

Parties certain election to be held in Feb

Says Fakhru

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir yesterday said political parties have no doubt anymore that the next national election will be held in February 2026.

"The Chief Adviser's speech at the United Nations on the election was quite strong, and from what he has said in recent days about it, we, the political parties, have no doubt anymore, and we are convinced that the election will be held in February 2026," he said.

Fakhru made the remarks while talking to reporters at a hotel in New York on Friday afternoon.

Earlier in the day, he was seen standing beside Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus while he delivered his speech at the 80th United Nations General Assembly.

Replying to a question about Jamaat-e-Islami's campaign for proportional representation (PR), he said BNP's stance is clear. "We are not in favour of PR in the lower house, and we have also not spoken about PR in the upper house. These are issues we can discuss and resolve later."

Jamalur journo's body recovered from home

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

Police recovered the body of a journalist in Islampur upazila of Jamalpur early yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Osman Haruni, 43, who worked as Islampur correspondent of Mohona TV and the daily Amar Desh. His body was found at his residence in Polbandhar village of the upazila around 2:00pm.

Quoting family members, Islampur Police Station Officer-in-Charge ASM Atiqur Rahman said Osman went to his room after having breakfast. Around 2:00pm, his lifeless body was found hanging in the room.

On information, police recovered the body around 3:30pm.

The OC said Osman might have taken his own life due to financial hardship and prolonged illness. The victim's body has been handed over to his family, the OC added.



Farmers tend to their Aman paddy, keeping a close watch for pests and weed overgrowth. It will take another two months for the paddy to ripen before harvest. The photo was taken recently in the Sormongla area of Godagari upazila, Rajshahi.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

Ashuganj fertiliser plant struggling for survival

MASUK HRIDOY, Brahmanbaria

Once a major producer of fertiliser, Ashuganj Fertiliser and Chemical Company Limited is now struggling to survive amid a web of complications.

In the 2023-24 fiscal year, the plant managed to operate for only 41 out of 365 days due to an acute shortage of gas, producing just 48,453 tonnes of urea against the annual target of 100,000 tonnes.

"Since March this year, the factory has remained completely shut," said an employee requesting anonymity.

The prolonged shutdown has left modern machinery worth hundreds of crores of taka at risk of permanent damage, while hundreds of workers and employees face deep uncertainty over their jobs and salaries.

Established in 1983 on 536 acres on the eastern bank of the Meghna in Brahmanbaria, AFCC was once a flagship unit of Bangladesh Chemical

Industries Corporation.

With a daily capacity of 1,100 tonnes of prilled urea valued at Tk 4.5 crore, the factory played a vital role in supplying fertiliser to farmers across seven districts through more than 750 dealers. Over the past



decade, however, production has plunged, particularly after gas rationing began in 2017 to prioritise power plants.

Data shows the plant repeatedly missed production targets in recent years. In 2020-21, it produced 142,557

tonnes against a target of 240,000 tonnes; in 2021-22, 96,046 tonnes against 180,000 tonnes; in 2022-23, 157,420 tonnes against 300,000 tonnes. By 2023-24, output had dropped to less than half the target.

Each month of shutdown means urea worth Tk 135 crore remains unproduced, forcing the government to turn to imports at the expense of foreign currency reserves.

"Building a new fertiliser plant today would require Tk

20,000 crore. If we refurbish and restart the existing ones, they can still serve the economy and reduce dependence on imports," said Abu Kawsar, general secretary of the workers' union.

Contacted, Tajul Islam Bhuiyan, deputy general manager of the factory, said, "To keep the factory running smoothly, we need around 48 million cubic feet of gas daily at a pressure of 600 PSI."

"A committee has already been formed to ensure gas connections to all fertiliser factories. The finance ministry has asked us about the issue, and we have informed them that if gas is supplied within 15 to 20 days, we will be able to resume production," he said.

Mohammad Didarul Alam, deputy commissioner of Brahmanbaria, said they are in constant touch with the ministry concerned. "The factory is incurring huge financial losses. Once gas supply normalises, production can resume quickly."

