



Dust covers a stretch of the Khulna-Satkhira highway, reducing visibility and causing health problems for locals. The road has long been in poor condition, leaving residents to endure daily respiratory issues. The photo was taken near Nij Khamar in Khulna yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

A 'third force' taking shape?

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So, the proposal was welcomed by most party members."

"We're still discussing it. If the alliance isn't formed before the election, we'll remain independent. We have no plans to ally with the BNP or Jamaat," she said.

The potential nine-party coalition would reportedly include six parties currently under the "Gonotonto Moncho" -- ASM Abdur Rob-led Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), Nagarik Oikya, Biplobi Workers Party, Ganosamhati Andolon, Ganosamhati Andolon.

Sources said the bloc will remain united and join any new alliance collectively.

A leader from Ganosamhati Andolon, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the

Zonayed Saki-led party is "keeping its options open" and could align with either the BNP or NCP.

Apart from the AB Party, every other party in the proposed alliance is also reportedly in active discussions about forming an alliance with the BNP.

Grassroots women leading fight

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At the event, 10 grassroots women were recognised as climate champions at the Climate Champion Awards 2025 for their outstanding contributions to environmental conservation, community mobilisation, and adaptation initiatives. The awards were presented at the Annual Community of Practices (CoP) Network Convention 2025, which brought together 100 women-led civil society organisations from across Bangladesh. The event showcased gender-responsive, locally led adaptation practices that promote climate resilience at the community level.

The 10 awardees are Madhabi Rani Robidas (Kurigram), Shibani Sardar (Khulna), Nazma Begum (Cox's Bazar), Jannatul Hafsa (Cox's Bazar), Neelima Chakrabarti (Khulna), Falguni Rani Mondal (Khulna), Murshida Khatun (Khulna), Bilkis Parvin (Satkhira), Rubiya Khatun (Satkhira) and Shafali Bibi (Satkhira).

Attending the event as chief guest, Rizwana said the spotlight remained on grassroots women leaders. "But the real voices are here at the grassroots," she said.

Though change may not always be in our control, the struggle for survival surely is -- and it is the women in our families who inspire that resilience every day," she added.

Rizwana noted that women in Bangladesh are

leading the fight for climate resilience -- at home, in their communities, and across disaster-prone regions -- and emphasised that empowering women is key to sustainable transformation in the country's climate response.

"We must balance investment in mega infrastructure projects with increased allocations to protect people living in river erosion and disaster-prone areas," she added.

Nicolas Weeks, ambassador of Sweden to Bangladesh, said, "Women are even stronger leaders of climate action. You are innovating, organising, and leading change in your communities. Sweden is proud to support the Empower project through UN Women and UNEP."

Diepak Elmer, head of cooperation at the Embassy of Switzerland, added, "Resilience built from the ground up is the only kind that endures. Bangladesh's women and grassroots leaders show that leadership does not always come from the top -- it comes from those who act and inspire others to do the same."

UN Women Bangladesh Country Representative Gitanjali Singh said, "Bangladeshi grassroots women are turning climate risks into opportunities for collective change. Real transformation begins in communities like Kurigram and Satkhira, led by women like you."

The event concluded with a collective pledge to strengthen collaboration between grassroots actors and national policymakers, ensuring women remain at the heart of Bangladesh's journey towards climate resilience.

Pak general

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During the meetings, both sides discussed strengthening defence and security cooperation between Bangladesh and Pakistan. They also exchanged views on expanding collaboration through joint training programmes, seminars, and official visits, the services said in notifications.

The Pakistani delegation arrived in Dhaka on October 24 on a five-day official visit.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's ISPR said in a press release, quoted by the Dawn newspaper, that during the meeting with General Waker, both sides "appreciated the positive trajectory of expanding defence cooperation" and agreed to maintain "regular exchange visits at various tiers of military leadership".

It further noted that both sides "recognised the emerging challenges posed by disruptive and divisive disinformation efforts across multiple platforms" and reaffirmed the need for "enhanced cooperation and joint efforts to effectively counter these threats".

On October 25, General Mirza paid a courtesy call on Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus at the State Guest House Jamuna.

