

FROM PAGE 2

brought the situation under control. Mostafizur alleged that the attackers also looted donation boxes. He said, "I demand punishment for those responsible."

Contacted, Islami Andolan Bangladesh leader Gazi Bayezid admitted that their supporters went to the shrine and urged the custodian to stop the music and rituals as it was the month of Ramadan.

He claimed, "When he [the custodian] refused and his followers attacked Maulana Omar Faruq Jehadi, the shrike was vandalised."

Asked, Maulana Omar said, "This shrine is a den of frauds where drug abuse and immoral activities happen

in the name of urs. We asked the custodian to stop these activities during the holy month of Ramadan, but he refused. Instead, his men attacked us. I demand punishment for the custodian and his accomplices."

Mohammad Hanif, warehouse inspector at Amtali Fire Station, said, "We managed to douse the blaze by 2:30am, but the overhead covering and two halls were already destroyed in the fire."

OC Md Ariful Islam said police brought the situation under control.

Legal action would be taken after investigation, he added.

UNO Ashraful said, "Strict action will be taken against those involved in the incident."

### Putin, Trump to discuss

from page 12

The US president last spoke to Putin last month in a call that broke Western efforts to isolate the Russian leader as long as his forces keep up their Ukraine offensive.

Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff met Putin last Thursday in Moscow to present the details of the joint ceasefire plan, which envisages a 30-day pause in hostilities.

Witkoff told CNN he expected some sort of deal in the "coming weeks".

Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelensky has reacted with anger to Putin's statements, accusing him of wanting to prolong the fighting.

On Saturday, Zelensky warned that Moscow wanted to first "improve their situation on the battlefield" before agreeing to any ceasefire.

Moscow has been pressing ahead in several areas of the front for over a year.

On Monday, Russia claimed its forces had captured Stepove — a village in Ukraine's southern Zaporizhzhia region — although open-source battlefield maps showed it outside Moscow's control.

Russia has also in the past two weeks mounted a major counter offensive against Ukrainian troops in its Kursk region.

Moscow last week retook the main town that Ukraine seized in its summer 2024 incursion, Sudzha, and swathes of areas around it.

Russia has said it has moved

several hundred civilians that were previously trapped in Kyiv-held areas.

Ukraine has conceded it is in a difficult position in the region but denies its troops are surrounded.

Zelensky replaced his army's chief of general staff last week as Kyiv's front line troops continued to struggle.

After a brief lull in drone fire last week, both sides appeared to have stepped up attacks yesterday.

### DMP chief

FROM PAGE 12

On Saturday, Sajjat Ali at an event organised by the Broadcast Journalist Centre (BJC) in the capital said, "I strongly dislike the word 'rape'. I request you not to use it. Instead, use terms like 'violence against women' or 'repression of women'. Even the law is called the 'Women and Children Repression [Prevention] Act.' Let's avoid words that sound unpleasant."

The remarks sparked outrage among rights activists and the general public.

The Chief Adviser's Office on Sunday condemned the DMP commissioner's call on the media not to use the term "rape" in their reporting.

"Rape is rape, whether committed against an 8-year-old or an 80-year-old. Such a heinous crime must be called by its rightful name," said a statement issued by the CA Press Wing.



# Yemenis vow to defy US

## Death toll from US strikes rises to 53; Huthis claim targeting US aircraft carrier

AFP, Sanaa

Huge crowds joined protests in rebel-controlled Yemen on Monday after deadly US strikes killed dozens and sparked fears of a new cycle of violence in the conflict-torn country.

Tens of thousands of demonstrators, many waving assault rifles, daggers or Korans, chanted "Death to America, death to Israel!" in the capital Sanaa.

There were also large crowds in Saada, birthplace of the Iran-backed Huthi movement, and demonstrations in Dhamar, Hodeida and Amran, footage from the rebels' Al-Masirah TV station showed.

"Yemen will never back down – we defy the Americans, we defy the Zionists," said a man shouting slogans to the Sanaa crowd, who chanted back: "We are the men of the prophet."

The protests came after the first US strikes on Yemen under President Donald Trump, aimed at ending the Huthis' Red Sea harassment campaign, which killed 53 people and wounded 98 on Saturday.

The rebels, at war with a Saudi-led coalition for a decade, launched scores of attacks on ships in the vital route during the Gaza war, claiming solidarity with the Palestinians.

Earlier yesterday, they said they had attacked the USS Harry S. Truman aircraft carrier group twice within 24 hours. There was no comment from the United States.

Washington has vowed to keep hitting Yemen until the rebels stop attacking Red Sea shipping, with Trump warning he would use "overwhelming lethal force".

On Sunday, US officials vowed further bombardments until the rebels ended their campaign against Red Sea shipping, while also threatening action against the group's sponsor Iran.

Huthi media reported more explosions late on Sunday, accusing the Americans of targeting a cotton facility in the Hodeida region and the Galaxy Leader, a cargo ship hijacked in November 2023.

The United Nations urged both sides to "cease all military activity", while expressing concern over Huthi threats to resume the Red Sea attacks.

Beijing called for "dialogue and negotiation" and a de-escalation of tensions.



Students yesterday gather at the University of Skopje during a memorial ceremony a day after a fire tore through an overcrowded nightclub packed with mostly young people in North Macedonia killing 59 revellers in Skopje. Some 155 people who were injured in the inferno had been taken to hospitals across the country, 22 of them in critical condition, officials said.

PHOTO: AFP

# Canada PM seeks 'reliable' EU allies after Trump threats

AFP, Paris

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney yesterday said that his country was seeking to reinforce ties with "reliable" European allies, as he embarked on a transatlantic trip after his country's economy and even sovereignty came under unprecedented threat from its southern neighbour the United States.

Carney, the former Bank of England governor who succeeded Justin Trudeau last week, conspicuously chose key Europe powers France and the United Kingdom, rather than the United States, for his first foreign visits after President Donald Trump ramped up the rhetoric against Canada.

Describing Canada as the "most European of non-European



countries", Carney said his nation needed to boost ties with European allies like France while trying to retain positive relations with the United States.

"It is more important than ever for Canada to reinforce its ties with reliable allies like France," Carney said during a press conference with President Emmanuel Macron at the Elysee Palace on his first trip abroad since becoming prime minister on Friday.

"I want to ensure that France and the whole of Europe works enthusiastically with Canada, the most European of non-European countries, determined like you to maintain the most positive possible relations with the United States," Carney said.

Carney faces threats on three fronts: a trade war with the Washington, Trump's threats to annex his country, and looming domestic elections.

Trump's imposition of an escalating raft of import tariffs on Canadian goods has threatened to trigger a recession, and his scorn for Canadian sovereignty sent jitters through the former ally.

Opinion polls show a large majority of Canadian voters reject Trump's argument that their country would be better off as the "51st state of the United States".

# Trump's freeze of VOA, others risks aiding enemies: EU

AFP, Brussels

The EU yesterday warned that President Donald Trump's freeze on US-funded media outlets, including Radio Free Europe, risked "benefitting our common adversaries".

Trump's administration at the weekend started laying off staff at Voice of America and other broadcasters including Prague-based Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty after freezing their funding.

"We see these media outlets really as beacons of truth, of democracy, and of hope for millions of people around the world," said European Commission spokeswoman Paula Pinho.

"Freedom of the press... is critical for democracy. And this decision risks benefitting our common adversaries," she said, without naming countries, groups or individuals.

Pinho added that the freeze would be discussed during a meeting of EU foreign ministers in Brussels on Monday.

Founded by the United States during the Cold War to counter Soviet propaganda, RFE/RL was banned across the communist bloc including former Czechoslovakia, where regimes regularly jammed its signal.

