

## EC removes

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Asked about this matter, Md Rafiqul Haque, system manager at the EC Secretariat, said, "The boat symbol has been removed following instructions from the higher authorities."

When asked about the removal of the AI's registration date and boat symbol from EC's website, EC Senior Secretary Akhtar Ahmed said those were taken down to avoid any confusion.

"There has been some recent public discussion about the boat symbol. To eliminate any confusion or misunderstanding, the Commission decided to remove it. There's no other reason behind this," he said.

Although the boat symbol has been removed from the EC's website, it will remain in the election schedule, the EC Secretary clarified.

When asked whether the EC removed the boat symbol from the website under pressure from the NCP, Akhtar Ahmed said, "If the Election Commission were under pressure, then why would I be speaking with you? There is no pressure or influence from anyone in this matter."

On July 12, a delegation from the National Citizen Party (NCP) met with the chief election commissioner and demanded that the "boat" symbol be removed from the EC's list of election

symbols.

Meanwhile, in a Facebook post on Tuesday night, Local Government Affairs Adviser Asif Mahmud criticised the EC. He wrote, "On what grounds did you send the cursed 'boat' symbol to the law ministry for inclusion in the schedule again?"

Currently, there are 50 registered political parties in the country. For these parties, the EC has a total of 69 scheduled electoral symbols. The EC recently proposed to increase this number to 115 and has sent the draft to the law ministry for vetting.

**Rizwan Bin**

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His duties will include reviewing and approving forum agendas and arrangements, ensuring implementation of forum decisions, and accepting qualified National Award Operators as provisional members of the association, added the release.

Farouq has been a dedicated advocate for youth development in Bangladesh. In recognition of his 10 years of voluntary service, he was honoured with a Letter of Commendation and a Royal Mint Coin by Prince Edward, the Duke of Edinburgh on International Volunteer Day in 2021 - an accolade given to only 100 individuals globally.

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He also stressed the need for skill training, employment opportunities at home and abroad, an end to hiring children under 14, and the right to unionise for domestic workers. Ensuring their health, education, nutrition, and rest is essential for family safety and the well-being of future generations.

Rowshan Ara Baby, member of Naripokkho, said, "ILO Convention 189 and CEDAW both mandate protection for domestic workers. Ensuring their health, education, nutrition, and rest is essential for family safety and the well-being of future generations.

He also called for hostels and daycare centres in high-rise residential areas, noting that many domestic workers lose their jobs due to a lack of childcare, leaving them vulnerable to homelessness and crime.

He further urged targeted research on the occupational health risks of domestic workers and the need for fair wages, bonuses, maternity leave, and other benefits.

She highlighted the need for written contracts detailing working hours, leave, healthcare, and other benefits. Domestic workers are often abused, she added, stressing the need for a monitoring system and complaint mechanism.

Sumaiya Islam, member of the Women's Affairs Reform Commission and executive director of Bangladesh Nari Sramik Kendra, said all stakeholders - workers, organisations, and commissions - are united in demanding legal inclusion.

She said both the Labour and Women's Affairs Reform Commissions have recommended including domestic workers under

labour law, which is essential for the state, society, welfare, and the economy.

Highlighting the contribution of domestic workers abroad, whose remittances help boost the national economy, she said, "The time to act is now."

Tapon Kumar Das, deputy director of CAMPE, recommended creating a database of domestic workers, with data collected at police stations or ward levels, to ensure their safety and identification.

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Domestic work is often trivialised as women's work, leading to its devaluation. Legal recognition is essential, but it must also be reflected in our social norms. We can't

just wait for a law -- we must start the change from our positions," she said.

AHM Shafiquzzaman, secretary at the Ministry of Labour and Employment, said, "Protecting the rights of domestic workers is everyone's responsibility, not just the state. Let's start with our own homes -- issue appointment letters. Let's motivate our buildings and neighbourhoods. Gradually, the safety measures discussed in 2015 will begin to spread."

Khadeja Akter Antora, programme officer at Oxfam's Gender Justice and Social Inclusion programme, said domestic workers' rights are tied to the safety of employers' families and the national economy.

She called for their inclusion under labour law, proper policy implementation, and ratification of ILO Convention 189.

Mahmuda Begum, founder and executive director of Shobujer Ovijan Foundation; Roksana Sultana, executive director of Breaking the Silence; Murshida Akter, general secretary of Domestic Workers' Rights Network; and Parveen, a domestic worker from Mirpur, also spoke at the event.