Syngenta, Star

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Under this collaboration, the scholarship programme will award 150 final-year students from agricultural universities across the country. The initiative aims to recognise not only academic excellence but also the potential, vision, and commitment of students dedicated to advancing the future of Bangladesh's agriculture sector.

The application window will open in November 2025 through a dedicated scholarship portal hosted by The Daily Star. The programme will conclude with an award ceremony in December, where the selected students will be honoured for their outstanding results and achievements in agricultural education.

PRAYER TIMING

OCTOBER 30

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-50 12-45 4-00 5-32 7-15

JAMAAT 5-25 1-15 4-15 5-35 7-45

GD-2276

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Export Promotion Bureau, Dhaka

TCB Bhaban, 1, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215

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Date: 29/10/2025

Inviting Applications for Allotment of Pavilions/Stalls/Restaurants' Spaces of 30th DITF 2026

The month long 30th Dhaka International Trade Fair (DITF) 2026 will be held at Bangladesh-China Friendship Exhibition Center (BCFEC) at Purbachal from 01 January, 2026. Applications are invited from interested local and foreign companies/firms/entrepreneurs/businessmen/sole proprietors/organizations, government and non-government organizations for allotting/allocating spaces of following different categories of pavilions/restaurants/stalls/corners of DITF 2026:

Application Submission Procedure:

1. Online Application:

1.1. Application Submission Link: <http://services.mimcom.gov.bd/portal/ditf>

1.2. Application Submission Start Date: 02.11.2025 & Closing Date & Time: 17.11.2025, 05:00pm (local time)

(A) Type/category, Size, Processing Fee, Floor Rate/Rent/Royalty of Pavilion/Restaurant/Stall (Local):

Sl. No	Type/category of Pavilion/Stall/Restaurants	Size	Application Processing Fee (Including VAT & Tax) Non Refundable	Floor Rate (Lowest Price of Rent/Royalty) (excluding VAT & Tax)
1	Premier Pavilion Platinum (PPP)	(50'x50')	Tk.20,000/-	Tk. 22,00,000/-
2	Premier Pavilion Gold (PPG)	(65'x36')	Tk.20,000/-	Tk. 21,00,000/-
3	Premier Pavilion Silver (PPS)	(56'x36')	Tk.20,000/-	Tk. 21,00,000/-
4	General Pavilion (GP)	(36'x36')	Tk.20,000/-	Tk. 15,00,000/-
5	Mini Pavilion (MP)	(36'x17')	Tk.14,000/-	Tk. 11,00,000/-
6	Restaurant (R)	(50'x50')	Tk.16,000/-	Tk. 17,00,000/-
7	Mini Restaurant (MR)	(20'x20')	Tk.12,000/-	Tk. 6,50,000/-
8	Premier Stall (PS)	(20'x20')	Tk.7,000/-	Tk. 4,50,000/-
9	Premier Mini Stall (PMS)	(20'x10')	Tk.7,000/-	Tk. 3,30,000/-
10	General Stall (GS)	(20'x20')	Tk.7,000/-	Tk. 4,00,000/- (Fixed)
11	Coffee Shop (CS)	(20'x20')	Tk.7,000/-	Tk. 4,00,000/-

1.3. Security Deposit (Pavilions/Restaurants/Stalls/Coffee Shops as in Table-'A'):

Applicants shall deposit an amount equal to 25% (twenty-five percent) of the quoted price/rent (highest quoted price/rent in case of multiple choices) in advance as Security Deposit (refundable) along with the applications through "Sonali Payment Gateway" of Sonali Bank PLC (Counter Payment/Account Payment/Mobile Financial Service (MFS) & Card).

1.4. Instructions regarding online payment:

- (a) Online applicants can complete payment process through "Sonali Payment Gateway" of Sonali Bank PLC;
- (b) The applicant can complete the payment process through his/her own Card, Account, Internet banking, Mobile banking and Counter Payment. But, Bank limit is a must for Card, Account and Counter Payment. Payment process can be completed through Counter Payment if there is an available limit for Counter, Card and Account Payment;
- (c) In case of online payment, limit for the amount equal to the quoted rate/need to be approved by the concerned bank before the payment is made;
- (d) In case of Counter Payment, applicant is to select the Counter option, download/collect the Counter voucher and can complete the payment process within 03 (three) working days at any branch of Sonali Bank PLC. Otherwise, payment will be considered as canceled. Application will be automatically submitted and confirmed through the mobile message as soon as the payment is made;
- (e) In case of mobile banking, transaction above Tk.03 (three lakh), as fixed by the government, cannot be made.