# 80% of Afghan ops risk shutdown by June: WHO

AFP, Kabul

The World Health Organization yesterday said 80 percent of services that it supports in Afghanistan could shut down by June due to a funding shortage.

The UN health agency said the cash shortfall, which comes amid massive US aid cuts, is tied to a shift in "development aid priorities".

"Without urgent intervention, over 220 more facilities could close by June 2025, leaving an additional 1.8 million Afghans without access to primary health care," WHO said in a statement.

The agency said that 167 such operations have already closed due to a lack of financial support.

The Taliban government is not recognised internationally and relies largely on NGOs, UN agencies and aid donors to keep the health system afloat.



# DUTERTE'S ICC ARREST

## Philippine Senate launches probe

AFP, Manila

The Philippine Senate yesterday said it will conduct a formal probe of ex-president Rodrigo Duterte's arrest and swift handover last week to the International Criminal Court, which is to try him for alleged crimes against humanity.

The 79-year-old, the first Asian former head of state charged by the ICC, stands accused of the crime against humanity of murder over his years-long campaign against drug users and dealers that rights groups have said killed thousands.

The probe was initiated by Senator Imee Marcos, sister of President Ferdinand Marcos but a close friend of Duterte's eldest daughter, Vice President Sara Duterte.



The two families have had a spectacular falling out since Marcos teamed with Duterte to win an election landslide in 2022. The latter has since been impeached on charges that include an alleged assassination plot against the president.

"As chairperson of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, I

am calling for an urgent investigation into the arrest of former President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, an issue that has deeply divided the nation," Imee Marcos said in a statement Monday.

"It is imperative to establish whether due process was followed and to ensure that his legal rights were not just upheld but protected," she said, adding: "Our sovereignty and legal processes must remain paramount."

Duterte was arrested at Manila airport on March 11 after a brief trip to Hong Kong and flown to the Netherlands just hours later where he was turned over to the ICC.

The Senate has set a public hearing for Thursday and invited top police and other government officials to give evidence.

বাংলাদেশ কৃষি গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট

ভূমি ও ইমারত শাখা

Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute

Gazipur-1701

Memo no. 12.21.0000.010.41.468.20.1269

Date: 16.03.2025

e-TENDER NOTICE

Tender is invited Through National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for procurement of following works:

Sl no	Tender ID No.	Tendering Method	Description of works	Online (e-GP system) tender publication date & time	Online (e-GP system) tender closing date & time
1.	1085237	LTM	Repairing & Renovation of Turag-1, Surma-58 no. Tinshed House at BARI, Gazipur.	12-Mar-2025 17:30	27-Mar-2025 12:00
2.	1086852	OTM	Painting wooden & Steel Furniture for Guest House at BARI, Gazipur.	12-Mar-2025 17:00	27-Mar-2025 12:00
3.	1085252	LTM	Repairing & Renovation of Surma-66 to 70 no. Tinshed House at BARI, Gazipur.	12-Mar-2025 16:40	27-Mar-2025 12:00
4.	1086807	LTM	Repairing and Renovation of B-3/D Quarters at BARI, Gazipur.	12-Mar-2025 16:30	27-Mar-2025 12:00
5.	1086964	LTM	Repairing & Renovation of Master Colony -1 no. House at BARI, Gazipur.	12-Mar-2025 15:45	27-Mar-2025 12:00

This is online tender, only e-Tender will be accepted in National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted. Registration is essential to submit e-Tender.

Fees have to be deposited for downloading the tender documents from e-GP Portal through any registered bank. For further information please contact e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

Budget Type : Revenue

Engr. Md. Ferozur Rahman

Superintending Engineer (In-charge)

GD-688

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

মহিলা বিষয়ক অধিদপ্তর

দিবায়ত্ত শাখা

৩৭/৩, ইন্সটন গার্ডেন রোড, ঢাকা

স্মারক নং-৩২.০১.০০০০.০০৭.০৭.০৪৬.২২-১০১৭

তারিখঃ ১৭/০৩/২০২৫খ্রিঃ

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

মহিলা বিষয়ক অধিদপ্তরবাহী ঢাকাস্থ ১২টি শিশু দিবায়ত্ত কেন্দ্রের (মহিলা, ডেমরা, বাজরা, রাজারবাগ, নাখালপাড়া, উত্তরা, প্র্যানিং কমিশন, মিরপুর-১০, গাবতলী, সাভার, আদাবর ও জিগাতলা) শিশুদের জন্য মাসিক ভিত্তিতে একটানা ১২ (বার) মাস (সরকারি ছুটির দিন ব্যতীত) খাদ্য প্রবাসী করে লক্ষ্যে The Public Procurement Act, 2006 এর বিধিমালা, ২০০৮ অনুযায়ী নিম্নোক্ত শর্তাবলি প্রকৃত সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

১। মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগের নাম	মহিলা ও শিশু বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়।
২। বাস্তবায়নকারী সংস্থার নাম	মহিলা বিষয়ক অধিদপ্তর।
৩। সংগ্রাহক স্বত্বার নাম	মহাপরিচালক, মহিলা বিষয়ক অধিদপ্তর।
৪। ক্রয়/সংগ্রহের স্বত্বাধিকারী জেলা	ঢাকা
৫। ক্রয়/সংগ্রহের স্বত্বাধিকারী কোড নং	৩-৩০২১-০০০০-৩২৫৪০০২
৬। দরপত্র আহ্বানের কারণ ও উদ্দেশ্য	ঢাকাস্থ ১২টি শিশু দিবায়ত্ত কেন্দ্রের শিশুদের জন্য খাদ্য প্রবাসী ক্রয়।
৭। দরপত্র আহ্বানের সূত্র ও তারিখ	৩২.০১.০০০০.০০৭.০৭.০৪৬.২২-১০১৭ তারিখঃ ১৭/০৩/২০২৫খ্রিঃ
৮। ক্রয়/সংগ্রহ পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (OTM)
৯। বাজেট এবং তহবিলের উৎস	রাজস্ব (জিওবি)
১০। দরপত্র প্যাকেজ এর নাম	খাদ্য সামগ্রী ক্রয়
১১। দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের সময়সীমা	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তারিখ হতে ০৭/০৪/২০২৫ তারিখ বিকাল ৪০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১২। ক। দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়সীমা	০৮/০৪/২০২৫ তারিখ বেলা ১২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত
খ। দরপত্র বন্ধ হওয়ার তারিখ ও সময়সীমা	০৮/০৪/২০২৫ তারিখ বেলা ১২:০১ ঘটিকা
১৩। দরপত্র বন্ধ হওয়ার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	০৮/০৪/২০২৫ তারিখ বেলা ২:৩০ ঘটিকা, দরপত্র উন্মুক্তকরণ কমিটির সভাপতি ও উপপরিচালক (দিবায়ত্ত), মহিলা বিষয়ক অধিদপ্তর এর অফিস কক্ষ।
১৪। দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়কারী অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	ক) মহিলা বিষয়ক অধিদপ্তর, শিশু দিবায়ত্ত শাখা (৭ম তলা), ৩৭/৩, ইন্সটন গার্ডেন রোড, ঢাকা-১০০০। খ) মহিলা ও শিশু বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়, কক্ষ নং ৮১১ (৮ম তলা) পরিবহন পুল ভবন, সচিবালয় লিকে রোড, ঢাকা। গ) উপপরিচালকের কার্যালয়, মহিলা বিষয়ক অধিদপ্তর, লালমাটিয়া, ঢাকা।
১৫। দরপত্র গ্রহণের জন্য অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	ক) মহিলা বিষয়ক অধিদপ্তর, প্রশাসন শাখা (২য় তলা), ৩৭/৩, ইন্সটন গার্ডেন রোড, ঢাকা-১০০০। খ) মহিলা ও শিশু বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়, কক্ষ নং ৮১১ (৮ম তলা) পরিবহন পুল ভবন, সচিবালয় লিকে রোড, ঢাকা।
১৬। দরদাতার যোগাযোগ	প্রকৃত সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, হালনাগাদ আয়কর ও ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সার্টিফিকেট, দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ হতে দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ এর মধ্যে প্রতিটি কেন্দ্রের জন্য কমপক্ষে ৩,০০,০০০/- (তিন লক্ষ) টাকা আর্থিক স্বচ্ছলতার নদন এবং খাদ্য প্রবাসী সরবরাহের ২(দুই) বছরের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে, যা দরপত্র প্রস্তাবের সাথে প্রদানযোগ্য। সকল কাগজপত্র প্রথম শ্রেণির গেজেটেড অফিসার কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত (নামাঙ্কিত সীলসহ) থাকতে হবে।
১৭। দরপত্র তফসিলের মূল্য	প্রতিটি কেন্দ্রের প্রতিটি সিডিউলের মূল্য ১,০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা মাত্র।
১৮। দরপত্র সিডিউল সংক্রান্ত তথ্যাদি।	

