



# The Daily Star

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TO KNOW

SECOND EDITION



DHAKA TUESDAY MARCH 25, 2025

REGD. No. DA 781

VOL. XXXV No. 70

CHAITRA 11, 1431 BS

www.thedailystar.net

RAMADAN 24, 1446 HJRI

20 PAGES PLUS LIFE STYLE : Tk 15.00



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## OPERATION SEARCHLIGHT

# The massacre at Ctg cantonment

Pakistan army killed hundreds of  
soldiers, cadets on Mar 25 night

AHMAD ISTIAK

On March 24, 1971, the day before the Pakistani army unleashed the infamous "Operation Searchlight," its top brass flew to Chattogram Cantonment from Dhaka.

By then, a quiet but growing spirit of rebellion was taking shape among the Bangalee soldiers stationed at the East Bengal Regimental Centre (EBRC), an infantry training facility in the port city.

The delegation included high-ranking figures such as Chief of Army Staff Gen Hamid Khan, Maj Gen Khadim Hussain Raja, Maj Gen Mitha Khan, and Brig Ansari. These officials convened secret meetings, deliberately excluding EBRC Commandant Brig Mahmudur Rahman Majumdar, the senior-most Bangalee officer there at the time, according to Bangladesher Swadhinota Juddho: Dolil Potro (Volume 9).

Earlier, Brig Majumdar had defied direct orders to unload weapons shipped from West Pakistan to Chattogram Port in



PHOTO: COLLECTED

**Tomb of the soldiers martyred in the East Bengal Regimental  
Centre massacre at Chattogram cantonment.**

late February, signalling his resistance.

The tension escalated further when the West Pakistan military leaders took Brig Majumdar back to Dhaka, pretending they needed to discuss some urgent matters with him there.

The very next night, the unthinkable tragedy unfolded.

The Pakistan army had picked the EBRC as one of the primary targets for its brutal massacre codenamed "Operation Searchlight".

On the night of March 25, 1971, the Pakistani military killed more than 1,000 Bangalee officers, soldiers, and cadets at the EBRC, writes Maj (ret'd) Rafiq-ul Islam, Bir Uttam, in his book "Lokkho Praner Binimoye".

In the official EBRC records, 550-600 Bangalee officers, soldiers, and cadets are listed as martyrs of that massacre.

Bangladesher Swadhinota Juddho: Dolil Potro (Volume 9), Ameen Ahmed Chowdhury's "1971 Ebong Amar Samorik Jibon", Subid Ali Bhuiyan's "Muktijuddhe Noy Mash" are some of the books that documented this carnage.

According to these books, the EBRC had over 1,500 Bangalee soldiers under training in March 1971.

Besides, the 20th Baloch Regiment, which had arrived from West Pakistan in early January 1971, was stationed there.

Lt Col Mujibur Rahman Chowdhury was the chief instructor at the EBRC.

Soon after the sunset on March 25, Pakistan forces began disarming the Bangalee soldiers.

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**Three children and their mother wave to the father, not in frame, at Kamalapur Railway Station as they leave Dhaka on a train  
to celebrate Eid in their village home in Netrakona yesterday. The father, a businessman, plans to join them a day before Eid.  
Many families leave for their holidays separately to avoid the late rush.**

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

# Northerners may hit snags on roads this Eid holiday

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

People have started leaving Dhaka to celebrate Eid with their loved ones and their journeys have mostly been hassle-free.

Transport owners and railway officials suggested that this year's Eid holiday travel will likely be smoother due to the extended holiday period.

However, as the rush of homebound travellers gains momentum, particularly on March 27 and 29, northbound passengers may experience traffic congestion unless proper traffic management measures are ensured.

Ongoing construction work on the Dhaka-Ashulia Elevated Expressway, and the expansion of the Dhaka-Rangpur and Dhaka-Sylhet highways may lead to further congestion if adequate police presence is not ensured.

Additionally, any potential road

blockades by groups, particularly garment workers, could worsen the situation during the Eid rush, said transport leaders.

The nine-day public holiday for Eid-ul-Fitr will start from Friday. More than 1 crore people are likely to leave the capital and surrounding areas to celebrate the festival at their homes.

After the opening of the Padma Bridge and the widening of three major bridges on the Dhaka-Chattogram highway, people did not face major traffic congestion in the last few Eids.

But lengthy expansion of the Dhaka-Rangpur highway from Elenka of Tangail and pressure of passengers at Savar, Ashulia and Gazipur industrial belts often cause traffic congestion, resulting in suffering to the home-goers.

The work of the Dhaka-Rangpur highway saw 82 percent progress and the project authority said they managed

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# CONSENSUS COMMISSION Parties criticise 'yes-no' format in spreadsheet

Call it insufficient to convey views

MD ABBAS

The BNP and several left-leaning parties have expressed concerns over the spreadsheet format of the recommendations sent by the National Consensus Commission (NCC) to the political parties.

The spreadsheet offered options such as "Yes", "No", "Agree", and "Disagree".

They believe this approach could lead to misunderstandings, arguing that a simple binary choice is insufficient to fully convey their views on the reform proposals that the NCC has collated from various reform commissions.

Most proposals, they said, require thorough explanations, reasoning, and counterarguments, stressing the need for meaningful dialogue on the proposals.

Apart from the BNP, the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), Biplobi Workers Party, and Socialist Party of Bangladesh have shared similar views on the spreadsheets.

On March 6, the consensus commission sent a letter to the BNP and 37 other parties, seeking their feedback on a spreadsheet containing 166 key reform proposals related to the constitution, electoral system, public administration, the Anti-Corruption Commission, and the judiciary. The parties were asked to submit their feedback by March 13. So far, 21 parties, including the BNP, have submitted their responses.

At a press conference at the BNP chairperson's Gulshan office on March 22, the party's Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir

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# UN seeks nearly \$1b for Rohingyas

AFP, Geneva

The UN said yesterday it and partners were seeking nearly \$1 billion to provide life-saving aid this year for some 1.5 million Rohingya refugees and their hosts in Bangladesh.

The United Nations said that it and more than 100 partners were launching a 2025-26 Joint Response Plan for the Rohingya crisis, amid "dwindling financial resources and competing global crises".

The appeal, it said in a statement, "seeks \$934.5 million in its first year to reach some 1.48 million people including Rohingya refugees and host communities".

Around a million members of the persecuted and mostly Muslim minority live in squalid relief camps in Bangladesh, most of whom arrived after fleeing the 2017 military crackdown in neighbouring Myanmar.

"In its eighth year, the Rohingya humanitarian crisis remains largely out of the international spotlight, but needs remain urgent," the statement said.

It stressed that "any funding shortfalls in critical areas, including reductions to food assistance, cooking fuel or basic shelter, will have dire consequences for this highly vulnerable population".

It could, it added, "force many to resort to desperate measures, such as embarking on dangerous boat journeys to seek safety".

The UN said that more than half of the refugee population in the camps are women and girls, "who face a higher risk of gender-based violence and exploitation".

And it highlighted that a third of the refugees are aged between 10 and 24.



**A DREAM COMES TRUE: The ferry Kapotakkho transports a BRTC bus and passengers from Sitakunda's Banshbaria to Sandwip, the island upazila of Chattogram yesterday. This marks the opening of direct ferry services connecting Sandwip with Chattogram. Story on page 3.**

PHOTO: COLLECTED

# Vested groups out to put wedge between army and people Says Tarique

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman said some sections are trying to create a confrontation between the army and the people.

"Right now, we can see there is an attempt to make the army controversial. [A group is] trying to bring the army face to face with the people. Just as reform and elections were placed in opposite directions some days ago, a similar attempt is now being made to have a face-off between the army and people. You as a journalist and I as a political activist, we both understand that certain vested quarters are behind this," Tarique said at an iftar event yesterday.

He made these remarks virtually at an iftar event hosted by the BNP Media Cell in honour of journalists at a city hotel.

"If all patriotic citizens remain aware and vigilant, we will surely be able to counter this conspiracy. We must

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## Court orders confiscation of Shakib Al Hasan’s assets

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered the authorities concerned to confiscate properties of cricketer and former Awami League MP Shakib Al Hasan in a cheque dishonour case.

Dhaka’s Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Md Ziaudur Rahman passed the order following an application submitted by the plaintiff, Atiqur Rahman, bench assistant of the court, told The Daily Star.

In December last year, a summon was issued asking Shakib to appear before the court on January 19 this year, following a case filed by Shahibur Rahman, a relationship officer at IFIC Bank.

On January 19, the court issued an arrest warrant against Shakib after he failed to appear before the court as per its direction.



An excavator, deployed by the Akhaura Upazila Administration and Water Development Board, demolishes an illegal embankment on the Titas river in Bongoj area of Dharkhar union yesterday. The action was taken following a March 23 report by The Daily Star highlighting illegal soil lifting and river grabbing in the region.

PHOTO: MASUK HRIDOY

## Hannan Masud, 4 others hurt as NCP, BNP clash in Hatiya

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

A clash broke out between supporters of National Citizen Party and local BNP activists in Noakhali’s Hatiya upazila yesterday, leaving five people, including NCP leader Hannan Masud, injured.

The incident took place at Jahajmara Bazar in the evening, said AKM Azmal Huda, officer-in-charge of Hatiya Police Station.

According to police and locals, Abdul Hannan Masud, joint chief coordinator of the NCP, held several public meetings and gatherings throughout the day in Jahajmara union.

Before iftar, he finished his programmes there with a rally at Jahajmara Bazar.

BNP activists organised a protest rally at the same location, condemning an alleged attack earlier on a Krishak Dal leader.

The BNP supporters reportedly attacked Hannan Masud’s rally, resulting in a scuffle, locals and police said.

Protesting the incident, Masud and his supporters staged a sit-in for two hours on the road, demanding the arrest of the attackers.

At the time, the BNP activists regrouped and

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## Northerners may hit snags on roads

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to open four lanes on the entire corridor with service lanes and bridges.

But, two points remain vulnerable to road congestion: one on the Jamuna Bridge and Gobindaganj in Gaibandha, said the project’s Director Waliur Rahman.

The Jamuna Bridge is a narrow four-lane bridge and if a vehicle breaks down there, it creates huge congestion until the vehicle is salvaged.

Besides, the construction of a flyover is going on at Gobindaganj, which may create congestion, he said.

On the other hand, the construction of the Dhaka-Ashulia Elevated Expressway is now going on and that may create congestion on Abdullahpur-Ashulia-Baipail road.

Besides, the construction of a flyover at Baipail under the project may cause traffic congestion on the Savar-Chandra highway, which often witnesses congestion during the Eid rush.

Because of the construction work of the expressway, most of the vehicles will not use Abdullahpur-Ashulia-Baipail road, Ashok Kumar Pal, Gazipur Metropolitan Police’s additional deputy police commissioner (Traffic), told our Gazipur Correspondent.

They will use the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway to the northern region via Gazipur, which may create a huge pressure on the highway, he said.

“However, we will have 500 more traffic policemen to ensure that there is no traffic jam on the Gazipur territory

on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway,” he said.

Meanwhile, an official of the Dhaka-Sylhet highway expansion project said that currently they were working on the main road at two points: Hatkhola and Velanagar in Narsingdi.

But, the roads in these areas are four-lane ones, so there is unlikely to be congestion if traffic management can be ensured, he said, wishing not to be named.

Meanwhile, many people left Dhaka by bus yesterday, but their number was not big.

Many of them, including those who collected advance tickets, complained of overcharging.

One such passenger is Abu Talha, a private service holder. When he went to buy a ticket from SI Paribahan to travel to Sirajganj on March 26, he was charged Tk 150 more than the actual fare of Tk 350.

“They did not even mention the fare on the ticket – the bus operator charged Tk 350 on March 21 when I sent my family home.”

When he inquired about the overcharging, the counterman did not provide any explanation.

The number of passengers leaving Dhaka was very thin yesterday, said Mosharrar Hossain, general manager of Hanif Paribahan, adding that he expects the passenger flow to pick up from Thursday.

Suvankar Ghosh, general secretary of the Bangladesh Bus Truck Owners Association, said they expected passenger

pressure on March 25, 27 and 29.

The closure of garment factories on March 29 may cause huge traffic pressure in Savar, Ashulia and Gazipur areas, he said.

The construction of a flyover at the Baipail area may cause traffic congestion on the Savar-Chandra highway, which often witnesses congestion during the Eid rush.

Replying to a question, Suvankar said they had sought security from the police to ensure passenger safety.

They also asked the bus owners to keep the bus doors closed at night to avoid any untoward incidents, he said.

Asked about overcharging by some bus operators, he said they have nothing to do regarding AC buses as there is no fixed fare for such services.

But they will take action against other buses if they receive allegations of overcharging, he said.

Meanwhile, thousands of people started to leave Dhaka by train as the Bangladesh Railway started a special Eid service yesterday.

Most trains left Kamalapur Railway Station on time amid tight security and ticket checking.

As of 1:00pm, 18 intercity trains left the station and two of them were late.

Burimari Express left the station one and a half hours late while Egara Sindhur Express left one hour late, said Station Master Anwar Hossain.

A total of 68 trains, including 43 intercity trains, were supposed to leave Dhaka yesterday.

## The massacre at Ctg cantonment



Col (retd) Oli Ahmad Bir Bikram



Mohammed Kamal Uddin



Dr Mainul Ahasan



COURTESY: COL (RETD) MAHMUD UR RAHMAN CHOWDHURY

**Farewell ceremony of the 4th East Bengal Regiment in Lahore, West Pakistan, June 1970. Lt Col Mujibur Rahman Chowdhury, battalion commanding officer (back right). He was the first martyred Bangalee officer in 1971. Lt Gen Khwaja Wasiuddin, the colonel commandant of the East Bengal Regiment (back middle).**

FROM PAGE 1

“At 7:00pm, all of our soldiers’ rifles were taken away and stored in the armoury,” Subid Ali Bhuiyan, writes in his book.

Maj Mir Shawkat Ali from the 8th East Bengal Regiment was the last person to speak to anyone from the EBRC via telephone around 11:00pm – it was Chief Instructor Lt Col Mujibur Rahman Chowdhury.

Soon after the phone call, Lt Col MR Chowdhury ordered Captain Enamul Haque to break open the armoury and distribute weapons to the Bangalee soldiers. However, before they could do so, the Baloch Regiment soldiers stormed the premises.

Captain Enamul Haque described this moment in his writings on Bangladesher Swadhinota Juddho: Dolil Potro (Volume 9).

“Suddenly, the Bangalee guard commander from that particular quarter came running and informed me that the 20th Baloch soldiers were getting off their vehicles, fully armed...Within moments, they launched an attack on the guards, and gunfire erupted from all directions.”

“At 11:30pm, six truckloads of Baloch soldiers slaughtered the Bangalee troops at the armoury and surrounded the recruit barracks, where most soldiers were asleep and unarmed, leaving them no chance to resist. The Baloch troops ruthlessly gunned down every soldier in their sight,” Maj (retd) Rafiq-ul Islam writes in his book “Lokkho Praner Binimoye”.

Captain Enamul was captured and held in a room filled with wounded soldiers.

“I saw Bangalee soldiers in agony, some crying out for water, others writhing in pain. The Pakistani

soldiers pressed their boots on the throats of the dying to hasten the process,” Enamul describes his experience on Bangladesher Swadhinota Juddho: Dolil Potro (Volume 9).

In the early hours of March 26, the Baloch soldiers fired shells from tanks onto the barracks. The wounded soldiers’ screams filled the cantonment. Many were executed inside the EBRC school, where Pakistani troops opened fire at point-blank range.

Captain Enamul wrote, “At 7:00am on March 26, I saw a truck being filled with the bodies of those who had been mercilessly killed overnight. More than a hundred bodies were taken away in front of my eyes.”

**RESISTANCE THAT NEVER CAME.** Colonel Oli Ahmed, Bir Bikram, who was the quartermaster of the 8th East Bengal Regiment, later revealed that he had tried to contact Lieutenant Colonel MR Chowdhury throughout the night but failed. The next morning, he learned that MR Chowdhury had been murdered.

Asked why the 8th East Bengal Regiment did not intervene, he said, “We had limited arms and ammunition. Many of our soldiers were on leave because we were supposed to be deployed in Pakistan. The 20th Baloch Regiment was fully armed. If we had intervened, it would have been suicidal. The only chance of survival for EBRC soldiers was to escape into the hills.”

The attack began with the killing of EBRC’s Chief Instructor Lt Col MR Chowdhury.

His son, Colonel (retd) Mahmud UR Rahman Chowdhury, told The Daily Star, “When my father was entering EBRC from the officers’ mess, a platoon of the Baloch Regiment shot and bayoneted him to death.

“In early January 1971, MR Chowdhury, along with Brig Mahmudur Rahman Majumdar, Maj Ziaur Rahman (later president), Captain Rafiq-ul Islam, and Captain Oli Ahmed, had begun planning an armed rebellion in Chattogram. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was aware of these plans, but since the Awami League was still pursuing a political solution, the uprising never materialised.”

“If Bangabandhu supported an armed rebellion from the start, this massacre might not have happened. The war would still have taken place, but we could have avoided such massive loss of life.”

**IN SEARCH OF WITNESSES**

Most of the Bangalee soldiers were martyred in the EBRC, but miraculously, very few survived.

The Daily Star collected names of the gallantry-awarded freedom fighters who were either serving or undergoing training at the EBRC on the night of March 25, 1971. However, none of them are now alive.

Dr Mohammad Kamal Uddin, a resident of Khondakia village (3km away from the cantonment) in Hathazari, said, “On the night of March 25, we woke up to the sound of intense gunfire. At dawn, we saw a few injured and terrified men near the Boro Dighir Paar. Their clothes were torn, and some were bleeding. They told us their weapons had been taken away earlier that evening, and they had barely escaped by crossing the hills.”

At Chittagong Medical College, Dr Mainul Ahasan treated many injured soldiers on March 26.

“Most of the wounded brought in on March 26 were Bangalee soldiers from the cantonment. Many died on the way due to excessive bleeding,” he told The Daily Star.

## Tamim’s health crisis shocks nation

FROM PAGE 1

Tamim, the Mohammedan skipper, felt ill after the toss. Although the symptoms were downplayed at first and the cricketer was planning to fly back to Dhaka, his condition deteriorated.

Creditable on-ground response in coalition with medical teams before successful surgery prevented the situation from escalating. Tamim underwent a stenting surgery and remains under close medical observation at the KPJ Specialised Hospital in Savar.

“By the grace of Allah, his [Tamim’s] condition right now is better. He had a heart attack. For that, an angiogram, angioplasty and stenting was done. By the grace of Allah, the stenting was really smooth and efficient. The block [in his artery] has been completely

removed,” the hospital’s media director Dr Rajib Hasan told the media at a press briefing.

“He [Tamim] fell ill at around 9:00-9:30 am at BKSP. He was then brought here and his treatment began,” the physician added.

The initial plan had been to bring Tamim to Dhaka for better treatment but once he felt a bit better following initial treatment, Tamim went back to BKSP. But his condition became critical all of a sudden as was then taken back to the hospital where angiogram showed that there was a block in a major artery.

Following the surgery, Tamim regained consciousness and spoke to family members.

“His condition was critical. Even after the stenting, he is under observation and is still in a critical condition. It will

take some time. All of us are trying heart and soul. Everyone please pray for Tamim bhai,” the physician told the media.

There was a downpour of concern after news of Tamim’s heart attack broke. The BCB directors were slated to sit for a board meeting but the directors and other officials rushed to Savar with the meeting cancelled.

BCB president Faruque Ahmed expressed his gratitude to the medical teams at BKSP and KPJ Specialised Hospital for their timely and expert intervention. In a statement, he said: “We are very thankful to all the medics and specialists for their swift actions in this critical situation. The outpouring of concern for Tamim reflects how much he is loved and appreciated by the nation.”

### Vested groups

FROM PAGE 1

counter it at any cost. Journalists have a crucial role to play here. Various issues are being made controversial, even some of which are not true. If you [journalists] present the truth before the nation, we will undoubtedly be able to overcome this conspiracy,” he added.

The BNP leader said that a vested quarter believes they will succeed in their conspiracy. “But if we work together, we can certainly resist it. Our first and foremost goal should be to establish the democratic rights of the people of this country...”

At the same event, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said a new conspiracy is underway to destabilise Bangladesh once again.

This conspiracy aims to push Bangladesh into a crisis once more. Key institutions – those essential for safeguarding the country’s independence and sovereignty – are being made controversial. In particular, efforts are being made to make the army controversial, he said.

Fakhrul said, “The objective is clear – just as the country’s independence and sovereignty were threatened under past fascist regimes, a similar attempt is now being made. There is an effort to make the army controversial, which has always stood by the nation in crucial moments.”

Addressing journalists, he said that journalists have always served as the conscience of the nation. In times of crisis, they have stood and provided the people with accurate news.

## Parties criticise

FROM PAGE 1

raised concerns over the NCC spreadsheet.

“Instead of presenting the proposals directly, they are framed as leading questions. For example, the spreadsheet asks, ‘Do you support implementing the proposals through a constituent assembly? Answer yes or no.’ But the question of whether or not we agree on the concept of a constituent assembly should come first.”

However, he also stated that his party is cooperating with the consensus commission.

“We’re responding to each spreadsheet entry – where a ‘yes’ is needed, we are giving a ‘yes’ and marking it accordingly. Where a separate statement is necessary, we’re providing our own remarks. This is how we are cooperating fully.”

Criticising the spreadsheet, CPB General Secretary Ruhin Hossain Prince said most questions were unclear, incomplete, and one-sided, requiring further explanations.

“Simply marking responses without discussions would not be effective, and it would create misunderstandings.”

According to him, it would have been better if the commission had arranged dialogues over the proposals before preparing the spreadsheets.

Biplobi Workers Party General Secretary Saiful Haque said the approach adopted by the NCC to gather feedback was not appropriate.

He believes it resembles an NGO-style approach, where the commission is essentially guiding responses toward

the answers it wants in order to benefit a certain party.

“I don’t think this is the right approach to address the current political crisis. The political parties were unable to provide their actual opinions. With an MCQ pattern, [providing] meaningful input is not possible.”

