



Growing global focus on February 12 vote

Number of foreign observers already past those in last three polls

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR and AHMED DEEPTO

The number of foreign observers preparing to monitor the February 12 polls has already exceeded those of the last three national elections, reflecting heightened global interest in Bangladesh's democratic transition.

The European Union has confirmed it will send at least 175 observers, and the US-based International Republican Institute (IRI) has said it will dispatch a 10-member team.

Officials from the Election Commission and the foreign ministry said they expect the US-based National Democratic Institute, the Commonwealth, SAARC countries, several other Asian nations, and Bangkok-based Asian Network for Free Elections (ANFREL) to also send observers.

A total of 158 international observers monitored the 2024 polls, 125 the 2018 election, and four the 2014 polls.

EC Senior Secretary Akhtar Ahmed yesterday also told this newspaper that the EU will send 175-200 international observers.

Munira Khan, president of the Fair Election Monitoring Alliance, said, "The international interest in how free and fair the election will be has grown compared to before because the last three elections were not credible."

Another reason for the increased attention is the interim government led by Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus, she added.

The presence of foreign observers was comparatively limited in the previous three disputed elections. Two of those, in 2014 and 2024, were one-sided contests

boycotted by major opposition parties, while the 2018 election was marred by ballot stuffing on the night before polling day.

On October 28, EU Ambassador to Bangladesh Michael Miller, in a meeting

| NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Feb 12, 2026 | 185 so far |
| Jan 7, 2024 | 158 |
| Dec 30, 2018 | 125 |
| Jan 5, 2014 | 04 |
| Dec 29, 2008 | 593 |
| Oct 1, 2001 | 225 |

with Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus, conveyed the EU's plan to deploy a large delegation to observe the upcoming election, marking the first such mission since 2008.

Some of the EU observer mission is expected to arrive about six weeks before the election, and others may join a week before polling day, he said.

The EU's pre-election observation mission visited Bangladesh in September and subsequently submitted an assessment report to the EU.

Based on the report, the EU has decided to send a full-fledged election observation mission this time.

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A massive mound of garbage dumped along the roadside at the entrance to Rangamati town. Around 30 to 40 tonnes of waste from different parts of the town are discarded daily in this open space, which slides down the slopes and contaminates nearby streams and the lake. The photo was taken recently. PHOTO: RIKORS CHAKMA

Frauds and brokers still dominating migration

Says Yunus

BSS, Dhaka



Bangladesh is facing a deep and complex crisis in overseas employment due to entrenched broker syndicates, document forgery and systemic failures, Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus said yesterday.

"Overseas migration has become dangerously entwined with brokers and fraud. Until we are free from this, there is no reason to believe that meaningful progress has been made," he said.

He made the remarks at a programme marking the International Migrants Day and National Expatriates Day at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium.

Highlighting different initiatives of the government to

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India advising on our polls 'unacceptable'

Says Touhid; Delhi summons Bangladesh envoy

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

India advising Bangladesh on the upcoming election after being "silent during the farcical polls" in the past 15 years is "utterly unacceptable", Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain said yesterday.

He was responding to reporters' queries after India's Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement that it consistently called for free, fair, inclusive, peaceful and credible elections



in Bangladesh.

At the foreign ministry, Touhid told reporters, "In its latest statement, India has given us advice. I don't think there is any need for that. We don't seek advice from our neighbours on how the elections will be held in Bangladesh."

"This government has been saying clearly from day one that we want to create an environment where people can vote at a 'very high standard', which

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Condition of Osman Hadi 'very critical'

Singapore FM briefs CA Yunus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The condition of Sharif Osman Hadi, the Inqilab Moncho spokesperson who was shot in the head on December 10, is extremely critical, the Chief Adviser's Press Wing said last night.

Singapore's Foreign Minister Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, after visiting Hadi in hospital, called Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus around 9:40pm and briefed him on his condition.

Yunus, the CA Press Wing added, has urged people to remain calm and pray for Hadi.

Also an independent aspirant for Dhaka-8, Hadi was shot while he was travelling on a battery-run auto-rickshaw on Culvert Road in the capital's Paltan. He was first taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital and then moved to Evercare as his condition deteriorated.