কাজের বিবরণ	কাজের অবস্থান	দরপত্র সিডিউলটির পরিমাণ	সরবরাহের সময় (দিন/সপ্তাহ/মাস)
খাদ্য সামগ্রী এর	মহিলা, ডেমরা, বাজরা, রাজারবাগ, নাখালপাড়া, উত্তরা, প্র্যানিং কমিশন, মিরপুর ১০, গাবতলী, সাভার, আদাবর ও জিগাতলা	১) ৫০ শিশু বিশিষ্ট কেন্দ্রের জন্য ২৫,০০০/- (পঁচিশ হাজার) টাকা।	কার্যাদেশ প্রদানের তারিখ হতে একটানা ১২ (বার) মাস।

১৯। দরপত্র সিডিউল সংগ্রহের উপায়

২০। দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর নাম, পদবী, ঠিকানা ও টেলিফোন নম্বর

২১। বিশেষ নির্দেশাবলী

দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য বাবদ ১,০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক/সোনালী ব্যাংক ট্রেজারী চালানের মাধ্যমে (কোড নং-১৩০০২০১১১৮১৮২-১৪২২৩২৮) জমা প্রদানপূর্বক চালানের মূলকপি প্রদর্শনকরতঃ অফিস সময়ের মধ্যে ১৪নং ক্রমিক উল্লেখিত কার্যালয়সমূহ থেকে সিডিউল সংগ্রহ করা যাবে।

মোছাঃ কানিজ তাজিয়া, উপপরিচালক (অতিঃ দায়ঃ), দিবায়ত্ত শাখা, মহিলা বিষয়ক অধিদপ্তর, ৩৭/৩, ইন্সটন গার্ডেন রোড, ঢাকা। ফোনঃ ০২২২২২২১১৯৬।

ক) কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন দরপত্র/সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

মোছাঃ কানিজ তাজিয়া

উপপরিচালক (অতিঃ দায়ঃ)

দিবায়ত্ত শাখা

মহিলা বিষয়ক অধিদপ্তর, ঢাকা

GD-694



## Prudent budget planning is essential

CPD’s pre-budget talks emphasise the need to focus on macroeconomic stability

In a number of pre-budget discussions in the capital on Sunday, economists rightly stressed the need for designing a national budget for the upcoming fiscal year in a way that prioritises macroeconomic stability. They also emphasised the need for tax policy revision and tariff reforms in line with the World Trade Organization (WTO) regulations to aid in Bangladesh’s preparation for graduating from the Least Developed Country (LDC) bracket in November 2026. Given the the country’s ongoing economic challenges, we believe these recommendations are timely and should be considered.

In its discussions, the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) said targeted interventions are required to address the economic challenges, and these should be incorporated into the new budget to ensure fiscal prudence—maximising the use of our scarce resources. At the same time, as Bangladesh transitions into a developing economy, it must phase out direct export incentives to meet WTO standards and employ alternative WTO-compliant measures. Revision of agricultural trade policies, elimination of minimum import prices on certain goods, and adjustment of tariff structures to keep custom duties aligned with the bound tariff commitments that Bangladesh made under the WTO agreements are also necessary for maintaining compliance in the post-LDC graduation scenario.

Ensuring WTO compliance is of utmost importance as Bangladesh is set to lose the perks and waivers that come with the LDC status. CPD also advised the government to plan for legal counselling, in depth trade policy analysis, and proper dispute resolution mechanisms—steps we think are essential for securing a favourable position in trade relations with other nations.

Meanwhile, at another discussion with the government, the CPD chief suggested formulating strict legislation to prevent tax evasion, track wealthy tax dodgers, and increase revenue through direct taxation. Bangladesh has long had one of the lowest tax GDP ratios in the world. It’s high time this was corrected, and to do so, the authorities must ensure that all eligible taxpayers, including influential individuals, are held accountable. Moreover, the recent increase in VAT and supplementary duties should be reconsidered—something that we have also stressed for quite some time—as raising revenue through indirect taxes is placing undue burdens on ordinary and poor citizens already struggling with high inflation.

These are all recommendations worth serious consideration. As the next fiscal year is going to be a crucial one amid all the uncertainties caused by the July uprising, the national budget must reflect prudent and strategic thinking on the government’s part. Long-term policies to address persistent and potential setbacks should be integrated into budget preparations to ensure Bangladesh is adequately prepared for the challenges that lie ahead.

## Equip highway police properly

They must be able to prevent crimes on the highways

We are concerned about the challenges Highway Police have been facing in performing their duties. Reportedly, this special unit of the police—established nearly two decades ago to ensure public safety on the highways—is struggling to prevent frequent robberies and other crimes due to insufficient manpower, inadequate logistical support, and the absence of a modern, technology-driven policing system. Headquartered in a rented house in Uttara, it faces an acute shortage of personnel and vehicles, making highway patrolling difficult. Without such basic support, how are they expected to prevent crimes?

Over the past few months, highway robberies have increased alarmingly, with armed gangs frequently ambushing buses, trucks, and private vehicles, especially at night. Regional roads have become particularly vulnerable after dark, with returning expatriates, businessmen, and goods-laden trucks being the most frequent targets of these criminal gangs. According to data from the Police Headquarters, 171 robbery cases were recorded in January and 153 in February, marking a significant rise from this period last year. For instance, on February 17, there was a major incident in which a gang hijacked a bus near Mirzapur, Tangail, assaulting passengers and looting valuables. On February 21, armed criminals robbed passengers and drivers on the Dhaka Sylhet highway. Many similar incidents have been reported in the media of late. Unfortunately, the Highway Police failed to play the role expected of them in preventing such incidents.

The Highway Police has an estimated 90 vehicles and around 3,000 personnel to cover over 3,000 kilometres of highways across Bangladesh, while they actually need at least 250 vehicles and 6,000 officers. Many police stations or outposts do not even have a single patrol vehicle, forcing officers to patrol on foot or in rented vehicles. Moreover, a shortage of arms and ammunition has further weakened them. Additionally, the force’s wireless communication system has a range of just two kilometres, severely hindering coordination among units. These are some of the major challenges facing officers and contributing to the deteriorating safety situation on the highways.

We, therefore, urge the government to strengthen this unit by addressing all the challenges urgently so that they can do their job properly. The recent incidents of robberies have left citizens extremely worried. Only a well-organised and properly equipped police force can ensure the safety of our highways.

