



Govt reshuffles SPs in all districts ahead of polls

Manual lottery draws mixed reactions

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and
TOUSIF KAIUM

The government yesterday appointed or transferred superintendents of police to all 64 districts through a manual lottery, a first in the force's history, in a major reshuffle aimed at ensuring stability during the upcoming national election.

In the same move, 33 additional deputy inspector generals were promoted to DIG, and Rajshahi Metropolitan Police received a new commissioner. The home ministry issued separate circulars announcing the postings and promotions.

The SP, as district police chief, oversees security planning before, during, and after polling. The reshuffle is part of a wider reorganisation of the field administration. Earlier in mid-November, the government changed deputy commissioners in at least 50 districts.

Separately yesterday, the government appointed new Upazila Nirbahi Officers to 166 upazilas across eight divisions, with the public administration ministry issuing eight notifications. During national polls, UNOs act as assistant returning officers.

Of the 64 SPs, 46 were already serving in the districts. Besides their transfers, 18 officers came from other units. The selections were finalised on Monday at the chief adviser's residence, Jamuna, through a manual lottery. Police officers said never before had all district SPs been appointed at once, nor chosen through a lottery.

Intelligence agencies
vetted officers for
over a month

Those in key posts
during 2014, 2018,
2024 polls excluded

Internal lobbying,
tensions marked lead-
up to reshuffle

Some officers
frustrated over re-
selection of SPs

166 upazilas get
new UNOs

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In the aftermath of the Korail slum fire, residents return to the rubble of their burnt homes. Amid the twisted tin and scorched earth, Minara Begum points into the distance as she desperately searches for her missing mother, Hosne Ara. The photo was taken yesterday morning.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Govt promotes, transfers 826 judges in a day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday made a major reshuffle in the judiciary by promoting, posting and transferring 826 lower court judges in a single day ahead of the national election, according to five gazette notifications of the law ministry.

Of the total, 250 judges have been promoted from additional district judge to district judge and 294 from joint district judge to additional district judge.

Another 282 judicial officers have been promoted from senior assistant judge to joint district judge.

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Bad loans continue to break records

Defaulted loans hit Tk 6.44 lakh crore

MD MEHEDI HASAN

Defaulted loans in the banking sector rose further to Tk 6.44 lakh crore, or nearly 36 percent of total disbursed loans, at the end of September, indicating the continued fragile state of the country's financial sector.

At the end of the third quarter, total disbursed loans stood at Tk 18.03 lakh crore, of which Tk 6.44 lakh crore became defaulted, amounting to 35.73 percent of all disbursed loans, BB data showed. This is the highest bad loan ratio since 2000.

A year earlier, the ratio of bad loans was 16.93 percent of total outstanding loans.

Big borrowers such as S Alam, Beximco, AnonTex, Orion, Abdul Monem and Sikder Group defaulted on a large scale after the fall of the Awami League government in August last year, causing an

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KORAIL SLUM 4th fire in 2yrs exposes deadly structural flaws

DIPAN NANDY and
MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

The slum, one of the largest in the city and home to nearly 1.5 lakh people, is connected to the main road by a narrow approach that remains clogged most of the time by long lines of stalled rickshaws.

A little further in, past the gate of Baitul Aman Central Jame Mosque, the lanes shrink even more. They are so tight that two rickshaws cannot pass at the same time. During rush hours, even pedestrians struggle to get through.

This narrow, congested stretch is the only entry into the Korail slum in Mohakhali, and it was the same path firefighters struggled to navigate when the blaze broke out around 5:20pm on Tuesday.

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PURBACHAL PLOT SCAM Verdicts in 3 cases against Hasina, Joy, Putul today

EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

A Dhaka court is set to deliver verdicts today in three graft cases filed over the Purbachal plot scam against 23 people, including deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina, her son Sajeeb Wazed Joy, and daughter Saima Wazed Putul.

On November 23, Judge Mohammad Abdullah Al Mamun, of the Special Judge's Court-5 of Dhaka, fixed the date after concluding the trials in 13 hearings.

Public Prosecutor Mir Ahmed Ali Salam told The Daily Star that the trials were completed quickly as 22 out of 23 accused

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Dhaka world's 2nd most populous city with 3.66 crore people: UN

UNB, Dhaka

A new United Nations report shows that Indonesia's capital, Jakarta, has become the world's most populous city with 41.9 million people, while Bangladesh's Dhaka ranks second with a population of 36.6 million (3.66 crore).

According to the UN's World Urbanization Prospects 2025 report, Japan's Tokyo population has held fairly steady at 33.4 million, pushing it down to third place, while Dhaka, one of the world's most crowded capitals, climbed from ninth to second and is projected to become the world's largest city by 2050.

The report highlights Asia's



dominance in global urban growth, with nine of the world's top 10 megacities located on the continent.

Cities joining Jakarta, Dhaka, and Tokyo in the top 10 include New Delhi (30.2m), Shanghai (29.6m), Guangzhou

(27.6m), Manila (24.7m), Kolkata (22.5m), and Seoul (22.5m).

Egypt's Cairo, with 32 million people, is the lone non-Asian city on the list.

Dhaka's rise has been driven largely by an influx of people fleeing rural areas due to flooding, erosion, and other climate-change

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NCP, allies may unveil a new alliance today

SHARIF M SHAFIQUE and
SHAMIMA RITA

A new political alliance is likely to be launched today, involving the National Citizen Party, Amar Bangladesh (AB Party), United Peoples (UP) Bangladesh, and Rashtro Songskar Andolon.

The announcement may be made at 3:00pm at the Shaheed Abu Sayeed Convention Centre in the capital's Shabbagh area, said NCP insiders after a meeting last night.

Regarding the development, Sarjis Alam, chief organiser of NCP (north), told The Daily Star yesterday that the alliance is named "Gonotantik Songskar Jote," which will be both an electoral and political alliance.

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POLLS STRATEGY

Referendum not on BNP's mind

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

The upcoming referendum, slated for the same day as the national election, appears to be low on the BNP's priority list, with the party planning neither to campaign for a "yes" nor a "no" vote.

Frustrated by the absence of notes of dissent in the July charter's referendum question, the party plans to leave the referendum on the back burner.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, several BNP standing committee members said that if the party supports a "yes" vote, people and rivals will question its political position, as its own demands are not reflected in the referendum question. If it campaigns for a "no" vote, it may lead to confrontation with other parties campaigning for a "yes" vote.

Against this backdrop, the party has initially decided not to issue any directive to its supporters on how to vote in the referendum.

Senior BNP leaders argued that taking a confrontational stance now would only spark complications and cause distractions from election work, a standing committee member said on condition of anonymity.

Is it right to impose such a question on the people? With all these complicated issues at stake, reducing everything to a single one-word answer of 'yes' or 'no' is ultimately a kind of coercion.

Salahuddin Ahmed
BNP Standing Committee member

"So we would rather be busy with the election preparations," he added.

The July charter implementation order did not mention any notes of dissent, and the gazette notification of the Referendum Ordinance also omitted

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Celebrating

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