KUSHTIA HIGHWAY

Key road riddled with potholes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

The Kushtia-Jhenaidah national highway, a vital link between the country's northern and southern regions, has been plagued by potholes, slowing traffic and causing frequent accidents.

Out of the 25 kilometres of the highway within Kushtia, around 10 kilometres are severely damaged, with some sections almost unfit for use.

A visit from Mojampur Gate in Kushtia town to Islamic University revealed potholes and uneven mounds along the road from Vadaliya to the university. The most damaged part is between Laxmipur Bazar and Islamic University.

Md Rashid, a driver of Gorai Paribahan bus, said the road deteriorated the most over the past year. A one-hour journey now takes two hours,



while vehicles are being badly damaged because of the broken road, he said.

Mahmud Al Hafiz, a regular commuter, echoed him.

Prof Dr Md Nozibul Haque of Islamic University said the crucial highway connecting the north and south cannot remain in such neglect. The authorities must take immediate steps to repair it properly.

Contacted, Kushtia Roads and Highways Department Executive Engineer Muhammad Monzurul Karim said, "We are using leftover bricks from repairing other roads to fix the potholes. The highway was last rebuilt 7-8 years ago. A new project proposal has been sent to the ministry, but there has been no significant progress yet."

Idols vandalised at Manikg temple

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Miscreants vandalised two idols of the Hindu goddess at a Kali temple in Shibalay upazila of Manikganj yesterday.

Locals discovered the broken heads and hands of the idols at the temple in Bhavanipur-Biswashpara village in the morning and informed the temple management committee, said Ranjan Biswas, president of the committee.

Ranjan said the temple, located in a secluded area, was unprotected, and the miscreants likely took advantage of this to carry out the attack.

Mosammam Yasmin Khatun, superintendent of Manikganj police, said efforts are underway to identify those responsible for the vandalism.

Shahidul Alam It's very difficult

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United States are killing people in Palestine and Gaza. But people all over the world are protesting against it. I am going to join the Media Flotilla tomorrow in connection with this protest."

Shahidul said, "I am the first to go from Bangladesh, but I believe I am taking the love of all the people of Bangladesh with me. In this struggle, it is not enough for only us to be involved... If we are defeated, then humanity will be defeated."

He said it was not possible to confirm right away who are part of the media flotilla.

The flotilla, which set out on August 30 with around 500 activists from 44 countries, is carrying relief supplies for besieged Gaza. It has already come under attack twice by Israeli forces and is now in a high-risk zone.

The Media Flotilla, a large boat accompanied by 10 smaller vessels, will join the main fleet. The Freedom Flotilla Coalition is a global civil society initiative challenging the blockade of Gaza, imposed by Israel since 2007.

Calling the upcoming election "historic," he said, "No matter what has happened in the past, we must prove that we can do this. There is no room for exception, and with your cooperation, I am confident that we will succeed."

Meanwhile, the EC will begin its dialogues today ahead of the national polls, starting with civil society, academicians, and intellectuals, according to EC Assistant Public Relations Director Md Ashadul Haque.

He said the stakeholders' dialogue with the EC will be broadcast live on the EC's official Facebook page and YouTube channel (@BangladeshECS).

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Unite to build a just

Noting that Bangladesh is a country of communal harmony, he said, "This country belongs to all of us. This country is a safe abode for all people irrespective of caste and religion."

"Regardless of race, religion, and caste, we are all identified as Bangladeshis. I hope that this year's Durga Puja will be celebrated smoothly across the country, upholding this trend of communal harmony," he added.

"In addition to practising our own religions, we must create an environment of peace in society by maintaining mutual respect, honour and compassion among people," said Prof Yunus.

Meanwhile, last-minute preparations were afoot yesterday for the annual

festival at temples and makeshift puja mandaps across the country.

The festival is set to begin today with the unveiling of the face of the deity on the day of Maha Shashthi, and will come to an end with the immersion of the idols on Bijoya Dashami on October 2.

Basudeb Dhar, president of the Bangladesh Puja Ujapan Parishad, said the number of puja mandaps across the country has increased this year.

Durga Puja will be celebrated in a total of 33,355 mandaps and temples nationwide, with 258 in Dhaka city.