Bazlur Rashid Firoz, general secretary of the Socialist Party of Bangladesh, made similar criticisms.

“Think about the constitution – it’s an important issue as it concerns the fate of the people of this country. We don’t think it’s possible to provide meaningful feedback just by choosing ‘Agree’ or ‘Disagree.’ Though there is an option for comments, I still believe rigorous explanations, logic, and counterarguments are necessary.”

However, the National Citizen Party (NCP), Gono Sanghati Andolan, and Rastro Sangskar Andolan believe the commission adopted this approach as an initial step.

“As we don’t have a better approach in front of us, I don’t think it’s that bad. If someone is unwilling to provide their feedback on reforms and simply rejects the method outright, that wouldn’t be wise,” said NCP Joint Convenor Sarwar Tushar.

He added that there are also options for comments and that further discussions will take place, emphasising that this is not a permanent framework.

Chief Coordinators of Gono Sanghati Andolan and Rastro Sangskar Andolan, Zonayed Saki and Hasnat Quaiyum, echoed similar views.



জন ও নিরাপদে রেমিট্যান্স পাঠান  
প্রিয়জনকে প্রসোজনে...

যেকোনো শাখা থেকে রেমিট্যান্স গ্রহণ করলেই  
পাবেন সরকার নির্ধারিত ২.৫% প্রমোদনা

সাথে আরও আছে নিশ্চিত আকর্ষণীয় পুরস্কার

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খুলুন

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## Steps taken to declare Sandwip as seaport: CA

BSS, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus yesterday said initiatives have been taken to declare Sandwip as a seaport and open the Kumira-Guptachara ghat.

Yunus said this at a public gathering arranged on the occasion of the launch of ferry service on Chattogram-Sandwip route.

He joined the event virtually from the state guest house Jamuna here.

He said once these initiatives are implemented, the long-standing suffering of the Sandwip dwellers will minimise.

## Sarjis stages showdown in Panchagarh Motorcade, rallies mark his visit

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Sarjis Alam, chief organiser (north) of National Citizen Party, yesterday visited his hometown in Panchagarh for the first time since he took on the leadership role in the newly formed party last month.

His journey began with a flight from Dhaka to Saidpur, after which he travelled the remaining 100 kilometres by road, half of which he was accompanied by a motorcade of over a 100 vehicles.

The homecoming turned into a political spectacle as Sarjis

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PHOTO: STAR

# When survival becomes an UPHILL STRUGGLE

Waiting for hours, many return empty-handed as TCB queues get longer

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Samata Begum, 55, stood by the roadside, tears streaming down her weathered face.

After waiting in a queue for over four and a half hours, she had failed to get her much-needed supplies from the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) truck.

It was already 3:30pm, yet the queue remained dauntingly long. Her hopes were fading with each passing minute.

"I am a heart patient. I cannot stand in one place for too long. I had a ticket in my hand, but I lost it in the crowd. Now, I do not know if I will get my share," she said. This correspondent later learned that she had gone home empty-handed that day.

Samata lives in Mohammadpur's Jahuri Moholla area with her husband, a private car driver, and their two sons. Her husband's monthly income of Tk 18,000 barely covers their expenses, with Tk 7,000 going towards rent alone. "We don't have much left after our

monthly expenditures. That is why I joined the long queue -- to save some money."

Six months ago, she underwent a uterus operation, leaving her physically weak. Yet, she had no choice but to endure the exhausting wait. Last month, she had also failed to obtain

TCB's distributor points across the capital. However, many leave empty-handed.

In the same queue was Rafiqul Islam, a security guard at a nearby building. At 1:30pm, he took a two-hour break, hoping to secure his share. By 3:30pm, he was still standing.

was spent waiting in the queue."

The demand for subsidised goods far exceeds supply. Mohammad Nasir, who owns Nasir Grocery Shop in Lalbagh and serves as a TCB distributor, admitted the chaos was inevitable.

"We can sell products to 400 people a day, but at least 800 to 900 gather here," he said.

To manage the crowd, they distribute 400 tokens first.

"But many stand without tokens, hoping to get lucky. That's when things turn chaotic."

TCB trucks, numbering around 410 nationwide, including 50 in the capital, distribute essential items daily. Each person is entitled to 2 litres of oil, 2kg of lentils, 1kg of chickpeas, 1kg of sugar, and half a kilogramme of dates -- all at Tk 590, about Tk 400 cheaper than market rates. From yesterday, the allocation of dates was increased by 1kg, confirmed TCB spokesperson Humayun Kabir.

Yet, the struggle remains unchanged.

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**It has become impossible to reach the selling point now as the queue keeps getting longer.**

Samata Begum  
Mohammadpur resident



**We can sell products to 400 people a day, but at least 800 to 900 gather here.**

Mohammad Nasir  
TCB distributor

the subsidised goods.

"It has become impossible to reach the selling point now as the queue keeps getting longer," she said.

Her struggle is shared by thousands. Low-income individuals, desperate for affordable essentials, flock to

"It looks like I will need more time to reach the truck," he said, shifting uncomfortably on his aching feet.

Later that evening, he called this correspondent.

His voice was laced with exhaustion. "I reached the truck at around 7:45pm. My entire shift

# Prioritise education reform in budget

Experts tell CAMPE event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government must prioritise education, address disparities across different streams, and allocate resources equitably in the upcoming budget without political considerations, educationists and researchers said at a discussion yesterday.

At a press conference titled "Towards an Equitable Bangladesh: Our Education Budget -- Our Proposal," organised by the Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE) at the CIRDAP auditorium, speakers criticised the government's neglect of education and called for urgent reforms.

Manzoor Ahmed, professor emeritus at Brac University and convener of the Primary and Non-Formal Education Reform Advisory Committee, highlighted the deep inequalities in the education system.

"Our system remains divided into multiple streams -- Bangla, English, and Madrasa -- each with further classifications. While elite schools thrive

under government patronage, most government schools remain in poor condition. Quality education is still accessible only to the privileged," he said.

Despite major political shifts, including the July uprising, education reform remains absent from the political agenda, he said.

"There is no education reform commission, nor any major government initiative to address these disparities," he added, blaming bureaucratic red tape and political inaction. "For 55 years, education has been prioritised in words but not in action."

Rasheda K Choudhury, executive director of CAMPE, said education has "slipped off the priority list" at all levels, including among policymakers. "Education is the most powerful tool for human resource development, yet it has been neglected," she said. "A new vision for Bangladesh has emerged after the uprising, and our first demand must be to ensure education remains a top priority."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

**There is no education reform commission, nor any major government initiative to address these disparities. For 55 years, education has been prioritised in words but not in action.**

Manzoor Ahmed  
Professor emeritus  
at Brac University

# Why are the killers still free?

Families of July uprising martyrs protest at ICT over delayed justice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 70 family members of July uprising martyrs staged a three-hour sit-in in front of the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) yesterday, demanding justice for their loved ones.

The protesters attempted to enter the tribunal premises but were stopped by police. They then staged their sit-in outside.

Frustrated by the slow legal process, they said eight months had passed without any resolution. Many of the accused remain at large, and some protesters claimed they had received threats from them.

"Seven months have passed, yet we still haven't received justice. The killers are still free," said Rasheda Begum, mother of martyr Sohel Rana.

The protest began around 12:30pm. The protesters chanted various slogans, like "We want justice" and "My son is in the grave -- why are the killers still free?" and "We want exemplary punishment for Sheikh Hasina."

Selina Begum, mother of martyr Aminul Islam, said, "Losing our son is unbearable. The delay in justice is painful as well. Many culprits are not even arrested."



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

At around 2:00pm, prosecutors Gazi Monwar Hossain Tamim, Moynul Karim, and BM Sultan Mahmud met with the protesters. Tamim provided an update, stating that over the

past five months, 300 complaints had been received, 23 cases filed, and 145 arrest warrants issued.

One martyr's mother pointed out that Sheikh Hasina had brought her father's killers

mother retorting, "Are you saying I should wait 50 years too?"

When prosecutors asked the protesters to send representatives to meet the chief prosecutor, they refused and demanded he come to them. After waiting three hours without his appearance, they ended their sit-in at 3:30pm, calling for his resignation.

Chief Prosecutor Mohammad Tajul Islam later told journalists that the families had the right to express their demands.

He said the tribunal will follow the due legal procedures. "Six or seven months is not enough for crimes against humanity trials," he added.

"However, we have nearly completed the investigations into four to five cases. We are taking sufficient time to meet international standards," he also said.

Meanwhile, another protest group, under the banner of "July Mancha", staged a demonstration in front of the Supreme Court, demanding a ban on the Awami League.

# Extra flights, tightened security

Dhaka airport enhances services for Eid travellers

RASHIDUL HASAN

Authorities at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) have implemented special measures to ensure smooth operations and enhance passenger services ahead of the Eid-ul-Fitr holidays.

Group Captain Kamrul Islam, executive director of HSIA, said security has been tightened, with additional assistance desks and a 24/7 hotline service set up to provide real-time support and information.

To accommodate the surge in travellers, Biman Bangladesh Airlines has announced 13 additional flights on domestic routes, including Dhaka-Rajshahi, Dhaka-Syedpur, and Dhaka-Barishal.

Biman Managing Director and CEO Shafiqur Rahman, said, "We are adding extra flights to meet passengers' demand during Eid."

The national carrier will operate seven additional flights on the Dhaka-Rajshahi-Dhaka



route from March 26-30, five special flights daily on the Dhaka-Syedpur-Dhaka route from March 26-29, and an extra flight on the Dhaka-Barishal-Dhaka route on March 27.

Private carrier Air Astra has also increased its Dhaka-Syedpur flights to four daily and plans three extra flights to Cox's Bazar after Eid. However, US Bangla Airlines has yet to announce additional flights, while Novoair has readjusted its existing 16 daily flights.

Kamrul Islam said security agencies, including AVSEC, the Bangladesh Air Force Taskforce, and APBn, will maintain heightened vigilance to assist passengers during the holiday rush.

To expedite travel, special arrangements have been made for faster luggage delivery. HSIA has also introduced a bilingual website, Customer Relationship Management (CRM) software, and a dedicated coordination team to swiftly address passenger concerns.

Travellers can now contact the hotline at 13600 or 09614-013600 for assistance. Upon lodging a complaint or query, they receive a tracking number via SMS and email, allowing them to monitor the case's progress.

"We are working closely with various agencies to enhance overall passenger service during Eid," said Kamrul Islam.



KILLING OF NINE PEOPLE

ICT sends 3 former top cops to jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal yesterday sent three former top police officials to jail in a case filed over the killing of nine people in Kalyanpur in 2016.

The three -- former IGP AKM Shahidul Haque, DMP commissioner Asaduzzaman Mia and deputy commissioner of DMP's Mirpur division Jasim Uddin Mollah -- were earlier arrested on different charges.

The three-member tribunal, led by Justice Md Golam Mortuza Mozumder, set May 7 for the next hearing.

According to Chief Prosecutor Mohammad Tajul Islam, the accused

officers staged militant operations to create a climate of fear, allegedly to maintain the authority of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

During a press briefing after the proceedings, Tajul said on July 25, 2016, SWAT and the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime unit killed nine youths after confining them to a house "Jahajbari" in Kalyanpur. Later, they labelled that the deceased are militants.

Tajul also said the tribunal's investigation agency has learned that these nine young men were arrested a long time ago. Some of them were kept in DB custody for two to three months. From there, they were taken to that house at night.

Sarjis stages showdown in Panchagarh

FROM PAGE 3

toured all five upazilas of Panchagarh, making his presence known with a showdown.

Sarjis, who hails from Atwary upazila of the district, arrived at Saidpur Airport at around 11:30am, where his close associates were waiting for him with several vehicles. After speaking to journalists at the airport, he set off for Panchagarh.

By noon, he reached the Farmgate area of Debiganj upazila, where NCP leaders and activists from all five upazilas of the district welcomed him with a motorcade.

From there, Sarjis made his way to Bijoy Chattar in Debiganj, where he addressed a rally. After that, he visited Boda, Tetulia, and Panchagarh Sadar upazilas. The programme concluded with an iltar party at his home upazila, Atwary.

While crossing the Fourth Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge over the Karatoa River near Debiganj, Sarjis paid a toll of Tk 5,000 for his motorcade.

Babu, toll collector of the bridge, told Bangla daily Prothom Alo, "We were informed that there were 135 vehicles in total. Altogether, they paid us Tk 5,000 in tolls."

Mohammad Asif, a microbus driver from Atwari upazila, said, "I can't confirm the exact number of vehicles, but it could be over 150. Each of the vehicles was hired for Tk 7,000."

Before leaving the airport for Panchagarh, Sarjis said a vested group is spreading rumours to rehabilitate Awami League, but people must remain vigilant and counter these falsehoods.

"Not only the army; no one should attempt to impose any version of Awami League's narrative on this country anymore," he said.

"We expect that the army will uphold the

respect it commands as an institution. We never want to see its involvement in the country's internal politics," he added.

During the rally at Debiganj, he said, "We (NCP) do not want to present ourselves before you by making promises. We want to show our work, and for this, we seek the opportunity to do so."

"We believe that in the upcoming Bangladesh, people will not cast a vote based on the party name or any symbol. They will vote by observing the character of a person, what they are doing, and how well their actions align with their words," he said.

He said, "If we make mistakes, you can correct us, and we are always ready to listen."

"But you must ensure to no longer follow any party or symbol blindly. If you remain a blind follower, no one will value your opinion," he also said.

He also said, "We have witnessed various injustices, oppression, false cases, harassment, extortion, and syndicates in Bangladesh for too long. We will continue to protest against these from our position and resist them."

Regarding the election, Sarjis said they will come here and meet the people again soon with their symbol.

"You will vote for us if we can work and keep our promises," he said.


When survival

FROM PAGE 3

At other selling points in Azimpur Staff Quarters and Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, the scenes were just as dire. Desperate faces, endless queues, and dwindling supplies painted a grim picture of survival.

Taslima Begum, a homemaker from Mohammadpur's Geneva Camp, likened her experience to a battle. "I waited for more than three and a half hours just to get these products," she said. "It feels like I have won a war."

For thousands like her, this is the new reality -- endless waiting, uncertain outcomes, and the painful realisation that even survival is becoming an uphill struggle.



**Bangladesh Power Development Board**  
Directorate of Purchase  
WAPDA Building (9th Floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka  
Phone No. 02-223383081

**e-Tender Notice**

The following e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of:

SL No.	Tender ID No.	Package No.	Reference No.	Description of goods/works	Last selling date and time	Closing date and time	Opening date and time
01	1090638	EE-GRL-26 Lot-1 (FY:24-25)	27.11.0000.304.25.219.25 Date: 20/03/2025	Supply of 33KV, XLPE Power Cable- 1>800rm, (CSD, Tongi, Gazipur)	28-Apr-2025, 17:00	29-Apr-2025, 14:00	29-Apr-2025, 14:00
02	1090730	EE-GRL-26 Lot-2 (FY:24-25)	27.11.0000.304.25.220.25 Date: 20/03/2025	Supply of 33KV, XLPE Power Cable- 1>800rm, (CSD, Fauzderhat, Chattogram)	28-Apr-2025, 17:00	29-Apr-2025, 14:00	29-Apr-2025, 14:00

These are online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/ hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches.


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

For more details please contact to the PE's Support Desk (01768015538).

বিন্দু/জন-৯৪৩(৩)/২৪/০৩/২৫

**Md. Nannu Miah**  
ID No. 1-01304  
Director  
Directorate of Purchase  
BPDB, Dhaka

GD-764



**Padma Oil Company Limited**  
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation)  
Strand Road, Sadarghat, Chattogram

**International Tender for Supply of 2 Units of MOSRU (Mobile Oil Spill Recovery Unit) for Chattogram to Dhaka Pipeline (CDPL) Project, Narayanganj, Bangladesh**

	1	Ministry/Division	Energy and Mineral Resources Division
2	Agency	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC)	
3	Procuring entity name	Padma Oil Company Limited	
4	Procuring entity code	Not used at present	
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka	
6	Invitation for	Tender	Goods
7	Invitation Ref No.	E&P/CDPL/F-58/P-12-24-25	Single Lot
8	Date	25/03/2025	
9	KEY INFORMATION	Procurement method	ICT
10	FUNDING INFORMATION	Budget and source of funds	Own fund of BPC
11	Development partner (if applicable)	None	
12	PARTICULAR INFORMATION	Project/programme code (if applicable)	N/A
13	Project name	N/A	
14	Tender Package No.	N/A	
15	Tender package name	Supply of 2 Units of MOSRU (Mobile Oil Spill Recovery Unit) for Chattogram to Dhaka Pipeline (CDPL) Project, Narayanganj, Bangladesh.	
16	Invitation for Tender Ref No.	E&P/CDPL/F-58/P-12-24-25	
17	Tender publication date	24/03/2025	
18	Tender last selling date	12/05/2025 upto 1200 Hrs	
19	Tender closing date and time	Date (dd/mm/yyyy)	Time
20	Tender opening date and time	13/05/2025	02:00pm
21	Name & address of the officer(s)	Address(s)	
22	Selling tender document (principal)	a) Padma Oil Company Limited, Strand Road, Sadarghat, Chattogram b) DGM, Dhaka's Office, BTMC Bhavan, Kawan Bazar, Dhaka.	
23	Selling tender document (others)	N/A	
24	Receiving tender document	Padma Oil Company Limited, Strand Road, Sadarghat, Chattogram.	
25	Opening tender document	Padma Oil Company Limited, Strand Road, Sadarghat, Chattogram.	
26	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	Place	Date
27	Information for tenderer	(a) The maximum 01 (one) number of arbitration against the Tenderer over a period 05 (five) years. (b) The tenderer shall have a minimum of 10 years of overall experience in the supply of MOSRU or Special vehicle and related services. (c) The minimum specific experience as Supplier in supply of similar Goods/Special type Vehicle of at least 01 (One) contracts successfully completed within the last 07 (Seven) years, each with a value of at least BOT 10 Million or US Dollars 0.08 million or equivalent; years counting backward from the date of publication of IFT in the newspaper. (d) The minimum supply and/or production capacity of MOSRU is/are: 3 (three). (e) The minimum amount of liquid asset or working capital or credit facility is Tk. Bangladesh Taka 40 Million or US Dollars 0.32 Million or equivalent.	
28	Brief description of goods	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Mobile Oil Spill Recovery Unit at Godenall Receiving of CDPL Terminal, Narayanganj, Bangladesh.	
29	Brief description of related services	N/A	
30	Tender document price	US \$ 100 or BDT 12500 Per Tender Schedule (non-refundable)	
31	Location and estimated date of completion of works	Receiving Terminal of CDPL, Narayanganj, Bangladesh & October, 2025	
32	Type of payment for tender price	On cash payment	
33	Type of payment for security amount	As per Tender Schedule	
34	PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS	Lot No.	Identification of lot
35	Name of official inviting tender	Lot No.	Location
36	Designation of official inviting tender	Lot No.	Tender security amount in Taka
37	Address of official inviting tender	Lot No.	Completion time in weeks/months
38	Contact details of official inviting tender	Lot No.	
39	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.	Lot No.	

GD-768

Prioritise education

FROM PAGE 3

She said that education funding is spread across multiple ministries, diluting the actual budget. "Education must be treated as a single sector for proper allocation. It should be free up to the eighth grade, and primary education should be extended to this level. Additionally, student stipends should be increased to Tk 500," she added.

Khondaker Golam Moazzem, research director at the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), said the interim government has a unique opportunity to allocate funds without political pressure. "The education budget currently stands at just 1.6 percent of GDP. This must be doubled," he said.

He criticised the practice of including unrelated components in the education budget, inflating its size on paper.

"The government must clearly define education spending and separate it from unrelated projects. Moreover, the education ministry often fails to utilise allocated funds fully. This cycle of poor implementation must end," he added.

Md Mostafizur Rahman, focal point of Education Watch, presented a key paper calling for an inclusive education system aligned with the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

He recommended allocating at least 15 percent of the national budget for education in FY 2025-26 and gradually increasing it to 20 percent by 2030.

He also suggested scholarships for students injured or disabled during the July uprising and mental health counselling to help students recover from trauma. Other proposals included removing taxes on imported foreign books, establishing a Teacher Recruitment Commission, ensuring fair teacher salaries, and recruiting qualified graduates based on merit.

The speakers also urged the introduction of an "education cess" to address funding deficits and ensure access, equity, and quality in education.

An education cess is an additional levy that is applied on the basic tax liability by the government to generate additional revenue to fund primary, secondary and higher education.

Teacher shortage

FROM PAGE 5

has hindered classes, presentations, assignments, and examinations from being held on time.

"The prolonged session jams are causing anxiety among students, severely disrupting our academic journey and delaying career opportunities," said Sabbir Hossain, a student of the Chemistry Department.

Robiul Islam, a student of the Mass Communication Department, said students are bearing the brunt of the university's administrative failure to recruit sufficient teachers.

Contacted, Professor Suchitra Sharmin, vice-chancellor of BU, acknowledged the issue.

Citing national circumstances for the delays in recruitment, she assured that steps would be taken soon to address the teacher shortage. "I will meet the education adviser in this regard," she added.

**STATUTORY NOTICE**  
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH  
HIGH COURT DIVISION  
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)  
COMPANY MATTER NO- 492 of 2023

**IN THE MATTER OF:**  
An application u/s 81(2) and 85(3) of the Companies Act, 1994  
**IN THE MATTER OF:**  
Md. Housayoun Kabir .....Petitioner  
.....VERSUS.....  
Atlas Cosmetic Ltd. and another .....Respondents

Take notice that an application u/s 81(2) and 85(3) read with Section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994 was filed before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh on behalf of the above-named Petitioner for condonation of delay in holding the AGM for the Calendar year 2021 to 2024 of Atlas Cosmetic Ltd. Upon hearing of the application on 18.03.2025 Hon'ble Judge Mr. Justice Ahmed Sobel has been pleased to admit said application. In the said order, the Honorable Justice directed to issue notices, publish advertisements in the newspaper, and submit an affidavit-in-compliance. If you are interested to oppose the said application you may appear behalf the Hon'ble Court either in person or through an Advocate. Copy of the said application may be obtained from the under mentioned advocate on payment.

Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh  
SS Bhawan (Ground Floor), 70/D Green Road, Dhaka-1205, Phone- 01917399260


**LEGAL NOTICE**  
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH  
HIGH COURT DIVISION  
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)  
COMPANY MATTER NO. 1758 of 2024

**Dhanmondi Club Limited**, Level 6, House : 1/1, Road Number: 12 (New), Metro Shopping Mall, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka- 1209, represented by Md. Habib Ullah Babul, President (Acting), Dhanmondi Club Limited. ....Petitioner

**VERSUS**  
The Registrar, Joint Stock Companies and Firms, Kawan Bazar, Dhaka. ....Respondent.

This is an application under Section 81(2) read with Section 85(3) of the Companies Act 1994 for condonation of delay in holding A.G.M for the year of 2024. Upon hearing the said application the Honourable Company Bench of the High Court Division was pleased to admit the application vide Order dated 05.03.2025 along with a direction to file affidavit in Compliance within three (03) weeks. If any person or body of persons has got any interest on the matter may appear before the court on the date so fixed for hearing. A copy of the application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of prescribed fees.

**Barrister M. Tashdid Anwar**  
Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh  
(High Court and Appellate Division) 01715-049201



**THE SECURITY PRINTING CORPORATION (BANGLADESH) LTD. (SPCBL)**  
GAZIPUR-1703.

**Tender Notice**

The Tenders are invited in "The Security Printing Corporation (Bangladesh) Ltd. (SPCBL)'s website link <https://spcbl.org.bd/site/view/tenders/> for procurement of the following works for SPCBL as per Tender schedule. Necessary information is given below:


Tender No.	Tendering Method	Name of the Works	Date of Publish	Last Date & time for Submission of e-Tender	Date & time for Opening of e-tender
20/2025	OTM	Replacement of old damaged steel window with aluminum channel and glass window at Central Mosque and Staff Club, SPCBL, Gazipur	25/03/2025	24/04/2025 up to 11.00 AM	24/04/2025 up to 11.15 AM
21/2025	Two Stage	Construction and fabrication of High Security Steel Structure & Reinforced Concrete Vault Building.	25/03/2025	14/05/2025 up to 11.00 AM	14/05/2025 up to 11.15 AM

For more details, please visit/contact the followings:

Website : [www.spcbl.org.bd](http://www.spcbl.org.bd)  
Telephone : +88-02-223375590  
E-Mail : [info@spcbl.org.bd](mailto:info@spcbl.org.bd)  
Web. link : <https://spcbl.org.bd/site/view/tenders/>

(Md. Mustafizur Rahman)  
Additional Chief Engineer  
Engineering Department  
Phone: +88-02-223375590  
E-Mail: [info@spcbl.org.bd](mailto:info@spcbl.org.bd)

GD-759



**DIRECTORATE GENERAL DEFENCE PURCHASE**  
**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**  
**NEW AIRPORT ROAD, TEJGAON, DHAKA-1215**  
Web: [www.dgdp.gov.bd](http://www.dgdp.gov.bd)  
E-Mail: [info@dgdp.gov.bd](mailto:info@dgdp.gov.bd)

**"TENDER/RE-TENDER NOTICE"**

1. Sealed tenders are invited in "Foreign Currency" from bonafide Manufacturer/Suppliers (Enlisted Firm in DGDP) for supply of the following items for "Bangladesh Army".

Ser No.	Name of Items	Schedule Selling Date	Tender Opening Date	Tender No	Value of Tender Schedule (Taka)	Remarks
		From	To			
1.	Spare Parts for Tank MBT-2000 (Qty-16 Line Item) (3rd Time)	24-03-2025	08-04-2025	09-04-2025	214.1516.24	5000.00 Foreign Currency
2.	Spare Parts for APC BTR-80 (Qty-14 Line Item) (1st Time)	25-03-2025	06-05-2025	07-05-2025	214.1545.24	5000.00 Foreign Currency
3.	Spare Parts for APC BTR-80 (Qty-82 Line Item) (1st Time)	25-03-2025	06-05-2025	07-05-2025	214.1546.24	5000.00 Foreign Currency
4.	Spare Parts for APC BTR-80 (Qty-77 Line Item) (1st Time)	25-03-2025	06-05-2025	07-05-2025	214.1547.24	5000.00 Foreign Currency
5.	Spare Parts for LAV OTOKAR COBRA (Qty-33 Line Item) (1st Time)	25-03-2025	06-05-2025	07-05-2025	214.1548.24	5000.00 Foreign Currency
6.	Spare Parts for LAV OTOKAR COBRA (Qty-68 Line Item) (1st Time)	25-03-2025	06-05-2025	07-05-2025	214.1549.24	5000.00 Foreign Currency
7.	Spare Parts for LAV OTOKAR COBRA (Qty-67 Line Item) (1st Time)	25-03-2025	06-05-2025	07-05-2025	214.1550.24	5000.00 Foreign Currency

2. Tender schedule with details specifications & conditions will be available on payment as per I/T selling rate (Not refundable) during office hour between 0800 hour to 1300 hour. The tender can be dropped latest by 1125 hour and opened at 1130 hour on the specified date of opening in presence of tenderers (if present).

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GD-765

LT Col  
For Director General

**Government of The Peoples Republic of Bangladesh**  
**Local Government Engineering Department**  
**Office of the Executive Engineer**  
**District-Rangpur.**  
**[www.lged.gov.bd](http://www.lged.gov.bd)**

Memo No. 46.02.8500.000.07.12.25-853

Invitation for Tender (Works)  
e-Tender Notice No. 17/2024-2025

Date : 20/03/2025

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following works, details are given below -

Sl No	Tender ID No.	Package No	Description of work	Tender Document Last Selling (Date & Time)
1	1081646	GRRIIPRANIBADI UNRW-45	Improvement of Radhanagar UP - Kalindanga via Patanherhat road at (Ch. 00 - 3977 & 5962 - 7338) m Under Badarganj Upazila, District : Rangpur. ID No - 185033024 (Salvage Cost Tk. 1893344.00) [LTM]	27/04/2025 16:00 PM
2	1082897	RCRIIP-2IW-SCH-132	Improvement of Bawchandi Hat Govt. Primary School Connecting Road Ch: 00 - 650m. School Code - 105060709. Badarganj Upazila, District-Rangpur [Salvage Tk=225204.00] [LTM]	
3	1082898	RCRIIP-2IW-SCH-134	Improvement of Attaganj Govt. Primary School Connecting Road Ch: 00 - 90m. School Code - 105060804. Badarganj Upazila, District-Rangpur [LTM]	09/04/2025 16:00 PM
4	1087528	RCRIIP-2IW-UNR-269	Improvement of Mithapukur H/O (Serapor) - Kumarganj Hat via Honhorpur Road (Ch:3200 - 4200m). ID NO. 185583021. Mithapukur Upazila, District-Rangpur [LTM]	
5	1087529	RCRIIP-2IW-UNR-270	Improvement of Pulinary Primary School at Chandanpat UP office - Mallaparahat Road ( Ch: 00 - 1000m). ID NO.185493015. Rangpur- Sadar Upazila, District-Rangpur. [Salvage Tk=490185.00] [LTM]	

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks branches.

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

GD-751

(Md. Musa)  
Executive Engineer  
LGED, Rangpur  
Ph: 02589-962730  
E-mail : [xen.rangpur@lged.gov.bd](mailto:xen.rangpur@lged.gov.bd)



ACC sues ex-chief whip  
Noor-e-Alam and wife

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has filed two separate cases against former chief whip of the Jatiya Sangsad Noor-e-Alam Chowdhury Liton and his wife Jinnat Parveen Chowdhury for illegally acquiring assets worth Tk 71.30 crore.

ACC Director General Akhtar Hossain confirmed the information at the commission's headquarters in Segunbagicha, Dhaka yesterday.

Noor-e-Alam was accused of acquiring illegal wealth worth Tk 57.49 crore. Additionally, he allegedly conducted suspicious transactions worth Tk 232.11 crore in eight bank accounts under his name.

Jinnat was accused of acquiring wealth worth Tk 13.81 crore illegally.

Teen detained over rape

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Police yesterday detained a teenager for allegedly raping an eight-year-old girl in Mymensingh's Nandail upazila.

The girl's mother alleged that her daughter was raped by a neighbour on Friday night. As the girl fell sick, she was admitted to a hospital on Sunday.

Quoting doctors, Md Anwar Hossain, officer-in-charge of Nandail Police Station, said the girl was sexually assaulted. "Her condition is improving," the OC said.

Police were interrogating the accused at the police station. No case was filed till yesterday evening.



Sheikh Motaheb sells a variety of local and foreign perfumes and attar at Chawk Bazar in Barishal city. With Eid approaching, demand is high, enabling the 77-year-old to sell products worth Tk 2,500-3,000 daily, earning a profit of around Tk 700. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

BARISHAL UNIVERSITY

Teacher shortage disrupts academic activities

SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barishal

An acute shortage of teachers has left Barishal University struggling to conduct academic activities smoothly, exacerbating students' woes with prolonged session jams.

Since its inception in 2011 with 480 students across six departments, the university has expanded to 25 departments under six faculties, with student enrolment now exceeding 10,000. However, the number of teachers has not increased proportionally, creating a vacuum that continues to disrupt academic activities.

According to university sources, session jams ranging from six to 18 months persist across various departments. As per international

standards, there should be one teacher for every 20 students, but BU currently has a teacher-student ratio of 1:64. Some departments have been forced to curtail syllabi



by half in an attempt to mitigate session jams, raising concerns about the quality of education.

At present, the university employs 210 teachers, of whom 54 are on study leave, leaving just 156 actively

teaching. While the approved faculty strength stands at 266, the university's organogram suggests that the actual requirement is 493. Despite recruitment announcements in March and June 2024, administrative delays have stalled the process.

"Teachers are struggling with excessive workloads, often taking five to eight classes daily alongside administrative duties," said Associate Professor Sanjay Kumar Sarker of the Bangla Department.

Professor ATM Rafiqul Islam of the Botany Department said the crisis is compromising the quality of education.

Students expressed frustration, stating that the shortage of teachers

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

SC gets two new judges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two High Court judges were elevated to the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday.

With their appointments, the number of judges at the Appellate Division now stands at seven.

The judges are Justice AKM Asaduzzaman and Justice Farah Mahbub.

President Mohammed Shahabuddin appointed the judges under article 95(1) of the Constitution, according to a gazette notification by the law ministry.

Chief Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed will administer the oath of office to them at the Supreme Court Judges' Lounge around 10:30am today.

The two judges were appointed as judges of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court during the tenure of the BNP-led four party-alliance government.

Robbery on moving bus in Savar

Driver, helper, conductor taken into custody

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

A robbery took place on a moving passenger bus on the Dhaka-Aricha highway in Savar last night.

The alleged robbers, armed with locally made weapons, took passengers hostage and looted valuables, including cash and mobile phones.

Following the incident, the bus driver, helper, and conductor were taken into police custody for questioning.

The robbery occurred on a Manikganj-bound Suvojatra Paribahan bus while it was travelling from Savar's Radio Colony area to the C&B area around 8:00pm.

According to passengers, four to five robbers disguised as passengers boarded the bus at Radio Colony. They then held the passengers at knife-point, looted their belongings, and escaped from the moving bus near the C&B stand.

When the bus reached the main gate of Jahangirnagar University, passengers forced it to stop and detained the driver, helper, and conductor, suspecting their involvement.

Later with the help of JU students, they were handed over to Ashulia police. Passengers claimed that the bus staffers were involved in the robbery.

JU Proctor Prof AKM Rashidul Alam said robberies have been occurring from time to time in the Jahangirnagar, C&B, and Radio Colony areas on the Dhaka-Aricha highway.

Saugatul Alam, officer-in-charge of Savar Highway Police Station, said three people have been taken into custody for questioning.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD  
Road Division, Brahmanbaria  
Phone-0851-59632  
cebra@rhd.gov.bd

Memo No- 35.01.1213.406.14.259.25.568 Date- 23/03/2025.

**e-Tender Amendment/Corrigendum Notice -01(One)/2024-2025.**

Due to avoid unusual circumstances Corrigendum 1 given. Corrigendum-1 given for Tender Notice, TDS and PCC. For more details please visit on e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

Sl.No	Package No.	Tender ID
1.	e-GP/BRD/ADP/ BABNSR and SNL/ WP-01 /2024-2025	1075805
2.	e-GP/BRD/ADP/ BABNSR and SNL/ WP-02 /2024-2025	1076512
3.	e-GP/BRD/ADP/ BABNSR and SNL/ WP-03 /2024-2025	1076513
4.	e-GP/BRD/ADP/ BABNSR and SNL/ WP-04 /2024-2025	1076514
5.	e-GP/BRD/ADP/ BABNSR and SNL/ WP-05 /2024-2025	1076515

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

(Mir Nizur Uddin Ahmed)  
ID No. 602366  
Executive Engineer, RHD  
Road Division, Brahmanbaria

GD-753

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Department of Disaster Management (DDM)  
Disaster Management Bhaban  
92/93, Mohakhali C/A, Dhaka-1212  
[www.ddm.gov.bd](http://www.ddm.gov.bd)

Memo No.: 51.01.0000.007.16.010.25-110 Date: 24/03/2025

**e-Tender Notice**

Tender is invited in National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of package mentioned below which is available in tender notice under e-GP system portal. This is an online tender where only Tender will be accepted in the national e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. For details visit [www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd).

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Packages No	Name and description of Item	Published Date/Time	Last Selling Date/Time	Closing & Opening Date/Time
01	1089027	DDM/Vehicle/ 2024-2025	Procurement of Brand New Microbus is under the revenue budget.	25-03-2025 At 10 AM	20-04-2025 At 5:00 PM	21-04-2025 At 12:00 PM

(Md. Rasel Sabrin)  
Director (Admin)  
&  
Procuring Entity  
Phone: 02-222292398  
E-mail: [dadmin@ddm.gov.bd](mailto:dadmin@ddm.gov.bd)

GD-767

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLES' REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH  
HEADQUARTERS BORDER GUARD BANGLADESH  
COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH, PEELKHANA, DHAKA

Reference No : 44.02.1205.005.01.412.25.12,39,15&46 Dated : 25 March 2025

**e-Tender Notice (Re-Tender)**

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement works as stated below :

Package No.	Name of Work	Tender ID
15/2024-25/BGB/CB	Walkie Talkie Set Complete - DMR VHF	1092032
46/2024-25/BGB/CB	Supply of Spares for Multimedia Projector	1092033

- This is an online tender, where only e-tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.
- To submit e-tender, registration in the national e-GP portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.
- Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).
- The Tender Notice will be available on the website: [www.bgb.gov.bd](http://www.bgb.gov.bd)

MD MAHBUBUR RAHMAN  
Lieutenant Colonel  
Director (Comm)  
For Director General  
[dircomm@bgb.gov.bd](mailto:dircomm@bgb.gov.bd)

GD-760

EDCL  
ESSENTIAL DRUGS COMPANY LIMITED  
395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area  
Dhaka-1208

**Re-Press Tender Notice**

Tender ref.: EDCL (Dhaka)/PUR/PT/2025/112 Dated 24/03/2025

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the reputed construction firms having experience for successful completion of similar works in any single work worth of Govt./Semi Govt./Autonomous bodies/Private Organization during the last 5(five) years.

Name of the Items	Earnest Money	Cost of Tender Schedule	Last date of Closing & opening
Construction of 4-Storeyed Air Compressor Room & Connection with Engineering Building at EDCL, Dhaka Plant. Work Site: EDCL, Dhaka Plant.	Tk.5% of quoted amount	Tk. 1550.00/set Non-refundable	Closing: 30/04/2025 At 12.00 PM Opening: 30/04/2025 at 12.30 PM

Tender schedule will be sold from the Accounts Department of Essential Drugs Company Limited, Dhaka on payment as stated above during office hours on all working days (except Friday, Saturday and Govt. Holidays). No tender schedule will be sold on the opening date of the tender.

The tender will be accompanied by an amount of Earnest Money as mentioned above in the from of Bank Draft/Pay Order/Bank Guarantee from any Schedule Bank of Bangladesh in favour of "Essential Drugs Co. Ltd." without which the tender will be considered as non-responsive.

EDCL authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

General Manager (CC).  
Procurement Deptt.  
For: Managing Director.

(4 col. x 5)

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- With at least GPA 3.00 on 5.00 Scale (or 2nd Division) in both SSC and HSC Examinations

**IMPORTANT DEADLINES**

- Application opens:** February 28, 2025, Friday (12:01 AM)
- Last date of application and admit card download:** April 7, 2025, Monday (11:59 PM)
- Written test:** April 11, 2025 (Friday); 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM
- Viva-voce:** April 18 & 19 (Friday & Saturday)
- Class starts:** 16 May, 2025

Scan the QR Code to Apply

For further details & application process please visit:  
[www.iba-ju.edu.bd/postgraduate\\_admission](http://www.iba-ju.edu.bd/postgraduate_admission)

Contact: IBA-JU Office, Jahangirnagar University, Savar, Dhaka-1342  
Website: [www.iba-ju.edu.bd](http://www.iba-ju.edu.bd) | Email: [wmba.iba.ju@juniv.edu](mailto:wmba.iba.ju@juniv.edu) | Cell: +8801730641073

GD-756





# Mamunur Rashid’s ‘Tumba O Protibeshi’ to stage this Eid



Theatre legend Mamunur Rashid is set to stage his play *Tumba O Protibeshi* at Riddhi Gallery, Mirpur-II, during Eid. The production, written, directed, and performed by Rashid himself, will be held on Eid day and the following two days. Speaking to Prothom Alo yesterday, Mamunur Rashid shared, “There aren’t many cultural activities in the Mirpur area. I want to connect with the audience here, which is why we’re staging the play in Mirpur.”

Produced by Bangla Theatre, the story revolves around Rahat Chowdhury, a retired man in his sixties, whose unexpected bond with a neighbour’s dog, Tumba, leads to emotional upheaval and solitude. Rashid noted the lack of cultural activities in Mirpur as a key reason for choosing the venue. The play’s assistant director is Shamima Shawkat, with stage design by Hashim Masud, lighting design by Thandu Raihan, and music direction by Muktaneel. The sound projection is handled by Sourav Roy, costume design by Salma Khan, and voice narration by Arif Hossain, while the publication design is by Apu Mehdi. The venue is easily accessible, located near the Mirpur-II Metro Station.

# SHAKIB KHAN’s two films lined up for Eid release

Superstar Shakib Khan is likely to have two of his films—*Borbaad* and *Antaratma*—hit theatres this upcoming Eid-ul-Fitr. After much delay, *Borbaad* has finally been submitted to the Bangladesh Film Certification Board for approval, confirmed producer Shahreen Akter Sumi.

Meanwhile, *Antaratma*, directed by Wajed Ali Sumon and produced by Sohani Hossain under Taranga Entertainment, has already received censor clearance.

Starring Shakib Khan opposite Darshana Banik, *Antaratma* was initially slated for release in 2021 but got shelved for unknown reasons.

Directed by Mehdi Hassan Hridoy, *Borbaad* features a star-studded cast including Idhika Paul, Jisshu Sengupta, Misha Sawdagar, Shahiduzzaman Selim, Fazlur Rahman Babu, Intekhab Dinar, and Mamunur Rashid, among others.

## WHAT’S THE HAPS?



## ‘Lal Jatra’

Pioneering theatre troupe Prachyanat’s annual *Lal Jatra* procession will begin from Shonarjito Shadhinota intersection and end at Fuller Road’s Smriti Chironton Chattar. Led by theatre artists and professionals, the procession commemorates the martyrs of March 25, 1971, and protests against genocides worldwide, including in Palestine.

**Date:** Today (Tuesday) | March 25, 2025

**Time:** 4pm onwards

**Venue:** University of Dhaka

# Ed Sheeran urges UK government to invest in music education

Singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran has penned an open letter to the UK government, urging a €250 million investment in music education to counter years of underfunding.

The letter, addressed to Labour leader Keir Starmer, was co-signed by major music icons including Elton John, Coldplay, Central Cee, Harry Styles, Stormzy, and Robert Plant, urging authorities to prioritise the future of British music.

Launched in January, the Ed Sheeran Foundation outlined five key areas requiring government support—school music funding, teacher training, grassroots venue support, music apprenticeships, and a more inclusive curriculum.

Endorsed by hundreds of music industry professionals, the letter also called for a cross-departmental task force to prevent music education from being sidelined, especially in disadvantaged areas.

Sheeran previously criticised the Conservative government for cutting arts funding in schools.



# NEWS

## Hannan Masud

**FROM PAGE 2**  
chased the NCP supporters on the road. This led to a clash during which brick chunks were thrown. Hannan was hurt along with four others.

Lutfullahil Majid Nishan, joint general secretary of Hatiya unit BNP, alleged that Krishak Dal convener Abdur Rob was assaulted earlier in the evening, prompting their protest rally. He claimed that the confrontation was “not intentional”.

Despite repeated attempts, Hannan could not be reached for comments.

OC Azmal said it was the weekly bazaar yesterday. The incident disrupted traffic and trade at Jahajmara Bazar.

“At one point, locals asked them to get out of the way. When Hannan and his supported did not move, BNP leaders and activists gathered people and attacked them...,” he said

## Five cops held

**FROM PAGE 12**  
of Police Zedan Al Musa, and Mainul Islam, deputy commissioner (DB) of the RMP.

The arrestees were taken to a Bogura court around 5:30pm and subsequently taken to jail, according to Md Saidul Islam, officer-in-charge of Dhunat police, and Court Inspector Mosaddek Hossain.

According to the law enforcers, the five RMP DB personnel used an unauthorised rented microbus to abduct two men – Rabbi Sheikh and Jahangir – from Dighalkandi village in Dhunat upazila on Sunday night. They took the victims to the Mirzapur area of Sherpur upazila, accusing them of gambling, before demanding a ransom of Tk 12 lakh from the

## Hamza adds spice

**FROM PAGE 12**  
Chhetri from retirement. With six goals in his last five games against Bangladesh, Chhetri’s return signals just how seriously India are taking this encounter.