## THIS DAY IN HISTORY

### Chen Shui-bian elected president of Taiwan

On this day in 2000, Chen Shui-bian, leader of the pro-independence movement that sought statehood for the Republic of China (Taiwan), was elected president of Taiwan, breaking the Nationalist Party’s 55-year rule.

# How parties can reach a consensus on reforms and elections



Dr Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir is a professor in the Department of Development Studies at the University of Dhaka.

RASHED AL MAHMUD TITUMIR

In a previous article published in this daily, “Towards a common minimum reform programme,” I argued that Bangladesh’s deep-rooted political and economic crises demand a consensus-based approach to reform. The interim government’s ongoing dialogue with political parties presents a critical opportunity to forge such a consensus. Prolonged uncertainty or a rigid “reform first, elections later” or “my way or the highway” stance will only deepen the crisis. Instead, political parties can thrash out a common minimum reform programme (CMRP)—a set of core reforms based on the max-min principle, where the maximum number of parties agree on a minimum set of urgent measures.

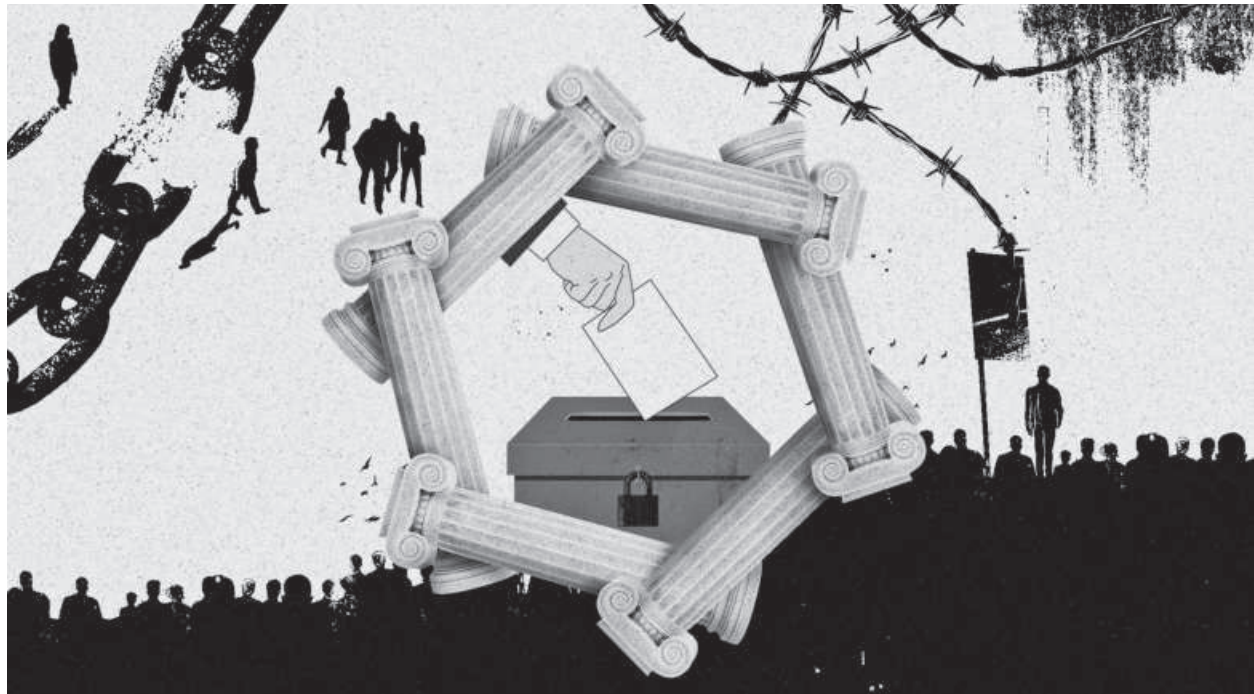
The CMRP is not a panacea, rather a necessary first step towards restoring stability, ensuring democratic governance, and unleashing the economic recovery. At its heart, the CMRP could focus on three core issues: peaceful transition of power, free and fair elections, and representational public order. These are not just political ideals but urgent necessities for Bangladesh’s progress. The July 2024 uprising was a clear rejection of the status quo—a demand for a new social contract based on equity, democratic accountability, and economic justice. Fortunately, the recommendations of reform commissions covering elections, public administration, the judiciary, anti-corruption measures, and police activities provide a foundation for engagements and building consensus. Here is an outline of specific areas where political parties could engage in conversation to find common ground.

#### Breaking the cycle of one-party dominance

The absence of peaceful transitions of power has perpetuated political instability and eroded public trust. There is no denying the need for constitutional safeguards to ensure a neutral body to oversee elections, as was the case under the indigenously crafted caretaker government system. Political parties could also agree on a binding commitment to respect election results and refrain from violence or obstructionism during transitions. These measures would help level the playing field and restore confidence in the democratic process.

Political parties are already talking

about instituting checks and balances on the executives, including the powers of president and prime minister, and their terms of office. There is also an agreement to establish a bicameral parliament. Importantly, there is a consensus on increased participation of women, and political parties could work to ensure such representation in the parliament. Additionally, political parties could agree on campaign finance regulations to limit the



VISUAL: ANWAR SOHEL

influence of money in politics and ensure accountability in campaign funding. Another area of discussion is ensuring inclusive participation in elections by guaranteeing equal opportunities for all political parties, including smaller ones.

#### Restoring voter confidence

There are proposals to address the flaws in the current electoral system. These include implementing biometric voter verification systems to eliminate ghost voters and ensure the integrity of the voter list. Restructuring of the Election Commission to ensure its independence from political influence enjoys broad public support. Commissioners could be appointed through a transparent, multi-party process. Furthermore, ensuring equal access to state and private media for

all political parties during campaigns is an agreeable agenda. Finally, inviting reputable international organisations to monitor elections and provide impartial assessments would enhance transparency and credibility.

#### Safeguarding democracy and accountability

The erosion of democratic institutions and the rise of autocratic tendencies have created a culture of impunity. There is emerging consensus for ensuring the independence of the judiciary, including transparent appointments and fixed tenures for judges. These reforms are essential for restoring public trust and could form part of the CMRP. Similarly, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) must operate free from political interference, guaranteeing transparent appointments, and be equipped with adequate resources and

In addition to ensuring judicial independence by freeing the judiciary from executive and political influence, another area of likely consensus is expediting case resolution by increasing the number of judges and improving court infrastructure.

#### A call to action

The dialogue convened by the interim government is a historic opportunity to chart a new course for Bangladesh. As the political parties are pledging for the national interest above partisan scoring, they must walk the talk.

The CMRP is not about achieving perfection; it is about achieving the possible. While parties may differ on broader ideological issues, they can agree on core reforms, which are essential for restoring stability and legitimacy. To facilitate this consensus, the interim government and National Consensus Commission must act to

authority to investigate corruption cases independently.

Also, power must be devolved to local governments to ensure participatory democracy and reduce centralisation to establish a citizen’s republic. This aligns with a representational public order and could be included in the CMRP. Additionally, the depoliticisation of the police service and ensuring its accountability to the public rather than to the party in power is a basic minimum for a long-drawn process of reforms in civil services. Finally, reorienting police as a part of community is a reform that political parties could support. These reforms are critical for restoring public trust in law enforcement and ensuring a fair and impartial administration of justice.

ensure that the dialogue process is inclusive, transparent, and focused on the national interest. Civil society, media, and academia also have a role to play in holding parties accountable and advocating for reforms that serve the public good.

By agreeing on core reforms, political parties can restore public trust, ensure stability, and create the conditions for free and fair elections. From there, an elected government can undertake the broader reforms—based on the consensus in the dialogue and people’s mandate—needed to address the aspirations of citizens. The people of Bangladesh deserve nothing less than an inclusive, democratic, and prosperous future. Let us seize this moment and chart a new course for our nation.

