



PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

Farmers till their arable land with ploughs and cattle in Rajshahi's Paba upazila yesterday, preparing for Aman paddy cultivation. Despite persistent rain, they continue working to ready the muddy fields for sowing.

Over 4,000 cases pending

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Additionally, 1,079 new cases were filed, and five traffickers have received life sentences under the existing law, he said.

Bernd Spanier, chargé d'affaires of the EU Delegation to Bangladesh, expressed concern that despite numerous trafficking cases being filed in the country, only a few have led to convictions.

"Behind every person who has returned home lies a long line of others still trapped in the shadows of traffickers," he said. "Trafficking thrives when governments are weak, migration is unsafe, and opportunities are scarce. Traffickers exploit that despair."

According to IOM data presented at the event, over 9,000 Bangladeshis crossed the Mediterranean to Italy in the first half of 2025, bringing the total since

2009 to over 90,000.

Many of these migrants, aged between 14 and 35, were lured by false promises of employment.

A significant number ended up in Libyan camps, where they were subjected to extortion and torture. As a result, Bangladesh is now one of the top countries for irregular migration to Europe.

Additional DIG of Police Ashiq Saeed said law enforcement agencies remain active in counter-trafficking efforts, with many traffickers already arrested and others being pursued internationally through Interpol.

Ikramul Habib of the Criminal Investigation Department identified Khulna as a trafficking hotspot due to its economic vulnerability and proximity to border districts like Jhenaidah, Meherpur, and Chuadanga.

Abul Hasnat, deputy

secretary of the law ministry, said in many cases, victims are deceived by people close to them.

Lance Bono, chief of mission of IOM Bangladesh, pointed out the disproportionate impact of trafficking on women and children.

Sujin Kong, deputy country director of the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), described trafficking as one of the most serious forms of crime.

He said Bangladesh remains one of the major source countries for human trafficking.

The event began with a welcome speech by Jasim Uddin Khan, joint secretary of the home ministry.

Md Asad Ullah Chowdhury from the Special Branch's Immigration Unit also attended the programme.

Touhid calls for ceasefire in Gaza

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Touhid urged the international community to begin implementing the two-state solution without delay, emphasising the urgency to uphold international laws, humanitarian principles, and the UN Charter.

He warned that peace in the Middle East cannot be achieved without justice for the Palestinian people and reiterated Bangladesh's firm position in support of the two-state solution.

"More than 58,000 Palestinians have lost their lives and many more have been injured, most of them women and children," he said. "Schools, hospitals, and aid camps are under attack with countless bodies lying beneath rubble in Gaza."

Ex-CJ Khairul

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On August 27 last year, Supreme Court lawyer Muhammad Mujahidul Islam filed the case with Shahbagh Police Station under sections 219 and 466 of the Penal Code, accusing Khairul.

On July 24, a team of the Detective Branch of police arrested Khairul from a house in Dhaka's Dhanmondi.

On the same day, he was sent to jail in connection with a case filed over the killing of Jubo Dal activist Abdul Kaiyum Ahad, 16, in Jatrabari on July 18 last year.

On July 29, he was shown arrested virtually in a case filed with Fatullah Police Station in Narayanganj for issuing an illegal verdict and fabricating a judgement that abolished the caretaker government system.

The case filed by Abdul Bari Bhuiyan, former president of Narayanganj Bar Association, also includes sedition charges.

Tajuddin Ahmad was a statesman

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"This award is not just a recognition. It is part of our national heritage. Remembering Tajuddin Ahmad means remembering our responsibility to the country," he said.

The VC also spoke about major events in the country's history, and warned against using these events for political gain. "We will not allow this kind of distortion, even in our limited capacity," he said.

Mohammad Azam, director general of Bangla Academy, delivered the memorial lecture titled "Tajuddin Ahmad er Diary: Oitihashikota O Rajnoitikota".

He described Tajuddin as a realist and practical thinker whose political views were shaped more by real life experiences than by ideology or theory.

"He did not believe in imposing abstract ideas. He worked with what existed and tried to improve it. He wanted the institutions and

structures left behind by the colonial system to become more mature and effective," Azam said.

He also said Tajuddin sought financial transparency and proper responsibility in state affairs.

Tajuddin could be seen as modern and liberal in the Western sense, but not in a purely Western ideological way, said Azam. "Instead of copying Western models, he believed in learning from our own lived experiences. That's why we cannot call him a Western-style liberal humanist."

"Tajuddin's diary is a rare and honest account of Bangladesh's political journey. It encourages people to rethink older, rigid views of history," he added.

Sharmin Ahmad, daughter of Tajuddin Ahmad and founder of the trust fund, said, "Tajuddin Ahmad is not the leader of any one party. During a turbulent, unstable, and extremely challenging — yet profoundly beautiful — time, when the nation was united, he played a key role in the Liberation War. He is a national asset."

"Because of our political narrow-mindedness, we have sidelined him. But darkness cannot suppress light for long," she said.

"Tajuddin Ahmad didn't belong to the Awami League alone — he belonged to the entire nation. He was a statesman beyond party lines."

"He [Tajuddin] used to say that there are many who may not support our party but love the country — they, too, are freedom fighters. In that way, people from all backgrounds and beliefs joined together, shoulder to shoulder, to turn the Liberation War into a people's movement — a spark that led to our victory," she also said.

DU Treasurer Prof Jahangir Alam Chowdhury

and Dr Sazzad Siddiqui, acting chairman and associate professor of the Peace and Conflict Studies Department, also spoke at the event.

A total of seven DU students received awards at the event.

Govt to hike

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duty in the capital said he has been in the force for nine years.

"Currently, I receive a risk allowance of Tk 1,800. Once the initiative is implemented, I will get Tk 2,160 — just Tk 360 more," he said.

However, officials who have served five years will benefit more.

Talking with this newspaper, an SI working in the Dhaka Metropolitan Police said he is now receiving a Tk 2,700 risk allowance.

"Once the new allowance rates take effect, I will receive Tk 3,840, which is an immediate increase of Tk 1,340," said the SI.

An ASI who has been in service for 19 years said, "I currently get Tk 3,200. With the new system, it will rise to Tk 3,840."

"But after four more months, when I complete 20 years, it will increase further to Tk 4,560," he added.

5 lands in jail

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teenager was arrested on Saturday night in a case filed under the Cyber Security Act. He was later produced before a court and subsequently sent to a juvenile correctional centre on Sunday.

Meanwhile, a team of Bangladesh Hindu Bouddha Christian Oikya Parishad visited the spot on Tuesday, spoke to the victims, and demanded punishment for the attackers.

দি ইনস্টিটিউট অব ব্যাংকার্স, বাংলাদেশ (আইবিবি)
 ডিভার টাওয়ার (১৩ তলা)
 ৬৫/২/২, বীর প্রতীক গাজী গোলাম দস্তগীর সড়ক
 (বঙ্গ কালভার্ট রোড), পুরানা পল্টন, ঢাকা-১০০০
 টেলিফোনঃ ৫৫১১২৮৫৭-৬৩