The government has allocated Tk 5 crore for Durga Puja this year.

Form

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"Training for information officers and other RTI-related activities is moving at a sluggish pace. As a result, the free flow of information in state institutions is not ensured, while secrecy and reluctance to proactively disclose information continue across government offices," he said.

"Although the RTI Act was passed and the Information Commission established as a statutory independent body, the law was never effectively implemented due to a lack of political will and the authoritarian government's visible reluctance," he said.

"On one hand, there was no coordinated initiative between government and non-government actors; on the other, some commissioners appointed over the years acted as carriers of partisan ideology."

"Consequently, the commission failed to play an effective role. As a result, the Act has not set any notable precedent for promoting transparency and accountability in public service institutions or beyond," he also said.

TIB proposed a number of reforms in this regard, which include bringing political parties and privately owned institutions under the RTI Act; requiring parties to disclose detailed accounts of their income and expenditures, with the Election Commission publishing this information proactively and on time; and abolishing surveillance mechanisms imposed on citizens through the misuse of repressive laws, among others.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH				
BANGLADESH TELEVISION				
CHATTOGRAM CENTER				
CHATTOGRAM				
www.btv.gov.bd				
Invitation for National Tender				
01.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting		
02.	Agency	Bangladesh Television		
03.	Procuring Entity Name	General Manager, Bangladesh Television, Chattogram Center, 669/A, Zakir Hossain Road, Khulshi, Chattogram.		
04.	Procuring Entity District	Chattogram		
05.	Invitation for	"Supply of Camera, Tripod & other Related Accessories for BTVC Chattogram Center on Turnkey Basis"		
06.	Invitation ref no.	15.54.1543.027.07.001.25.08		
07.	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM) (NCT)		
FUNDING INFORMATION				
08.	Budget and Source of Funds	GOB, Annual revenue budget of BTVC Chattogram		
09.	Tender Package No.	Single		
10.	Tender Publication Date	28/09/2025		
11.	Tender Last selling Date	15/10/2025 (During office hours)		
12.	Tender Closing Date and Time	16/10/2025 12:00 hrs BST		
13.	Tender Opening Date and Time	16/10/2025 12:10 hrs BST		
14.	Name & Address of the Selling of Tender Document	Office of the Assistant Director (Finance) Room No-101, Bangladesh Television, Chattogram Center, 669/A, Zakir Hossain Road, Khulshi, Chattogram. (During office hours)		
15.	Receiving Tender Document & Opening Tender Document	Conference Room (3rd floor), Bangladesh Television, Chattogram Center, 669/A, Zakir Hossain Road, Khulshi, Chattogram.		
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
16.	Eligibility of Tenderer	As per TDS		
17.	Brief Description of Goods & Related service	"Supply of Camera, Tripod & other Related Accessories for BTVC Chattogram Center on Turnkey Basis"		
18.	Price of Tender Document (Tk.)	Tk. 1000.00 (One thousand) Only		
19.	Lot No	Identification of Lot	Location	Tender Security Amount (Tk) in the form of Pay Order/Bank Draft
	01	"Supply of Camera, Tripod & other Related Accessories for BTVC Chattogram Center on Turnkey Basis"	Bangladesh Television, Chattogram Center.	40,000/- (Forty Thousand) Taka Only in favor of Drawing & Disbursing Officer, Bangladesh Television, Chattogram.
				Completion Time in Days/Weeks/Months
				60 days
PURCHASER DETAILS				
20.	Name of official inviting Tender	Ashish Kumar Shil		
21.	Designation of official Inviting Tender	Senior Cameraman		
22.	Address of official Inviting Tender	Bangladesh Television, Chattogram Center, 669/A, Zakir Hossain Road, Khulshi, Chattogram.		
23.	Contact details of official Inviting Tender	Tel: +8802333379304 Email: ashishshilbtv@gmail.com		
24.	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders.			

PRAYER TIMING
SEPTEMBER 28

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-35	12-45	4-15	6-00	7-30
JAMAAT 5-10	1-15	4-30	6-05	8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION