

Intensify cooperation in digital transformation

Bangladesh urges ADB, regional partners

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh has urged the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and regional partners to intensify cooperation in digital transformation, climate resilience, and sustainable financing to navigate an increasingly volatile global environment.

Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed made the call at the 58th annual meeting of the ADB in Milan on May 5, according to a press release issued by the finance ministry.

He also called for a collective resolve to transform current global challenges into opportunities through bold partnerships.

Ahmed led the Bangladesh delegation, which included Economic Relations Division Secretary Shahriar Kader Siddiky and other officials.

In his address to ADB President Masatsugu Asakawa and member states, the adviser highlighted Bangladesh's ongoing reforms under the leadership of Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus, aimed at ensuring transparency, inclusive growth, and sustainable development.

"At this pivotal moment, ADB's role as a trusted development partner is more important than ever—not just in financing, but in supporting systemic reform and long-term resilience," he said.

Ahmed outlined four priority areas for Bangladesh's engagement with the ADB: digital inclusion, climate action, regional integration, and sustainable financing.

He called for concessional support to bridge digital divides, scale up renewable energy, strengthen cross-border trade, and maintain

debt sustainability amid global shocks.

Later in the day, the delegation met officials from the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO).

The UK has provided around \$3.19 billion in development assistance to Bangladesh over the past five decades, largely in the form of grants.

Despite ongoing fiscal constraints, the UK reaffirmed its support for Bangladesh's key priorities, including climate resilience, inclusive growth, and humanitarian aid.

The FCDO expressed interest in deepening collaboration in areas such as green energy, SME development, and digital governance. Bangladesh, in turn, sought UK assistance in green investment, river restoration, sanitation management, cybersecurity, and technical cooperation.

Stocks fall after two-day gain

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Stock market indices in Bangladesh declined yesterday after rising for two days. The DSEX, the benchmark index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), slipped by 12.94 points or 0.26 percent to close at 4,951.

The DSES index, which tracks Shariah-compliant stocks, fell by 9.03 points or 0.82 percent to 1,089, while the DS30, comprising blue-chip stocks, declined by 10.27 points or 0.56 percent to 1,833.

Out of 395 issues that were traded at the DSE, 116 saw an increase in prices, 253 closed lower, and 28 did not witness any price swing.

Global Islami Bank PLC was the day's top gainer, posting a 10 percent increase, while Khulna Printing & Packaging Ltd emerged as the biggest loser, shedding 9 percent.

Turnover, which is an important indicator of market activity, dropped by 5.9 percent from the previous day's trading

session to Tk 549.74 crore. Beach Hatchery Limited topped the turnover chart, with transactions worth Tk 55.2 crore.

The banking sector led the turnover chart, contributing 29.8 percent of the total value of trade.

At the Chittagong Stock Exchange, the CSE All Share Price Index (CASPI), the main index of the port city bourse, fell by 3.66 points or 0.03 percent to settle at 13,860.

According to UCB Stock Brokerage's daily market update, the banking, mutual fund, and tannery sectors ended the day in the positive.

In contrast, the paper and printing, services and real estate, and engineering sectors registered the sharpest declines.

Most of the sectors that represent large-cap stocks—meaning those that account for large amounts in market capitalisation, or the total value of their stocks—posted negative performances, according to BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage.

Local gold prices hiked again

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Jewellers have decided to hike gold prices again, raising them by Tk 3,663 for each bhoori or 11.664 grammes.

From today, a bhoori of 22 carat gold will cost Tk 174,948, up from the existing price of Tk 171,285.

The standing committee on pricing and price monitoring of the Bangladesh Jewellers' Association made the decision to hike the prices in a meeting yesterday, citing an increase in pure gold prices in the local market.

Gold prices in Bangladesh have been rising steadily for over a year, driven by international market trends and volatility in domestic supply.

In July 2023, the price of gold crossed the Tk 100,000 mark for the first time in Bangladesh.

The country requires 20 to 40 tonnes of gold annually, with around 80 percent of the demand met through smuggling.

