

Jamaat backing

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“We must not allow Bangladesh to fall into such an unstable and uncertain situation by adopting this arrangement.”

Under a PR system, independent candidates would lose their rights as they would not be able to contest elections because people would vote for parties and symbols, not individuals.

“Voters would not even know who they are voting for. Do we want a system that does not protect the democratic rights of the people of Bangladesh, or one that people cannot understand? Of course not. So, no party should try to mislead the nation by talking about the PR system.”

About the proposed July Charter, Salahuddin said people could express their opinion through a referendum held on the same day as the national election.

“If people say yes, then the newly elected parliament will have the mandate to implement that charter.”

He criticised any move to impose constitutional changes immediately through unconstitutional means.

“If we do so, it will create a bad precedent and lead to repeated demands for such changes in the future. The state is not a child’s game. We cannot play with the fate of 180 million people. The country must be run in a lawful and systematic way.”

He expressed hope that discussions on the proposed national charter, set for October 5, would result in a fair, lawful and widely accepted process of constitutional reform.

Finding good

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governance in the sector. Banks often give loans without understanding the risks, he said.

He also said that the size of the country’s financial sector is only 52 to 53 percent of the GDP, while in China, the ratio is more than 200 percent, and in India, it is about 100 percent. “Bangladesh’s situation is unacceptable”, he said.

Finance Adviser Ahmed emphasised moral training along with skill development training. Trained but dishonest people can do more harm than untrained people, he said.

He said the interim government has at least tried to leave an effective footprint for the next government.

“If the next government does not follow good practice, people will bring them down to the streets. History may repeat itself again, because the people are very aware,” he said. “We admit that there are some shortcomings in the regulatory bodies and policymaking. But it is difficult to correct all the mistakes of the past in just 14 months,” he said, urging people to have patience.

“We are trying to implement some fundamental reforms in the next few months.”

Financial Excellence Ltd Chairman Mamun Rashid said they have organised more than 250 customised training courses on various subjects, including AI-based solutions, project management, negotiation techniques and relationship management in the banking sector, along with many senior recruitment facilitation initiatives and financial consulting for corporates.

Hazera Begum’s home of hope

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or have reunited with their mothers. “No matter where they are, they continue to support the shelter, keeping their bond with the home alive.”

Sadia (not her real name) was once brought to Hazera by her mother, who feared she would otherwise be recruited into the same brothel. “Now she is studying, with dreams of building a life where no one can force her into anything.”

Hazera’s own life gives the school its soul. Born in 1971, she spent parts of her childhood on Dhaka’s streets after family breakdown and bereavement. As a teenager, she was sold into brothels in Sadarghat and Narayanganj, where she spent six years before escaping.

At 18, while still homeless, she gained literacy through an adult education programme. By 1997 she had found work at Care Bangladesh and began writing poems and short stories drawn from lived realities.

Her years of hunger, insecurity and stigma convinced her that education and a safe space could break cycles of marginalisation. The shelter’s mission remains simple: to keep children long pushed aside firmly within education. Caretakers and volunteers focus on the basics – learning, confidence-building, and daily routine – the small habits that keep a child safe.

Hazera says her dream is that these children be known



PHOTO: TANGILA TASNIM

Hazera Begum speaks as children from Shishuder Jonno Amra gather around her.

not by the stigma of their parents’ work or the streets they grew up on, but by their own achievements – as doctors, engineers, teachers or civil servants.

Yet stigma lingers. “When I go anywhere with the children, or take them for school admissions, the authorities always view them as a burden to society,” Hazera said.

Alongside managing the shelter, she tries to instil values in the children while also celebrating their achievements. “Whenever they get good results, or during festivals, I try to cook special food for them like khichudi and other dishes, just to make them happy.”

Ninth grader Md Suman said, “I came to this shelter when I was three. Now I

can study properly. If I can continue my studies, I want to become an army officer. I also discovered I really love drawing. This place has changed my life. But outside these walls, society isn’t easy for us. Sometimes schools won’t admit us because of our family backgrounds. Despite the hurdles, we keep going.”

Md Nayem, 11, a fourth grader, added, “I don’t have memories of my parents anymore. I don’t even remember the last time I saw my mother. But our Hazera Ma takes care of us here and I can study without any problems. I aspire to become a CID officer!”

