

808 institutes, structures renamed

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and divisions were changed.

Of these, the highest number -- 205 institutions and structures -- were under the ministry of youth and sports.

This was followed by the secondary and higher education division (181), the primary and mass education ministry (84), the ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts affairs (59), the ICT division (49), local government divisions (39) and defence ministry (24).

In addition, the renaming process for 134 institutions under the secondary and higher education division and 28 under the local

government divisions is underway.

The names of at least 240 institutions, structures and awards named after Sheikh Mujibur Rahman have been changed. Besides, the process of changing the names of 79 more institutions and structures is in progress.

The names of four cantonments -- Bangabandhu Cantonment in Tangail, Bir Muktijoddha Abdul Hamid Cantonment in Kishoreganj, Sheikh Hasina Cantonment at Lebukhali in Barishal and Sheikh Russell Cantonment at Zajira in Sharirkpur -- have been changed.

'Energy budget mirrors past regime's policies'

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so, given the inability of oil-based power plants to make adequate contributions, the paper also mentions.

The interim government aspires to shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy, aiming for a green and sustainable power and energy sector, but the slowdown in policy shift does not reflect that aspiration, it added.

Prof M Shamsul Alam, energy adviser to the Consumers Association of Bangladesh, said the companies involved in power generation and supply are still logging substantial profits while the public continues to suffer.

"The people's voices are not being heard. There's almost no point in talking to the government anymore."

He provided the example of the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation's recent decision to increase the Padma Oil Company's profit margin by 76 percent for supplying jet fuel to airliners at a time when the company has Tk

2,100 crore in reserves.

"They [Padma oil] are building two giant offices in Dhaka and Chittagong, operating schools and hospitals with the profit money from the public... This is not fair."

He went on to say that if the ongoing gas crisis at industries lingers any longer, most of them will go bankrupt soon.

Faisal Samad, a director at the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, said the government has no plan to mitigate the energy crisis in industries. "We need an immediate short term plan on how to increase gas supply to the industries."

He suggested some solutions, such as suspending gas bills for a few months or waiving interest payments on bank loans for industries.

Razeeb Haider, director at Bangladesh Textile Mills Association, said, "We need the pressure to be at least 6 psi [pounds per square

inch] to keep all of our six machines operational. When the pressure is 2 psi, we need to shut down at least four of them."

He, however, said that after the energy adviser's recent visit to their factories, the gas supply has increased. "But we don't know how long it will continue."

He recommended conducting studies to assess the extent of production losses caused by disruptions in power and gas supply.

Akhter Hossain Apurbo, vice president of the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association, said the gas price was hiked based on the assurance of an uninterrupted supply.

"But the situation didn't improve... After the LDC graduation, the government will no longer allocate subsidies to the garment sector. But they can provide indirect subsidies through the power and energy sector."

He said that when the fabric dyeing process is

Smriti Kokkho, Bekar Hostel, Maulana Azad College and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Sarani, which is the road in front of the Kolkata Mission.

Discussions are also ongoing on the Sheikh Mujib bust in front of Sealdah Railway Station and the Bangabandhu Mancha in Kolkata.

The cancellation process of the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Rahman Education Scholarship in New Delhi is also underway.

The Bangabandhu Lounge at Bangladesh's UN Mission in New York has already been renamed as Auditorium Lounge, the statement added.

initiated, it takes around six to eight hours to complete. "In that period, uninterrupted gas supply is absolutely essential; otherwise, the products risk ruin."

Shafiqul Alam, a lead energy analyst at the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis, said that although the government has announced plans to drill around 100 gas wells in the near future, there is no sign of that promise in the budget.

M a q b u l - E l a h i Chowdhury, a former member of the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission, said gas theft disguised as system loss should be checked.

"We had forced the transmission company to install zonal meters to reduce system losses. The readings of the meters should be published every month to show how much gas is being stolen in what areas," he said, adding that around 400 500 million cubic feet of gas could be saved and served to the industries only by reducing system losses.

The other accused include the then vice chancellor of the university Prof Hasibur Rashid, former proctor Shariful Islam, former assistant sub-inspector of police Amir Hossain, former constable Sujan Chandra Roy, and Chhatra League leader Imran Chowdhury

89% drug cases

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evidence. "Many officers don't carry out thorough probes, which weaken the cases."

Bashir Ahmed, director (operations) at the DNC, said they strive to submit charge sheets on time.

"The courts deliver verdicts after considering various aspects. On our part, we make every effort to prove the charges. Investigators are also provided with regular training and guidance."

He added that the DNC is focusing on enhanced training and increased supervision to improve the quality of probes.

Dhaka Metropolitan Public Prosecutor Omar Faruqi said that there used to be dedicated courts to deal with drug cases in the past, but the cases are now being handled by regular courts.