# We must be economical in our energy use



Shafiqul Alam is lead energy analyst for Bangladesh at the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA).

SHAFIQU ALAM

Bangladesh faces another summer of surging power demand. This year, the irrigation season and Ramadan both coincide with summer, adding to the demand. In the face of this challenge, the Ministry of Power, Energy, and Mineral Resources’s (MPEMR) efforts to enforce energy efficiency among consumers to curb demand growth appear short-sighted.

The ministry’s recent circular restricts private and public sectors from setting air conditioners (ACs) below 25 degrees Celsius. Media reports suggest that the government may even disconnect electricity connections for those running ACs at lower temperatures and implement load shedding if power distribution utilities observe excessive load in an area. Enforcing such measures will be difficult.

In a developing economy like Bangladesh, where disposable incomes and aspirations are growing, consumer awareness about energy efficiency is a key lever to changing behaviour. On the supply side, ensuring the availability of high-quality appliances and displaying energy efficiency standards on such items is critical. Finally, given the high upfront costs of switching to efficient appliances, the government may also want to consider financial incentives

to accelerate the transition.

Bangladesh’s per capita income increased 9.67-fold between 1990 and 2024, resulting in higher disposable incomes. Many can now afford ACs and purchase multiple fans to cope with the summer heat. Additional cooling demand during the summer is estimated to be between 4,000 megawatts (MW) and 5,000 MW, according to ballpark estimates by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA), based on the country’s daily power sector data.

There was roughly a 7,000 MW difference between the summer peak demand in 2024 and the winter peak demand from November 2024 to February 2025. The difference between peak summer and winter demand is attributable to cooling and irrigation needs. The power demand for irrigation is around 3,000 MW.

As Ramadan begins in March, people will have more gatherings and activities at home during the evening, adding to the demand for summer cooling. This will require the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) to generate more power, even as it grapples with weak financial conditions and the ongoing dollar crisis.

Studies show that increasing an AC’s temperature by just one degree

can save up to six percent of energy, a strategy Bangladesh should pursue to reduce energy wastage. However, expecting consumer behaviour to change overnight through strict regulations may prove futile. While monitoring temperatures in public institutions may be feasible, doing so for residential users will increase monitoring costs without delivering the intended results. Moreover, since many people use efficient ACs, their energy consumption—even at 23 degrees Celsius—may be lower than that of inefficient units.

Furthermore, power demand will likely peak during Ramadan prayer times between 8pm and 9:30pm across the country, making it difficult to manage sudden spikes in power demand in different areas.

On the other hand, people sometimes tend to waste resources. Despite buying efficient air conditioners to save energy, some still set the temperature at 20 degrees Celsius due to a lack of understanding of energy efficiency. Likewise, fans in the market range from 35 watts to 120 watts, but without precise information and technical knowledge, consumers often choose a higher-wattage fan to save on upfront costs.

Consumers with sufficient disposable income and entrenched habits often pay their monthly electricity bills without considering the impact on the nation’s energy crisis. Most people are unaware of how electricity reaches their homes. For example, less than 40 percent of the primary energy used in power generation reaches end consumers, considering the average efficiency (42.86 percent) of power plants and transmission and distribution (T&D)

losses (10.06 percent).

Therefore, efforts to promote energy conservation and efficiency may fail without awareness campaigns to change consumer behaviour and impart knowledge on energy-saving practices. A long-term energy efficiency strategy must be devised, incorporating measures to enhance people’s awareness and capacity to make informed decisions when purchasing efficient appliances. The strategy should allocate sufficient funding to the Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA) to help organise awareness-raising events over an extended period, transforming Bangladesh into an energy-conscious country.

Additionally, energy efficiency standards and labelling will help consumers choose energy-saving appliances. SREDA should accelerate the establishment of minimum energy performance standards for different appliances. It may assess and recommend financial incentives to reduce the high upfront costs and increase the adoption of energy-efficient appliances. Finally, the strategy should emphasise monitoring the availability of high-quality appliances in the market.

While the installed power generation capacity in 2022 indicated sufficient supply for the country, policymakers struggled to meet demand consistently soon after. Although the government’s focus on enhancing energy conservation is commendable, for a lasting impact on the country’s power sector, it must adopt a long-term strategy to shape consumer behaviour and promote energy consciousness.



ABUL MANSUR AHMAD'S 46TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY

# His lament was the unfulfilled promise of democracy



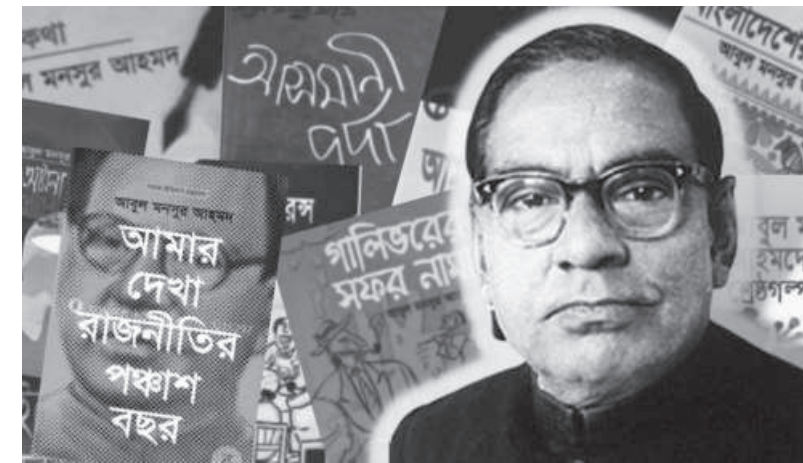
Emran Mahfuz is a poet and convener of Abul Mansur Ahmad Smriti Parishad.

EMRAN MAHFUZ

Following the July uprising that led to the fall of autocracy, discussions on three key issues—the constitution, elections, and democracy—have gained new momentum. This is because the existing constitution has been abused at will by autocratic rulers to legitimise their authority. Amid these debates, the demand for constitutional reform, driven by aspirations for democracy, has emerged as the most prominent topic.

In this context, the thoughts of renowned writer and political thinker Abul Mansur Ahmad have resurfaced. He is one of the primary Bangalee Muslim middle-class intellectuals who documented history through the lens of politics. His widely read book, *Amar Dekha Rajnitir Ponchash Bochor* (Fifty Years of Politics as I Saw It), offers insights into many issues concerning the constitution, elections, and democracy in Bangladesh. These issues remain unresolved even after 54 years and keep resurfacing in the political discourse. Meanwhile, ordinary people continue to shed blood in pursuit of an egalitarian society.

After the 1972 constitution was drafted, Abul Mansur Ahmad raised a profound argument regarding “legislative error in the Constitution.” He wrote: “Democracy, socialism, nationalism, and secularism have been established as the fundamental principles of our state. I strongly support all four. However, in my opinion, none of them, except for democracy, should have been mentioned in the constitution as fundamental principles. Except for democracy, the rest are government policies, not state policies. If democracy is properly established, all other noble objectives will naturally be achieved. Nationalism, socialism,



VISUAL: STAR

and secularism all serve the people; therefore, they benefit a democratic state. But absolute democracy is the only true guarantee of well-being. If democracy is not secured, none of the other principles will be either.”

This has indeed been the reality. The lack of democratic practice has forced us to face multifaceted crises—including authoritarian rule within political parties, one-party governance, periods of military dictatorship, and the concentration of power in the hands of a single political force. The constitution has been amended to serve vested interests. Elections became questionable, and the integrity of the constitution has been repeatedly compromised, leaving the nation's democratic aspirations frustrated year after year. And yet, no one seems to care!