At the pre-match press conference, both head coaches acknowledged their opponent’s key player while remaining confident in their own squad’s abilities.

“I think it is more exciting having Hamza and having Sunil, but it’s really going to be a competitive match, and it’s not only about them,” said Bangladesh coach Javier Cabrera, determined to make things difficult for their higher-ranked opponents.

India coach Manolo Marquez also weighed in: “I think Hamza is a good player. He played in the Premier League, though he is now playing in the Championship, and his team was promoted. Obviously, he is a good

victims’ families.

The families paid Tk 2 lakh in cash and an additional Tk 1.30 lakh through mobile banking apps before the victims were released early yesterday.

Inspector Monowaruzzaman, in charge of Kunderhat Police Station, told The Daily Star, “The victims’ families chased after the microbus on motorcycles and informed a patrol team from the Kunderhat Police Outpost in Nandigram upazila. The team intercepted the accused in the Birgram area of Shajahanpur upazila. During the arrest, Tk 2 lakh in ransom money, a walkie-talkie, several sets of DB police jackets, mobile phones, handcuffs, and the microbus were seized.”

Contacted, RMP’s Deputy Commissioner Mainul Islam said, “SI Shahin Mohammad Anu and the

footballer, and it is good for Asian football.”

However, Marquez admitted he was unsure of the impact Hamza would have on the game. At 27, Hamza has played as both a defensive midfielder and right-back for Leicester City and Sheffield United, but Cabrera has kept his exact role for tonight’s match under wraps. This tactical mystery only adds to the anticipation.

Bangladesh captain Jamal Bhuiyan is also relishing the challenge, believing his team can go toe-to-toe with India.

“Honestly, we are not thinking about India’s ranking. Our focus is to win the match. The coach mentioned that this has been the best squad so far. The inclusion of Hamza is a big boost for us, and our target is to secure three points,” said Jamal, adding that the team’s mentality has shifted – they now approach games with a renewed level of belief.

four constables were present at the office at 8:00pm last night [Sunday], although they had no scheduled duty. They were supposed to be on duty this morning, but they were absent. I later learned of the incident from Bogura’s police superintendent.

“One of the constables, Bashir Ali, was not even assigned to the RMP’s Detective Branch. He had been transferred to the Rajshahi University Police Outpost on the 19th of this month.”

Asked why they travelled to Bogura from Rajshahi to commit the crimes, he said, “As far as I know, a DB constable from Dhunat upazila, named Wahab, was working with our DB police. They went to Dhunat based on information he provided. Constable Wahab is currently in our custody.”

Fasibaad er Oboshan” (Harmony of the New Year, End of Fascism).

Talking to the media, Farooki said, “This year, the festival will be celebrated over two days nationally, including Chaitra Sangkranti with the Mangal Shobhajatra on Pahela Baishakh.”

Many cultural organisations representing different ethnicities will participate in the fest, Farooki said, adding, “This time, it will be bigger, better, and more vibrant.”

## Helmeted

**FROM PAGE 12**  
Several cases, including for murder, have been filed against them in Chattogram following the ouster of the Sheikh Hasina-led government.

Of them, Firoz, Farid, Helal, and Fazle Karim have already been arrested. But none of the arms used in the attacks could be recovered. Photos show that the arms used include AK-22 rifle, pistols, and shotguns.

An investigator said they found that when AL cadres went on a shooting spree, police abetted them from behind to cover their actions.

He said that they recorded accounts of witnesses. “We visited the sites and found important evidence that will support the trial,” he told The Daily Star, wishing anonymity.

This newspaper reported on July 16 that AL leader Helal led the armed cadres during a clash in the city’s Muradpur area. On his instructions, at least five people started shooting on demonstrators, killing three people, including a Chhatra Dal leader. Chhatra League leader Nurulwas also seen alongside him.

On July 18, AL leaders and activists were also seen carrying firearms in the port city’s Bahaddarhat area during clashes that killed four people, including a Chittagong University student.

During the violence, police used sound grenades, shotguns, and teargas canisters. As the violence escalated in the afternoon, BGB personnel joined.

In the evening, when a traffic police box in Bahaddarhat was set on fire, live ammunition was used on protesters, resulting in several more deaths. It could not be ascertained whether the casualties were from police firing or the BGB, said the ICT investigators.

Contacted, police claimed they only fired shots from shotguns at that time and denied responsibility for the killings.

On August 4, AL men carried out repeated armed attacks on protesters in the Chattogram’s city New Market area.

Saibal Das Suman, then Jamal Khan ward councillor, was seen leading a group of cadres in a show of force at Kazir Dewri. The entire New Market area turned into a battleground that day. Another then councillor Abdus Sabur Liton was seen wielding a shotgun, according to the ICT investigators.

## UK MPs suspect

**FROM PAGE 12**  
could be hindered by an apparent smear campaign against the BB governor, including articles published on a website called International Policy Digest by individuals with no verifiable journalistic background.

The Guardian found that the authors’ images were stock photos.

The emails, sent to the 47-strong APPG, by a sender claiming to be a journalist, sent links to a website International Policy Digest, featuring articles about apparent displays of wealth by Mansur’s daughter and questioning why she was not being investigated.

Mansur, who previously lived and worked in Washington, said he believed that people under investigation for money laundering were trying to “diminish my reputation and target me in various ways”, reported The Guardian.

Mansur dismissed the claims, stating that his daughter, a US citizen, had little connection to Bangladesh, the report said.

One APPG member Rupa Huq received an email from a UK public relations firm, Palatine Communications, also linking to International Policy Digest, it said.

The message suggested that if Mansur was willing to “impugn the integrity of Tulip Siddiq,” he and his family should also be scrutinised.

Mansur said he had never made any comments about Siddiq.

He is a key figure in the transitional government led by Muhammad Yunus, whose ACC accused Siddiq, along with her family members, amid an investigation into a 2013 deal with Russia that allegedly overinflated the

price of a nuclear power plant, the report said.

Rupa described the email as “highly unusual” and compared it to previous attempts to intimidate MPs speaking about Bangladesh in parliament. She said both instances appeared to be efforts to “interfere with parliament and MPs’ normal work”.

APPG members have reportedly referred the emails to parliamentary cyber security advisers and the parliamentary foreign affairs committee.

“If it is the case that this communication is an attempt to mislead UK politicians when it comes to a very serious corruption scandal, then I think we should be very concerned,” said APPG member Phil Brickell.

“I urge the relevant parliamentary authorities to investigate thoroughly – we must get to the bottom of who paid for this, and why, in order to understand how we can best protect ourselves.”

A spokesperson for Palatine Communications said, “Our client instructions are confidential. In sending the email in question, we acted on our own initiative. We have nothing to do with, and know nothing of, the authorship of this article, but nor did we ever claim it represented the gospel truth.

“Like numerous articles from many media outlets, it raises legitimate concerns about the current situation in Bangladesh that we believe are worthy of MPs’ consideration.”

A spokesperson for International Policy Digest said the person who had actually written the articles had “wished to remain anonymous”, adding that they were confident that the content was “fairly accurate”.

# Declare AL a ‘criminal organisation’

**FROM PAGE 12**  
women, youth, minorities, and marginalised communities lead from the front”.

Addressing the diplomats, he said, “We believe that South Asia needs relationships built on dignity, justice, mutual respect, and protection of national interests – where no country feels dominated and every nation’s sovereignty is respected.”

He also said that justice remains a central demand of the party because thousands were killed or permanently maimed by the Sheikh Hasina regime.

Addressing another iftar event in

Narayanganj virtually, Nahid demanded that the Awami League be declared a “criminal organisation” and its registration be cancelled for being responsible for “the killings during the July uprising”.

“If the trial of Awami fascism is not ensured, there is no guarantee that we will not witness another dictatorship or fascism. We demand a visible trial before the elections.”

He also said a conspiracy is underway to rehabilitate AL. “We are seeing various political parties supporting the old arrangements and showing reluctance towards reforms.”

## Ethnic groups to feature

**FROM PAGE 12**  
there has been no change in the timing of the Mangal Shobhajatra procession compared to previous years.

“There was no discussion during the meeting about changing the name of the Mangal Shobhajatra,” he stated.

DU Proctor Saifuddin Ahmed said, “There will be one central committee for the celebration of Pahela Baishakh. There will also four sub-committees within this central

committee.”

DU Pro-VC Sayema Haque Bidisha has been appointed as the convener of this central committee, while Faculty of Fine Arts Dean Azharul Islam Sheikh will serve as the member secretary of the committee, according to Proctor Saifuddin Ahmed.

Bangladesh’s national women football team will also join the procession.

This year’s theme of Mangal Shobhajatra is – “Noboborsher Oikyatan,

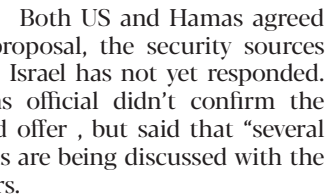


**AFP, Colombo**

"It must be recalled that President Dissanayake's first foreign visit after his election in September was to New Delhi in December," the official told AFP.

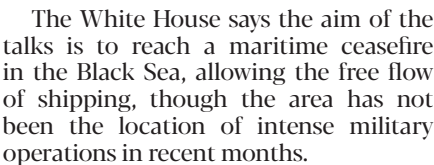
**REUTERS, Jerusalem**

Health officials said Israel has killed nearly 700 Palestinians since it resumed



**REUTERS, Riyadh**

A source briefed on the planning for the talks said the US side was being led by Andrew Peek, a senior director at the White House National Security Council, and Michael Anton, a senior State Department official.



Meanwhile, Russia launched its third consecutive overnight air attack on Kyiv, wounding one person and damaging several houses in the region, a Kyiv's regional governor said yesterday.

**AFP, Istanbul**

The demonstrations began in Istanbul after Ekrem Imamoglu's arrest last week and have since spread to more than 55 of 81 provinces, sparking clashes with riot police and drawing international condemnation.

The popular 53-year-old has been widely seen as the only politician who could defeat Turkey's leader Erdogan at the ballot box.

**AFP, Yangon**

Locals said the Saturday morning airstrike hit the village of Hnan Khar in the western region of Magway, in a zone currently held by anti-coup forces. A spokesman for Myanmar's military could not be reached for comment.

**REUTERS, Seoul**

South Korea's Constitutional Court yesterday reinstated Prime Minister Han Duck-soo to the post of acting president, striking down his impeachment as he pledged to focus on steering Asia's fourth-biggest economy through a US "trade war".

The ruling, which comes amid months of political turmoil in the country, returns Han to power immediately. He took over as acting leader from President Yoon Suk Yeol, who was impeached over his imposition of martial law in December.

"I believe the people are making it very clear, in one voice, that the extreme confrontation in politics must stop," said Han, who thanked the court for its "wise decision" and the cabinet for their hard work while he was suspended.

"As acting president, I will do my best to maintain stable state administration and devote all wisdom and capabilities to safeguard national interests in the trade war," Han said in televised comments.

South Korea, one of the world's top exporters, has been bracing for the potential impact of a range of threatened tariffs under US President Donald Trump.

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তারিখ: **১৫/০১/২০২৫**

**“জনির দপস্তু বিক্রয় নং-০১/২০২৪-২০২৫”**

এছাড়াও তারা জেলা প্রশাসকের জন্য কমিটিটির সম্মতি, মুদ্রণ ও বন্ডাই, অন্যান্য মনিটরিং, অসমর্থনকারী, অসমর্থনকারী এবং পেশাদার সমর্থনকারী জমা রাখার প্রক্রিয়ায় নিম্ন বর্ণিত নির্দিষ্ট শর্ত সংগেই দপস্তু অর্জন করা যাবে।

ক্রম নং	কার্যের নাম	দপস্তু দলিলপত্রের মূল্য (টাকা)	টেন্ডার সিদ্ধিপ্রাপ্তি টেন্ডারের পরিমাণ (টাকা)	কাজ সম্পাদনের কর্তব্য (অর্থহীন)
০১।	অনুপ্রাণ/বিক্রয়।			
০২।	দপস্তু সংগ্রহকারী সনাক্তের নাম			
০৩।	দপস্তু সংগ্রহকারী সনাক্তের জেলা			
০৪।	দপস্তু কার্যের নাম/দপস্তু দলিলপত্রের মূল্য/ টেন্ডার সিদ্ধিপ্রাপ্তির মূল্য/ টেন্ডার সিদ্ধিপ্রাপ্তির পরিমাণ/ কাজ সম্পাদনের সমর্থন।			
০৫।	জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়ে কমিটিটির সম্মতি (অর্থহীন কাজ নং: ০২৫৫৫১০১) সরবরাহ	২,০০০/-	৫০,০০০/-	২০২৪-২০২৫
০৬।	জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়ে মুদ্রণ ও বন্ডাই (অর্থহীন কাজ নং: ০২৫৫৫১০২ সরবরাহ)	২,০০০/-	৫০,০০০/-	২০২৪-২০২৫
০৭।	জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়ে অন্যান্য মনিটরিং (অর্থহীন কাজ নং: ০২৫৫৫১০৫ সরবরাহ)	২,০০০/-	৫০,০০০/-	২০২৪-২০২৫
০৮।	জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়ে অসমর্থনকারী (অর্থহীন কাজ নং: ৪১১২০১০৪) সরবরাহ	২,০০০/-	৫০,০০০/-	২০২৪-২০২৫
০৯।	জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়ে পেশাদার (অর্থহীন কাজ নং: ০২৫৫৫১০৬) সরবরাহ	২,০০০/-	৫০,০০০/-	২০২৪-২০২৫
১০।	দপস্তুসমূহ অর্জনের মূল ও টিকানা			
১১।	দপস্তুসমূহ বিক্রয়ের শর্ত তারিখ			
১২।	দপস্তুসমূহ বিক্রয়ের তারিখ, সময় ও ঠিকানা			
১৩।	দপস্তুসমূহ অর্জনের মূল ও টিকানা			
১৪।	দপস্তুসমূহ অর্জনের মূল ও টিকানা			
১৫।	দপস্তুসমূহ অর্জনের মূল ও টিকানা			
১৬।	দপস্তুসমূহ অর্জনের মূল ও টিকানা			
১৭।	দপস্তুসমূহ অর্জনের মূল ও টিকানা			
১৮।	দপস্তুসমূহ অর্জনের মূল ও টিকানা			
১৯।	দপস্তুসমূহ অর্জনের মূল ও টিকানা			
২০।	দপস্তুসমূহ অর্জনের মূল ও টিকানা			
২১।	দপস্তুসমূহ অর্জনের মূল ও টিকানা			
২২।	দপস্তুসমূহ অর্জনের মূল ও টিকানা			
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২৪।	দপস্তুসমূহ অর্জনের মূল ও টিকানা			
২৫।	দপস্তুসমূহ অর্জনের মূল ও টিকানা			
২৬।	দপস্তুসমূহ অর্জনের মূল ও টিকানা			
২৭।	দপস্তুসমূহ অর্জনের মূল ও টিকানা			
২৮।	দপস্তুসমূহ অর্জনের মূল ও টিকানা			
২৯।	দপস্তুসমূহ অর্জনের মূল ও টিকানা			
৩০।	দপস্তুসমূহ অর্জনের মূল ও টিকানা			

**স্বাক্ষারিত**  
 জেলা প্রশাসকের  
 জেলা প্রশাসক

তারিখ: ০২-২২-০১-২০২৫  
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## Checks and balances key to reform success

### Some thoughts on political appraisals of reform proposals

With over 15 political parties submitting written feedback on state reform proposals so far, the second phase of the reform drive can be said to be reaching a definitive point. Some of the parties have been vocal about various aspects of the drive in recent months, but this marks their first official response, which in time will be used as a basis for agreement on implementable reforms by the National Consensus Commission. Among the parties, BNP and the National Citizen Party (NCP) submitted their feedback on Sunday, while Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami submitted theirs on Thursday—with their appraisals initially covering key proposals by five reform commissions. We value their respective stances which we hope will leave room for compromise so that the desired consensus can be reached.

That said, certain aspects of these political appraisals, especially those relating to constitutional amendments and electoral system, deserve scrutiny given their potential impact. In particular, a preliminary reading of BNP's feedback shows that while the party leaves the door open for some radical changes—including a bicameral legislature with a 400-seat lower house and a 105-seat upper house—it appears less accommodating of other changes that may institute better checks and balances or limit exploitation of power using parliamentary majority. For instance, BNP does not deem it necessary to form a National Constitutional Council to handle appointments to the Anti-Corruption Commission and Election Commission. It also rejects the idea of holding the EC accountable to a parliamentary standing committee. Regarding the prime minister's tenure, it does not support the proposal that an individual cannot be PM more than twice, seemingly contradicting its own stance in its 31-point charter. It also disagrees with the proposal that one cannot be PM, leader of house, and chief of a political party at the same time. "Imposing constitutional restrictions on political parties is contrary to the core essence of parliamentary democracy," it says.

The message we get from these positions is that BNP remains hesitant to embrace institutional mechanisms that would prevent the excessive centralisation of power. But a key lesson from the history of past elected governments is that no party can be entrusted with absolute parliamentary authority, which, if unchecked, can lead to parliamentary dictatorship. Any reluctance to subject constitutional bodies to stronger oversight or to limit the authority of those in power is thus concerning. While BNP supports certain aspects of constitutional reform, its insistence that these matters be decided by elected MPs again reflects a preference for parliamentary majoritarianism. It may be good in theory, but not so in practical experience.

We think a key question moving forward is whether political parties can rise above their immediate strategic calculations and prioritise long-term national stability. Faith in parliamentary democracy is not granted automatically; it is earned through responsible governance. The overwhelming public support for structural changes after the fall of Sheikh Hasina's government is a testament to their demand for a more accountable system. Politicians must not squander this opportunity.

## Fortify mechanisms to tackle TB

### Govt must prioritise raising awareness, ensuring diagnosis of this disease

We are deeply concerned about Bangladesh's less-than-impressive performance in tackling tuberculosis (TB) over the last 10 years. According to a report in this daily, the country, which signed on to meet the World Health Organization's (WHO) End TB Strategy in 2015, is struggling to bring down the TB incidence rate to meet the 2025 targets. Bangladesh remains one of seven countries with high incidence rates of both ordinary and drug-resistant TB.

Per the WHO targets, by 2025, Bangladesh is supposed to reduce the TB incidence rate by 50 percent and the number of TB deaths by 75 percent from the 2015 levels. However, the incidence rate has hardly changed over the past decade (225 per 100,000 people in 2015 to 221 per 100,000 in 2023). The number of deaths has been reduced by around 60 percent during the same period. According to the National Tuberculosis Control Programme (NTP), the number of TB diagnoses has risen: 3.13 lakh people were detected with TB in 2024, compared to 3.01 lakh in 2023.

Then there is the matter of "missing" cases—the number of undetected patients. According to the WHO, Bangladesh had around 78,000 missing cases in 2023. A public health expert has warned that curbing the incidence rate will be difficult unless these missing cases are addressed. This makes raising awareness and intensifying efforts to detect them crucial, as undiagnosed patients can unknowingly spread the disease.

Compounding this crisis, national efforts have reportedly hit a snag following the US government's abrupt decision to suspend its USAID programme, which funded several TB initiatives in Bangladesh. For example, a project run by icddr,b—focused on increasing TB detection among children, drug-resistant patients, and high-risk groups—is now on hold due to the funding cut. USAID's suspension is also posing a major challenge for the NTP, which relied on these funds to accelerate its work.

Government officials claim that it won't cause much trouble, but given the situation, we remain unconvinced. What we need is a nationwide mechanism supported by local funds. The government must seek alternative funding sources to ensure that TB projects—both government and non-government—can continue uninterrupted, preventing a rise in cases and deaths. Additionally, rigorous efforts are needed to raise awareness about TB among the general populace, including disadvantaged, vulnerable, and marginalised communities, to detect and address missing cases. The health authorities must employ and strengthen all necessary measures to contain this deadly disease.

## THIS DAY IN HISTORY

### British abolish slave trade

On this day in 1807, the British Parliament abolished slave trade in the British West Indies.



# AL's crimes: What should be its punishment?



MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

#### THE STREET VIEW

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The recent statement by National Citizen Party (NCP) leader Hasnat Abdullah has stirred a significant political debate in Bangladesh, adding a new layer of complexity to the country's already volatile political landscape. Hasnat's claim that an effort is underway to create a "refined Awami League" as part of a broader "Awami League must come back" strategy, allegedly backed by India and the military, has caught many by surprise. It is not just his statement that has raised eyebrows, but also the manner in which it has been delivered. His remarks have not only exposed deeper political tensions but also raised critical questions about the future of democratic politics in Bangladesh.

The demand to ban a major political party raises fundamental questions about the limits of democratic competition and the long-term consequences of political exclusion.

To understand the weight of Hasnat's comments, it is essential to reflect on the origins of the current political turmoil. The mass movement in July-August last year, which forced Sheikh Hasina out of power, was driven by public frustration with the government's autocratic tendencies and corruption. The movement was built on four key demands: annulment of the quota system in public service; resignation of Sheikh Hasina; restoration of democratic norms; and establishment of political balance within the government. The protests were marked by intense public mobilisation and sacrifice, as protesters faced violence and government-sponsored repression in their push for political reform.

However, it is important to note that at no point during the July mass movement was there a call to ban the Awami League altogether. The essence of the movement was to restore political balance and ensure accountability, not to dismantle political pluralism. The movement's broad support base reflected a shared commitment to democratic principles rather than a call for political vengeance. This raises an important question: would the movement have attracted the same level of public support if the goal had been to eliminate the Awami League as a political force? The movement sought political reform, not political elimination.

Despite the fall of Sheikh Hasina's government and the departure of several high-ranking Awami League leaders, the party still has some support in Bangladesh. In every



VISUAL: SALMAN SAKIB SHAHRYAR

competitive election—not the ones held under Sheikh Hasina—the party has consistently secured at least 35 percent of popular vote. This is a significant figure; it reflects the party's historical, social and political roots. Political support for the Awami League extends beyond individual leaders; it is embedded in the party's historical legacy, particularly its role in Bangladesh's liberation struggle. It is true that Hasina destroyed the party hierarchy, but it still remains a potent force.

