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**Bangladesh now stands at a very critical moment. Which direction we will move towards as a nation and as a country and how we will walk along the path of democracy -- these things depend on the next election.**  
**AMM NASIR UDDIN**  
Chief Election Commissioner after inspecting a training programme of Ansar-VDP members



Rusha affectionately gathers her friend Marufa's hair to tie it into a ponytail on their way to school. The simple gesture reflects the warmth of childhood friendship. The photo was taken in Jhalakathi of Barishal yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

## Primary schools not getting music and PE teachers Govt withdraws plan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has withdrawn its plan to create posts for music and physical education (PE) teachers in government primary schools, weeks after several religion-based organisations opposed the move.

The Ministry of Primary and Mass Education issued a revised gazette on Sunday, amending the Government Primary School Teachers Recruitment Rules 2025.

The amended version dropped the two new teaching positions that had been included in the earlier gazette published on August 28.

Masud Akhtar Khan, additional secretary of the ministry's School Division, said, "A revised gazette has been issued. While the earlier version listed four categories of teachers, the new one includes only two. The posts of assistant teachers for music and physical education are no longer included."

He, however, declined to comment on whether the decision came under pressure from any particular group, saying, "Please speak to the higher authorities about that."

The earlier gazette had introduced two new assistant teacher categories -- one for music and another for physical education -- alongside the existing assistant teacher posts.

Educationalists had initially welcomed the move, calling it a long-overdue step towards encouraging creativity and well-rounded learning at the primary level.

However, the plan quickly drew strong criticism from several Islamist organisations, including Helafat e-Islam, Islami Andolan Bangladesh, Jamaat e-Islami, Khelafat Majlish, Bangladesh Khelafat Majlish and Bangladesh Khelafat Andolan, that demanded its cancellation.



## Candidate list 'disappointing and full of godfathers' Says Patwary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

NCP Chief Coordinator Nasiruddin Patwary yesterday said BNP's announced list of candidates for the upcoming national election is "disappointing" and "most of them are godfathers".

"We had expected that after the mass uprising, BNP would nominate some good candidates. But it seems they have tactically sidelined the young members of the Chhatra Dal and Jubo Dal. We welcome those young leaders to join our party," he said at a press briefing at the party office in Banglamotor.

"NCP had learned that Tarique Rahman might return soon. We want to sit together and resolve issues through discussion." He lauded Khaleda Zia for securing nominations in three constituencies and described her as a "symbol of democracy".

Patwary also voiced support for Prof Muhammad Yunus. "Dr Yunus is being intimidated -- sometimes by BNP, sometimes by Jamaat. I want to tell the chief adviser: If you are afraid, we are here. We fear no one -- not BNP, not Jamaat."

## DHAKA CONSTITUENCIES

# BNP nominates 13, keeps 7 seats open

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP has prioritised a combination of old guards and new faces while nominating candidates for the Dhaka constituencies in the upcoming 13th national election.

The party yesterday announced its probable candidates for 13 of the 20 constituencies in Dhaka. It has yet to announce candidates for Dhaka 7, 9, 10, 13, 17, 18 and 20.

BNP sources said these seats are either being kept for possible alliance partners or are under further consideration.

Among the alliance candidates, Bangladesh Jatiya Party Chairman Andaleeb Rahman Partho is expected to contest from Dhaka-17, the same seat he ran for in 2018.

Meanwhile, Nationalist Democratic Movement Chairman Bobby Hajjaj has reportedly received BNP's approval to contest from Dhaka-13.

In Dhaka-1, Khandakar Abu Ashfaq, president of Dhaka district BNP, has been nominated. He also contested the 2018 election from the same seat.

In Dhaka-2, former state minister Aman Ullah Aman has been selected. His son, Irfan Ibne Aman, was the BNP candidate in 2018.

Gayeshwar Chandra Roy, a BNP standing committee member, will contest from Dhaka-3, as he did in 2018.

