

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

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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 escaped 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

European countries yesterday pushed back against a US-backed peace plan for Ukraine that sources said would require Kyiv to give up more land and partially disarm, conditions long seen by Ukraine's allies as tantamount to capitulation.

Two people familiar with the matter told Reuters on Wednesday that Washington had signalled to President Volodymyr Zelensky that Ukraine must accept a US-drafted framework to end the war, which includes territorial concessions and curbs to Ukraine's armed forces. The sources spoke on condition they not be identified because of the sensitivity of the matter.

The acceleration in US diplomacy comes at an awkward juncture for Kyiv, with its troops on the back foot at the front and Zelensky's government undermined by a corruption scandal. Parliament fired

two cabinet ministers on Wednesday over the scandal.

A US Army delegation, led by Army Secretary Dan Driscoll and the Army's Chief of Staff Randy George, was in Kyiv and expected to meet Zelensky late yesterday.

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

Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD

Road Division, Sirajganj.

Tel: 02588831039, Fax No-02588830242

Email:ceeshid@rhd.gov.bd/ceerhdsirajganj@gmail.com

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
1181494, e-GP/06/EE/SRD/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
		Opening Date & Time
		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) (+8809609112233, +8801762625528-31)

(Md. Imran Farhan Sumel)

Identity No-602280

Executive Engineer (C.C), RHD

Road Division, Sirajganj.

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 Industries. 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.

জাতীয় সম্পদ গ্যাসের স্বতন্ত্র প্রকল্প
জাতীয় সড়ক গলন করণ।

বিনামূল্যে ও জুলাদি নিরাপত্তা সর্বোচ্চ আর্থিক।

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).

(Mohd. Mahamudul Hasan)

Manager (Purchase)

Addl. Charge

Petrobangla, Dhaka.

GD-2510

Pashchimanchal Gas Company Limited
(A Company of Petrobangla)
Head Office, Nalka, Sirajganj.

e-Tender Notice

Ref. No: 28.18.0000.048.52.001.25/1369

Date: 18 /11/2025

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

Tender ID No.	Package No & Name of the Works	Tender Publication (Date & Time)	Last Selling (Date & Time)	Closing and Opening (Date & Time)
1160730	Package No: 28.18.0000.048.52.001.25.Maintenance Gr-3 Name of the Works: Emergency Maintenance gas leakage repairs and ancillary works on existing gas pipeline up to 150 psig pressure in Pabna-Ishwardi area under Pashchimanchal Gas Company Limited for the financial year up to 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 Group-3	19-Nov-2025 Time: 03:30PM	02-Dec-2025 Time: 4:00 PM	03-Dec-2025 Time: 12:00AM
1171220	Package No: 28.18.0000.048.52.001.25.Maintenance Gr-4 Name of the Works: Emergency Maintenance gas leakage repairs and ancillary works on existing gas pipeline up to 150 psig pressure in Bogura area under Pashchimanchal Gas Company Limited for the financial year up to 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 Group-4	19-Nov-2025 Time: 03:30PM	02-Dec-2025 Time: 4:00 PM	03-Dec-2025 Time: 12:00AM
1176326	Package No: 28.18.0000.048.52.001.25.Maintenance Gr-5 Name of the Works: Emergency Maintenance gas leakage repairs and ancillary works on existing gas pipeline up to 150 psig pressure in Rajshahi area under Pashchimanchal Gas Company Limited for the financial year up to 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 Group-5	19-Nov-2025 Time: 03:30PM	02-Dec-2025 Time: 4:00PM	03-Dec-2025 Time: 12:00AM

These are online Tenders, 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.

The fees for last selling/downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

(Engr. S.M Mohibur Rahman)

General Manager (P&D)

PGPR-21/2025-2026 (3x8")

GD-2511

লালমনিরহাট পৌরসভা
লালমনিরহাট
প্রকৌশল বিভাগ
(পূর্ত/যান্ত্রিক/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	RDNP/LALM/23/ST-01,ST-02,ST-03. (ST-01: Part-A: Construction & Installation of Street Light from Lalmonirhat 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. (00-5000m).(168 Nos Pole) at Ward No-03, 05, 06, Under Lalmonirhat Paurashava, District:Lalmonirhat	14/12/2025 17:00	15/12/2025 15:00
1175622	RDNP/LALM/23/ST-04,ST-05,ST-06. (ST-04: Part-A: Construction & Installation of Street Light from BDR Gate to Sakoa More Via Sayed More. (Ch. 00-2100m). (71 Nos Pole). Ward No-04, (ST-05: Part-B: Construction & Installation of Street Light from Chandi Bazar to Abashan Road.(Ch. 00-1000m). (35 Nos Pole).Ward No-07, (ST-06: Part-C: Construction & Installation of Street Light from Thana More to Thanapara Via Uttar-Mazhapara Mondir Road. (Ch.00-2000m). (70 Nos Pole).Ward No-08, 09, Under Lalmonirhat Paurashava, District:Lalmonirhat	14/12/2025 17:00	15/12/2025 15:00	
1175625	RDNP/LALM/23/ST-07,ST-08,ST-09,ST-12 (ST-07: Part-A: Construction & Installation of Street Light from Mazhapara Mondir to Moni Master House. (Ch. 00-1000m). (35 Nos Pole) .Ward No-09, (ST-08: Part-B: Construction & Installation of Street Light from Nesharia Madrasa More to Pulimari Dola Road. (Ch. 00-1400m). (46 Nos Pole). Ward No-05, (ST-09: Part-C: Construction & Installation of Street Light from Kulaghat Road Ex-Mayor Chatal to House of Nur Islam. (Ch. 00-1100m).(38 Nos Pole) .Ward No-06, (ST-12: Part-D: Construction & Installation of Street Light from Rangpur Road Sena Moyhtry Hokars Market to Zelkhana Via Chadni Bazar. (Ch. 00-2100m).(71 Nos Pole) .Ward No-03, Under Lalmonirhat Paurashava, District:Lalmonirhat	14/12/2025 17:00	15/12/2025 15:00	
1175626	RDNP/LALM/23/ST-10,ST-11,ST-18. (ST-10: Part-A: Construction & Installation of Street Light from BDR Road Taher Market to Satian Road Public Library and House of Dulu to Agriculture Department More. (Ch. 00-800m).(21 Nos Pole) .Ward No-02, (ST-11: Part-B: Construction & Installation of Street Light from Patgram Road DN Banglo to Adarsha Clolony (Ch. 00-700m). (25 Nos Pole).Ward No-01, (ST-18: Part-C: Construction & Installation of Street Light from Zila Parishad More to Sakoa Road Via Mission more. (Ch.00-4800m).(162 Nos Pole) . Ward No-01 & 04, Under Lalmonirhat Paurashava, District:Lalmonirhat	14/12/2025 17:00	15/12/2025 15:00	
1175627	RDNP/LALM/24/DR-18. Construction of RCC Drain from Banvasha to Mohirer Moar Via Patgram Rail Line Culvert (Ch.00-1350.00m) (Cross Drain-1No.) in Ward No- 184 Under Lalmonirhat Paurashava. Distric: Lalmonirhat.	14/12/2025 17:00	15/12/2025 15:00	

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) 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.The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited on line through any registered banks branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP helpdesk . (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

Interested persons can communicate with the undersigned during office hours.

(Md. Afkurr Rahman)

Executive Engineer

Lalmonirhat Paurashava

E-mail- lalmonirhatpoursava@lgd.gov.bd

Mobile-01715-572095

GD-2520