"With such a large number of cases, it is often observed that no witnesses are present when the court is ready to proceed. In drug cases, seizure witnesses are crucial

However, courts usually do not accept claims made solely by the police. In many instances, the witnesses lack proper addresses, making it difficult for investigators to locate them. As a result, many cases have remained pending for years due to the unavailability of witnesses."

PRISONS FOR ADDICTS

Expressing concern over the growing drug menace, Home Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury yesterday said people from all walks of life are getting involved in drug related crimes.

He added that the use of women, children, and teenagers in this illicit trade was alarming.

Drug trafficking and abuse pose serious threats to public health, law and order, and the economy, the advised said while speaking as the chief guest at a discussion organised by the DNC in Dhaka to mark the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking 2025.

He said the government plans to establish separate

prisons and rehabilitation centres for drug addicts in each divisional city. A Tk 1,400 crore project to build drug rehabilitation centres in seven divisional cities has already been approved by the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecnec).

Jahangir also pointed out new challenges, including the rise of synthetic and semi-synthetic drugs, especially New Psychoactive Substances (NPS).

Legal measures have been taken to control these substances, while law enforcement and intelligence agencies remain vigilant.

He said the DNC currently has 2,943 personnel, including 1,622 enforcement officers, serving a population of about 18 crores. Despite limited workforce and resources, efforts are ongoing to strengthen the DNC's capacity.

Under the DNC, Weapon Procurement and Usage Policy, the first batch of officers has completed firearms training to improve operational efficiency and safety.

Israeli fire, strikes kill 56 in Gaza

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cooperation deal with Israel.

The comments represent the strongest condemnation to date by the Socialist leader, an outspoken critic of the Israeli offensive in Gaza.

Speaking to reporters before an EU summit in Brussels, Sanchez mentioned a recent human rights report by the bloc's diplomatic service which, he said, addressed "the catastrophic situation of genocide unfolding in Gaza".

The report published last week found "indications" that Israel was breaching its human rights obligations under the deal, which forms the basis for trade ties.

In the occupied West Bank, the Palestinian health ministry said four people were killed in two separate incidents on Wednesday evening, including a 15-year-old boy who it said was shot by Israeli troops.

52 pushed in from India

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They include four men and two women. All of them are Bangladeshi citizens and they were handed over to Kamalganj Police Station, Lt Col Zakaria said.

In Khagrachari, 15 people were pushed into Bangladesh -- nine through Shantipur border under Matiranga upazila and six through Panchari upazila.

Khagrachari Deputy Commissioner ABM Iftekharul Islam Khandker confirmed the push-ins to The Daily Star.

Contacted, Matiranga

OUN Monjur Alam said BGB personnel detained the individuals, including seven women and two men, after they were pushed into Bangladesh by BSF.

They were kept at a local school under the supervision of BGB and the process to verify their identities was going on, the ONU added.

Panchari OUN Farhana Nasrin said the six people pushed into Bangladesh through the border in the upazila include five women and a man.

In Meherpur, eight people were pushed in through the Rangmohol border under

Gangni upazila. The group includes two children, three women, and three men, said Lt Col Mahbub Morshed Rahman, commanding officer of BGB 47 Battalion in Kushtia.

A BGB team detained them while they were moving along the border road inside Bangladesh territory after they were pushed in by BSF, he said.

All of them are Bangladeshi nationals. After verifying their identities, they were handed over to Gangni Police Station.

In Feni, four people of

a family were pushed into Bangladesh allegedly by BSF through Joar Kachar border under Sadar upazila.

They were detained by BGB and later handed over to police, said Lt Col Mir Ali Ejaz, commander of BGB-10 Battalion in Cumilla.

Contacted, Feni Model Police Station's Officer-in-Charge Md Shamsuzzaman said the detainees are Bangladeshi citizens and they would be handed over to their relatives.

[Our correspondents in Moulvibazar, Chittagong, Benapole and Feni contributed to the report]

Foreign Secretary Imran Ahmed Siddiqui led their respective delegations in the meeting.

They exchanged views on possible trilateral cooperation on the basis of mutual trust, understanding and shared vision for peace, prosperity and stability in the region.

The meeting was also held to identify the areas of deeper cooperation, including infrastructure connectivity, trade, investment, healthcare, agriculture, maritime affairs, ICT, disaster preparedness and climate change issues.

Asked if the meeting was held targeting India, he said, "Certainly not, it did not target any third party. I can guarantee that."

For example, he said, if India wants to hold a trilateral meeting with Nepal and Bangladesh, Dhaka will agree to do it, he added.

Asked why Bangladesh needed to join the trilateral meeting, Touhid said, "The meeting was about connectivity, trade and cooperation in various areas... The speculations are made because Pakistan and China were there."