Tanvir Ahmed Rabin, member secretary of Dhaka City South BNP and son of former MP Salahuddin Ahmed,

has been nominated for Dhaka-4. Salahuddin contested the seat in 2018.

Nabi Ullah Nabi has been nominated for Dhaka-5, a seat he also contested in 2018.

Ishraq Hossain, son of late Dhaka City Corporation mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka, has been chosen for Dhaka-6.

In 2018, Gano Forum leader Subrata Chowdhury contested this seat as an alliance candidate.

BNP standing committee member Mirza Abbas will again contest from Dhaka-8, where he also ran in 2018.

In Dhaka-11, MA Quaiyum, founding president of Dhaka City North BNP, has been nominated. His wife, Shamim Ara Begum, contested the seat in 2018.

Former Dhaka City North BNP president Saiful Alam Nirob has been nominated for Dhaka-12. He also ran in 2018 with BNP's ticket.

In Dhaka-14, Sanjida Islam Tuli, coordinator of Mayer Daak, a platform for families of victims of enforced disappearance, has received the primary nomination.

In 2018, Syed Abu Bakar Siddique, son of former BNP lawmaker SA Khaleq, contested the seat from BNP.

For Dhaka-15, Shafiqul Islam Khan, former acting general secretary of Jubo Dal, has been nominated. In 2018, Jamaat e-Islami Ameer Md Shafiqur Rahman contested this seat as an alliance candidate.

Aminul Haque, convener of Dhaka

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## Five more die of dengue, 1,147 get hospitalised

UNB, Dhaka

The dengue crisis continues to worsen as five more patients died and 1,147 were admitted to hospitals across the country in the 24 hours leading up to yesterday morning.

With the latest fatalities, the total number of deaths from the mosquito-borne disease has risen to 288 this year, according to the DGHS.

Three of the new deaths were reported in Dhaka division (outside city corporations), and one each in DNCC and Rajshahi.

During this period, 1,147 more patients were hospitalised with the viral fever, bringing the total number of cases to 72,822 so far this year.

Currently, 1,076 patients are receiving treatment in Dhaka, while a total of 3,082 patients is undergoing treatment at hospitals across the country.

## HC stays circular to recruit Dhaka Wasa MD

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday stayed the effectiveness of a notification issued for appointing the managing director of Dhaka Wasa on a contractual basis for a period of three years.

The bench of Justice Fatema Najib and Justice Fatema Anwar issued the order and rule following a petition filed by Md Liakot Ali challenging its legality. The member secretary of the Financial Management Assistance Committee on August 14 issued the circular for appointing the MD.

In the petition, Liakot said only the board of directors of Dhaka Wasa is entitled to appoint its MD in accordance with the Dhaka Wasa Authority Act, 1996.

## MEDICERAM IN MALAYSIA

# 190 Bangladeshis fired for protesting exploitation

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A Malaysian gloves manufacturer has terminated 190 Bangladeshi workers for protesting against exploitative practices, including the non-renewal of their visas.

The migrant workers at the Kuala Lumpur-based company Mediceram told The Daily Star yesterday that the management handed termination letters to all Bangladeshi employees on October 31 and has begun cancelling their visas to deport them.

"I heard visas of six Bangladeshis have already been cancelled and the company will do the same for others," said one worker.

**We also went to the Malaysian labour court and immigration department with a legal counsellor, but we were told that we cannot file any complaint.**

**A SACKED WORKER**

"We also went to the Malaysian labour court and immigration department with a legal counsellor, but we were told that we cannot file any complaint," the worker said.

Over the past two years, since 2023, Mediceram workers have gone on strike multiple times, demanding payment of unpaid wages and recruitment fees.

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Drainage work by the Dhaka South City Corporation has left the Alu Bazar area of the Old Dhaka in a dilapidated state. As a result, pedestrians are forced to walk on the road, while vehicles have little space to pass through. Locals alleged that the work has been going on for nearly three months, causing immense suffering. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

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