

Trump signs bill to release Epstein files

REUTERS, Washington

President Donald Trump signed legislation on Wednesday ordering the Justice Department to release documents from its long-running investigation into sex offender Jeffrey Epstein — files eagerly sought by both his political opponents and members of his own base who have pressed for greater transparency in the case.

The material could shed more light on the activities of Epstein, who socialized with Trump and other notable figures before his 2008 conviction on charges of soliciting a minor for prostitution.

The scandal has been a thorn in Trump's side for months, partly because he amplified conspiracy theories about Epstein to his own supporters.

Many Trump voters believe his administration covered up Epstein's ties to powerful figures and obscured details surrounding his death, which was ruled a suicide, in a Manhattan jail in 2019.

## Draft law seeks death penalty for trafficking

FROM PAGE 1  
The draft also includes punishment for kidnapping, theft and detention with the intent of trafficking.

Kidnapping or holding a person captive for exploitation, including sexual exploitation, carries a sentence of five to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment with a minimum fine of Tk 20,000.

It is even stricter for the theft of a newborn from any healthcare centre or parental custody with trafficking intent, which is punishable by a minimum of five years up to life imprisonment, in addition to a Tk 50,000 fine.

The ordinance stipulates penalties for facilitating sexual exploitation. Using force, fraud or enticement to import, internally transfer, send abroad, buy or sell any female for sex work or other forms of sexual exploitation carries a sentence of three to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment and a minimum fine of Tk 50,000.

It also penalises operating a brothel or facilitating its use, with three to five years of rigorous imprisonment and a Tk 20,000 fine.

Public solicitation for sex work, through verbal calls or indecent gestures in public or private spaces, is punishable by up to three years' imprisonment, a fine of up to Tk 20,000, or both.

The draft ordinance also details other offences and punishments, investigation procedures, formation of a tribunal to try such cases, victims' protection, rehabilitation and legal support, and creation of a fund for victims.

However, it does not specify which offences would warrant the death penalty. Sources said a separate rule will later detail the offences and the specific punishments attached to them.

### SMUGGLING OF MIGRANTS

The draft ordinance brings smuggling of migrants (SOM) under its scope for the first time. It defines migrant smuggling through two scenarios involving the intentional procurement of illegal entry for direct or indirect

gain.

The first involves the illegal entry of a foreign national into Bangladesh or another country where they are not a citizen or permanent resident. The second involves the illegal entry of a Bangladeshi citizen into a country where they are not a citizen or permanent resident.

For the offence of migrant smuggling, intentional or attempted, the draft ordinance sets penalties of three to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment, along with a mandatory minimum fine of Tk 1 lakh.

Harsher punishments apply if the act endangers the life or safety of the smuggled migrant or if the offence is committed by an organised criminal group.

If the crime results in the victim's death, grievous injury, a life-threatening disease or cruel or inhuman treatment, the punishment is a minimum of five years' imprisonment up to life, in addition to a Tk 1 lakh fine.

If an organised group commits the crime, each member would receive the same punishment, the

ordinance says.

Welcoming the new ordinance, Shariful Hasan, associate director of BRAC's Migration and Youth Platform, said Bangladeshis are now among the top nationalities travelling to Europe via the Mediterranean Sea.

Contacted by The Daily Star, he said, "Many Bangladeshis try to reach Italy through Libya, where traffickers detain and torture them in camps for money. These incidents constitute smuggling of migrants."

However, this issue was not addressed in the existing Human Trafficking Act 2012. "As a result, traffickers often escape punishment, denying victims justice. Including SOM in the new law is therefore a positive step."

Shariful also stressed the need for implementation, saying, "A law has little impact if it stays on paper. We need sustained awareness campaigns, especially in communities where people take such dangerous risks."

## RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

# Europeans push back at US peace plan

REUTERS, Brussels

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Russia has been pounding Ukrainian cities and infrastructure with nightly bombardments, killing civilians and causing power cuts as winter sets in. Authorities said 22 people were still missing and 26 dead from airstrikes that destroyed an apartment block early on Wednesday, one of the worst attacks in months.

European Union foreign ministers meeting in Brussels were careful not to comment in too much detail about a US peace plan that has not fully been made public. But they made clear they would push back against demands for punishing concessions from Kyiv.



## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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### Invitation for e-Tendering

|                                   |  |                         |                       |
|-----------------------------------|--|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Invitation Reference No.          | Memo No: 35.01.8800.471.07.001.24-2462 Date: 20/11/2025  |                         |                       |
| Tender ID & No                    | Work description   | Publication Date & Time | Opening Date & Time   |
| 1181494, e-GP/06/EE/SDR/2025-2026 | Supplying of 1st class Bricks, Stone Chips, Gunny Bags, Local Sand, Fire Wood, Road Marking Paint and Thinner at the Stack Yard of Ullapara Road Sub-Division under Sirajganj Road Division during the year 2025-2026. | 20 Nov - 2025 16.00 Hrs | 01 Dec-2025 14:00 Hrs |

This is an online tender where only e-tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline and hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender please register on the National e-GP system Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank's Branches for 01.12.2025 Up to 13:30 Hrs. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)) (+8809609112233, +880176265528-31)

  
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GD-2515

## Matiul Islam

FROM PAGE 1  
completed his master's in public administration from Harvard University.

Appointed as the finance secretary of newly independent Bangladesh on January 15, 1972, he was handed the formidable task of rebuilding a shattered financial system and implementing the nationalisation of the banking sector.