Responding to a question, Touhid said the relationship is not cold either.

"I am in the process of readjustment. We have no dearth of goodwill... We are readjusting," he said.

"Let us acknowledge the truth: the present government does not have the level of deep relationship that existed between India and the previous government," he added.

Asked about the scheduled bilateral visit by the chief adviser to Malaysia in July, he said Dhaka now wants to shift it to August due to the events of the July mass uprising anniversary.

"We are working on it," he said.

Install solar panels on all govt

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rest of the work," he said. Yunus also said the government must know the experience of all the institutions that have installed rooftop solar systems so far. "We need to know what kind of problems they have faced. We need to move towards resolving those problems."

In this process, the government schools, colleges, and madrasas will not have to pay electricity bills for electricity

consumption and the institutions will get rent for the roofs used for solar power generation.

Officials present at the meeting said according to the 2024 report of the International Renewable Energy Agency, Bangladesh only generates 5.6 percent of the total electricity demand from solar power, far behind its neighbouring countries in expanding solar power generation and meeting the set targets.

Sources at the EC said these materials -- including forms, packets, ID cards, codes of conduct, symbol posters, manuals, and guidelines -- must be printed right after the election schedule is announced. Distributing these papers to field offices within a short timeframe will be a major challenge.

EC aims to procure polls

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According to EC officials, ballot papers with candidates' names and symbols must be printed right after the election schedule is announced. Distributing these papers to field offices within a short timeframe will be a major challenge.

Registration. A proposal to amend the relevant law has been sent to the law ministry. He also said 76 applications have been submitted requesting changes to constituency boundaries. "The review process is currently underway," he added.

He also said the EC secretary said the commission will decide on the timeframe for voter list. Asked about the voter list, the EC secretary said the commission will decide on the timeframe for voter list.

Waterlogging

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Our suffering," said Sumon Mia, a grocery store owner in the area.

Sanchita Mallick, another resident, said, "It becomes very difficult to get ambulance service, especially during the monsoon, as the road goes completely underwater."

The road falls under the jurisdiction of Dhaka North City Corporation.

Former councillor of Ward 49, Anisur Rahman Naim, was responsible for the area until he went into hiding after August 5.

Residents alleged that they were harassed when seeking help from him.

After the appointment of the DNCC administrator, the situation remained unchanged.

Contacted, Khondoker Mahbub Alam, superintending engineer (civil) of DNCC's Traffic Engineering Circle, said the city corporation had already issued a tender to repair the road and assigned the project to the army.

Asked about the delay, Alam said, "The project director assured me that work would start soon. If needed, we will formally write to him again."

Lt Col Md Masud, the project director, said he visited the site last Thursday and found the drainage system near the road had collapsed, causing water to remain stagnant over a 150-foot stretch.

"Work on the Ashkona water pump road will begin very soon. We have discussed the matter with relevant officials and are hopeful the public suffering will soon come to an end," he said.

can improve slightly," he added.

"We may start repair work after the monsoon. If we start now, it will worsen the suffering of commuters. In the meantime, we plan to sit with DNCC again and coordinate with other relevant agencies," he also said.

During a visit to the area on Monday, auto rickshaws, pickup vans, and private cars were seen struggling to pass through the waterlogged, pothole-ridden stretch near Ashkona Bazar.

The road resembled a waterbody.

Parents taking their children to school were seen getting off rickshaws and wading through water along the roadside to avoid deeper sections. Shops on both sides of the 300-yard stretch were closed due to the waterlogging, and the entire road was almost unusable.

Standing beside the road, another resident, Nasrin Akther, said, "Our lives have become a curse because of this road. It feels like we committed a sin by building homes here."

Asked about the delay in the army-led work, Director of Inter-Services Public Relations Lt Col Sami-Uddaul Chowdhury said the army usually completes such projects swiftly.

"Work on the Ashkona water pump road will begin very soon. We have discussed the matter with relevant officials and are hopeful the public suffering will soon come to an end," he said.

Kampong acknowledged Bangladesh's progress in reducing maternal mortality, saying the country's achievements -- including increased life expectancy, particularly among women -- are internationally recognised.

She said the UNFPA is committed to supporting Bangladesh in addressing both persistent and emerging challenges, including reducing inequities, advancing gender equality and sexual and reproductive health, and ending gender-based violence and child marriage.

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.	Packa ge No.	Referen ce No.	Description of goods/works	Last selling date and time and	Closing date and time	Opening date and time
1.	1127999	GR 07 FY 2024-25	27.11.000 0.304.25 460.25 dated: 25/06/2025 25	Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning of New Charge Air Cooler for Engine A-Side of Bera 70 MW Peaking Power Plant, BPDB, Bera, Pabna.	13-07-2025 13.00	13-07-2025 14.00	13-07-2025 14.00