2. Manual/E-mail Application:

2.1. Application Submission Start Date: 02.11.2025

2.2. Application Submission Closing Date & Time: 17.11.2025, 05:00pm (local time)

2.3. Place/means of receiving Application form: Application form can be collected directly from EPB Admin. Section and DITF Secretariat (from 03.11.2025) or from Website: www.epb.gov.bd and Facebook: www.facebook.com/epb.gov.bd

2.4. Place of submission of Application: (a) Office of the Secretary (Deputy Secretary), EPB, Dhaka (b) Ministry of Commerce (Building # 03, Room # 127), Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka (c) Office of the Additional Divisional Commissioner (General) (1st 2-story Govt. Building, Room # 303, Segunbagicha, Dhaka). Filled in Application can be submitted directly via e-mail: ditf@epb.gov.bd or by post/courier service. However, applications submitted/received after stipulated date and time shall be treated void/ unacceptable.

(B) Type/category, Size, Processing Fee, Floor Rate/Rent/Royalty of Pavilion/Stall (Foreign):

Sl. No	Type/category of Pavilion/Stall/Restaurants	Size	Application Processing Fee (Including VAT & Tax) Non Refundable	Floor Rate (Lowest Price of Rent/ Royalty) (excluding VAT & Tax)
1	Foreign Pavilion (FP)	(36'x36')	US \$ 400.00	US \$ 19,00,000
2	Foreign Mini Pavilion (FMP)	(36'x17')	US \$ 270.00	US \$ 10,00,000
3	Foreign Premier Stall (FPS)	(20'x20')	US \$ 135.00	US \$ 7,00,000

2.5. Security Deposit (Pavilions/Stalls as in Table-'B'):

Applicants interested in obtaining allotment of spaces of FP, FMP and FPS shall deposit foreign currency amounting to 25% (twenty-five percent) of the quoted price/rent/floor rent in advance as Security Deposit along with the Applications in favor of "DHAKA INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR FUND" in the following Foreign Currency (FC) Account (in US\$):

- Name of the Bank: PRIME BANK LTD, 54, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh
- A/C No: 11351130020437
- SWIFT Code No: PRBLBDDH010

(C) Type/category, Size, Processing Fee, Floor Rate/Rent/Royalty of Reserved Mini Pavilion/Stall (Local):

Sl. No	Type/category of Pavilion/Stall/Restaurants	Size	Application Processing Fee (Including VAT & Tax) Non Refundable	Floor Rate (Fixed)
1	Reserved Mini Pavilion (RMP)	(36'x17')	Tk.14,000/-	Tk. 11,00,000/-
2	Reserved Stall (RS)	(20'x20')	Tk.7,000/-	Tk. 4,50,000/-

2.6. Security Deposit (Local Applicants for RMP/RS/RMS/SC as in Table-'C'):

Applicants shall deposit money amounting to 25% (twenty-five percent) of the quoted price/rent/floor rate (as applicable) in advance as Security Deposit along with the Applications in favor of "DHAKA INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR FUND" in any branch of BRAC BANK Ltd. in the following Bank Account:

- Name of the Bank: BRAC BANK LTD. (any branch),
- SND A/C No: 1501102485103001

3. Papers/documents to be submitted by Local Applicants (Online/manual/E-mail applications):

Applications shall be submitted along with scanned copies of deposit slip of processing fee and security money, valid and up-to-date trade license, NID, VAT registration certificate, up-to-date Income Tax clearance certificate for the tax assessment year 2024-2025, up-to-date bank solvency certificate and membership certificate of Chamber/Trade Association (if applicable). In case of downloaded Application form, necessary documents as stated above shall also be submitted along with the Application. Original documents shall have to be submitted during scrutinizing the submitted Application documents.

4. Papers/documents to be submitted by Foreign Applicants:

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