

## Ex-CJ Khairul remanded for seven days

COURT CORRESPONDENT



DIPANKAR ROY

Once a proud landowner and hardworking farmer in Daldaha village of Bagethat's Rampal upazila, Sunil Kumar Mondal now lives on the edge of survival, clinging to the memory of a life that once revolved around his fields and harvests.

Sunil, now in his sixties, lost all eight and a half bighas of his ancestral land over three separate acquisitions for the construction of Khan Jahan Ali Airport.

A l t h o u g h compensated by the government according to the policies at the time, the payments were insufficient to purchase new land. Some money was saved, but much was spent over the years on unavoidable expenses.

"In 1996 my land was first acquired," he told The Daily Star. "I was paid Tk 90,000 per bigha for the first phase -- around two and a half bighas. Later, another three bighas were acquired in 1996 and the rest in 2016."

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PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

for an annual harvest of over 150 maunds. That rice not only fed his family but also formed the basis of his income. "After losing my land, I could never afford to buy new fields again," he said.

Sunil was left with only 15 decimals of homestead land -- until that too was partially acquired for the Khulna-Monga Railway Line construction in 2017. "Now I only have ten decimals. After losing my land, I became like a beggar. I have to buy rice from others to eat. I have nothing left that I can call my own."

Today, Sunil and his family of five survive on the income from a small shop run by his son, Shashank Mondal.

Sunil's story is not isolated. In his village of around 250 families, most lost their land to the airport project. With their farmlands gone, villagers now work as sharecroppers or have migrated elsewhere in search of jobs.

Across the broader area, including villages like Jhalbari, Par Gobindapur, Santoshpur, Kadamdi, Boro Nawabpur, Hoglada, and Ranjipur, at least 4,000 families have lost their land solely for the airport.

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## I just did what any teacher should

FROM PAGE 3

The men, chanting slogans associated with the AL, were seen pushing her repeatedly. Later, police and bystanders escorted her behind gate for safety. Even then, the men continued shouting insults in front of cameras.

Asked what gave her the courage that day, she simply said, "I just did what any teacher should. If we don't stand by our students, who will?"

For nearly three weeks after the incident, Aklima said she lived under what felt like "house arrest". The local AL office, only metres from her home, became a source of threats and fear.

"They threatened my husband and even the building's doormen," she

said. "They'd say, 'Let the right time come and we will deal with you.'"

Branded a traitor and "Razakar" by local thugs, she stopped leaving the house.

"Some of them have known me since childhood," she said quietly. "But when it comes to political gains, people forget who you are."

Still, she continued supporting her students remotely, as many were reaching out to her for guidance and reassurance.

"I told them whatever I could. If I could protect even one student, I felt I was doing my duty," she said.

Though not politically active, Aklima said her conscience had been stirred earlier, on July 16, when Abu Sayed, a student of Begum Rokeya University in Rangpur, was killed.

"Abu Sayed was not my student. But he was a student. The fact that no teacher came forward, no one stood by his body, haunted me," she said.

It was then that she made a promise to herself: "If something like this happens again, I will not stay silent."

Aklima has lived her whole life in the same Badda neighbourhood.

She completed her HSC at Holy Cross College and later studied philosophy at Dhaka University.

She recalled her university days in the early 2000s, which were marked by unrest.

"There were processions, gunshots... We'd run to Kalabagh to hide," she said. "Our honours took eight years to complete. But I was never involved in politics. I was always focused on books and classes."

Aklima's dream is a revolution through curriculum, not slogans. "We need an education system that produces human beings, not just degree holders."

Real reform, she believes, starts in classrooms -- with updated curricula, trained teachers, moral education, and above all, compassion.

"In universities, we say, 'Enter to learn, leave to serve.' But right now, we are doing neither. That must change."

She knows change is not possible overnight, but believes it can happen over generations. "I may not see it in my lifetime, but if we start now, maybe our grandchildren will see it."

## Closure of Tetra Tech ES, Inc. Local Branch, Bangladesh

Tetra Tech is USA based company and locally registered under the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) and Its office is situated in Gulshan-2, Dhaka, at House No. 10/C (3rd & 4th Floors), Road No. 90. Tetra Tech has been operating in Bangladesh since 2021, focusing on the Bangladesh Advancing Development and Growth Through Energy Project, which is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Tetra Tech hereby announces the official closure of the Tetra Tech ES, Inc. Local Branch office in Bangladesh, effective August 1, 2025. Concurrently, Tetra Tech has addressed all financial obligations to its local staff, partners, and Vendors. Please contact Mr. Uzzal Hossain Mina (Mobile: 01711192084 Email: Uzzal.mina@tretatech.com ) for any immediate concerns or questions.

**Md. Uzzal Hossain Mina**  
Operations Director  
Tetra Tech ES, Inc.  
Mobile: 01711192084

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## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Delegation of the European Union to Bangladesh is looking for a suitable candidate for the function of "Secretary".

The full job description, job requirements and application guidelines (how to apply) can be found on our website: <https://bit.ly/JobsatEU>.

The deadline for receiving applications is **Sunday, 17 August 2025 at 16:00 hours**.

*Please note that only electronic applications received within the deadline will be accepted. Paper and late applications will be disregarded.*

*Only short listed candidates will be contacted.*

*Any form of persuasion, telephone call, or other form of contact during the selection process will automatically disqualify the applicant.*

## বাড়ি বিক্রয়

উত্তরা সেক্টর নং-১১, ৫ কাটাৰ জমিৰ  
উপরে ৬ তলা বাড়ি। মহাবালী ভিত্তি  
এক্টিএস ৫ কাটাৰ জমিৰ উপরে ৬ তলা  
বাড়ি, এবং মালিবাগ চোপুরীগড়ায় ৮  
কাটাৰ জমিৰ উপরে ৪ তলা বাড়ি বিক্রয় কৰা হৈ।

যোগাযোগ : ০১৭১২ ০২১০৭২

## NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY Center of Excellence in Higher Education

## TENDER NOTICE

### Tender No. NSU/25-26-T01

North South University is inviting sealed offers from bona fide/ reputed organizations/ producers/ suppliers for making and supplying convocation items, in various lots as mentioned below and described in the tender schedule.

#### Detail of the items:

- Lot: 1- Convocation attires (Gown, hood, cap, tassel)
- Lot: 2- Gown bag
- Lot: 3- Certificate folder

Interested bidders may collect a schedule of tender within banking hour from Southeast Bank PLC., Bashundhara Branch, on all working days till **August 18, 2025** by paying non-refundable amount of Taka 1,000.00 (One Thousand) in cash for each schedule.

The bidders must submit **earnest money @ 2.5%** of the quoted price in the form of Pay Order issued from any scheduled bank drawn in favor of North South University along with their offer. The sealed offer must be submitted on **August 19, 2025** by 2:15 p.m. at the office of the undersigned. The offers will be opened at 2:30 p.m. on the same day. Representatives of the participating bidders may remain present at the time of opening the bids. NSU authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without showing any reason.

Director, Internal Affairs  
NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY  
Bashundhara, Dhaka-1229

Phone : +88-02-55668200, Ext. 1204, Fax: +88-02-55668202  
E-mail to: procurement@northsouth.edu, www.northsouth.edu

## RAMPAL UPAZILA IN BAGERHAT

# Shrinking farmland threatens livelihoods, food security

DIPANKAR ROY

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## HUMAN TRAFFICKING

# Over 4,000 cases pending in tribunals

**Govt reaffirms zero tolerance; speakers stress coordinated efforts**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is pursuing a zero-tolerance policy against human trafficking while calling for coordinated action to dismantle organised trafficking networks, said speakers at an event yesterday.

Speaking at the national observance of World Day Against Trafficking in Persons 2025, they also highlighted ongoing institutional and legal efforts to prevent and prosecute trafficking crimes.

The event was jointly organised by the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Bangladesh chapter of the United Nations Network on Migration at a city hotel.

At the programme, Khandakar Mohammad Mahbubur Rahman, additional secretary (Political and ICT Wing) of the Public Security Division under the home ministry, said seven divisional anti-trafficking tribunals have been established, with further plans to expand to high-risk areas and operationalise a national referral mechanism for victim support.

In a keynote presentation titled "The Current State of Anti-Trafficking Efforts in Bangladesh", Aminul Islam, deputy secretary of the Security Division under the ministry, said as of 2024, 4,291 human trafficking cases were pending in special tribunals.

Around 16,000 accused traffickers have been arrested, and 662 cases have been resolved.

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### গ্রামীণ ব্যাংক

প্রধান কার্যালয়  
মিরপুর-২, ঢাকা-১২১৬।

### পুনঃ টেক্নো বিজ্ঞপ্তি

তারিখ: ০১-০৭-২০২৫

**গ্রামীণ ব্যাংক**  
প্রধান কার্যালয়, মিরপুর-২, ঢাকা-১২১৬।

নং-০১০৮, মৌজা: পটুয়াখালী সদর, জেলা: পটুয়াখালী।

১) উকে কাজের টেক্নো সিডিউলি মোট উকের ২.৫% পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক গ্যারান্টির মাধ্যমে যে কোন সিডিউল ব্যাংক  
হতে "গ্রামীণ ব্যাংক, প্রধান কার্যালয়, মিরপুর কাজ, সিএক্সি রেল (ফার্মার সর্টিস রোড), ওয়ার্ড  
নং-০১০৮, মৌজা: পটুয়াখালী সদর, জেলা: পটুয়াখালী।

২) প্রতিটি টেক্নো দলিলের মূল্য ৪,০০০/- (চার হাজার) টাকা (অফেরহোগ্য)।

৩) কার্য সম্পন্ন করার সময় ৩০ (তিথি) মাস।

৪) বাণিজ ও অর্থনৈতিক উৎস: নিম্নোক্ত।

৫) উকের দলিলের নিয়মাবলী টেক্নো দলিলের সাথে সম্পূর্ণ হতে হবে।

৬) আগস্টী ০১-০৮-২০২৫ তারিখ থেকে ২৭-০৮-২০২৫ তারিখ পর্যন্ত পর্যবেক্ষণ করিস তেক্নো দলিল গ্রহণ করার সময়ে সংগ্রহ করা।

৭) টেক্নো দলিলের নিয়মাবলী টেক্নো দলিলের সাথে সম্পূর্ণ হতে হবে।

৮) গত ৫ বছরের মধ্যে একটি কার্যালয়ে সফলভাবে সম্পূর্ণ মূল্যম ৫ (পাঁচ) কোটি টাকার ভবন নির্মাণ ক