The roundtable was moderated by Tanjim Ferdous, in charge of NGOs and Foreign Missions at The Daily Star.

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done through the direct purchase method, meaning no open tender will be invited.

The Advisory Council Committee on Economic Affairs gave its approval in principle at a meeting held at the Secretariat on Tuesday.

Describing the method as questionable, Dr Iftekharuzzaman said the initiative to turn the former PM's residence into the "July Uprising Memorial Museum" -- aimed at honouring the martyrs and documenting the repression under the then Awami League government -- risks being undermined by this process.

He said direct procurement is generally allowed only in emergency situations, unforeseen disasters, or for specialised services requiring rapid delivery.

"This project was approved in December 2024. Under procurement rules, there was enough time to call for tenders and ensure open competition," he said.

"Yet, seven months later, and just three weeks before the deadline, the decision to bypass Sections 76(1) and 76(2) of the Public Procurement Rules appears unjustified. These rules clearly prohibit using direct procurement to avoid competition or show favouritism."

DHAKA THURSDAY JULY 17, 2025  
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## No alternative

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He said those who do not believe in democracy and want to run the country by other means are on a "different path" than the BNP.

"It must be made clear: if anyone wants to impose autocracy under the guise of democracy, the BNP will not allow it."

Condemning the offensive remarks made against the party's acting chairman Tarique Rahman, Moyeen said, "There is a mystery behind the various incidents that have taken place in the country over the past few days. That mystery must be revealed to the 18-crore people of Bangladesh. We believe in peaceful politics, we believe in orderly politics, and we believe in fair politics."

Addressing the freedom fighters, the BNP leader said, "We grew up in this country. You fought in the Liberation War -- have you ever seen such words, such language, such offensive remarks being used openly like this in Bangladesh?"

"The actions we have been witnessing over the last few days, which are being carried out with a deliberate intention of destroying Bangladesh's image -- we must analyse why this is happening and identify those responsible," he added.

## Domestic workers deserve dignity

## TIB slams govt move

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He said nearly Tk 111 crore worth of electrical, mechanical, and public works have already been awarded directly to two firms.

"Why was direct procurement used for a routine project? On what grounds were these two entities selected? How were the contract values set, and how will value for money be ensured?" he asked.

Iftekharuzzaman said without answers to these basic questions, awarding such contracts raises valid concerns about possible collusion and favouritism.

TIB warned that awarding a significant volume of public work without competitive bidding undermines the government's stated stance on fighting corruption and upholding reforms.

"On one hand, the government promises anti-corruption and reform. On the other hand, it breaches key procurement principles. This contradiction is self-defeating," he said.

TIB demanded an impartial investigation and a clear explanation for the delay despite having ample time, and why open bidding was ultimately bypassed.

"Unless transparency and competition are ensured in public spending," Iftekharuzzaman warned, "promises of reform will remain mere rhetoric, while corrupt practices continue to be normalised."

### জাতীয় কম্পিউটারের প্রশিক্ষণ ও গবেষণা একাডেমী

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তারিখ: ১১ আগস্ট, ১৪৩২ বঙ্গাব্দ

১৫ জুলাই, ২০২৫ খ্রিস্টাব্দ

### সংশোধিত নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

কারিগরি ও মানবসম্মত বিভাগ, শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয় এর অধীন জাতীয় কম্পিউটারের প্রশিক্ষণ ও গবেষণা একাডেমী (নেকটার), বঙ্গাব্দের রাজবৰ্ষ খাতের (অসমীয়া/হাঙ্গামা) পদসমূহে সরাকারি নিয়োগের মাধ্যমে পূর্বের ইতেক্ষণে প্রকাশিত ১৪ জুন, ২০২৪সংক্ষেপে আর্থিক সময়সূচী শর্ত উত্তীর্ণ করে নিয়োগ প্রক্রিয়া প্রস্তুত করে আবেদন করার সময়সূচী নির্দেশনার অনুসরণ করা যাবে। অনলাইনে (<http://nactar.teletalk.com.bd>) ওয়েবসাইটে নির্দেশিত সময়ের মধ্যে আবেদন করার সময়সূচী নির্ধারিত শর্ত শর্তে অনলাইনে আবেদন করা যাবে।

১৪ জুন, ২০২৪ সংক্রান্ত নিয়োগ সরাকারি যাবতীয় বিভিন্ন আবেদন পদের মধ্যে আবেদন করার সময়সূচী নির্দেশনা অনুসৃত হবে।

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