Farzana Akhter Jharna, once a resident and now a volunteer, said, “I want to spend the rest of my life with these kids, helping them

grow and make all their dreams come true. I arrived here at six. I didn’t know how to speak to outsiders and was often ignored. Now, I want to make sure no child feels that way. After I finish my higher studies, I’ll teach here full time.”

Hazera’s struggle remains unfinished. “Many people have visited and spoken about our shelter home, but in the last 15 years no one has helped us secure a permanent piece of land. If I had that, I could build a proper building with more capacity and save many more children.

“Right now, I am struggling with so many shortcomings. Even if someone wants to help me with just a single pair of shoes, I will gratefully accept it.”

to the plan may be based on a calculation that he can keep on the right side of Trump and the United States, Israel’s vital ally,

while also conceding as little as possible to avoid alienating his religious nationalist coalition partners, who have been staunch opponents of any deal with the Palestinians and have long pushed to continue the war.

Much will now come down to how far Trump is willing to twist Netanyahu’s arm and force him to agree to a deal.

Oren Setter, senior fellow at Harvard’s Belfer Center and former head of the Israel Defence Forces’ strategic planning division, said it was a significant achievement by Trump to get all the sides to engage with the plan, adding: “But it’s the beginning of the process. It’s not the end of the process.”

Expressing deep gratitude for the support from Bangladesh, Shahidul said, “The emotional comments, the solidarity, it shows that our people are with us. Those who truly believe in freedom always resist injustice.”

Referring to Bangladesh’s history, Shahidul Alam said, “We fought in 1971 and again in 2024. We know how to stand up to autocracy. If given the chance, Bangladeshis would join this fight too.”

Yesterday, Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus lauded Shahidul and voiced support for his cause.

“We are closely monitoring the status and safety of those participating in the historic flotilla for Gaza, especially world-renowned photographer and human rights activist Shahidul Alam,” said his press wing in a statement tonight.

“Shahidul has approached this mission with the

same courage, resolve and unwavering spirit he showed when he endured 107 days in prison in 2018 for speaking out against injustice under the Hasina government,” it said.

He stands today as a shining embodiment of the unyielding spirit of Bangladesh, read the statement.

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman also praised the renowned photographer and rights activist for joining the Gaza flotilla, calling his move a symbol of Bangladesh’s stand against oppression and injustice.

“By carrying Bangladesh’s flag, he reminds the world of what the people of Bangladesh stand for – never bowing down to oppression and injustice,” Tarique wrote in a post on Facebook early yesterday.

He described Shahidul’s step as not just an act of solidarity but also a “roar of conscience”.

Anthrax cases spread

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Bangladesh, particularly in the northern regions.

The anthrax issue came to the fore after the death of two people with symptoms resembling anthrax and the death of more than 100 cows over the past three months.

After Pirgacha, anthrax cases in humans have been detected in Kaunia and Mithapukur upazilas of Rangpur district, taking the total number of confirmed anthrax infections to 11, reports our Lalmonirhat correspondent.

Two cases were detected in Kaunia and one in Mithapukur on October 1, said Rangpur Civil Surgeon Shahin Sultana.

Meanwhile, Gaibandha Civil Surgeon Md Rafiquzzaman said 11 people from Sundarganj upazila have also been infected with anthrax.

Sundarganj borders Pirgacha, and the cases were confirmed after the patients showed symptoms similar to those observed among the infected people in Pirgacha upon consuming meat of sick cattle, he said.

Health workers are working to raise awareness, urging people not to consume meat from sick cattle and to seek immediate treatment if any symptoms appear.

Although no cases have been detected in his district, they are also raising awareness, as the district borders Rangpur, said Kurigram Civil Surgeon Shwapno Kumar Biswas.

Field-level health workers in these districts were instructed to raise awareness about the issue, said Md Gausul Azim Chowdhury, Rangpur

divisional director of the Directorate General of Health Services.

“We hope the situation will come under full control within a few days,” he told this correspondent yesterday.

Although cattle vaccination is their regular task, they have intensified vaccination in three districts, said Abdul Hai Sarkar, Rangpur divisional director of the Livestock Department.

Vaccination at all upazilas of Rangpur is almost complete, while an intensified vaccination campaign is underway in Sundarganj and three upazilas of Kurigram – Rajarhat, Ulipur, and Chilmari – as they have a border with Pirgacha, he added.