Dollar rises in Asia

AFP, Hong Kong

The dollar rose in Asia on Tuesday fuelled by hopes for trade deals to avert Donald Trump's sweeping tariffs, while equities were mixed as investors await the Federal Reserve's latest policy decision.

Oil also staged a comeback after tanking on news of an output hike by key producers that came despite growing concerns about demand and the outlook for the global economy.

Govt eyes FDI uptick

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"A dedicated national committee is evaluating global best practices, and we aim to see meaningful progress by the end of 2025," he said.

One of the most critical institutional reforms underway is the unification of multiple investment promotion agencies.

"Depending on whom you ask, Bangladesh has five to seven different agencies handling investment. This confuses investors," Chowdhury added. "We are now working to bring them under a single platform to provide a seamless investor experience."

In addition, he pointed out that the government is launching a "relationship manager" model within Bida.

These professionals—recruited from the private sector—will serve as guides for investors, helping them navigate regulatory and bureaucratic processes.

"We are learning, adapting, and accelerating. The direction is clear—Bangladesh is open

for business, and we're building the foundation to welcome the world," Chowdhury said.

Speaking virtually at the event, Commerce Adviser Sk Bashir Uddin shared his journey from the private sector to the public sector and addressed key challenges and opportunities in Bangladesh's trade and investment landscape.

Reflecting on his unexpected entry into public service, Bashir said he never imagined working in the government, but it has been an exciting and purposeful journey.

On trade issues, Bashir discussed efforts to retain Bangladesh's Most Favoured Nation status amid concerns over potential US tariffs.

"We have created product roadmaps and are working to close trade deficits," he said.

In logistics, the government is enhancing transshipment capacity, including developing the Sylhet and Cox's Bazar airports for cargo use.

"We're aiming to be

more efficient and cost-competitive," he added.

He also confirmed the liberalisation of civil aviation regulations and support for domestic tourism. On e-commerce, he noted that the central bank is working to enable international payment gateways while ensuring consumer protection.

Regarding infrastructure, Bashir stressed investment in roads, transport, and energy.

"New LNG terminals and captive power will help overcome supply challenges," he said.

On export diversification, he said that with 40 million in the workforce, Bangladesh must go beyond garments.

He also emphasised leasing unused jute mills and modernising trade bodies to empower small and medium enterprises.

Calling on global investors, he concluded by saying that Bangladesh is open for business.

"Our people are resilient, our market is growing, and the time to invest is now," he said.

Four state banks

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At the end of last year, the six state-run commercial banks' bad loans stood at Tk 136,618.60 crore, and of them, Tk 127,062 crore were held by the four state-run banks, central bank data showed.

The four banks also faced a combined Tk 52,800 crore provision shortfall, and except for Sonali Bank, they faced a Tk 62,768 crore capital

shortfall, the data showed.

Janata Bank saw the highest capital shortfall, which swelled to Tk 52,890 crore by the end of 2024, driven by Tk 67,148 crore in bad loans—72 percent of its disbursed portfolio.

Major defaulters include Anontex, Crescent, Beximco, Therman, and S Alam Group, who collectively owe over Tk 45,000 crore, according to BB data.

The majority of the

state-run banks have now become unable to disburse large loans due to their worsening capital base, industry insiders said.

At the end of December last year, state-run banks posted a CRAR (capital to risk-weighted assets ratio) of negative 8.42 percent, far below the 10 percent minimum required under the Basel III framework, an international set of reforms.

Dev budget for FY26

FROM PAGE B1

they can get close to that number, given the current ADP implementation, the actual implementation will likely be around 15 percent less than the target.

"Social protection should be prioritised in the next budget," said Rahman, "especially since many union parishads are dysfunctional and allocations have been suspended, putting added

pressure on poor and near-poor communities."

"Within the allocation, we must prioritise marginalised populations and focus on low-hanging or high-priority projects. This year's budget doesn't leave much room for flexibility. The fiscal situation is extremely tight and requires strong economic management," he said.