Can such a deeply rooted political entity be banned out of existence? Even if the government were to outlaw the Awami League, its political base would not disappear overnight. Political bans have historically fuelled underground movements and radicalisation, rather than eliminating political influence. Furthermore, not all Awami League leaders have been implicated in corruption or human rights violations. Is it justifiable—or even constitutional—to deny them political participation solely because of their party affiliation? Political accountability should target individual wrongdoing—they can be tried and punished—rather than dismantling entire political structures.

History offers valuable lessons on the consequences of political bans. After the 2013 military coup in Egypt, the Muslim Brotherhood was declared illegal and banned from political participation. Far from restoring stability, the ban triggered new waves of political violence

and radicalisation. The political vacuum left by the Brotherhood's dissolution led to greater instability and state repression. Bangladesh faces a similar risk. Banning the Awami League could push its supporters to align with extremist groups or form underground movements, thereby fuelling unrest and long-term political volatility. Political bans tend to create martyrs rather

than faction is struggling to consolidate power, targeting the Awami League could serve as a unifying strategy to rally support. However, this strategy risks alienating moderate voters who supported the July uprising's call for political accountability—not political revenge.

If banning the Awami League is not the solution, then what is? The

answer lies in political accountability rather than political purges. Awami League leaders involved in corruption, human rights abuses, and political violence should be prosecuted through the judicial system. Financial crimes, including bank fraud and smuggling, must be investigated and punished under existing legal frameworks. Democratic reforms aimed at strengthening political transparency and accountability should be prioritised. Political elimination rarely leads to long-term stability. Accountability, not erasure, is the foundation of democratic governance. Political competition and ideological diversity are essential for maintaining a democratic balance.

While Jamaat-e-Islami was not banned for most of Sheikh Hasina's tenure, the Awami League for long used the idea of banning Jamaat as a political tool. Eventually, when it did move to ban Jamaat, the political outcome was not what the party had anticipated. Hasnat's call to ban the Awami League holds the same risk. If the Awami League is banned, it could emerge stronger as a political martyr. Public sympathy could shift towards the party, and the political vacuum created by its dissolution could destabilise Bangladesh further. Banning the Awami League would not erase its deep political roots; instead, it would likely drive its supporters towards greater political mobilisation. Political accountability—not political elimination—remains the key to resolving the country's political crisis.

The call to ban the Awami League also raises questions about the political motivations behind such a dramatic statement. The July uprising united a broad coalition of political and social forces, but that unity appears to be unravelling. Hasnat's statement could be an attempt to regain political relevance by appealing to anti-Awami League sentiment. Alternatively, the proposal could reflect internal divisions within the NCP itself. If Hasnat's

# A vision for Dhaka's Aminbazar Waste-to-Energy project

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#### SULTAN AHMED and FATEMA TUZ ZUHRA

Dhaka, a city of nearly 20 million people, is struggling under the weight of an escalating waste crisis. Every day the two city corporations generate approximately 6,500 metric tonnes of solid waste, which is projected to reach 6.6 million tonnes annually by 2050. Most of this waste ends up in landfills, streets, and natural habitats, creating severe health hazards and degrading the urban ecosystem. The uncollected waste clogs the drainage system, pollutes water bodies, and releases methane—a potent greenhouse gas. This mismanagement degrades the urban habitat and creates breeding grounds for diseases underscoring the urgent need for efficient waste removal and recycling processes. It is critical to address this issue to create a sustainable and livable environment for the city.

#### What is Waste-to-Energy (WtE)?

Waste-to-Energy (WtE) is a process that converts municipal solid waste through incineration. With this technique, garbage is burned at high temperatures to create steam, which drives turbines

to generate electricity. WtE recovers valuable energy from waste and reduces reliance on landfills. Some key materials that are essential for WtE are high-calorific value waste, such as plastics, paper, textiles, dry organic matter, and non-recyclable waste. Furthermore, the process works better when wastes are adequately separated to prevent non-combustible or hazardous materials from interfering with energy creation. Advanced incineration plants are equipped with pollution control mechanisms to minimise harmful emissions.

#### The Aminbazar WtE project

Dhaka consumes 46 percent of the country's total electricity. While WtE may not revolutionise power generation, it offers a modest yet meaningful contribution to the city's power supply. More importantly, its primary benefit lies in tackling Dhaka's overwhelming waste problem. The under-construction Aminbazar WtE project, the first of its kind in Bangladesh, is designed to process thousands of tonnes of municipal solid waste from landfills daily. The facility will consist of four incineration lines, two sets of 35-megawatt turbo-generator systems, and a six-kilometre transmission line connecting to the Savar substation. What stands out is that the project aligns with European Union's pollutant emission standards. According to the Asian Infrastructure Investment

Bank, it will implement Best Available Technology to ensure environmentally responsible operations. Equipped with advanced filtration and scrubbing systems, the plant will effectively eliminate hazardous pollutants and make it a sustainable waste management solution.

To guarantee long-term viability, the initiative is backed by several key agreements: an Implementation Agreement with the Government of Bangladesh to establish regulatory frameworks, a Power Purchase Agreement with the Bangladesh Power Development Board to secure electricity sales, a Waste Supply Agreement with Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) to ensure a steady supply of municipal solid waste and a Land Use Agreement with DNCC for plant construction and operation. These agreements create a strong foundation for collaboration between government bodies and private sector stakeholders.

#### No scarcity of waste

There won't be a shortage of waste in Dhaka for the WtE plant operations. People are already eager for cleaner roads and a healthier environment. If they are made aware that their waste is being transformed into energy for their own use, they will be motivated to separate trash, especially materials with higher calorific value. Moreover, unlike many other cities where waste remains exposed to the environment

for long periods, Dhaka's waste is frequently collected during which much of the moisture is already separated, leaving behind drier, more energy-rich waste. This makes the waste arriving at the WtE plant more suitable for incineration, requiring less pre-treatment and increasing overall efficiency. By utilising this advantage, the city can enhance the effectiveness of its WtE initiatives which will make projects like the Aminbazar more viable and productive.

#### Call for urgent action

The Aminbazar WtE project must begin operations without further delays by addressing existing obstacles. Dhaka can learn valuable lessons from other cities in the world that have successfully implemented WtE initiatives. For example, Shanghai has integrated WtE into its circular economy strategy, improving efficiency and profitability by extracting recyclables before incineration. Singapore's Tuas Nexus Plant combines waste-to-energy with water treatment, maximising resource recovery and reducing emissions. New Delhi, despite initial setbacks, secured both government backing and private sector involvement to successfully operate the Ghazipur plant.

With strategic investments in waste segregation, clear policy frameworks, and public-private partnerships, Dhaka can avoid missing out on the potential of WtE.



# March 25 through the eyes of ordinary people

March 25, 1971 marks the darkest yet most significant moment in the independence struggle of Bangladesh. It began with the Pakistan government launching Operation Searchlight, abducting and killing thousands of people in a single night in the first episode of what went on to be a ruthless genocide. It also sparked an armed resistance that led to the birth of this country. Here are three personal accounts about the victims of this dark night.

## ‘I’ll be back, pray for me’

**Nazma Majid**  
is wife of the martyred Shah Abdul Majid who was an educationist and the superintendent of Rajshahi police.

**NAZMA MAJID**

In 1971, my husband was the chief of police in Rajshahi. On March 31, the Pakistan Army's Captain Salman Mahmud took him away from our drawing room. Since then, he has been missing. One can easily guess what fate befell him. Leaving behind his wife and four children in despair, he became a martyr.

Born in 1935 in Rangpur, Shah Abdul Majid was the son of Shah Yunus Ali and Mosammat Meher Afzun. He was brilliant from an early age. He always ranked first and received scholarships, so my father-in-law never had to worry about his educational expenses throughout his secondary and higher secondary education. After completing his master's degree in Political Science from the University of Dhaka in 1956, he taught at the then Jagannath College from 1957 to 1961. During this period, he passed the Central Superior Services (CSS) examination and became a member of the then Pakistan Police Service. The results of his CSS exam were published on the day our first son was born in 1961.

I had seen how calm, soft-spoken, and principled my husband was. He repeatedly asked me whether he should take the job, as he was unsure whether he could be as strict as the police service often required. While teaching for three years, he earned a reputation as a beloved educator among his students. Nevertheless, he eventually accepted the position in the police department.

After completing his training at the Sarda Police Academy in 1962, he joined as an assistant superintendent of police (ASP) in Chittagong in 1963. In 1964, he joined the Special Branch of police, and from 1965 to 1968, he served as the additional superintendent of police in Dhaka district.

At that time, Abdul Majid's voice often calmed and disciplined the agitated students protesting in Dhaka. Though he held a position of authority in the police, he still carried the firmness and affectionate discipline of a teacher. Later, he served as the superintendent of police (SP) in the districts of Bogura and Faridpur, as well as the vice-principal of the Sarda Police Academy. In September 1970, he assumed the role of SP of Rajshahi district.

During the tenure of Monem Khan, when he was posted in Dhaka, the student movement erupted. There were countless days and nights when he would go without meals, he would remain awake and restless, concerned about his duty and the safety of the students.

He would tell me, "Since fate made you a police officer's wife, you must stay strong. Remember, my life is like water on a lotus leaf, it can slip away at any moment." He believed that if he stood before the students, they would calm down. Then, he took charge as the SP of Rajshahi. From the very beginning, an inexplicable sense of fear lingered in me. It felt as though I was destined to lose something there.

Then came March. The non-cooperation movement left him deeply worried. He would say, "Who knows what's coming." He was anxious.

The dreadful night of the 25th arrived. That night, members of the military swarmed our area. My husband knew that he could be arrested at any moment. I told him to leave, but he responded that it was unbecoming of a police officer's wife to say such things. He angrily asked, "If I leave, who will lead my police force?"

He tried to convince the staff at police lines to disperse and resist the enemy. The Pakistani soldiers had blockaded the area. But my husband was determined to prevent the police force from perishing unprepared and surrounded by the enemy.

When the bloodthirsty Pakistani officer Captain Salman Mahmud arrested my husband on March 31, 1971, I was told he was being taken for questioning and would return shortly.

Before leaving, he said to me, "I'll be back—pray for me." Yet, the patriotic Shah Abdul Majid never returned to the warm, loving life he shared with his wife, sons, and daughters.



VISUAL: **BIPLOB CHAKROBORTY**

## ‘Let me open the door, they won’t harm us’

**Abdul Hannan Thakur**  
is cousin of the martyred Dr Fazlur Rahman Khan, an assistant professor in the Department of Soil Science at the University of Dhaka.

**ABDUL HANNAN THAKUR**

Fazlu *bhai* was my paternal cousin. We used to call him *Chhotobhai*. He was born on March 2, 1939. As a student, he was exceptionally brilliant—always ranking first in every school examination. Despite his restless nature, Fazlu *bhai* was deeply devoted to his father. Perhaps in his father, he found the warmth and affection of his lost mother. Since her death, he shared a soulful connection with his father—whether it was anger or affection, it was always directed towards him.

He completed MSc from the University of Dhaka (DU) in 1962. On August 1, 1963, he joined the Department of Soil Science at Dhaka University as a lecturer. From childhood, Fazlu *bhai* had dreamed of becoming a university teacher. That calling became his life's purpose. He immersed himself in research, books and study.

Fazlu *bhai* earned a scholarship and went to the University of London for higher studies. On July 25, 1968, he received his PhD and rejoined DU the same year. On August 15, 1968, he was promoted to senior lecturer. In 1970, he married Farida Khanam Shirin. Farida *bhabi* was also a student at DU. She earned her MSc in Physics

with first class and later joined there as a faculty.

It was March, 1971. Teachers and students were united in the spirit of independence. Fazlu *bhai* also declared his solidarity with the Liberation War. He lived in the university staff quarters near Nilkhet. After his wife left for London, he felt increasingly lonely. When he mentioned this to our eldest sister in Azimpur, she sent her son, Ali Ahsan Khan Kanchan, to stay with him. At that time, Kanchan was a second-year science student at Dhaka College.

Then arrived the dreadful night of March 25. Fazlu *bhai* went to Azimpur. Our eldest sister earnestly insisted he stayed for dinner. But he declined, saying he would eat later with Kanchan, and hurried back home. The same night, Kanchan visited his aunt Renu's house on Mitali Road, saying the same thing—"I'll have dinner with uncle." A young boy Joban, a relative of Farida *bhabi*, prepared their dinner at home that night.

Shortly after 10pm, the brutal Pakistani Army took over Dhaka. At exactly 12:20am, they pounded violently on Fazlu *bhai's* door with their rifles, nearly breaking it down. Inside were Fazlu *bhai*, Kanchan, and Joban. Following the relentless pounding, Kanchan said, "Uncle, I've had UOTC training. Let me open the door with the gesture of surrender—they won't harm us." Fazlu *bhai* tried to stop him but failed. The moment the door

opened, the soldiers unleashed a barrage of bullets, riddling Kanchan's chest. Overwhelmed by horror, Fazlu *bhai* shouted in anguish. Instantly, their guns roared again—his chest was also torn apart. They then desecrated his body further by carving an 'X' on his chest with a bayonet. Just like that, two vibrant lives were silenced forever. The horrific scene was witnessed by Joban, who was hiding in the adjacent bathroom. He too had been shot in the leg but somehow managed to survive.

On March 27, when the curfew was temporarily lifted, people went to retrieve the bodies of Fazlu *bhai* and Kanchan. The scene was beyond description. The house and veranda were soaked in blood—nothing but blood. Congealed, darkened blood. Kanchan's lifeless body lay near the door. One of Fazlu *bhai's* lifeless hands rested on the steel cabinet beside him as if he were trying to protect something precious. Later, we learned that it contained some belongings of Farida *bhabi*. Both *Chhotobhai* and Kanchan were hurriedly buried side by side in coffins at the Azimpur graveyard on March 27. After that, none of us returned home. We fled into the unknown, driven by the fear of the ruthless attackers.

*The three accounts are abridged versions of memoirs taken from 'Smrity: 1971', edited by Rashid Haider.*

## For my husband, the nation came first

**Sabera Hoque**  
is wife of martyred Nazmul Hoque Sarkar, a lawyer and Awami League leader of Rajshahi.

**SABERA HOQUE**

"Who should I call *Abba*? Everyone calls someone *Abba*! What does *Abba* mean, Ma?"—my son, Md Nijamul Hoque Sarkar, would often ask me as a child, leaving me at a loss for answers. When my husband was killed by the Pakistani army, Nijamul was just a little over a month old.

Advocate Nazmul Hoque Sarkar, elected as a member of the national assembly from Charchat, Puthia, and Durgapur of Rajshahi in the 1970 elections, was killed by the Pakistani army on the night of March 25, 1971.

On March 25, my husband was entrusted with significant responsibilities for leading the resistance. Following Bangabandhu's directives, he held detailed plans and lists outlining the resistance war, including formation of neighbourhood resistance committees and volunteer forces. Around 10pm on March 25, he moved from the Awami League office to a secret hideout in Hetem Khan. But by 4am, he returned to the Awami League office to move some important and confidential documents. At that time, he was serving as the president of the district Awami League.

After completing his task, he returned to his home in Ranibazar to assess the situation, only to find it in ruins, with broken doors and windows. Acting quickly, he sought refuge at the nearby house of his friend, Khandakar Altaf Hossain. As the situation grew increasingly perilous, the two decided to flee. However, Pakistani soldiers spotted them. Altaf Hossain managed to escape by jumping over a wall into a neighbouring house. My husband, carrying a briefcase containing crucial documents, attempted to run as well. But the soldiers shot him from behind, killing him on the spot. They then took his body away.

His tireless work centred around ensuring the safety of the city's residents and establishing a system of resistance. Meanwhile, I, along with my sons, sought refuge at my uncle Badiuzzaman Tunu's (Bir Pratik) house in Miyapara, near the public library.

Late on the night of March 25, the Pakistani soldiers raided my house. At that time, only Israil, a peon from Krishi Bank, was there. Failing to find my husband, the soldiers brutally beat him and even attempted to kill him. They set fire to the furniture in the house, while the Biharis looted all our belongings. Not finding my husband, the frustrated Pakistani soldiers turned violent and stormed into the home of veteran politician Advocate Ramesh Maitra, which was located nearby. There, they mercilessly beat him and used every possible means to try to extract information about my husband's whereabouts.

I received the devastating news on March 29 that the Pakistani army had taken away my husband. With the guidance and support of well-wishers, I fled the country, carrying my one-year-old child in my arms, and facing an uncertain and hopeless future. I crossed into India in mid-April. Such is the fate I was destined to endure—our marriage lasted only six and a half years. What is the point of grieving now? The pain is most unbearable when I look at my children's faces. They never knew their father. They were deprived of his love and care.

Now, all my love, devotion, and purpose revolve around Shaheed Nazmul Hoque Girls' High School. The success of the school and its students brings me joy—it is my way of staying connected to my husband. He was a renowned public servant, a dedicated organiser, and a true patriot. For him, the cause of the oppressed, the party's manifesto, and the nation always took precedence over his own life. Family and household matters were secondary to him. Anyone who visits our home in Ranibazar, where I now live with my three sons, would immediately understand the simplicity and humility with which my husband lived. In our small home, there is no trace of luxury or grandeur—only his memories, a burden I carry alone.

## Henry Kissinger's role in 1971



**Kollol Kibria**  
is an advocate, human rights activist, and political analyst. He can be reached at kollolkibria@gmail.com.

**KOLLOL KIBRIA**

Henry Kissinger, one of the most influential yet controversial political figures of the 20th century, passed away in 2023, leaving behind a legacy that continues to spark heated debates. Lauded by some as a master of diplomacy and realpolitik, he remains, in the eyes of others, a war criminal who should have been held accountable for his actions. In The Trial of Henry Kissinger, Christopher Hitchens meticulously builds a case against Kissinger, arguing that his policies and decisions—from his role in extending the Vietnam War to his backing of right-wing coups, complicity in genocide, and orchestration of covert operations—led to mass suffering across the globe. The Bangladesh chapter of the book is particularly damning, exposing the cold indifference and realpolitik

calculations that led to one of the most horrifying atrocities of the 20th century.

In December 1970, the people of East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) overwhelmingly voted for self-rule under the leadership of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the Awami League. However, instead of honouring the democratic mandate, the Pakistani military, led by General Yahya Khan, launched Operation Searchlight on March 25, 1971. What followed was an unrelenting campaign of mass killings, systematic sexual violence, and forced displacement. Conservative estimates place the death toll at 300,000, though many argue the real number was closer to three million.

As reports of massacres spread, one of the earliest and most powerful condemnations came from Archer Kent Blood, the US

Consul General in Dhaka. Blood and his team sent a series of telegrams to Washington detailing the atrocities being committed by the Pakistani military. In the telegrams, they pleaded the US to take a stand against the Pakistani government. The message read:

"Our government has failed to denounce the suppression of democracy. Our government has failed to denounce atrocities...Our government has evidenced what many will consider moral bankruptcy..."

This was signed by dozens of diplomats, making it the strongest internal protest ever recorded within the US State Department. Yet, Nixon and Kissinger dismissed it outright. Kissinger, obsessed with using Pakistan as a backchannel to China, saw Yahya Khan as an indispensable ally. Instead of acting against genocide, Kissinger chose silence and complicity. In fact, the US government, under Kissinger's guidance, actively supported the Pakistani military by supplying them with weapons.

Kissinger also made a callous remark in a private conversation, referring to Bangladesh as a "basket case," illustrating his dismissive attitude toward the country's plight and people. Between March and December 1971, the Pakistani military

conducted some of the most gruesome acts of ethnic and political cleansing of the 20th century. Bangalee intellectuals were specifically targeted and executed, Hindu minorities were slaughtered, and millions of women were subjected to rape as a weapon of war. While the world condemned the atrocities, Nixon and Kissinger continued to stand by Pakistan.

His secret conversations with Nixon reveal racist and derogatory remarks about Bangalees and Indians, showing his complete disregard for human lives. Even when the then US Ambassador Kenneth Keating urged the administration to publicly condemn Pakistan's brutality, Nixon said to Kissinger that Keating had been "taken over by the Indians." Kissinger, for his part, at the height of the genocide in late April sent Yahya a message praising him for "delicacy and tact."

As the crisis deepened, India, overwhelmed by millions of Bangalee refugees, prepared to intervene militarily. On December 3, 1971, India officially entered the war to assist the Mukti Bahini. In response, Kissinger orchestrated a dangerous and reckless move. He deployed the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise into the Bay of Bengal. This was meant to intimidate India and deter its intervention, but it failed.

Mukti Bahini with help from India swiftly defeated Pakistan, leading to the creation of an independent Bangladesh on December 16, 1971. But Kissinger's hostility toward Bangladesh did not end there.

When Mujib sought international recognition and aid for the war-ravaged country, the US remained distant. Kissinger saw Mujib's government as an embarrassment, resenting the exposure of US complicity in genocide. In November 1974, Kissinger made a brief eight-hour visit to Dhaka, where he refused to acknowledge the role of the US in Pakistan's actions.

Hitchens' book meticulously builds a case against Kissinger, arguing that his actions in Bangladesh, Chile, Vietnam, and East Timor amount to war crimes. Kissinger's secret involvement in overthrowing democratically elected leaders, his orchestration of military coups, and his support for genocidal regimes paint the picture of a man who viewed human lives as collateral damage in his grand strategy. As Bangladesh continues to push for global recognition of the 1971 genocide, the question remains: will history hold Kissinger accountable, or will his crimes fade into the shadows of realpolitik?



## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Director  
Kurmitola General Hospital  
Dhaka Cantonment, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

## INVITATION FOR TENDER (INTERNATIONAL)

Memo No – KGH/Tender/2024-25/1090

Date: 24-03-2025

Sealed Tenders are hereby invited from bonafide experienced Manufacturer/Importers/Agent/Suppliers/Distributors to supply Medical Equipment for the year of 2024-2025 with necessary infrastructure and minimum five years operation As per PPR—2006 & 2008. Terms and conditions are as follows:

KEY INFORMATION	
1 Ministry/Division	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Health Service Division
2 Agency	Directorate General of Health Services(DGHS).
3 Procuring Entity Name	Director, Kurmitola General Hospital, Dhaka.
4 Procuring Entity Code	127020911126
5 Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
6 Invitation for	Procurement of Goods (High Linear Accelerator with Dosimetry & Immobilization Accessories)
7 Tender Ref. No	KGH/Tender/2024-25/1090
8 Date	24/03/2025
9 Procurement Method	Open Tender Method(OTM), ICT
FUNDING INFORMATION	
10 Budget and Source of Funds	GOB
11 Developments Partners	N/A
PARTICULAR INFORMATION	
12 Project/Program Code	N/A
13 Program Name	N/A
14 Tender Package No	Radiotherapy-I
15 Tender Package Name	Supply, Installation & Commission of High Linear Accelerator with Dosimetry & Immobilization Accessories
16 Tender Publication Date	27/03/2025 or before
17 Tender Last Selling Date	06/05/2025 and Time: 14:00 Hours Bangladesh Standard Time (BTS=GMT+6 hrs.)
18 Tender Closing Date and Time	07/05/2025 at 13.00 Hours Bangladesh Standard Time (BTS=GMT+6 hrs.)
19 Tender Opening Date and Time	07/05/2025 at 13.30 Hours Bangladesh Standard Time (BTS=GMT+6 hrs.)
20 Name and address of the Office:	
a) Selling Tender Documents	Office of the Director, Kurmitola General Hospital, Dhaka Cantonment, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
b) Receiving Tenders Documents	(1) Office of the Director, Kurmitola General Hospital, Dhaka Cantonment, Dhaka, Bangladesh. (2) Officer In charge, Cantonment Thana, Dhaka Cantonment, Dhaka, Bangladesh
c) Opening Tender Documents	Office of the Director, Kurmitola General Hospital, Dhaka Cantonment, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
21 Place/Date/Time of Pre-Tender Meeting	Place: Office of the Director, Kurmitola General Hospital, Dhaka Cantonment, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Date : 23/04/2025, Time: 11.00 AM
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER	
22 Eligibility of Tenderer	As Per Tender Documents.
23 Brief Description of Goods	Supply, Installation & Commission of High Linear Accelerator with Dosimetry & Immobilization Accessories
24 Brief Description of Related Services	After sales services & Continuous Maintenance Service(CMC)
25 Price of Tender Documents	BDT 10000/- (Bangladesi Taka Ten Thousand) or USD 100(One Hundred) only (Non-refundable). The Method of Payment will be Pay Order from any Scheduled Bank in Bangladesh in favour of "Director, Kurmitola General Hospital, Dhaka".
26 Package	Identification Location Tender Security Amounts in BDT Completion time in weeks
Radio-therapy-I	Supply, Installation & Commission of High Linear Accelerator with Dosimetry & Immobilization Accessories Office of the Director, Kurmitola General Hospital, Dhaka, Bangladesh. BDT 70,00,000.00 (Seventy Lakh) or USD 58,00,000 (Fifty Eight Thousand) Bank draft/Bank Guaranty/Pay order in favour of "Director, Kurmitola General Hospital, Dhaka" To be delivered on or within 24 weeks after opening of the letter of credit or the date of confirmation of the letter of credit.
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS	
27 Name of Official Inviting Tenders	Brigadier General Md Saydur Rahman
28 Designation of Official Inviting Tenders	Director, Kurmitola General Hospital
29 Address of Official Inviting Tenders	Office of the Director, Kurmitola General Hospital, Dhaka Cantonment, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
30 Contact details of Official Inviting Tenders	Director, Kurmitola General Hospital, Dhaka Cantonment, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Phone : 55062201, Fax:55062202, e-mail: kurmitola500bdt@hosp.dghs.gov.bd
The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject in part or whole of any or all tenders without explanation.	

Signed/-  
Brigadier General Md Saydur Rahman  
Director  
Kurmitola General Hospital, Dhaka Cantonment, Dhaka.

GD-766



## Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB)

TCB Bhaban, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215

www.tcb.gov.bd

## Commercial Section

## Invitation For Tender (International) for Purchase of

(a) 22,000,000 Liter Refined Soyabean Oil, (b) 11,000,000 Liter Refined Palm Olein, (c) 11,000,000 Liter Refined Sunflower Oil, (d) 11,000,000 Liter Refined Canola Oil, (e) 25,000 M. Ton White Refined Sugar &amp; (f) 10,000 M. Ton Whole Husked (Without Husk) Red Lentil

1 Ministry/Division	Ministry of Commerce.
2 Agency	Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB)
3 Procuring Entity Name	Additional Director (Commercial), TCB, Dhaka.
4 Procuring Entity Code	Not applicable.
5 Procuring Entity District	Dhaka.
6 Invitation for	a) Refined Soyabean Oil, b) Refined Palm Olein, c) Refined Sunflower Oil, d) Refined Canola Oil, e) White Refined Sugar, f) Whole Husked (Without Husk) Red Lentil.
7 Invitation Ref. No.	a) 26.05.0000.016.08.529.25.1037, b) 26.05.0000.016.08.529.25.1038, c) 26.05.0000.016.08.529.25.1039, d) 26.05.0000.016.08.529.25.1040, e) 26.05.0000.016.08.529.25.1041, f) 26.05.0000.016.08.529.25.1042.
8 Date	24-03-2025
KEY INFORMATION	
9 Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM) (International)
FUNDING INFORMATION	
10 Budget and Source of Funds	TCB's Own Fund.
PARTICULAR INFORMATION	
11 Package No.	a) TCB/Imp-124/Soyabean Oil/2024-25, b) TCB/Imp-124/Palm Olein/2024-25, c) TCB/Imp-124/Sunflower Oil/2024-25, d) TCB/Imp-124/Canola Oil/2024-25, e) TCB/Imp-124/Sugar/2024-25, f) TCB/Imp-124/Red Lentil/2024-25.
12 Package Name	a) Refined Soyabean Oil, b) Refined Palm Olein, c) Refined Sunflower Oil, d) Refined Canola Oil, e) White Refined Sugar, f) Whole Husked (Without Husk) Red Lentil.
13 Tender Invitation/Publication Date	24-03-2025
14 Tender Documents Last Selling Date and Time	Date Time 16-04-2025 17:00 P.M
15 Tender Closing Date and Time	17-04-2025 12:00 P.M
16 Tender Opening Date and Time	17-04-2025 12:15 P.M
17 Name & Address of the office(s)	Address (1) Sonali Bank Ltd. Kawran Bazar Branch, TCB Bhaban, Dhaka. (2) Trust Bank Ltd. Kawran Bazar Branch, and (3) Accounts & Finance Division, TCB's Principal Office at Dhaka. In front of TCB's reception (2 <sup>nd</sup> floor), TCB Bhaban, 1, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.
- Selling Tender Document of each item can be purchased from the banks & offices as mentioned in right column.	
- Receiving Tender Document	Board Room, TCB.
- Opening Tender Document	
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER	
18 Eligibility of Tenderer	Bonafide Suppliers. Details conditions will be mentioned in the Tender documents.
19 Brief Description of goods	Import of a) 22,000,000 (Twenty Two Million) Liter Refined Soyabean Oil Packed in 02 (Two) Liter Food Grade PET Bottle [Tender of partial Quantity is acceptable but not less than 10,00,000 liter]. b) 11,000,000 (Eleven Million) Liter Refined Palm Olein Packed in 02 (Two) Liter Food Grade PET Bottle [Tender of partial Quantity is acceptable but not less than 10,00,000 liter]. c) 11,000,000 (Eleven Million) Liter Refined Sunflower Oil Packed in 02 (Two) Liter Food Grade PET Bottle [Tender of partial Quantity is acceptable but not less than 10,00,000 liter]. d) 11,000,000 (Eleven Million) Liter Refined Canola Oil Packed in 02 (Two) Liter Food Grade PET Bottle [Tender of partial Quantity is acceptable but not less than 10,00,000 liter]. e) 25,000 (Twenty Five Thousand) M. Tons White Refined Sugar packed in 50 (Fifty) kg bag [Tender of partial Quantity is acceptable but not less than 1,000 M. Ton]. f) 10,000 (Ten Thousand) M.Tons Whole Husked (Without Husk) Red Lentil packed in 25/50 (Twenty Five/Fifty) kg bag [Tender of partial Quantity is acceptable but not less than 1,000 M. Ton].
20 Price of Tender Document	Price of (a) Refined Soyabean Oil tender document is Taka 5,000 (Five Thousand), (b) Refined Palm Olein tender document is Taka 5,000 (Five Thousand), (c) Refined Sunflower Oil tender document is Taka 5,000 (Five Thousand), (d) Refined Canola Oil tender document is Taka 5,000 (Five Thousand) (e) White Refined Sugar tender document is Taka 5,000 (Five Thousand) & (f) Whole Husked (Without Husk) Red Lentil tender document is Taka 5,000 (Five Thousand).
Lot No	Identification of Lot Location Tender Security Amount (USD/BDT) Shipment Schedule
21 1.	a) Refined Soyabean Oil Offers are to be made on CFR (C) Chattogram (Previous name Chittagong)/ Mongla Port by Sea or CPT Benapole/ Bangla Hiti/ Dardhana/ Sonamasi/ Bhomra/ Teknaf by rail/ truck. b) Refined Palm olein c) Refined Sunflower Oil d) Refined Canola Oil e) White Refined Sugar f) Whole Husked (Without Husk) Red Lentil. Tender is to be submitted along with Tender Security amounting to: a) USD 636,680 (US Dollar Six Hundred Thirty-Six Thousand Six Hundred Eighty) or BDT 7,76,74,960 (BDT Seven Crore Seventy Six Lac Seventy Four Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty) Only. b) USD 296,120 (US Dollar Two Hundred Ninety-Six Thousand One Hundred Twenty) or BDT 3,61,26,640 (BDT Three Crore Sixty One Lac Twenty Six Thousand Six Hundred Forty) Only. c) USD 421,740 (US Dollar Four Hundred Twenty-One Thousand Seven Hundred Forty) or BDT 5,14,52,280 (BDT Five Crore Fourteen Lac Fifty Two Thousand Two Hundred Eighty) Only. d) USD 401,940 (US Dollar Four Hundred One Thousand Nine Hundred Forty) or BDT 4,90,36,680 (BDT Four Crore Ninety Lac Thirty Six Thousand Six Hundred Eighty) Only. e) USD 340,518 (US Dollar Three Hundred Forty Thousand Five Hundred Eighteen) or BDT 4,15,43,196 (BDT Four Crore Fifteen Lac Forty Three Thousand One Hundred Ninety Six) Only. f) USD 184,704 (US Dollar One Hundred Eighty-Four Thousand Seven Hundred Four) or BDT 2,25,33,888 (BDT Two Crore Twenty Five Lac Thirty Three Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Eight) Only. in the form of Pay-Order/ Bank Draft must be issued from any scheduled Bank of Bangladesh or Bank Guarantee from a Foreign Bank must be endorsed by any local scheduled Bank. The Successful Tenderer is to submit 5% (Five Percent) Performance Security in the form of Bank Guarantee. [N. B: In case of partial quantity, tender security will be fixed proportionate to the offered quantity.]
Entire quantity of Goods is to be shipped within	
(a) 30.07.2025, (b) 30.07.2025, (c) 30.07.2025, (d) 30.07.2025, (e) 30.07.2025, (f) 30.07.2025.	
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS	
22 Name of Official Inviting Tender	Md. Golam Khorsheed
23 Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Additional Director (Commercial), TCB Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.
24 Address of Official Inviting Tender	Principal Office, Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) 1, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.
25 Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Telephone No. 02-8180060 Fax No. 880-2-8180057 E-mail tcb@tcb.gov.bd, tcbimp@tcb.gov.bd
26 Special Instructions:	a. All terms and conditions related to the tender and product details are mentioned in the tender document. b. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any tender in whole/ in part without assigning any reason.

(Md. Golam Khorsheed)  
Additional Director (Commercial) (Substitute)  
Trading Corporation of Bangladesh

GD-763



## গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

স্থানীয় সরকার, পল্লী উন্নয়ন ও সমবায় মন্ত্রণালয়

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বাড়ী নং-০৫, এডিনিউ - ০৩, হাজী রোড, রূপনগর বা/এ, মিরপুর-০২, ঢাকা-১২১৬

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তারিখ: ২৪/০৩/২০২৫ খ্রি.

## নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার-এর স্থানীয় সরকার, পল্লী উন্নয়ন ও সমবায় মন্ত্রণালয়, পল্লী উন্নয়ন ও সমবায় বিভাগের অধিকৃত “পল্লী দারিদ্র্য বিমোচন ফাউন্ডেশন (পিডিবিএফ)” এর স্থায়ী পদে নিম্নবর্ণিত শূন্য পদসমূহে জনবল নিয়োগের নিমিত্ত ও প্যানেলভুক্তির লক্ষ্যে বাংলাদেশের স্থায়ী নাগরিকের নিকট হতে পদের পার্শ্বে উল্লিখিত শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্ত সাপেক্ষে অনলাইনে (<http://pdbf.teletalk.com.bd> ওয়েবসাইটে) নির্ধারিত সময়ের মধ্যে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। অনলাইন (Online) ব্যতীত অন্য কোন মাধ্যমে প্রেরিত আবেদন গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।

ক্রম	পদের নাম ও বেতনকেস	পদের সংখ্যা	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা, অভিজ্ঞতা ও বয়সসীমা	যে সকল জেলার প্রার্থীগণ আবেদন করতে পারবেন
১	উপজেলা দারিদ্র্য বিমোচন কর্মকর্তা টা: ২২০০০-৪৩০৬০/- (গ্রেড-০৯)	১৫৫ জন	সরকার কর্তৃক স্বীকৃত কোন কলেজ/ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে কমপক্ষে ২য় শ্রেণি/ সমমানের সিভিলিএসহ স্নাতক/ সমমান ডিগ্রী। শিক্ষা জীবনে কোন ক্ষেত্রে ৩য় বিভাগ/ শ্রেণি/ সমমানের সিভিলিএ গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না। প্রার্থী জনগোষ্ঠীর আর্থ-সামাজিক উন্নয়নে কাজ করার মানসিকতা সম্পন্ন হতে হবে এবং উপজেলা প্রশাসনের সাথে সমন্বয়, কর্মী ব্যবস্থাপনা, ঋণ ও সঞ্চয় ব্যবস্থাপনা সংক্রান্ত কাজে আগ্রহ থাকতে হবে।	বাংলাদেশের সকল জেলার স্থায়ী বাসিন্দাগণ আবেদন করতে পারবেন।
২	মার্গ কর্মকর্তা টা: ১১০০০-২৭৩০০/- (গ্রেড-১২)	১২৭৫ জন	সরকার কর্তৃক স্বীকৃত কোন কলেজ/বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে কমপক্ষে ২য় শ্রেণি/ সমমানের সিভিলিএসহ স্নাতক/ সমমান ডিগ্রী। শিক্ষা জীবনে কোন ক্ষেত্রে ৩য় বিভাগ/শ্রেণি/সমমানের সিভিলিএ গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না। উপজেলা পর্যায়ে পিডিবিএফ-এর সুফলভোগী সদস্য/ উদ্যোক্তাদের মাঝে ঋণ বিতরণ, ঋণ আদায়, সঞ্চয় আহবাস ইত্যাদি কাজে আগ্রহী হতে হবে।	বাংলাদেশের সকল জেলার স্থায়ী বাসিন্দাগণ আবেদন করতে পারবেন।

শর্তাবলী :

## ১. Online-এ আবেদন প্রাপ্ত এবং পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণের ক্ষেত্রে প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্যাবলী নিম্নরূপ:

ক. নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি এবং আবেদন সংক্রান্ত নিয়মাবলী [www.pdbf.gov.bd](http://www.pdbf.gov.bd) এবং <http://pdbf.teletalk.com.bd> এ পাওয়া যাবে।

খ. প্রার্থীকে অবশ্যই বাংলাদেশের নাগরিক হতে হবে। বাংলাদেশের নাগরিক নন এমন কারও সাথে বৈবাহিক সূত্রে আবদ্ধ হয়ে থাকলে কিংবা বিবাহের জন্য প্রস্তুতিবিধক হয়ে থাকলে তিনি আবেদন করার যোগ্য হবেন না।

গ. সকল পদে ৩১ মার্চ ২০২৫ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ তারিখে সকল প্রার্থীর বয়স ১৮-৩২ বছর হতে হবে। বয়সের ক্ষেত্রে এক্ষেত্রে গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়। এক্ষেত্রে সরকার কর্তৃক সর্বশেষ জারিকৃত পরিপত্র/ নীতিমালা অনুসরণ করা হবে। পিডিবিএফ-এ কর্মরত প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে কর্মচারী চাকরি প্রবিধানমালা অনুযায়ী বয়সসীমা শিথিলযোগ্য হবে।

ঘ. সরকারি/আধাসরকারি/ স্বায়ত্বশাসিত/ আধাস্বায়ত্ব শাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানে কর্মরত প্রার্থীদের অবশ্যই যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের অনুমতিক্রমে আবেদন করতে হবে। চাকরিরত প্রার্থীদের সকল শর্ত পূরণ সাপেক্ষে আবেদনপত্র পূরণের সময় Departmental Candidate এর ঘরে টিক চিহ্ন দিতে হবে। অন্যদের ক্ষেত্রে-এ শর্ত প্রযোজ্য নয়। তবে সকল চাকরিরত প্রার্থীকে মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত অনাপত্তি/ ছাড়পত্রের মূল কপি জমা দিতে হবে।

ঙ. মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় প্রার্থীকে পূরণকৃত Application Form এর ফটোকপিসহ নিম্নোক্ত পত্রাদি দাখিল করতে হবে:

- প্রথম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক প্রদেয় চারিত্রিক সনদ ও সদ্য তোলা পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ২ (দুই) কপি সত্যায়িত রশিদ ছবি, সকল শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সত্যায়িত কপি, জাতীয় পরিচয় পত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি ও অভিজ্ঞতা সনদের (যদি থাকে) সত্যায়িত কপি জমা দিতে হবে।
- ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের চেয়ারম্যান/পৌরসভার মেয়র/সিটি কর্পোরেশনের ওয়ার্ড কমিশনার অথবা সকল পদে দায়িত্ব প্রাপ্ত উপযুক্ত কর্মকর্তা/ প্রতিনিধি এর নিকট হতে নিজ জেলা উল্লেখসহ নাগরিকত্বের সার্টিফিকেট জমা দিতে হবে।
- মুক্তিযোদ্ধা, শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধা ও বীরশ্রদ্ধার সন্মানসের ক্ষেত্রে প্রমাণক হিসেবে সরকারের সর্বশেষ জারিকৃত পরিপত্র অনুযায়ী উপযুক্ত কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সনদ এবং প্রার্থীকে মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় মুক্তিযুদ্ধ বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়ের ওয়েব সাইট ([www.molwa.gov.bd](http://www.molwa.gov.bd)) এ প্রকাশিত প্রমাণক এর আলোকে সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি উপস্থাপন করতে হবে। শারীরিক প্রতিবন্ধী, কৃত্রিম লিম্ব এবং ক্ষুদ্র নৃ-গোষ্ঠী প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে সরকারের সর্বশেষ জারিকৃত পরিপত্র অনুযায়ী উপযুক্ত কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সনদ দাখিল করতে হবে।

চ. কর্তৃপক্ষ বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে উল্লিখিত পদের সংখ্যা হাস/বৃদ্ধি এবং বিজ্ঞপ্তি বাতিল করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করেন।

## ২. আবেদনপত্র প্রাপ্ত সংক্রান্ত শর্তাবলী:

অনলাইনে আবেদনপত্র প্রাপ্ত সংক্রান্ত নিয়মাবলী ও করণীয়:

(ক) পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণে আগ্রহী প্রার্থীগণ <http://pdbf.teletalk.com.bd> এই ওয়েব সাইটে আবেদনপত্র প্রাপ্ত করবেন। আবেদনের সময়সীমা নিম্নরূপ:

(i) Online-এ আবেদনপত্র প্রাপ্ত ও পরীক্ষার ফি জমা দান শুরুর তারিখ ও সময় ২৫ মার্চ, ২০২৫ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ সকাল-১০:০০ ঘটিকা।

(ii) Online-এ আবেদনপত্র জমা দানের শেষ তারিখ ও সময় ১৪ এপ্রিল, ২০২৫ বিকাল-০৫:০০ ঘটিকা।

উক্ত সময়সীমার মধ্যে User ID প্রাপ্ত প্রার্থীগণ online-এ আবেদন পত্র submit-এর সময় থেকে পরবর্তী ৭২ (বাহাত্তর) ঘণ্টার মধ্যে SMS এ পরীক্ষার ফি জমা দিতে পারবেন।

(খ) Online আবেদনপত্রে প্রার্থী অীর রশিদ ছবি (দৈর্ঘ্য ৩০০ xপ্রস্থ ৩০০ pixel) ও স্বাক্ষর (দৈর্ঘ্য ৩০০ xপ্রস্থ ৮০ pixel) স্ক্যান করে নির্ধারিত স্থানে Upload করবেন। ছবির সাইজ, সর্বোচ্চ 100 KB ও স্বাক্ষরের সাইজ সর্বোচ্চ 60KB হতে হবে।

(গ) Online আবেদনপত্রে পূরণকৃত তথ্যই যেহেতু পরবর্তী সকল কার্যক্রমে ব্যবহৃত হবে , সেহেতু Online-এ আবেদনপত্র Submit করার পূর্বেই পূরণকৃত সকল তথ্যের সঠিকতা সম্পর্কে প্রার্থী নিজে শতভাগ নিশ্চিত হবেন।

(ঘ) প্রার্থী Online-এ পূরণকৃত আবেদনপত্রের একটি প্রিন্ট কপি পরীক্ষা সংক্রান্ত যে কোন প্রয়োজনে সহায়ক হিসেবে সংরক্ষণ করবেন এবং মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় এক কপি জমা দিবেন।

(ঙ) SMS প্রেরণের নিয়মাবলী ও পরীক্ষার ফি প্রদান : Online-এ আবেদনপত্র (Application Form) যথাযথভাবে পূরণ করে নির্দেশনা মতে ছবি এবং স্বাক্ষর upload করে আবেদনপত্র Submit করা সম্পন্ন হলে কম্পিউটারে ছবিসহ Application Preview দেখা যাবে। যদি Applicant's Copy তে কোন তথ্য ভুল থাকে বা অস্পষ্ট ছবি (সম্পূর্ণ কালো/সম্পূর্ণ সাদা/ঘোলা) বা ছবি/স্বাক্ষর সঠিক না থাকে তাহলে আবেদন ফি জমা না দিয়ে থাকলেই কেবল পুনরায় ( Web-এ) আবেদন করতে পারবেন। উল্লেখ্য যে, আবেদন ফি জমা দানের পরে আর কোন পরিবর্তন/পরিমার্জন/পরিবর্তন গ্রহণযোগ্য নয় বিধায় আবেদন ফি জমা দানের পূর্বে প্রার্থী অবশ্যই উক্ত Applicant's Copy-তে তার সাম্প্রতিক তোলা রশিদ ছবি, নির্ভুল তথ্য ও স্বাক্ষরযুক্ত PDF কপি ডাউনলোডপূর্বক নিশ্চিত করে রশিদ প্রিন্ট করে সংরক্ষণ করবেন। Applicant's Copy-তে একটি User ID নম্বর দেওয়া থাকবে এবং User ID নম্বর ব্যবহার করে প্রার্থী নিম্নোক্ত পদ্ধতিতে যে কোন Teletalk pre-paid mobile নম্বরের মাধ্যমে ০২ (দুই) টি SMS করে আবেদন ফি বাবদ নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে বর্ণিত ছকে ক্রমিক নং ১ নং ক্রমিকের জন্য আবেদন ফি বাবদ মোট ২২৩/- (দুইশত তেইশ) টাকা এবং ২ নং ক্রমিকের জন্য আবেদন ফি বাবদ মোট ১৬৮/- (একশত আটষাট) টাকা অনধিক ৭২ (বাহাত্তর) ঘণ্টার মধ্যে জমা দিবেন। এখানে বিশেষভাবে উল্লেখ্য যে, “Online-এ আবেদন পত্রের সকল অংশ পূরণ করে submit করা হলেও পরীক্ষার ফি জমা না দেয়া পর্যন্ত O nline আবেদনপত্র কোন অবস্থাতেই গৃহীত হবে না।”

## SMS নিয়মাবলী:

প্রথম SMS: PDBF&lt;space&gt;User ID লিখে Send করতে হবে 16222 নম্বরে।

Example: PDBF ABCDEF &amp; send to 16222

Reply: Applicant's Name, TK-223/168 will be charged as application fee. Your PIN is 12345678. To pay fee Type PDBF&lt;Space&gt;Yes&lt;space&gt;PIN and send to 16222.