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ইনস্টিটিউটের ব্যাংকিং প্রফেশনাল পরীক্ষার জন্য ১ লক্ষ ৫০ হাজার উত্তরপত্র (লিথোকোড সম্বলিত OMR শীটসহ) এবং ৫ লক্ষ লুজশীট মুদ্রণ ও সরবরাহের জন্য আগ্রহী মুদ্রণ প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহের নিকট হতে তাদের প্রাতিষ্ঠানিক লেটারহেড প্যাড-এ একক দর ও মোট মূল্য উল্লেখসহ সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। আগ্রহী প্রতিষ্ঠানের শিক্ষা বোর্ড/পাবলিক সার্ভিস কমিশন/বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে OMR শীট/OMR শীটসহ উত্তরপত্র সরবরাহ কাজের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে। দরপত্রের সাথে কাগজের নমুনা ও মোট উদ্ধৃত দরের (ফেরতযোগ্য) ৫% আর্নেস্টম্যানি ডিডি/পে-অর্ডার-এর মাধ্যমে অত্র ইনস্টিটিউটের অনুকূলে জমা দিতে হবে। তাছাড়া কার্যাদেশপ্রাপ্ত প্রতিষ্ঠানকে উল্লিখিত কাজের মোট মূল্যের ১০% হারে জমানাত ১ (এক) বছরের জন্য (ফেরতযোগ্য) আইবিবি'র বরাবরে জমা রাখতে হবে। বিজ্ঞাপন প্রকাশের দিন হতে ০৭-০৮-২০২৫ তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময় (সকাল ১০ঃ০০ ঘটিকা হতে বিকাল ৪ঃ০০ ঘটিকা)-এর মধ্যে উত্তরপত্র ও লুজশীটের নমুনা দেখা যাবে এবং টাঃ ৫০০/- মূল্যে টেন্ডার সিডিউল ক্রয় করা যাবে। দরপত্র আগামী ১০ আগস্ট ২০২৫ তারিখ দুপুর ২ঃ০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে ইনস্টিটিউট কার্যালয়ে রক্ষিত টেন্ডার ব্যাগে দাখিল করতে হবে। একই দিন দুপুর ২ঃ৩০ মিনিটে দরপত্রদাতাদের (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন) সম্মুখে দরপত্রসমূহ খোলা হবে। ইনস্টিটিউট কর্তৃপক্ষ কোনো কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোনো দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।

অতিরিক্ত মহাপরিচালক, আইবিবি
 জিডি-১৬৮৬

Decision on

FROM PAGE 3

the charges pressed by the prosecution, which include murder, attempted murder, abatement, complicity, and command responsibility under crimes against humanity.

Sayed was shot dead on July 16 last year in Rangpur during a student-led protest against the quota system in government jobs. The defiance he showed against oppression before his death turned the protests into a mass uprising that eventually toppled Sheikh Hasina's regime on August 5 last year.

The accused in jail are former university proctor Shariful Islam, assistant registrar Rafiul Hasan Rasel, staff member Anwar Parvez, assistant sub-inspector Amir Hossain, constable Sujon Chandra Roy, and Bangladesh Chhatra League leader Imran Chowdhury Akash. At least 24 accused are absconding.

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Many were small farmers or labourers who depended entirely on agriculture for survival. The absence of proper rehabilitation or alternative employment has led to rising unemployment, economic distress, and urban migration.

Farmland in Bagerhat, a predominantly agriculture-based district, is shrinking rapidly due to industrialisation and infrastructure development. As a result, thousands of farmers' livelihoods are under threat.

Data from the Department of Agricultural Extension show Bagerhat lost over 27,000 hectares of arable land in the past decade. In the 2014-15 fiscal year, the district had 149,254 hectares of cultivable land, which fell to 122,231 hectares by 2024-

25. Total cropland shrank from 212,472 hectares to 160,861 hectares.

Land once used for rice, vegetables, and other staple crops has increasingly been taken over by industries, housing projects, roads, and government infrastructure. Non-agricultural land use jumped from 16,564 hectares to 43,884 hectares in ten years.

In Rampal alone, at least 2,100 hectares of agricultural land have been converted to industrial or infrastructural sites in the last 25 years, pushing many farmers to migrate to cities for work. Nearly 1,214 hectares were acquired in the past three decades for government projects, including the Rampal

Thermal Power Plant (742 hectares), Khan Jahan Ali Airport (255 hectares), and the Khulna-Mongla Railway (57 hectares). Additional land was taken for technical institutes, fire stations, and police training centres.

Private industries have also changed the landscape. Along the 12-kilometre Khulna-Mongla highway stretch, over 550 hectares of farmland have been used for factories, LPG plants, fish depots, and solar power plants. Landowners, tempted by high prices, sold their fields, while day labourers and sharecroppers who depended on the land lost their jobs.

Amrito Lal Sarkar, a land

seller near a solar power plant, said, "I sold my land to a private industry, but around 300 farmers used to cultivate paddy there. Many were day labourers — they are now jobless."