সিলেট গ্যাস ফিল্ডস লিমিটেড
(পেট্রোবাংলায় একটি কোম্পানি)
Sylhet Gas Fields Limited
(A Company of Petrobangla)

গ্যাস খননের সম্পদ: এর অপর কোনও গ্যাসের দায়িত্ব পালন করুন।

INTERNATIONAL TENDER NOTICE

Ref. no. SGFL/MSTE/24-25/FP-13 Date: 05-05-2025

1. Ministry/Division	: Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources/Energy & Mineral Resources Division.				
2. Agency	: Sylhet Gas Fields Limited (A company of Petrobangla).				
3. Procuring entity name	: Sylhet Gas Fields Limited, (SGFL).				
4. Procuring entity district	: Sylhet.				
5. Invitation ref. no.	: SGFL/MSTE/24-25/FP-13 dated 05-05-2025				
6. Invitation for	: Tender for Procurement of Friction Free Digital Valve				
KEY INFORMATION					
7. Procurement method	: Open tender method (OTM), Single stage one envelope system.				
FUNDING INFORMATION					
8. Budget and source of funds	: Own source of Sylhet Gas Fields Limited.				
PARTICULAR INFORMATION					
9. Project name	: N/A.				
10. Tender publication date	: 05-05-2025.				
11. Tender last selling date	: 25-06-2025				
12. Place of tender selling	: Sylhet Gas Fields Limited, Dhaka Liaison Office, Petrobangla (13 th Floor), 3, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215.				
13. Date & time of selling of tender document	: The tender document will be available for sale from 12-05-2025 to 25-06-2025 during office hours on all working days.				
14. Tender closing date & time	: 26-06-2025 and 12-00 hrs (BST).				
15. Tender opening date & time	: 26-06-2025 and 12-15 hrs (BST).				
16. Place of tender receiving & opening	: Sylhet Gas Fields Limited, Procurement Department, P.O. Chiknagodi, Sylhet, Bangladesh.				
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER					
17. Eligibility of Tenderer	: Bonafide manufacturers/suppliers or their authorized agents of all countries except the country/countries having no diplomatic relation with Bangladesh.				
18. Brief description of Goods	: Procurement of Friction Free Digital Valve				
19. Price of tender document	: Taka 2,000.00 or USD 16.00 (non-refundable).				
20. Special Instruction:	<p>a) If it is not possible to receive/open the tender on the scheduled date for any unavoidable circumstance (Strike, Holiday, Lockdown etc.) the same will be received/ opened on the next working day at the same time and Venue.</p> <p>b) Tender must remain valid for 120 (one hundred twenty) days from the date of opening of the tender.</p> <p>c) Tenderer shall furnish with the Tender an acceptable Tender Security in the form of Demand Draft or Pay Order or Bank guarantee (as per format provided in the Tender Document) issued by a scheduled bank in Bangladesh or by any scheduled foreign bank operating in Bangladesh or by any reputed foreign bank duly endorsed with full obligation and liability by a scheduled bank of Bangladesh in the amount as under:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; font-size: 8px;"> <tr> <th>Description of Goods</th> <th>Tender security amount</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Procurement of Friction Free Digital Valve</td> <td>Taka 71,000.00 or USD 582.00</td> </tr> </table> <p>d) The Tender Security must remain valid for 148 (one hundred forty-eight) days from the date of opening of the tender.</p> <p>e) The scope of supply, terms of supply and information require to be furnished by the Tenderers, etc. are included in the tender document.</p> <p>f) Tender(s) submitted after the deadline for receiving of tender(s) will be rejected and returned unopened to the Tenderer.</p> <p>g) The Tender must not be submitted by Fax or E-mail.</p> <p>h) This tender notice will also be available at Petrobangla Website: www.petrobangla.org.bd and SGFL Website: www.sgfl.org.bd</p>	Description of Goods	Tender security amount	Procurement of Friction Free Digital Valve	Taka 71,000.00 or USD 582.00
Description of Goods	Tender security amount				
Procurement of Friction Free Digital Valve	Taka 71,000.00 or USD 582.00				
21. Name of Official inviting tender	Md. Atikur Rahman				
22. Designation of Official inviting tender	Deputy General Manager (Procurement) Mobile no. 01743-624679, E-mail: dgmr@sgfl.org.bd				
23. Address of Official inviting tender	Sylhet Gas Fields Ltd, P.O. Chiknagodi, Sylhet, Bangladesh.				
24. Sylhet Gas Fields Limited reserves the right to reject any or all tender or annul the tendering process at any stage prior to award of contract without assigning any reason whatsoever and without incurring any liability to the affected Tenderer(s).					