Our Lalmonirhat Correspondent also contributed the report

BNP’s seat-sharing math stirs

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clearly and state its position, as time is running out,” one said.

Nearly 25 alliance leaders interviewed in the last two days echoed this view.

These parties staged protests simultaneously with the BNP against the previous government. BNP senior leaders said that around 53 parties joined their movement.

The BNP had earlier pledged to form a national government with its partners if elected, and senior leaders say seat-sharing will be decided in favour of the most active allies with realistic chances of victory.

Acting Chairman Tarique Rahman assured some 60 leaders in August that partners would be part of a future government. Insiders say he is monitoring campaigns and measuring popularity through surveys.

RISK OF LOSING
BNP aspirants warn that giving seats to weak partners could cost the party victories.

In Jhenaidah 2, for instance, Gono Odhikar Parishad’s Rashed Khan and BNP district unit President Abdul Majid are both campaigning.

Majid said, “If the party gives the nomination to Rashed, BNP will lose this seat. He is not active here and has very few supporters.”

Rejecting Majid’s claims as “false”, Rashed told The Daily Star last night that spreading such claims against a political leader is “never right”.

“I regularly visit my area and meet people. The people of my area love me,” he said.

Similar tensions exist elsewhere.

In Brahmanbaria-6, Ganosambhati Andolon’s Zonayed Saki is campaigning

while former BNP lawmaker Abdul Khaleq seeks nomination.

Khaleq said Saki’s support is so low that without the BNP’s symbol his chances are “zero”.

Asked about Khaleq’s claims, Saki told this newspaper, “We are preparing for the election in our own way. At the same time, discussions are going on with the BNP about sharing seats.”

“In the constituencies where the BNP will share seats, the party will decide how it will manage its leaders and activists there.”

In Kishoreganj 5, Bangladesh Jatiya Dal Chairman Ehsanul Huda and BNP’s Mujibur Rahman are both in the race.

Mujibur noted that a letter from the BNP’s central leadership only asked for cooperation with allies, not nomination withdrawal.

In Patuakhali-3, Gono Odhikar Parishad’s Nurul Haque Nur and BNP’s Hasan Mamun are both campaigning.

Mamun said, “If Nur is given this seat, BNP will lose it. Local people want only a BNP leader here, not from an ally.”

Tensions in the district have already boiled over. In June, BNP and Gono Odhikar activists clashed in Galachipa upazila, leaving 30 people injured and a BNP office vandalised.

Nagorik Oikya Convener Mahmudur Rahman Manna is expected to run from Bogura-4, where a BNP hopeful is also seeking nomination.

A dozen BNP leaders from similar constituencies told this newspaper they share the same concern: weak allies could hand rivals an advantage.

FRUSTRATION AMONG PARTNERS
Alliance leaders say BNP’s

delay in giving assurances is sending the wrong message.

Manna, also coordinator of Ganatantra Mancha, said many fear time is running out.

“In my own area, one of my leaders was stabbed. I informed the BNP’s central leadership, but nothing happened. If grassroots leaders do not follow instructions even after central directives, then there is nothing to say,” he said.

The Ganatantra Mancha is a platform of six parties that staged protests with the BNP simultaneously.

Saiful Huq of the Biplobi Workers Party warned that BNP fielding its own candidates against partners “will not send a good message”.

Jagpa President Khandaker Lutfur Rahman of the Jatiyataabadi Somomona Jote, a group of BNP’s like-minded parties, said BNP’s own leaders would feel betrayed if seats go to outsiders.

Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam Bangladesh Secretary General Monzurul Islam Afendi said it was “definitely a discomfort” when an ally’s main rival is a BNP aspirant.

Five leaders of the 12-Party Alliance, speaking anonymously, admitted their organisations were much weaker than BNP at the grassroots. “If they cannot control it now, how will they manage it later?” one asked.

BNP insiders said allies have been asked to submit candidate lists and that seat-sharing talks are expected to conclude this month so that joint campaigns can begin.

BNP Standing Committee member Iqbal Hasan Mahmud Tuku said the party is prioritising seats where alliance leaders stand a stronger chance of winning.

We don’t believe in dividing

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living together for decades. Among the few countries in the world that can be cited for communal harmony, Bangladesh holds a special place.

“In order to live in this society, cooperation among all is essential. In everyday life, it is both inevitable and indispensable. None of us has the power to ignore it.