Political leaders have misled the people with empty promises since independence. Abul Mansur Ahmad captured this harsh truth in his writings. He observed that although the Awami League secured an

overwhelming majority in the 1973 general elections, polls in several constituencies faced allegations of irregularities. He noted:

“Even if there were around twenty-five opposition members in a 315 member parliament, it would not have harmed the ruling party in any way. On the contrary, having parliamentarians in the opposition

This was the beginning of our downfall. Instead of cultivating good governance, leaders have continuously engaged in the politics of crisis. Yet, whenever necessary, Abul Mansur Ahmad fearlessly spoke the truth—be it in Pakistan or independent Bangladesh. This reminds me of columnist Syed Abul Maksud, who wrote nearly 15 years ago: “The unfortunate people of this country have been learning lessons on democracy from various so-called masters and gurus for nearly three-quarters of a century. They continue to study but never pass. Like Adu bhai, they remain stuck in the same class. However, the key difference between students in a traditional school or madrasa and Bangladesh's students of democracy is that it is the students who fail or pass in conventional education, but in the case of democracy, it is the teachers who are failing more than the students.”—*Prothom Alo*, September 2, 2010

In the writings of Abul Mansur Ahmad, we see examples of Sheikh Mujib's shortcomings. His writings present many such historical accounts. This book can be considered an extraordinary document covering the period from the 1920s to the 1970s.

Like many of his contemporaries, Abul Mansur Ahmad began his political journey by participating in the Krishak-Praja conference. Later, he and many others became involved in Muslim League politics. However, the Pakistan they had envisioned never materialised. It did not take long for the Bangalee middle class to become disillusioned. Once again, the cycle of struggle and resistance, and a political narrative of gains and losses began. But Abul Mansur Ahmad did not remain silent. He spoke out, wrote extensively, and took action whenever possible—sometimes as a lawyer, sometimes as a writer or journalist, and at times, as a politician.

As a guardian of political thought, he warned against the misuse of religion in politics. Yet, even today, religion continues to be exploited recklessly.

In a chapter titled “*Dhormo Shashito Rashtro, Na Rashtro Shashito Dhormo*” (Religion-

Governed State or State-Governed Religion) from his book *Beshi Dame Kena, Kom Dame Becha Amader Swadhinota*, he expressed a harsh but undeniable truth: “Those who have sought to govern the state through religion, in the end, subjected religion to the control of the state. A religion-governed state would have been ideal if it were possible. But history teaches us that it is not. Those who ignore this lesson and attempt to mix religion with politics, end up harming both. And the damage to religion is far worse for people than the damage to the state. Yet, they remain unaware of the harm they are inflicting on religion.”

Abul Mansur Ahmad fearlessly articulated many such harsh truths in various contexts. There is no inherent contradiction between the 1972 constitution and the ideals of the Liberation War in addressing social inequalities. However, their implementation has been inadequate, leading to widespread deprivation. The constitution promised equality before the law, but that promise has remained unfulfilled.

And because that promise was not fulfilled, Bangladesh's youth led an unprecedented mass uprising on July 36. Such a wave of resistance had never been seen before in the monsoon. It was reminiscent of Kazi Nazrul Islam's poetic vision of rebellion. Such revolutions are never foretold. Political science classrooms do not teach about the art of such uprisings. However, when history's lessons are ignored, people stumble at every step. Politics influences the society. Whether an individual engages in politics or not, politics never leaves them alone.

After the partition of India, it took nine years for Pakistan to formulate its first constitution. However, it remained in effect for only two years. In contrast, Bangladesh adopted its constitution in a remarkably short time after independence. The constitution came into effect on December 16, 1972. That constitution has been amended 17 times over the past 52 years—not out of care, but out of political self-interest.

Once again, calls for constitutional reform and amendments have emerged regarding this. Ironically,

those who were meant to govern have instead found themselves governed by the flaws within it. The reason for this is the ambiguities and contradictions embedded within the provisions and sub-clauses.

In this context, Akbar Ali Khan once quoted Abul Mansur Ahmad's ultimate solution for Bangladesh's constitution—that it must be truly democratic. Abul Mansur Ahmad wrote: “During the drafting of Pakistan's constitutional framework, I argued that instead of ensuring the protection of Islam, efforts should be made to safeguard democracy. For it is democracy that guarantees the protection of religion. Similarly, during the drafting of Bangladesh's constitution, I stated that socialism in Bangladesh is not at risk—democracy is. Cure democracy of its ailments, and socialism will inevitably thrive.”

Agreeing with the views expressed in *Amar Dekha Rajnitir Ponchash Bochor*, Akbar Ali Khan said, “I was somewhat surprised. For quite some time, I had been saying these things, believing them to be my observations. But then I realised—I was merely reiterating what Abul Mansur Ahmad had said long ago. Our constitution is built on four pillars—democracy, socialism, nationalism, and secularism. My argument is that in a country where democracy does not exist, secularism can never be sustained in a meaningful way.”

In this way, many of our most critical political thoughts have remained buried in obscurity. We seem to be trapped in an endless cycle, revolving around the same issues decade after decade, unable to find a way out—oscillating between political extremes under the guise of balance.

From the era of East Bengal to the early years of independent Bangladesh, Abul Mansur Ahmad raised sharp and intellectual questions about the constitution—most of which remain unresolved to this day.

We can still draw upon his ideas to navigate our crises. Thus, we may be able to restructure our society—one that we acquired at a great price. Otherwise, in the absence of democracy, we may be forced to shed blood once again!

## Are we looking at a second republic or a fourth?



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KAZI ASM NURUL HUDA

The Jatiya Nagorik Party (National Citizen Party, NCP), driven by the momentum of the anti-discrimination student movement and the Jatiya Nagorik Committee, recently proposed the establishment of what they call a “second republic” in Bangladesh. This bold declaration has reignited debate over the country's constitutional trajectory and evolving governance. At its core, the proposal seeks to redefine the state structure by reconstructing the constitution, ostensibly to prevent future authoritarian rule. But framing this moment as the “birth” of a second republic overlooks the deeper and more complex reality of the country's political evolution. Bangladesh is not on the verge of a second republic—it is transitioning into its fourth. Recognising this distinction is not just a matter of historical accuracy but is essential for understanding the true nature of the transformation underway.

In a discussion published by *Prothom Alo* English on March 1, 2025, Ariful Islam Adib, senior joint convener of NCP, elaborated on what the party envisions by a second republic. He said their vision seeks to unify the people's historical struggles into a single political moment, one that demands an entirely new constitutional order. “The first republic,” he asserts, “was the independence we gained through our great Liberation War. The constitution formulated after the War had some structural flaws, which made the government and prime ministers authoritarian and fascist.” By calling for a “second republic,” Adib and his party advocate for breaking away from

this flawed system to prevent the monopolisation of power and ensure lasting democratic stability.

This frustration with past governance failures is valid. Over the years, various groups in Bangladesh, including civil society organisations, opposition parties and, notably, student-led movements have consistently advocated for structural reforms to prevent the return of authoritarian rule. The idea of a second republic reflects a broader aspiration for a decisive break from systemic failures, rather than a series of incremental reforms. However, this framing overlooks the fact that Bangladesh has already undergone multiple political and constitutional transformations, each representing a distinct “republican” phase by promoting the sovereignty of the people in deciding their body of representatives. Consequently, defining a republic as anything beyond substantial constitutional reforms aimed at securing popular sovereignty and addressing systemic failures could risk plunging the country into a reign of terror, potentially unmanageable in our current context.