05/05/25
Deputy General Manager (Procurement)

GD-1089

Potato farmers

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Although the government estimates that around 30 percent of the total produce is lost due to shortcomings in storage facilities, this oversupply means there may be little relief for small farmers.

Nazrul Islam, a farmer of Puratan Thakurgaon in sadar upazila, said he cultivated potatoes on 23 bighas of land and harvested 2,070 maunds.

He said the production cost stood at Tk 18 per kg, but now he was compelled to sell his produce at Tk 8 to Tk 10 per kg. During the harvesting season, each kg of potato was sold between Tk 12 to Tk 15.

Nazrul said he managed to store 300 sacks of potatoes—each sack weighing 65 kg—in a cold storage, although he had intended to store 1,000 sacks, for failing to secure enough space.

He said he had no idea how to recover the losses and start preparing for cultivating the next crop.

Nirmal Chandra, another farmer of the same area, who cultivated potatoes on 180 bighas of land this season, echoed Islam.

He also said he intended to preserve 10,000 sacks of potatoes in cold storage, but could manage space for only 1,700 sacks.

Motiuur Rahman, a 47-year-old farmer of Puria village in Dinajpur's Birol upazila, said he was able to keep just 300 sacks of potatoes in a cold storage instead of 1,000 sacks.

During a recent visit to Thakurgaon and its adjoining districts, this correspondent saw rotten potatoes dumped on roads.

Md Reaz Uddin, an additional director at the DAE's Dinajpur district office, said farmers have produced more potatoes this season than last year as they received good returns from potato farming last season.

"We have advised the growers to preserve as much of their produce as possible using traditional methods,"

he said. Ashraf Sarkar, a farmer from Munshiganj sadar, cultivated potatoes on 115 decimals of land this season.

"I had to spend Tk 25 to produce each kg of potato. Since I couldn't sell them, I stored them in a cold storage," he said.

"Including storage costs, the price per kg will rise to Tk 32. But now, prices have dropped so low, we won't even recover half of our cost," Sarkar added.

Pappu Saha, a wholesaler from Munshirhat in Munshiganj, said farmers were leaving their potatoes at his shop for sale but prices have dropped even further, and sales were very low.

Muhammad Muslim, director of the Department of Agricultural Marketing, said the country lacks sufficient storage facilities for potatoes, leaving farmers unable to preserve their produce as needed.

As a result, they are being forced to sell at whatever price they can fetch, leading to an oversupply in the market and pushing prices down, he added.

Mostafa Azad Chowdhury Babu, president of Bangladesh Cold Storage Association, told The Daily Star that roughly 35 lakh tonnes of potatoes have been stored in 365 cold storages across the country so far.

However, despite this storage and regular consumption, a large surplus of potatoes remains in the supply chain. As a result, many farmers are now unable to recover their production costs, while a significant portion of the crop is rotting due to a lack of adequate storage space.