দ্বিতীয় SMS: PDBF&lt;space&gt;Yes&lt;space&gt;PIN লিখে Send করতে হবে 16222 নম্বরে।

Example: PDBF Yes 12345678 &amp; send to 16222

Reply: Congratulations! Applicant's Name, Payment completed successfully for PDBF Application for (post name) User ID is (ABCDEF) and password (xxxxxxxxx).

(চ) প্রবেশপত্র প্রাপ্তির বিষয়টি <http://pdbf.teletalk.com.bd> ওয়েবসাইটে এবং প্রার্থীর মোবাইল ফোনে SMS এর মাধ্যমে (শুধুমাত্র যোগ্য প্রার্থীদেরকে ) যথা সময়ে জানানো হবে। Online আবেদনপত্রে প্রার্থীর প্রদত্ত মোবাইল ফোনে পরীক্ষা সংক্রান্ত যাবতীয় যোগাযোগ সম্পন্ন করা হবে বিধায় উক্ত মোবাইল নম্বরটি সার্বজনিক সচল রাখা, SMS পড়া এবং প্রাপ্ত নির্দেশনা তাৎক্ষণিকভাবে অনুসরণ করা বাঞ্ছনীয়।

(ছ) SMS এ প্রেরিত User ID এবং Password ব্যবহার করে পরবর্তীতে রোল নম্বর , পদের নাম, ছবি, পরীক্ষার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থানের/কেন্দ্রের নাম ইত্যাদি তথ্য সর্বলিখিত প্রবেশপত্র প্রার্থী Download পূর্বক রশিদ Print করে নিবেন। প্রার্থী এই প্রবেশপত্রটি লিখিত পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণের সময়ে এবং উত্তীর্ণ হলে মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময়ে অবশ্যই প্রদর্শন করবেন।

(জ) শুধুমাত্র টেলিটক প্রি -পেইড মোবাইল ফোন থেকে প্রার্থীগণ নিম্নবর্ণিত SMS পদ্ধতি অনুসরণ করে নিজ নিজ User ID এবং Password পুনরুদ্ধার করতে পারবেন।

(i) User ID জানা থাকলে PDBF&lt;space&gt;Help&lt;space&gt;User&lt;space&gt;User ID &amp; Send to 16222.

Example: PDBF Help User ABCDEF &amp; Send to 16222.

(ii) PIN Number জানা থাকলে PDBF&lt;space&gt;Help&lt;space&gt;PIN&lt;space&gt;PIN Number &amp; Send to 16222.

Example: PDBF PIN 12345678 &amp; Send to 16222.

(ঝ) বিজ্ঞপ্তি পত্রিকা ছাড়াও পিডিবিএফ-এর ওয়েব সাইট [www.pdbf.gov.bd](http://www.pdbf.gov.bd) এ বিজ্ঞপ্তিসহ এতদসংক্রান্ত সকল তথ্য দেখা যাবে। অথবা QR Code স্ক্যান এর মাধ্যমে টেলিটকের জব পোর্টাল <https://alljobs.teletalk.com.bd> ওয়েব সাইটে সরাসরি প্রবেশ করেও বিজ্ঞপ্তি পাওয়া যাবে। নিয়োগ পরীক্ষার তারিখ, সময় ও অন্যান্য তথ্য [www.pdbf.gov.bd](http://www.pdbf.gov.bd) ওয়েব সাইট হতে জানা যাবে।(ঞ) অনলাইনে আবেদন করতে কোন সমস্যা হলে টেলিটক নম্বর থেকে ১২১ বা অন্য অপারেটর থেকে ০২৫০০১২১১২১-৯ পর্যন্ত অথবা [alljobs.query@teletalk.com.bd](mailto:alljobs.query@teletalk.com.bd) ই-মেইল যোগাযোগ করা যাবে। এছাড়া টেলিটকের জব পোর্টাল এর ফেসবুক পেজ <https://www.facebook.com/alljobsbdtetalk> এ মেসেজ এর মাধ্যমে যোগাযোগ করা যাবে। (Mail/মেসেজ এর Subject-এ Organization Name: PDBF, Post Name: \* \* \*, Applicant's User ID ও Contact Number অবশ্যই উল্লেখ করতে হবে)।

(ট) ডিক্লারেশন: প্রার্থীকে অনলাইন আবেদনপত্রের ডিক্লারেশন অংশে এই মর্মে ঘোষণা দিতে হবে যে, প্রার্থী কর্তৃক আবেদনপত্রের প্রদত্ত সকল তথ্য সঠিক এবং সত্য।

প্রদত্ত তথ্য অসত্য বা মিথ্যা প্রমাণিত হলে অথবা কোন অযোগ্যতা ধরা পড়লে বা কোনো প্রতারণা বা দুর্নীতির আশ্রয় গ্রহণ করলে কিংবা পরীক্ষায় নকল বা অসদুপায় অবলম্বন করলে, পরীক্ষার পূর্বে বা পরে অথবা নিয়োগের পরে যে কোনো পর্যায়ে প্রার্থিতা বাতিল করা হবে এবং সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রার্থীর বিরুদ্ধে আইনগত ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা যাবে।

(ঠ) Online-এ আবেদন ও নিয়োগ পরীক্ষা সংক্রান্ত যে কোন বিষয়ে নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।

(ড) একজন প্রার্থী একাধিক পদে আবেদন করতে পারবেন না।

উপপরিচালক  
প্রশাসন বিভাগ  
Email: pdbfhrm@gmail.com

GD-757



“

I think it's going to be an exciting game. We are very much motivated. The team has been training and working hard for 24 days already. We have prepared well, we are confident and we expect a very tight game and hopefully we will make things very difficult for India.

Bangladesh coach  
JAVIER CABRERA

When you play against big brother, you always want to win. So, we want to win against India. There is pressure but we are focused on the match because you all know what happened over the last one year. We feel pressure but we are cool.

Bangladesh captain  
JAMAL BHUIYAN

Hamza's inclusion in the Bangladesh national team is a positive step, not just for Bangladesh but for Asian football as a whole....His impact on the pitch remains to be seen, but overall, this is a great addition for Bangladesh.

India coach  
MANOLO MARQUEZ

One thing we know is that whenever India play Bangladesh, we expect a match full of high intensity, passion and adrenaline, be it in football or any sport. We are focused on getting a result.

India defender  
SANDESH JHINGAN

# Hamza-spurred Bangladesh vie to conquer India

SPORTS REPORTER

Even though there is a big gulf in ranking as well as performances between Bangladesh and India, the matches involving the two neighbours have over the years produced some thrilling contests. Viewed only statistically, India are clear favourites going into today's AFC Asian Cup Qualifiers fixture against Bangladesh in Shillong, with a 59-position gap in FIFA rankings and having enjoyed a 13-2 win record out of 31 contests between the two nations. However, the recent results have been quite close, with four of the last five contests producing draws, with India winning the other one 2-0. The inclusion of Hamza Choudhury will



definitely bolster Bangladesh's confidence as well as their performance on the pitch, but India, too, have their own talisman in the form of Sunil Chhetri. The 40-year-old Bengaluru FC forward, who returned from retirement earlier this month, has been a thorn in Bangladesh's side, scoring five out

of India's six most recent goals against the men in red and green. Preparation-wise, the two teams are at the opposite extremes. While Chhetri's return helped India end a long winless run in international football in a 3-0 win against Maldives last week, Bangladesh did not play any practice match, except for one against an academy side, during their 12-day preparation camp in Saudi Arabia. The results from 2024 are not too positive either following an uptick in results in the previous year. But the Bangladesh team and their fans are hoping Hamza's inclusion will start a new resurgence in football, starting with a positive result in Shillong.



BANGLADESH VS INDIA		
<b>Fixture:</b> 2027 Asian Cup Qualifiers Third round, Group C	<b>Asian Cup appearance:</b> 1 (1980)	<b>Drawn:</b> 16
<b>Venue:</b> Shillong	<b>India Ranking:</b> 126	<b>Results of last five matches:</b>
<b>Kick-off:</b> 7:30 pm	<b>Coach:</b> Manolo Marquez	<b>2021 SAFF Championship:</b> India 1 – 1 Bangladesh
<b>Telecast:</b> T Sports, Star Sports 3	<b>Captain:</b> Sunil Chhetri	<b>2021 Asian Cup Qualifiers:</b> India 2 – 0 Bangladesh
<b>Matchday:</b> 1	<b>Asian Cup appearance:</b> 5 (1964, 1984, 2011, 2019, 2023)	<b>2019 World Cup Qualifier:</b> India 1 – 1 Bangladesh
<b>Other teams in group:</b> Hong Kong, Singapore	<b>Head-to-head Record:</b> Matches: 31	<b>2014 FIFA friendly:</b> India 2 – 2 Bangladesh
<b>Bangladesh Ranking:</b> 185	<b>Bangladesh won:</b> 2	<b>2013 SAFF Championship:</b> India 1 – 1 Bangladesh
<b>Coach:</b> Javier Cabrera	<b>India won:</b> 13	
<b>Captain:</b> Jamal Bhuiyan		

## TAMIM'S HEART ATTACK and a decision that saved his life

SAMSUL AREFIN KHAN

Yesterday was supposed to be just another day at the office for Tamim Iqbal, who was at the BKSP, captaining the star-studded Mohammedan Sporting Club against bottom-placed Shinepukur Cricket Club in an eighth round fixture of the Dhaka Premier League (DPL).

While Tamim went out for the toss, back at the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) headquarters in Mirpur, the officials were preparing for a board of directors meeting set to begin at 12:00 pm.

But in a matter of hours, Tamim was not in the field vying for victory but lying in a hospital bed in Savar fighting for his life after suffering a major heart attack during the match, board officials had cancelled the meeting and were rushing to Savar while millions around the world were refreshing their Facebook feed, trying to find the latest update of their beloved Tamim.

The news of Tamim's heart



attack spread like wildfire, people were in disbelief and fearing the worst and only could breathe easy a few hours into the incident when doctors at the KPJ Specialised Hospital in Savar, where Tamim is being treated, officially announced that the 36-year-old has regained consciousness.

However, the match in Mohammedan did not stop as Tamim's Mohammedan teammates

which included Mushfiqur Rahim, Mahmudullah and Mehedi Hasan Miraz, played the match with a heavy heart, won the contest by seven wickets and then took no time to visit their captain at the hospital.

Meanwhile, Tamim's treatment procedure was followed by a series of wise decisions taken by a group of individuals which potentially saved his life.

The entire ordeal began

innocently enough, with Tamim initially complaining of gastro liver problems, was taken to KPJ Specialised Hospital – three kilometres away from BKSP – and underwent some initial treatment before returning to the venue once again.

Soon, a helicopter was flown into BKSP to take Tamim to Dhaka for treatment at a hospital in the capital but by the time he was near the helicopter, his medical condition had deteriorated drastically.

"Tamim was not even conscious. Dalim [team trainer] was pressing on his chest, foam was coming out of his mouth, there was no pulse," match referee Debabrata Paul, who witnessed the entire episode, told The Daily Star yesterday.

"I think our quick decision [to take Tamim to KPJ Hospital instead of boarding the helicopter] was very important. Later the doctors also acknowledged it and appreciated the decision as it played a key role in Tamim's wellbeing," said Debabrata, who also expressed his satisfaction with the treatment received at the

hospital.

"As I was the match referee, I talked to the CEO [Nizamuddin Chowdhury] and told him to contact to the hospital so that we can get treatment as soon as we arrive there.

"By the grace of the Almighty, everything was coordinated very well. We came here and found a team of the doctors ready. Tamim was taken to the emergency room and his treatment got underway... The doctors did everything in the shortest possible time and also in a proper way," he added.

Tamim is currently under observation for 48 hours at the hospital's Coronary Care Unit (CCU) after a successful stenting surgery. An Angiogram had shown major artery blockage with one of his arteries blocked a 100 percent and another partially.

Tamim's next course of treatment will be known soon enough but yesterday's quick decision making and swift actions at the hospital played the most significant part in potentially saving the cricketer's life.

## Argentina on the brink, Brazil stand in their way

AGENCIES

Argentina will aim to secure their official spot at the 2026 FIFA World Cup in a highly anticipated clash against Brazil on Wednesday (6am, Bangladesh time) at the Buenos Aires' Estadio Mas Monumental.

Lionel Scaloni's side top the South American qualifiers with 28 points, while Brazil trail in third place with 21 points. Despite Lionel Messi's absence due to injury, La Albiceleste delivered a gritty 1-0 victory over Uruguay, courtesy of Thiago Almada's second-half wonder strike.

With this, Argentina ended their three-game winless away run and extended their dominance atop the table.

Argentina's remarkable home form bolsters their confidence: seven wins in their last eight home

qualifiers, including 11 clean sheets in 12. They also hold a four-match unbeaten streak against Brazil, highlighted by a 1-0 win in Rio de Janeiro last year, thanks to Nicolas Otamendi.

Brazil, on the other hand, have shown resurgence after a slow start to the campaign. The Selecao are on a five-game unbeaten run, capped by Vinicius Junior's thrilling 99th-minute winner against Colombia last week. However, Brazil's recent away struggles, with just one win in their last five qualifiers, add to their challenge.

This iconic rivalry promises high stakes and drama as Brazil seek their first win over Argentina since 2019, while the reigning world champions looks to cement their path to the World Cup in front of a roaring home crowd.



### Epic comebacks set stage for Nations League semifinals

Epic comebacks set the stage for the UEFA Nations League semifinals, with Portugal, Germany, Spain, and France advancing. In Lisbon, Cristiano Ronaldo scored once and missed a penalty before Francisco Trincao's extra-time brace led Portugal past Denmark 5-3 on aggregate. Ronaldo, subbed off, passionately supported from the sidelines. Germany survived Italy's late surge to win 5-4 on aggregate after a dominant first half in Munich. Spain edged the Netherlands on penalties, while France overcame Croatia thanks to Mike Maignan's heroics—his two penalty saves proved decisive. With Ronaldo's leadership and Maignan's brilliance, the semifinals promise high drama on June 5.

PHOTO: REUTERS/FACEBOOK



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## Five cops held for abduction and extortion

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

A police officer, three constables from the Detective Branch of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police (RMP), and another constable from the Rajshahi University Police Outpost were arrested in Bogura yesterday on charges of abduction and extortion.

The five were detained by a patrol team from the Kundarhat Police Outpost in the Birgram area of the district's Shajahanpur upazila in the morning.

The arrestees are: Sub-Inspector Shahin Mohammad Anu Islam, and constables Ripon Mia, Abul Kalam Azad, Mahbub Alam, and Bashir Ali. Their microbus driver, Mehdi Hasan, was also arrested and accused in a case filed with Dhunat Police Station.

Another constable, Wahab, was also accused in the case, which was filed by the father of one of the victims, Selim Sheikh, yesterday morning. Wahab is currently in the RMP's custody and is set to be brought to Bogura this morning.

The incident was confirmed to The Daily Star by Bogura's Superintendent

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Hundreds of rickshaws stuck in a jam on Dhanmondi Road-1 around 11:30am yesterday. This street sees a surge in the number of rickshaws during Ramadan due to the increase of seasonal pullers. However, battery-operated rickshaws are more visible this year.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Hamza adds spice to India-Bangladesh tie

ANISUR RAHMAN

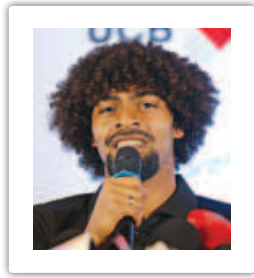
The much-anticipated Asian Cup qualifying showdown between neighbours Bangladesh and India has finally arrived. Tonight, English Premier League-bred midfielder Hamza Choudhury is set to make his long-awaited debut for Bangladesh, a team eager to make strides in international football.

The match kicks off at 7:30 pm (Bangladesh time) at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Shillong, Meghalaya, and will be broadcast live on T Sports. Excitement has been building in both camps, with the pre-match briefing charged with anticipation – especially following Hamza's inclusion, which has drawn attention not just from Bangladesh and India but from the entire South Asian football community.

India, ranked far higher than Bangladesh in FIFA rankings, hold the historical edge in this fixture. However, past encounters have often been more competitive than the rankings suggest. The addition of Hamza brings a new layer of intrigue, with Bangladesh hoping his experience will tip the scales in their favour.

Hamza's arrival has not gone unnoticed by India, who, in response, have recalled their legendary striker Sunil

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2



## ‘Thriving ecosystem’ discovered after iceberg breaks off

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Scientists have discovered a “thriving ecosystem” of strange deep sea creatures on a newly exposed seafloor after an iceberg broke off near the Antarctic.

The area, which had never before been accessible to humans, is home to giant corals and sponges which support a myriad of life forms including giant sea spiders, octopuses, and icefish, researchers from the Schmidt Ocean Institute say.

The latest finding at depths as great as 1,300m below the sea surface offers fresh insights into how ecosystems function beneath floating sections of the Antarctic ice sheet.

Until now, very little is known about creatures living beneath Antarctica's floating ice shelves.

A previous British survey in 2021 first reported signs of bottom dwelling life forms beneath the Antarctic's Filchner-Ronne ice shelf.

It found a rich biodiversity hosting hints of several new species unknown to science.

Deep-sea ecosystems typically rely on nutrients trickling from the surface slowly down to the seafloor.

But it remains unclear how Antarctic ecosystems, covered by 150-metre-thick (almost 500ft) ice for centuries, host thriving ecosystems when they are completely cut off from surface nutrients.

## Declare AL a ‘criminal organisation’ Nahid urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nahid Islam said the party's political roadmap is centred on three key agendas: justice, reform, and election for a constituent assembly.

The assembly, which will also function as the next parliament, is essential because the existing constitution is “fundamentally flawed”, according to him.

“Only through a new constitution can we lay the foundations of a genuinely democratic state,” he said at an NCP iftar party for diplomats at the InterContinental hotel yesterday.

The party wants the emergence of a “Second Republic built firmly upon democracy and the rule of law, accountability, distributed power and inclusive politics, where



SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

## JULY UPRISING IN CTG Helmeted and masked, AL men gunned down scores

Finds ICT probe, claims to have identified suspects

SHARIFUL ISLAM and SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL

In Dhaka, it was the law enforcers who turned on the people they were supposed to protect. It was the law enforcers who preyed upon protesters during the July uprising. But in Chattogram, it was different. The killers were not in uniform. They came clad in helmets and masks, guns ablaze. And now investigators say they have the names of the suspects.

The port city had turned into a hub of protests at the height of the uprising. Its streets had become battlefields where scores were shot dead.

Investigators of the International Crimes Tribunal say they have found evidence that Awami League activists were responsible for many of these deaths.

Led by two prosecutors, a six-member probe team visited Chattogram and identified at least 11 leaders and activists of AL, its student or youth wings who brandished firearms and shot at protesters. Some of them were already known as armed cadres and loyal followers of AL leaders.

The investigators also gathered photographic evidence of the AL men in action – wielding weapons and shooting them. Video clips of them shooting at demonstrators that went viral on social media show that they had helmets and

face masks.