The concept of a second republic draws inspiration from countries that have undergone fundamental constitutional overhauls, most notably France and Spain. France, for instance, established its first republic in 1792 following the fall of the monarchy, only for it to collapse in 1804. The second republic (1848-1852) emerged after another revolution but was short-lived, giving way to further republics over time. Each transition marked a radical restructuring of governance,

legally and institutionally. Applying this framework to Bangladesh shows that the country already transitioned through three distinct republics before the mass uprising in July-August 2024, each marked by significant shifts in governance, national identity, and political structure, pointing towards popular sovereignty, which is a mark of the

growing authoritarian control. The assassination of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on August 15, 1975, marked the violent end of this phase.

The second republic emerged following the military coup of November 7, 1975, bringing military-backed rule under Ziaur Rahman and later HM Ershad. This period saw an ideological shift as Zia moved

governance remained under the military's influence. It was not until 1990, when mass protests forced Ershad to resign, that Bangladesh transitioned back to civilian rule.

The third republic began with the fall of Ershad on December 6, 1990, marking the return to civilian governance under alternating leadership of the Awami League



The success of the student-led mass uprising in July-August 2024 marks a decisive break from the trajectory of ‘Hasinocratic’ authoritarianism.

FILE PHOTO: AFP

“republican” phase.

Bangladesh's first republic began with its independence in 1971 and the adoption of the 1972 constitution, which sought to establish a democratic, secular, socialist and nationalist state. This represented a significant effort to redefine the state structure in alignment with the ideals of popular sovereignty post-independence. It was an era of idealism as the new nation aimed to rebuild from the destruction of war. However, governance quickly became centralised. Political instability, economic struggles, and the shift to a one-party system under BAKSAL in 1975 led to

away from Bangalee nationalism and introduced “Bangladeshi nationalism.” In 1977, Zia removed secularism from the constitution, rehabilitated Islamic political groups, and promoted privatisation over state-controlled socialism. Although marked by military dominance, the reinstatement of a multi-party system in 1979 can be seen as an attempt to reintroduce some degree of popular participation in governance. Zia's assassination in 1981 triggered further instability, culminating in Ershad's authoritarian rule, which cemented military dominance in politics. Despite holding elections,

and BNP. At the outset of this phase, the enactment of a caretaker government system to oversee free and fair elections was seen as an attempt to ensure popular sovereignty. However, both the major parties later amended the constitution to consolidate power rather than strengthen democracy. By the time of the 2014, 2018, and 2024 elections, each widely criticised for irregularities, Bangladesh drifted further into authoritarianism, characterised by the centralisation of power, suppression of opposition, and erosion of democratic institutions under Sheikh Hasina's prolonged rule.

The success of the student-led mass uprising in July-August 2024, which led to the ouster of Sheikh Hasina on August 5, marks a decisive break from the trajectory of “Hasinocratic” authoritarianism. Bangladesh is now entering its fourth republic, not as a mere extension of the past but as a structural overhaul of the state and its constitution to prevent authoritarianism from resurfacing. This moment is critical as the country seeks to dismantle the entrenched centralisation of power that defined the Hasina era. The goal is to establish governance that is more transparent, accountable, and resistant to single-party domination, thereby moving closer to the republican ideals of popular sovereignty and systemic reform.

However, this transition must be approached without distorting history, as previous regimes have done to justify their rule. The NCP must uphold historical accuracy in its framing of the republics. The Awami League was heavily criticised for manipulating history to serve its political agenda, and any new political force must avoid the same appropriation of history. Whether one advocates for a second republic or a fourth, the fundamental goal must be to preserve historical integrity rather than rewrite history for political convenience. Understanding Bangladesh's evolution as a progression through distinct republics is crucial to ensuring that the lessons of the past inform the future.

The road ahead remains uncertain, but one fact is clear. Historical truth must not be sacrificed in the pursuit of political change. Bangladesh is entering its fourth republic, and recognising this reality is the first step towards fostering a genuinely democratic future. A steadfast commitment to truth and transparency will be essential in shaping a republic that not only learns from past mistakes but also lays the foundation for a truly democratic and accountable state.







# Al Amin's dream: A goal and a celebration with Hamza

A few years ago, the thought of seeing English Premier League midfielder Hamza Choudhury don the Bangladesh national football team jersey seemed like a distant dream. However, that is no longer the case as the Sheffield United star touched down in Bangladesh yesterday to represent the red and green in the Asian Cup Qualifiers.

The 27-year-old, along with his family members, reached his ancestral village Snaughat of Bahubal upazila, Habiganj – yesterday afternoon after landing at Sylhet Osmani International Airport amid huge enthusiasm among football fans and its stakeholders. Officials from Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), Sylhet DSA, Civil Aviation, and people of Sylhet greeted Hamza with flowers.

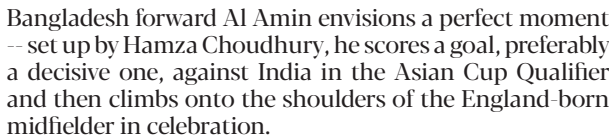
Hamza, who once played for the England U-21 team, was overwhelmed upon his arrival as many enthusiastic



The energy was electric, but with so many eager faces around him,

As the sun set, the celebrations

captains and coaches from the proposed English-medium school football tournament before getting some much-needed rest.



against India in Shillong on March 25. Meanwhile, rookie forward Al Amin is focused on securing a spot in the final 23-member squad and breaking into the starting eleven.

His words reflect the aspirations of an entire nation, which is eager to reach new heights with a player like Hamza now in the squad.

Al Amin was in top form during the first leg of the Bangladesh Premier League, scoring seven goals – an impressive performance that saw coach Javier Cabrera include him in the preliminary squad for the first time.

# BCB still undecided on Rana's PSL stint

Meanwhile, IOC members will elect Bach's successor on Thursday.

Even though the Test series is not part of the World Test Championship cycle, due to the schedule clash with PSL, the board is pondering whether to give Rana NOC for one phase of the



How the PSL franchise would manage Rana's workload is also an important issue. The speedster has so far played two out of Abahani's five matches in the Dhaka Premier League

For now, a PSL stint remains on the horizon for Rana, but it is an important decision for the board to maintain the bowler's agencies.



"We were desperate to try and win the trophy after all the years of hurt. We are breaking new ground, I thought we were magnificent today."



PHOTO: REUTERS



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## COVID-19 VACCINE ACC to probe Tk 22,000cr ‘graft’ scheme Official says Beximco, others involved

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission has launched an investigation into an alleged Tk 22,000 crore corruption scheme involving Beximco Pharma's Vice-chairman Salman F Rahman and former health minister Zahid Maleque over the procurement of Covid-19 vaccines.

A four-member probe team, led by Deputy Director Afroza Haque Khan, was formed after initial evidence of irregularities and graft was found in intelligence inquiries, ACC Director General Md Akhtar Hossain told reporters at its headquarters yesterday.

Other team members are Assistant Director Bilkis Akter, deputy assistant directors Md Jewel Rana, and Kazi Hafizur Rahman. They already started collecting relevant documents, sources said.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



**COMMUNAL HARMONY...** A monk distributes tokens to fasting individuals who have gathered for the iftar offered at the Dharmarajika Buddhist Monastery in Bashabo Sabujbagh, Dhaka. For more than a decade, these monks have been serving impoverished fasting Muslims during Ramadan, setting an inspiring example of interfaith harmony. The photo was taken on Sunday afternoon.

PHOTO: ORCHID CHAKMA

## Conspiracy unfolding against BNP, Bangladesh Warns Tarique

UNB, Dhaka

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman yesterday warned that a new conspiracy is unfolding by a vested group against the BNP, the country's democracy, and the very existence and sovereignty of Bangladesh.