Moreover, the government lacks accurate data on the country's actual potato demand. This data gap leads to seasonal imbalances as farmers suffer losses in some seasons while consumers face high prices in others, he said. This issue could be addressed if precise demand information were available to guide production and storage planning, Babu added.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
জেলা সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়
চুয়াডাঙ্গা
দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১	দরপত্র/বিভাগ	১	সমাজকল্যাণ মহাপ্রাঙ্গণ।
২	এজেন্সি	১	সমাজসেবা অফিসকর, ঢাকা।
৪	সম্প্রদায়িক সত্তার নাম	১	মহাপরিচালক, সমাজসেবা অফিসকর, ঢাকা-এর পক্ষে জেলা প্রশাসক, চুয়াডাঙ্গা।
৫	সম্প্রদায়িক সত্তার জেলা	১	চুয়াডাঙ্গা।
৬	যে কার্যের দরপত্র	১	২০২৪-২০২৬ অর্থবছরে সমাজসেবা অফিসকর পরিচালিত চুয়াডাঙ্গা জেলায় ১। সরকারি শিশু পরিবার (বালিকা) চুয়াডাঙ্গা-এর খাদ্য ও খাদ্যমূল্যবাহী (অপসন্নশীল ও পসন্নশীল), শিফা, বাছা, রসোদনী ও অন্যান্য এবং বিবিধ মাংসমাংস। ২। সম্মতিত পুষ্টি প্রতিবেদনী শিফা কার্যক্রম, চুয়াডাঙ্গা-এর খাদ্য ও খাদ্যমূল্যবাহী (অপসন্নশীল ও পসন্নশীল), শিফা, বাছা, রসোদনী ও অন্যান্য মাংসমাংস এবং বিবিধ মাংসমাংস সরবরাহ।
৭	দরপত্র নম্বর তারিখ	১	৪১.০১.১৮০০.০০০০.০৭.০০১.১৯-১৭ তারিখ ০৪/০৫/২০২৫ খ্রি.
৮	দরপত্র প্রচারের তারিখ	১	০৭/০৫/২০২৫ খ্রি.
৯	সম্প্রদায়িক সত্তার পত্রিকার নাম	১	সিলেট দরপত্র পত্রিকা (৪.টি.এম.)
১০	বাজেট এবং তহবিলের উৎস	১	রাজস্ব বাজেট, জি.ও.বি।
১১	দরপত্রের পক্ষে স্বাক্ষর	১	০৪ (স্বাক্ষর) টি।
১২	দরপত্রের পক্ষে স্বাক্ষর	১	২০২৪-২০২৬ অর্থবছরে সমাজসেবা অফিসকর পরিচালিত, চুয়াডাঙ্গা জেলায় সরকারি শিশু পরিবার (বালিকা) চুয়াডাঙ্গা এবং সম্মতিত পুষ্টি প্রতিবেদনী শিফা কার্যক্রম চুয়াডাঙ্গা-এর বিবিসিদের জন্য (১) "ক" গ্রুপ- খাদ্য ও খাদ্যমূল্যবাহী (অপসন্নশীল ও পসন্নশীল) (২) "খ" গ্রুপ- শিফা, বাছা, রসোদনী ও অন্যান্য (৩) "ঘ" গ্রুপ- খাদ্য ও খাদ্যমূল্যবাহী (অপসন্নশীল ও পসন্নশীল) এবং শিফা, বাছা, রসোদনী ও অন্যান্য (৪) "ঙ" গ্রুপ- বিবিধ মাংসমাংস।
১৩	দরপত্র সিদ্ধি উল্লেখের শেষ তারিখ	১	২২/০৫/২০২৫ খ্রি., বিকাল ০৪.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১৪	দরপত্র প্রদানের তারিখ ও সময়	১	২২/০৫/২০২৫ খ্রি., দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১৫	দরপত্র প্রদানের তারিখ ও সময়	১	২২/০৫/২০২৫ খ্রি., বিকাল ০৪.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত। সরকারি বা স্বাধীনভাবে নির্ধারিত উপস্থিতিতে খোলা হবে যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন।
১৬	কার্যালয়ের নাম ও ঠিকানা:	১	সরকারি শিশু পরিবার (বালিকা) চুয়াডাঙ্গা, সম্মতিত পুষ্টি প্রতিবেদনী শিফা কার্যক্রম, চুয়াডাঙ্গা এবং উপপরিচালক, জেলা সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়, চুয়াডাঙ্গা।
১৬	খ, দরপত্র দাখিল করার সময়	১	উপপরিচালক, জেলা সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়, চুয়াডাঙ্গা এবং জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, চুয়াডাঙ্গা।
১৬	খ, দরপত্র দাখিল খোলা	১	জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, চুয়াডাঙ্গা।
১৭	দরপত্রের যোগ্যতা	১	(১) বৈধ সরকারি কার্যক্রম। (২) সিদ্ধি উল্লেখের ট্রেন্ডিং মাসের মূল কপি, পূর্বে অনুরূপ কাজ করার অভিজ্ঞতার সন্দেহ, হাল নাগাল ট্রেন্ডিং নাইসে, বাধ্যতামূলক সরবরাহের সময়, আর্থিক সনদ এবং ডাট প্রদান সনদ-এর অভিজ্ঞতা হতে হবে।
১৮	দরপত্র সিদ্ধি উল্লেখের মূল্য	১	দরপত্র সিদ্ধি উল্লেখের মূল্য ট্রেন্ডিং মাসের মূল কপি-১-২৪৩১-০০০০-২৩৬৬-তে (অফিসের যোগ্য) জমা দিতে হবে।