"He was an outstanding civil servant, a man who left a mark in every institution he touched — be it the banking industry, the civil service, or international cooperation," said Md Farashuddin, former governor of Bangladesh Bank, reflecting on Matiul.

"He was made finance secretary with a view to reviving the economy from its shattered state. And he worked immensely hard to achieve that."

He later served as the secretary at the Ministry of Finance and Planning. He was also the chairman of the Bangladesh Institute of Governance and Management and a fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh.

One of Matiul's early accomplishments was building relationships with global financial institutions like the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

He served as alternate executive director at the World Bank, head of the UNIDO/World Bank Cooperative Programme in Vienna, and UNIDO country director in India.

He was pivotal in consolidating 12 fragmented banks into six nationalised banks, ensuring professional management and shielding them from political interference. "Bangladesh will survive if banks survive" became his guiding philosophy.

His contributions also expanded to the private sector.

Matiul helped launch and lead several key institutions, including AB Bank Ltd (formerly Arab Bangladesh Bank), International Leasing and Financial Services Ltd, National Housing Finance & Investment, the Industrial

and Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IIDFC) PLC, and the Credit Rating Agency of Bangladesh (CRAB).

Matiul was also admired for his refined cultural sensibilities. "He was a man of very high cultural standing. He studied music under a maestro and was a singer of modern Bangla songs," Farashuddin recalled.

In recognition of his contributions, he was honoured with numerous awards, including the HSBC-The Daily Star Climate Award in 2010 and the DHL-The Daily Star Lifetime Achievement Award in 2011.

Former finance minister M Syeduzzaman, who worked closely with Matiul, described him as more than a colleague: "He was my mentor."

He said, "During my time in the Ministry of Finance and Planning, I learned so much from him — lessons that guided me throughout my career."

Syeduzzaman recalled Matiul's role during a time of crisis. "Rebuilding the economy wasn't a one-man job, but his contribution was crucial. His presence in the financial sector was a rare strength."

Matiul authored "Memories of a Civil Servant Turned Banker", a memoir chronicling his journey through Bangladesh's formative years. Their close working relationship also finds mention in the book that Syeduzzaman notes is an accurate testament to Matiul's legacy.

Despite working within teams led by figures like Tajuddin Ahmad, Matiul stood out for his clarity of thought and relentless discipline. "He didn't work alone," Syeduzzaman said, "but the way he applied his intellect made a lasting difference."

In a statement, Matiul's family said, "He will always remain in our hearts for the love he gave, the wisdom he shared, and the quiet but profound impact he made on everyone around him."

## Curfew in Nepal town after political clashes

AFP, Kathmandu

A curfew was in force yesterday in a Nepalese town following clashes between young activists and loyalists of the former ruling party that was overthrown in a deadly September uprising.

The measure was imposed for a second day in Simara, a town in Nepal's Bara district south of the capital Kathmandu, a district official said.

The move follows young protesters rallying on Wednesday while an event was held by the party of ousted prime minister KP Sharma Oli, the Communist Party of Nepal - Unified Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML).

Scuffles broke out, some close to the airport, allegedly after CPN-UML cadres attacked the protesters.

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আইন সম্পর্ক শাসনের অপরাধ রেখ করে  
জাতীয় দায়িত্ব প্লান করন।

বিদ্যুৎ ও জ্বালানি নিরাপত্তা সর্বোচ্চ আয়োব্বির।



বাংলাদেশ তেল, গ্যাস ও খনিজসম্পদ কর্পোরেশন (পেট্রোবাংলা)

Bangladesh Oil, Gas and Mineral Corporation (Petrobangla)

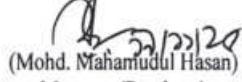
### e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited through the National e-GP portal for the following procurement of goods:

| Sl. No | Tender ID | Name of Tender   | Tender documents last selling/ downloading Date & Time | Tender closing & opening Date & Time |
|--------|-----------|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| 01     | 1170870   | Procurement of Conferencing System (With Camera & Smart Display) for Board Room of Petrobangla | 08-Dec-2025 12:00                                      | 08-Dec-2025 14:00                    |

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.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

Further information and guideline are available in the National e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

  
(Md. Mahamudul Hasan)  
Manager (Purchase)  
Addl. Charge  
Petrobangla, Dhaka.

GD-2510

লালমনিরহাট পৌরসভা

লালমনিরহাট  
প্রকৌশল নিভাগ

(পৃষ্ঠা/যাত্রিক/বিদ্যুত শাখা)

ps.lalmonirhat.gov.bd

Memo No-LAL/PAURA/ENG/2025/607

Date: 20-11-2025

### e-Tender Notice: 01/2025-2026(OTM)

E-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following:

| Sl. No | T.ID No | Name of Scheme   | Last Selling Date & Time | Closing & Opening Date & Time |
|--------|---------|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 01     | 1175620 | RDNPP/LALM/23/ST-01,ST-02,ST-03, (ST-01: Part-A): Construction & Installation of Street Light from Lalmirhat Rail Station to Mission More. (Ch.00-1000m), (35 Nos Pole), Ward No-03, (ST-02: Part-B): Construction & Installation of Street Light from Mission More to Circuit House. (Ch.00-800m), (28 Nos Pole), Ward No-03, (ST-03: Part-C): Construction & Installation of Street Light from Mission More via Sadar Hospital to Paura End Point,Ch. (00-10 |                          |                               |