"Those of us involved in politics have been talking about a plot for the past few days. A plot is once again unfolding. We are not saying this merely as political rhetoric or to attract people's attention. Genuinely, a serious conspiracy is gradually being hatched against Bangladesh's existence, sovereignty, and democracy," he said while virtually addressing an iftar event.



SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

## ATTACKS ON JULY UPRISERS DU suspends 128 students

A CORRESPONDENT, DU

Dhaka University yesterday suspended 128 students over their alleged involvement in attacks on protesters during the student-led mass uprising from July 15 to August 5 on the university campus.

The decision was made at a syndicate meeting based on the report of a fact-finding committee formed to investigate the attacks.

A new probe committee has also been formed to further scrutinise the initial report to finalise a decision regarding the punishment of the students.

The committee, led by syndicate member Professor Tajmeri SA Islam, includes DU Faculty of Arts Dean Mohammad Siddiqui Rahman Khan, Sir AF Rahman Hall Provost Kazi Mahfuzul Islam Supon, DU Proctor Saifuddin Ahmed and others.

The suspension is not being considered a punishment, but a "measure" to ensure further investigations are conducted without interruption, according to Kazi Mahfuzul Islam Supon, convener of the fact-finding committee.

"The number of attackers mentioned in the fact-finding report is more than 128. The syndicate decided to suspend 128 DU students initially. A new probe committee has been formed to scrutinise the fact-finding report. The final decision on their punishment will come after the new committee submits its report," Supon told The Daily Star.

On March 13, when the fact-finding committee handed over the report to the DU vice-chancellor, Supon had told reporters that 122 DU students were found to be involved in the attacks.

The suspended students are reportedly affiliated with the banned student organisation Chhatra League. However, their names and identities could not be immediately confirmed.

Asked about the involvement of teachers, DU Proctor Saifuddin Ahmed said a separate committee is investigating their role in the attack.

Further action will be taken once their report is submitted.



## DMP chief regrets remarks on 'rape'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

D h a k a  
Metropoli-  
tan Police  
( D M P )  
Commissi-  
o n e r  
S h e i k h  
Md Sajjat

Ali has expressed regret over his recent remarks regarding rape, following widespread criticism.

In an official statement issued yesterday, the DMP commissioner said, "While discussing violence against women and children, I referred to rape as part of a broader spectrum of abuse. If my statement has hurt anyone, I sincerely regret it."

The statement was signed by Talebur Rahman, deputy commissioner (media and public relations) of the DMP.

The apology came in response to backlash over the commissioner's comments at a recent event, where he reportedly suggested media to use alternative terminology for rape, stating that the word sounds "unpleasant".

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

## AL govt sought to pour Tk 277cr in a flop app

Nasrul Hamid's son has stakes in 'Binimoy,'  
a mobile financial service

MAHMUDUL HASAN

When a failed project drains public funds, common sense dictates its cancellation. But the Awami League government's response was to spend even more on it.

This is exactly what happened with Binimoy, a platform that allowed transactions between mobile financial services (MFS) providers.

Zareef Hamid, the son of Nasrul Hamid, the former state minister for power, energy and mineral resources, has a significant stake in Binimoy, which was launched in November 2022 by Sajeeb Wazed Joy, the son of ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and also her ICT Adviser.

To develop the platform, the ICT Division signed a Tk 54.95 crore deal with a consortium of three companies: Velwire, Microsoft Bangladesh and Orion Informatics.

Zareef is the founder and chief executive officer of Velwire, and Zarif Munir, the son of Muhammad Zamir, the chairman of the Awami League's international affairs sub-committee, was part of the Velwire team.

However, Binimoy proved to

be an abysmal failure, with an alarming error rate of 25-40 percent, leading to widespread customer dissatisfaction, according to assessments by the ICT Division.

A failure rate of less than 1 percent is the industry benchmark for a transaction app.

**"We have stopped it -- this was merely an attempt to loot public money."**

Faiz Taiyeb Ahmad  
Special assistant to CA

Only nine banks, three MFS providers and two payment service providers offered services through the platform.

And yet, the previous government intended to spend Tk 277 crore until 2029 to "upgrade" the app to make it "sustainable", according to the development project proposal prepared by the ICT Division's Bangladesh Computer Council.

"We have stopped it -- this was

merely an attempt to loot public money," said Faiz Taiyeb Ahmad, the special assistant to the chief adviser with executive authority over posts, telecom and ICT ministry.

After developing the platform, the ICT division handed it over to the Bangladesh Bank for rolling out to customers.

Then in January 2024, the central bank signed a deal with two private firms to maintain and operate Binimoy, with one of them being Velwire.

The ICT Division's designs for Binimoy did not stop there.

It wanted all banks and financial institutions to be integrated into the platform, according to the document.

Not only that, but government bill payment, salary disbursement, benefit distribution, tax and VAT collection, pension payment, subsidies and metro rail card recharges were supposed to be processed through Binimoy.

The target was to connect over 100 institutions to the platform.

This meant that 50 percent of the platform's earnings would go to private companies despite being fully developed with public funds.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

## Rohingya man killed in Ukhiya

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,  
Cox's Bazar

A Rohingya man was attacked and killed allegedly by ARSA (Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army) men at a refugee camp in Cox's Bazar's Ukhiya upazila on Sunday.

The deceased is Md Harun, 32, a resident of Block E-3 in Hakimpara camp.

Police have arrested one person, Badshah Mia, in connection with the incident. The arrestee is also a resident of the same camp.

The attack took place last evening at Block E-3 of Hakimpara refugee camp (Camp-14) in Ukhiya, said Ukhiya Police Station Officer-in-Charge Md Arif Hossain.

The OC said Harun was a Rohingya Solidarity Organisation (RSO) member.

According to police and Rohingya community leaders, Harun had left ARSA to join RSO a few months ago. They suspect this was the reason for the attack.

The body has been sent to the Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy, said the OC.

He added that an operation was underway to arrest the remaining perpetrators.

## Putin, Trump to discuss Ukraine Kyiv launches drone attack on Russian energy site

AFP, Moscow

Russian President Vladimir Putin and US counterpart Donald Trump will speak by phone today, as one US official expressed hope the two could agree a Ukraine ceasefire within weeks.

Trump said earlier "a lot of work" had been done between the United States and Russia on settling the three-year Ukraine conflict, and that there was a "very good chance" hostilities would end.

Putin said last week he agreed with the idea of a ceasefire but warned he had "serious questions" about how it would be implemented that he wanted to discuss with Trump.

Kyiv has agreed to the ceasefire, while its European allies have criticised Putin for not committing to an unconditional and immediate halt in fighting, with the UK accusing the Russian leader of "dragging his feet".

"There is such a conversation being prepared for Tuesday," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters including AFP ahead of the Trump Putin call, without commenting on what the two leaders would discuss.

Trump said the two would discuss "land" and power plants: an apparent reference to the Moscow-controlled Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant in south Ukraine.

Russia occupies swathes of southern and eastern Ukraine.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5



**Hamza Choudhury soaks in the adulation of fans at the Osmani International Airport in Sylhet, en route to his ancestral home in Habiganj, after his long-awaited homecoming yesterday. Hamza, a Bangladeshi born English footballer who plays for Sheffield United in England, is set to make his Bangladesh debut in the Asian Cup Qualifiers against India in Shillong on March 25.**

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

We will win  
against India  
and progress:  
Hamza

P11



PRAYER TIMING MARCH 18					
Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
AZAN 4:49	12:45	4:30	6:09	7:45	
JAMAAT 4:59	1:15	4:45	6:24	8:15	
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION					
SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING					
RAMADAN	MARCH	SEHRI	IFTAR		
17	18			6:09	
18	19	4:47	6:10		
19	20	4:46	6:10		