ক্রম	সংক্ষিপ্ত বিবরণ	সিদ্ধি মূল্য	টেন্ডার সিদ্ধি/সিদ্ধি পরিমাণ	মন্তব্য
ক	খাদ্য ও খাদ্যমূল্যবাহী (অপসন্নশীল ও পসন্নশীল)	৪০০/-	সিদ্ধি উল্লেখের মতো	সরকারি শিশু পরিবার (বালিকা) চুয়াডাঙ্গার জন্য।
খ	শিফা, বাছা, রসোদনী ও অন্যান্য	৪০০/-	—	সরকারি শিশু পরিবার (বালিকা) চুয়াডাঙ্গার জন্য।
ঘ	খাদ্য ও খাদ্যমূল্যবাহী (অপসন্নশীল ও পসন্নশীল) এবং শিফা, বাছা, রসোদনী ও অন্যান্য	২০০/-	—	সম্মতিত পুষ্টি প্রতিবেদনী শিফা কার্যক্রম, চুয়াডাঙ্গা-এর জন্য।
ঙ	বিবিধ মাংসমাংস	২০০/-	—	১। সরকারি শিশু পরিবার (বালিকা) চুয়াডাঙ্গার জন্য। ২। সম্মতিত পুষ্টি প্রতিবেদনী শিফা কার্যক্রম, চুয়াডাঙ্গার জন্য।

১৮. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর নাম: মোহাম্মদ জাহিদুল ইসলাম

১৯. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর পদবী: জেলা প্রশাসক, চুয়াডাঙ্গা।

২০. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর ঠিকানা: জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, চুয়াডাঙ্গা।

২১. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার সাথে যোগাযোগের নম্বর: ০২৪৭৭-৩৮৩১১১

২২. শর্তাবলী:

(ক) পি.পি.এ-২০০৬ এবং পি.পি.আর-২০০৮ (সংশোধিত সহ) এর সব সেক্ষেত্র পত্রিকার মাধ্যমে প্রকাশ করা হবে।

(খ) পুষ্টি সনাক্তকরণ পরীক্ষার ১০% অথবা মূল্যায়ন কমিটির সভার সিদ্ধান্ত অনুযায়ী প্রয়োজনীয় পরীক্ষার ফলাফল প্রকাশ করা হবে।

(গ) "খ" গ্রুপের ক্ষেত্রে অর্থ বরাদ্দ হারি সংশ্লিষ্ট কার্যক্রম প্রদান করা হবে।

(ঘ) কর্তৃপক্ষ করণে নির্দেশনা হলে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণে অথবা সনদ প্রদানে বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করবে।

(ঙ) দরপত্র নির্ধারিত তারিখে নির্ধারিত সময় পর্যন্ত দাখিল করা হবে।

(চ) বিশেষ নিয়ন্ত্রণের বিষয়ে বিস্তারিত তথ্য দরপত্রের সিদ্ধি উল্লেখের নীচে আছে।

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মোহাম্মদ জাহিদুল ইসলাম
জেলা প্রশাসক, চুয়াডাঙ্গা।