Those who were identified are AL leader Helal Akbar Chowdhury Babor, ex-councillor of ward 21 (Jamal Khan) Shaibal Das Sumon, Jubo league leader and former councillor of Chakbazar ward Nur Mostafa Tinu, former Halishahar-Nayabazar councillor Abdus Sabur Liton, and Chattogram city BCL former general secretary Nurul Azim Rony, Chandgaon thana Swechchhasebak League President Mohiuddin Farhad aka Mohiuddin, its member Jalal aka Drill Jalal, port city Swechchhasebak League activist Md Delwar, city Jubo League activists Md Farid aka Towhid and HM Mithu aka Nurul Huda Mithu and AL leader Md Firoz of Cumilla's Langalkot.

The ICT probe team also identified at least 11 others who either personally carried firearms during the attacks on protests or patronised armed cadres.

They are AL leader and ex-mayor of Chattogram City Corporation AJM Nasir Uddin, ex-AL lawmaker from Chattogram-6 ABM Fazle Karim Chowdhury, AL leader Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, Chattogram city AL President Mahtab Uddin Chowdhury, AL leader Didarul Alam, city Jubo League Vice-president Debashish Paul Debu, Chattogram city BCL leaders Imran Ahmed Imu and Zakaria Dastagir.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



## Ethnic groups to feature in next Mangal Shobhajatra

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An inclusive Mangal Shobhajatra will be held on Pahela Baishakh this year, featuring participation from various ethnic communities, including Chakma, Marma, Santal, and Garo.

The decision was taken at a meeting held at Dhaka University's Senate Bhavan yesterday.

The meeting began around 11:00am with DU Vice-Chancellor Prof Niaz Ahmed Khan in the chair. Cultural Affairs Adviser Mostafa Sarwar Farooki also joined the meeting.

Apart from the DU VC, various stakeholders including different cultural figures from the Dhaka University Senate were present at the meeting, among others.

Talking to The Daily Star, DU Registrar Munshi Shams Uddin Ahmed said there is a vision to make the Mangal Shobhajatra, an inclusive event for different ethnic groups, not just Bangladeshis.

The meeting focused on the how the country's ethnic communities and other organisations can participate and how many people will be involved in the procession.

Additionally, he confirmed that

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

## UK MPs suspect disinformation targeting BB governor

STAR DESK

British MPs suspect they may have been targeted by a “disinformation” campaign aimed at discrediting Ahsan Mansur, the Bangladesh Bank governor, who is leading the efforts to trace funds allegedly laundered from Bangladesh into the UK, British newspaper The Guardian reported.

According to the report published yesterday, MPs raised concerns after receiving emails containing articles questioning Mansur's credibility ahead of a session today with the 47-member all-party parliamentary group (APPG) on responsible tax and corruption.

Ahsan Mansur, a former IMF official, has been in London seeking assistance from the UK government and private firms to track billions of dollars allegedly siphoned off by allies of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, some of which he believes may have been used to buy UK property, said the report.

His visit comes amid a growing controversy involving Hasina's niece, former UK city minister Tulip Siddiq, who resigned this year after Bangladesh's Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) filed a case against her.

MPs are now concerned that efforts to assist Bangladesh's anti-corruption drive

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5



People protest the arrest of Istanbul Mayor Ekrem Imamoglu as part of a corruption investigation, in Istanbul, Turkey, yesterday. Story on Page 7. PHOTO: REUTERS



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PRAYER TIMING MARCH 25					
Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
AZAN	4:42	12:45	4:45	6:12	7:45
JAMAAT	4:52	1:15	5:00	6:27	8:15
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION					
SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING					
RAMADAN	MARCH	SEHRI	IFTAR		
24	25			6:12	
25	26	4:40	6:12		
26	27	4:39	6:13		





**How to pick the perfect AC for your space?**

SAUDIA AFRIN

When the Bangladeshi summer hits full swing, it doesn't just raise temperatures—it tests your patience, sleep, and sanity. In this sweltering heat, an air conditioner isn't a luxury—it's a lifeline. Whether you're buying your first AC or upgrading to a smarter model, choosing the right unit is a long-term decision. Thankfully, Bangladesh's electronics market is booming, offering energy-efficient, feature-packed options. With the right knowledge, you can turn this blazing summer into a season of comfort and smart choices.

SEE PAGE J2

ILLUSTRATION: SOJIB ROY



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16267



## 5 COOL FACTS ABOUT AC

In the 1930s, cinemas across the US invested in air conditioning to draw in viewers seeking relief from the summer heat, thus paving the way for the emergence of “Summer Blockbuster” releases.

### AC HELPED CREATE SUMMER BLOCKBUSTERS



Before AC, buildings were designed with high ceilings, thick walls, and large windows to promote natural ventilation. With air conditioning, architects could design taller skyscrapers and windowless office spaces, revolutionising urban landscapes.

### ACTransformedArchitecture



In 1902, Willis Carrier invented air conditioning not for human comfort, but to control humidity in a printing plant. This helped prevent paper from wrinkling and ink from smudging.

### IT WAS ORIGINALLY INVENTED FOR PRINTING PRESSES



### INCREDIBLY EXPENSIVE AC UNITS



Packard Motor Company introduced the first air-conditioned car in 1939—but it was too expensive and impractical. The cooling unit took up half the trunk space, and there was no thermostat—the driver had to turn off the system if it got too cold!

In the early 1900s, air conditioning was incredibly expensive, and only the wealthiest people and businesses could afford it. The first air-conditioned home was built in Minneapolis in 1913—it cost \$10,000 at the time (over \$300,000 today)!

### THE FIRST AIR-CONDITIONED CAR CAME IN 1939



## Pick the perfect AC for your space

FROM PAGE J1

### Residential space

When buying an air conditioner for residential use, one of the most important factors to consider is capacity, measured in tons or British Thermal Units (BTUs).

A general rule of thumb: 1 ton (12,000 BTU) is suitable for around 120 sq. ft. However, room size isn't the only factor. Sunlight exposure, ceiling height, insulation, number of occupants, and even proximity to the kitchen all impact cooling efficiency.

Ariful Islam, Deputy Executive Director and Head of Research and Innovation for Residential Air Conditioners at Walton, has emphasised the importance of checking the specifications beforehand, stating, “You must ensure you're choosing the right AC for your home, as selecting the appropriate BTU capacity is essential for both performance and cost-effectiveness.”

For larger homes or open-plan areas, consider multiple units or a high-capacity inverter AC. An undersized AC will struggle to cool efficiently, while an oversized one will waste energy by cycling too quickly. The right capacity ensures balanced cooling, lower maintenance, and better energy efficiency for long-term comfort.

### Commercial space

For business owners in Bangladesh, air conditioning is a necessity that impacts both productivity and customer satisfaction. However, high electricity bills can be a major concern, making it crucial to select the right AC system for your commercial space.

Like residential areas, factors such as square footage, number of windows and doors, local climate, and occupancy levels all play a role in determining the ideal cooling solution.

Smaller shops and offices (under 1,000 sq. ft.) should opt for 2-3-ton units from cost-effective brands, while larger spaces (over 1,000 sq. ft.) benefit from high-performance commercial systems suited for large offices or boutiques.

For large commercial spaces, central air conditioning is ideal, distributing cooled air through ducts. For smaller commercial spaces, ductless systems offer flexibility by cooling specific areas independently.

### FEATURES THAT TRULY MATTER

Modern air conditioners come loaded with features, from Wi-Fi remote start to precision sensors detecting room hotspots. Here are the key factors to consider.

### A ROUGH GUIDE FOR RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL SPACES

#### Residential spaces

- Up to 120 sq. ft. (Small bedroom) ☒ 1 Ton
- 120–180 sq. ft. (Medium bedroom/living room) ☒ 1.5 Ton
- 180–260 sq. ft. (Large bedroom/living room) ☒ 2 Ton

#### Commercial spaces

- 500–1,000 sq. ft. (Small Office) ☒ 5–10 tons
- 1,000–3,000 sq. ft. (Retail Store) ☒ 10–30 tons
- 3,000+ sq. ft. (Large Office) ☒ 30+ tons (preferably Central/VRF systems)

### Window vs split

While split ACs dominate today, window ACs were once popular. Choosing between them depends on installation, design, cooling capacity, and aesthetics. Window units suit single rooms, while split ACs offer greater capacity for larger spaces.

### Energy efficiency

Unlike traditional ACs that turn on and off repeatedly, inverter ACs adjust their speed seamlessly to maintain a steady temperature.

“Inverter ACs sip electricity. Unlike their non-inverter counterparts, they don't gulp power in one go. Instead, they gracefully modulate their cooling capacity based on your room's needs,” says Md Julhak Hossain, National Sales Manager, Electromart Ltd. This reduces carbon footprints and lowers electricity bills.

Additionally, two key efficiency indicators to consider are COP (Coefficient of Performance) for heating and EER (Energy Efficiency Ratio) for cooling. It is imperative to note that the higher the COP or EER, the more efficient and energy-saving the AC tends to be.

For commercial spaces, opting for an AC unit with a high Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER) ensures maximum efficiency, meaning the AC uses less energy to provide the same amount of cooling compared to units with lower SEER

ratings.

While energy-efficient models may have a higher upfront cost, they reduce electricity bills in the long run—making them a smart decision. Look for Energy Star-certified units to ensure optimal energy savings and environmental benefits.

### A wealth of smart features

Innovative features include a sleek digital display, offline voice control in both Bangla and English, Bluetooth-enabled operation, air filters, noise reduction systems, and an AI Doctor system that improves air quality by killing bacteria and controlling humidity levels, while also providing maintenance alerts.

“The Jamuna Smart Inverter AC includes a PM2.5 filter that uses high-pressure ionisation and nano cold catalyst dust-collecting technology to eliminate even the tiniest airborne particles, ensuring cleaner indoor air. Its Cold Plasma Technology enhances air ionisation, reducing mental fatigue, preventing infections, and boosting vitality,” says Monika Islam, Group Director, Jamuna Group.

Other essential factors include cooling speed, noise levels, gas type, spare parts availability, and Coatec Technology, which enhances durability by protecting against rust and corrosion, ensuring long-lasting performance.

### Warranty

Whether buying an AC for residential or commercial use, prioritising after-sales service and warranty is crucial. Opting for a brand that offers a comprehensive warranty and reliable customer support can protect you from surprise repair expenses and minimise system downtime.

### Professional installation

Correct installation by trained professionals is crucial to ensure your AC performs at its best. Expert technicians optimise airflow and system efficiency while avoiding common pitfalls—such as improper sizing—that can result in higher energy bills and faster wear and tear.

An expert from Transcom Digital notes, “Commercial spaces generally require an HVAC system (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning), and its usage is increasing over time.” Professional teams conduct site assessments before installation, informing buyers about potential additional costs for pipes, lines, or other add-ons beyond the AC unit itself. Investing in professional installation ensures optimal performance and longevity of your AC system.

# SUMMER SWEATOUR

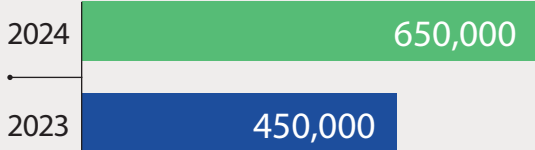


## A SNAPSHOT OF BANGLADESH'S AC INDUSTRY

Expected revenue in 2025:	Expected revenue per household in 2025:	Annual growth rate (anticipated):
US\$ 103.19 million	US\$ 3.01	20%

### AC Sales in the Last Two Years

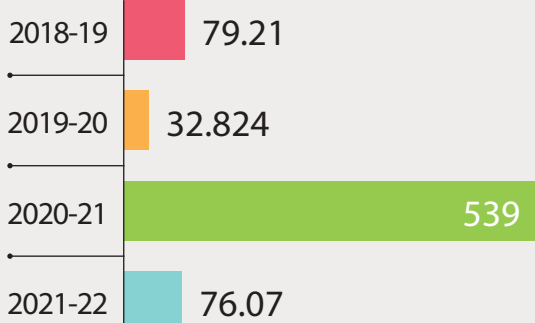
SOURCE: WALTON



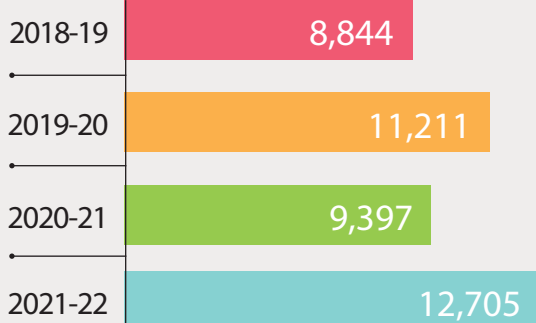
### Market Share of Local and Global AC Brands (in %)



### Export of Air Conditioners (in BDT Million)



### Import of Air Conditioners (in BDT Million)



SOURCE: STATISTICAL YEARBOOK BANGLADESH 2022

TRANSKOM DIGITAL

EID Sale

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# What's Next for ACs IN BANGLADESH?



**MD TANVIR RAHMAN**  
Chief Business Officer  
Walton Air Conditioner

The air conditioner market in Bangladesh has experienced significant growth in recent years, driven by rising temperatures, increased urbanisation, and a growing middle class. This surge in demand has led to a robust domestic manufacturing sector, with over 50% of ACs sold now being produced locally. The expansion of local manufacturing has made ACs more affordable. Moreover, new technologies and after-sales benefits have further fuelled market growth, with projections exceeding 20% in the coming years.

With strong domestic manufacturing capabilities, Walton delivers innovative AC solutions, reinforcing its leadership in the industry. Incorporating cutting-edge technologies—such as the highest EER, voice control, Bluetooth control, AI Doctor, and Coatec Technology—the company offers a unique blend of efficiency, smart features, and affordability, making its products a top choice in Bangladesh's expanding AC market.

We hope the government will take all necessary steps and provide appropriate policy support to ensure the sector's sustainability. This will contribute to greater economic progress and the overall development of the country.



**MHM FAIROZ**  
Managing Director & CEO  
Singer Bangladesh

Singer Bangladesh is continuously striving to enhance the user experience. Alongside our Singer Green Inverter ACs, we have recently introduced Beko ACs.

Our inverter ACs reduce electricity costs while delivering superior cooling. Designed for the Bangladeshi climate, our ACs ensure rapid cooling even in extreme heat. Built-in ionisers and a 4-in-1 filtration system provide cleaner, healthier air. We are the first to introduce easy instalments without bank cards, along with a 12-month, 0% interest facility—making ACs more affordable for customers.

We have a robust stock-building strategy during peak seasons, ensuring that customers never have to worry about stock shortages for Singer and Beko ACs. This Eid, we are offering discounts, free installation, institutional bundle offers, and extended warranty options to make AC purchases more convenient and affordable for our customers.

In January 2025, we inaugurated a state-of-the-art home appliances plant in the Bangladesh Special Economic Zone (BSEZ) at Arai-hazar, Narayanganj. This facility, spanning 135,000 square metres, stands as a testament to our commitment to local manufacturing and reducing reliance on imports.



**MD NURUL AFSER**  
Deputy Managing Director  
Electro Mart Group

With advanced features that set them apart, Gree ACs offer an efficient Cold Plasma system for cleaner breathing, a fully enclosed air guide louvre and top-mounted filter, auto-clean functionality, comfortable airflow with wide air supply, a quiet design, and AI intelligent control.

Additional features include Wi-Fi remote control, washable air purification filters, 60-second fast cooling, 3D airflow, four-way air swing, I-Feel technology, a comfortable sleeping mode, ideal temperature settings, cold air prevention, a turbo button, intelligent auto-restart, LED display, self-diagnosis, healthy filters, energy-saving capabilities, Golden Fin technology, intelligent defrosting, a compact design, low-voltage start-up, automatic operation, and the use of environmentally friendly R32 gas. Installation and maintenance are also designed to be easy and efficient.

Looking ahead, Gree will rise to every challenge, forge new paths, achieve fresh milestones, embrace innovation, and lead industry development with a more dynamic and inspiring approach—promoting high-quality advancements in air conditioning manufacturing and contributing to a better quality of life for all.



**RITESH RANJAN**  
Head of Business  
Transcom Electronics

We are strategically positioning ourselves for strong growth in the AC market by catering to diverse customer needs with a comprehensive product lineup. Our range includes low-, mid-, and premium-segment ACs, ensuring affordability and accessibility for all consumer groups.

We offer ACs at varied price points with advanced features, prioritising energy efficiency and environmental sustainability. Our ACs are designed to operate efficiently at temperatures of up to 50°C, ensuring reliable cooling amid Bangladesh's rising heat.

By focusing on product diversity, affordability, and superior after-sales service, Transcom Digital continues to drive growth and strengthen its position in Bangladesh's AC market.

The future of Transcom Digital in the AC industry is centred on continued growth, technological innovation, and customer satisfaction. We are committed to expanding our product range with more energy-efficient and eco-friendly air conditioners to meet the evolving needs of our customers. As demand for advanced features increases, we will continue to introduce smart ACs with cutting-edge technologies that ensure superior cooling performance and convenience.



**MONIKA ISLAM**  
Group Director  
Jamuna Group

Our state-of-the-art factory manufactures world-class Jamuna ACs that can compete with global brands. Thanks to cutting-edge technology, modern machinery, advanced raw materials, and persistent innovation and excellence, Jamuna ACs are now the number one choice for consumers.

Jamuna Electronics introduces an all-new range of AC models featuring revolutionary 5D AI Inverter Technology. Cold Plasma Technology enables air ionisation, which reduces mental fatigue, keeps your home infection-free, and enhances bodily vitality.

Additionally, the Vitamin-C filter in Jamuna ACs helps maintain the skin's natural moisture. The Silver Ion Filter and Degerming Filter prevent harmful bacteria in the air and help eliminate bad odours from the room.

We have also introduced Dual Inverter Technology, Fine Accuracy Line, Hot & Cool Option, voice control without a remote or internet, and a strong antivirus filter with 3rd-generation UVC Sterilisation Technology in Jamuna Air Conditioners. Jamuna ACs ensure our customers stay cool while keeping their energy bills in check. With smarter technology and eco-friendly performance, we are redefining comfort and sustainability.

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ঠান্ডা রাখে চরম



R32  
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4D  
Air Flow

SUPER QUIET

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PURE AIR

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# THE COOLEST AC deals this summer

From Eid-exclusive gifts and cashback to foreign trip lotteries and free installation, this summer's deals are designed to tempt. Institutions can also cash in on special packages.

PRIYAM PAUL

As temperatures rise, Bangladeshis are turning to ACs to stay cool—and brands are turning up the heat with irresistible offers. From Eid-exclusive gifts and cashback to foreign trip lotteries and free installation, this summer's deals are designed to tempt. Institutions can also cash in on special packages. With the right timing and a little research, buyers can score serious savings while locking in cool comfort for the months ahead.

### Cool Offers You Can't Miss

"We're offering a flat discount under our Sobar Jonno Bhala campaign, where customers can avail a 10–12% discount on Gree ACs—delivering on the high expectations people have from Gree," says Md Julhak Hossain, National Sales Manager at Electromart Ltd.

Gree has also introduced a special offer for premium mobile users—'star consumers'—who can enjoy up to 10–14% discounts. Customers can check their eligibility at Gree showrooms using a designated code.

Jamuna Electronics is offering discounts ranging from 10% to 30% on air conditioners. As Ramadan continues, the company has extended special deals across all its electronics, including ACs.

As part of its Eid campaign, Jamuna has introduced the Jemon

Khushi Offer, where every buyer receives a guaranteed gift—such as a panjabi, sari, or three-piece outfit—upon digital registration.

"The response from AC buyers has been positive so far. Our current Eid offer will continue until Eid-ul-Adha," says Salim Ullah Salim, Marketing Director at Jamuna Electronics.

He adds that the highlight of the campaign is a mega prize draw where buyers have a chance to win international trips through a weekly digital lottery. So far, four lucky customers have already secured foreign trips.

Singer and Beko are offering a 7% cash discount. Singer also has a special bundle offer for institutional and mosque AC purchases, including an extra 2% discount.

For online shoppers, Singer's Ura Dhura Campaign runs every Friday and Saturday, offering an additional 3–4% discount on top of the existing 7% when purchasing through singerbd.com.

"During this Ramadan, we're offering special bundle deals on ACs for mosques," says Sanjana Mahmud, Product Manager at Singer Bangladesh Ltd.

On warranties, she shares that Singer offers a 5-year compressor warranty and 3-year warranty on spare parts and services. Beko provides an 8-year compressor warranty,

alongside 3 years of spare parts and service coverage. Both brands offer free installation.

Transcom Electronics is offering exclusive AC deals with free installation, featuring a wide range of global brands. Ritesh Ranjan, Head of Business at Transcom Electronics, says, "Alongside our regular promotional discounts, we also offer additional cashback on selected bank cards, ensuring unbeatable deals in the market."

Walton is offering up to 25% off through its Exchange Offer for customers trading in their old

units. The company also runs a Mosjid Offer, which includes a free angle and one-year extended service warranty. Walton's Digital Campaign offers a chance for buyers to become millionaires through their AC purchase.

Md Tanvir Rahman, Chief Business Officer of Walton Air Conditioner, notes, "With nationwide service centres, 24/7 support, and industry-leading warranties, Walton ensures that customers get the best value, service, and peace of mind."

In addition, Walton offers several guarantees and warranties, including a one-year replacement guarantee (the only AC brand in Bangladesh to provide this), a 10-year compressor warranty, a 5-year PCB warranty on select models, a 3-year spare parts warranty, and one year of free after-sales service, which includes cleaning.

**Flexible payment options for AC buyers**  
Understanding

that affordability is key, most brands now offer easy monthly instalment (EMI) options to make AC purchases more accessible. While these EMI plans are available year-round, they become especially attractive during the summer sales season.

Gree has partnered with 36 banks to offer EMI plans of up to 36 months. It has also introduced Sohoj Labbhya o Sohoj Kisti—an instalment facility that allows customers to buy directly with a down payment.

Jamuna provides flexible EMI options over 3, 6, 9, or 12 months through its dealer network, own outlets, and online platforms.

Singer and Beko offer 36-month 0% EMI options in partnership with 36 banks.

Transcom Electronics has tie-ups with over 35 banks to provide 0% EMI facilities as well, making air conditioning ownership more affordable than ever.

Walton has 0% interest EMI and Easy Kisti facilities to make purchasing more convenient.



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