The Jamaat chief said Islamic scholars should not only serve as imams

of mosques but also act as leaders of the nation.

With the stroke of a pen, one person can alter the nation’s destiny in ways that millions together cannot, he said, adding that in this context, the Ulama have a special responsibility to “awaken and alert the nation”.

Addressing journalists present at the event, he said, “You hold a very powerful tool in the task of nation-building. Your

guidance is essential in shaping the nation’s conscience. That is what we expect from you.”

The conference was chaired by Jamaat Assistant Secretary General and President of the party’s Central Ulama Committee, Abdul Halim. Jamaat Secretary General Mia Golam Porwar, Assistant Secretary General Rafiqul Islam Khan, and Media and Publicity Chief Ehsanul Mahbub Zubair were also present.

মধ্যপাড়া গ্রানাইট মাইনিং কোম্পানী লিমিটেড
(পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানি)
মধ্যপাড়া, পার্বতীপুর, দিনাজপুর।

স্মারক নম্বর: ২৮.১৭.০০০০.০০০.৬৩১.৪৮.০০০৫.২৫.১৭২ তারিখ: ০৩-১০-২০২৫

Corrigendum Notice

মধ্যপাড়া গ্রানাইট মাইনিং কোম্পানী লিমিটেড খনি এলাকা হতে ৪০-৬০ মি.মি. আকারের পাথর বিক্রয় বিষয়ে দরপত্র নং-২৮.১৭.০০০০.০০০.৬৩১.৪৮.০০০৫.২৫ তারিখ: ২১-০৯-২০২৫-এ মাধ্যমে প্রকাশিত দরপত্র নিম্নোক্তভাবে সংশোধন করা হলো-

ক্রমিক নং	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির ক্রম ও বিষয়	প্রকাশিত	সংশোধিত
০১।	০০। ৪০-৬০ মি.মি. আকার গ্রানাইট পাথর বিক্রয়ের পরিমাণ	সর্বনিম্ন ৫০,০০০ মেট্রিক টন হতে সর্বোচ্চ ২,০০,০০০ মেট্রিক টন।	সর্বনিম্ন ২৫,০০০ মেট্রিক টন হতে সর্বোচ্চ ২,০০,০০০ মেট্রিক টন।

দরপত্রের অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী অপরিবর্তিত থাকবে। এই Corrigendum Notice দরপত্রে অবিলম্বে অংশ হিসেবে বিবেচিত হবে।

(প্রকৌ. মোঃ আব্দুল্লাহ আল মামুন)
উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক (মার্কেটিং এন্ড সেলস)
মোবাইলঃ ০১৭৩০০-৩৩২১২৩

GD-2153

Islami Bank officials

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a press conference on Monday that they would begin an indefinite strike from Sunday. Nearly 5,500 families of Islami Bank employees have been affected due to the mass layoff, they said.

The bank authorities defied a court order, conducted a mock exam and subsequently terminated over 300 staff members and placed 5,000 on special duty, said Md Emdad Hossain, a terminated employee.

“We are not getting paid, and our accounts have

been shut down. We appeal to everyone to support us during this difficult time,” said Humayun Mukhtar Rashid, another terminated employee.

This summary decision to terminate staff members and place them on OSD was illegal, as they were issued without any prior show-cause notice detailing the reasons, said Ashraful Haque, another aggrieved employee.

At the press conference, they urged immediate governmental and judicial intervention to get back their jobs.

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Memo No: 57.03.9131.102.07.002.24.1837

Date: ১৪ আশ্বিন ১৪৩২ বঙ্গাব্দ
29 September 2025

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender Notice will be invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.procure.gov.bd>) for following procurement.

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Description	Tender Security	Online Notice Publication Date & Time	Online Tender Opening Date & Time
1	1157561	Supply of Office Equipment	15000.00	05-Oct-2025 11:30	26-Oct-2025 11:30
2	1157622	Repair of Office Building roof top	20000.00	05-Oct-2025 11:30	26-Oct-2025 11:30

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System portal (<http://www.procure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for selling / downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@procure.gov.bd), +88019609112233, +8801762625528, +8801762625529.

Sd/-
(Mohammed Rehan Uddin)
Regional Director (Additional Charge)
Phone : 02-996632529

GD-2152