Adding to the crisis, river erosion from the Pashur and Bogura rivers has swallowed at least 202 hectares of farmland over the last 30 years.

Rampal's upazila agriculture officer, Waliul Islam, claimed that although land area has decreased, initiatives like crop intensification and improved seed varieties have helped maintain overall output.

However, many experts and environmentalists disagree.

"Killing agriculture for industrial gain is a dangerous path," said Kudrat-e-Khuda, convener of the Khulna Environmental Protection Forum. "Land development policies strictly prohibit establishing industries on farmland. Yet, in Rampal, industrialisation continues unchecked."

Md Motaher Hossain, deputy director of the Bagerhat Agricultural Extension Department, told The Daily Star, "Agriculture is the backbone of our economy and culture. While we need industries, it must not come at the cost of destroying our farmlands. Agriculture is our lifeline; we cannot afford to lose it."

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Department of the Public Health Engineering
Bagerhat District, Bagerhat
e-mail: ee.bagerhat@dphe.gov.bd
টেলিফোন নং-০২৪৭৭৭৫২৫৫৪

Memo No. 46.03.0100.061.16.010.17-922 **Date: 30/07/2025.**
Invitation for e-Tender Notice No-01 (2025-2026)

1	Ministry/ Division	Local Government Division
2	Implementing Agency	Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE)
3	Project/Program Name	Development of Water Supply and Sanitation Systems in Mongla, Rampal and Morelganj Upazilas of Bagerhat District, which are Affected by the Impact of Climate Change (MRMWSP).
4	e-Tender IDs	1131522
5	Description of Works	Installation of 01 nos 100 mm *50 mm dia PVC submersible Tubewell (Depth 268 m) at Morelgong Upazila in Bagerhat District Under Development of water supply and sanitation system in Mongla, Rampal and Morelganj Upazilas of Bagerhat District, which are affected by the impact of climate change (MRMWSP) Project. FY-2024-25.
6	This is online Tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. Interested DBO Firm/Contractor can see details in the website : (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) Size : 4" x 3	

(Jayanta Mallick)
 Executive Engineer
 DPHE, Bagerhat District

GD-1692

PRAYER TIMING
JULY 31

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-20	12-45	5-00	6-50	8-15
JAMAAT 4-55	1-15	5-15	6-55	8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

UNHCR
 The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Sub-Office in Cox's Bazar hereby announces the launch of the following tender:

TENDER REFERENCE NUMBER	ITEM DESCRIPTION
BGD - UNHCR RFP 1472	FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT FOR THE PROVISION OF ASSORTED CONSTRUCTION WORKS, AND RELATED SERVICES FOR SEMI - PERMANENT STRUCTURES

Interested and potential vendors are invited to participate in this Request for Proposal (RFP) by accessing and downloading the tender documents from **UNHCR Cloud ERP Supplier Portal**.

UNGM Notice Link: <https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice/272757>

ACKNOWLEDGMENT:
 Please confirm your participation for BGD - UNHCR RFP 1472 by using the "Acknowledge Participation" functionality in Cloud ERP Supplier portal.

It is very important to subscribe (Acknowledge Participation) to an ongoing negotiation that you wish to participate in as this is the only way to receive automatic email notifications with information on any changes related to this negotiation.

Instruction to Bidders:
 UNHCR will organize an online supplier **pre-bid conference on 31/07/2025 at 11:00 am hrs BST via Microsoft teams**. Bidders may also join the meeting through scanning the QR Code:

To register as a prospective supplier and submission of bids, please follow the guideline: <https://www.unhcr.org/media/guidelines-unhcr-suppliers-how-use-supplier-portal>

Existing suppliers use this link: <https://supplier-portal.unhcr.org/> to login with your email address and password. Do not create a new profile if you are already registered. If you have forgotten your password, click on Forgot Password link to reset your password.

Bid submission deadline: Tuesday, 18 August 2025 – 23:59 hrs BST Bangladesh time.

Kindly note that no hard copy is acceptable. The offer to be submitted only through Cloud ERP portal.

Scan above QR Code to join