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Advertorial

Receives CIP Award in NRB Category

Rafaan Seraj has been awarded the Commercially Important Person (CIP) status for the 2024-25 fiscal year in recognition of his significant contribution to Bangladesh's economy through remittance and investment. The CIP Award was formally handed over by Dr. Asif Nazrul, Adviser of the Government of Bangladesh, at a special ceremony held at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium on the occasion of International Migrants Day and National Expatriates Day.



Rafaan Seraj

Rafaan Seraj was recognized as one of the highest foreign currency remitters through legal channels, reflecting the critical role played by non-resident Bangladeshis in strengthening the national economy.

He is one of the partners of Kloth Studio, a Bangladesh-origin global brand specializing in bespoke uniforms for the international hospitality industry. Kloth Studio supplies workwear to leading luxury hotels and restaurants, including Four Seasons, Rosewood, and Shangri-La, positioning Bangladesh as a trusted source of high-quality, ethically produced hospitality uniforms.

The CIP Award was received on behalf of Rafaan Seraj, by his brother, Shayaan Seraj, who accepted the honour during the National Expatriates Day ceremony, underscoring the family's continued commitment to contributing Bangladesh's global reputation and economic progress.



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Bangladesh
City Bank Plc

On the trophy is Brendan Bracken, founder of *The Banker* magazine in 1926

US adds seven countries to full travel ban list

Expanded ban goes into effect Jan 1

REUTERS, Washington

US President Donald Trump on Tuesday expanded a list of countries subject to a full travel ban, prohibiting citizens from an additional seven countries, including Syria, from entering the United States.

The White House said in a statement that Trump signed a proclamation "expanding and strengthening entry restrictions on nationals from countries with demonstrated, persistent, and severe deficiencies in screening, vetting, and information sharing to protect the Nation from national security and public safety threats."

Tuesday's move banned citizens from Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, South Sudan, Syria and those holding Palestinian Authority-issued travel documents. The action also imposes a full ban on Laos and Sierra Leone, which had previously only been subject to partial restrictions.



These vehicles have been lying abandoned on Narinda Road in Wari for years now, slowly rusting away. Originally seized by police, they have been kept here without any due process, hampering pedestrian movement. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Bring 'AL criminals' to book even if not accused in cases

Home adviser directs police; over 1,900 arrested in 24hrs

STAR REPORT

Law enforcers arrested 1,921 people nationwide in the 24 hours till yesterday evening, including 1,398 in the ongoing "Operation Devil Hunt Phase-2," a drive to curb crime and recover illegal firearms ahead of the national election.

Police Headquarters said 3,264 people have been arrested nationwide and at least 10 foreign and local firearms, ammunition, and sharp weapons recovered in the past four days. In addition, 2,046 more people were held on cases and outstanding warrants.

The government initiated the operation on Saturday following a spate of killings across the country, particularly after the shooting of Dhaka-8 aspirant and Inqilab Moncho spokesperson Sharif Osman Hadi.

Meanwhile, Home Adviser Lt Gen (ret'd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury directed police to bring "Awami League criminals" under the law even if no cases are registered against them, warning of action against officers who fail to comply.

Addressing an event in Narayanganj, where student leaders blocked his convoy with a seven-point demand, the adviser called the demands "reasonable" and said several steps had already been taken.

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Growing global focus on February 12 vote

FROM PAGE 1

Ivars Ijabs, a member of the European Parliament, will serve as the chief observer of the EU delegation.

In an October 21 meeting with Yunus, an IRI delegation confirmed that the American non-profit organisation will send at least 10 international observers for Bangladesh's national election.

"We will have robust election observation in February," said the delegation head, Christopher J. Fussner, also an IRI director.

Deployment of election observers is expected to help mitigate the chances of violence during the vote, he said.

An IRI pre-election team visited Bangladesh in October and submitted

its report.

The total number of observers from the US, including the IRI delegation, is expected to be about 50, according to EC and foreign ministry officials.

The Commonwealth mission, meanwhile, is likely to comprise about 30 observers. Its pre-election team also visited Bangladesh in October.

The Bangkok-based ANFREL conducted a pre-election assessment mission in Bangladesh from November 21 to December 5.

"We will deploy an international election observation mission for the parliamentary election, but the number is yet to be finalised," said Alsana Anayet Amey, programme associate — Bangladesh Elections and

Democracy Programme of ANFREL.

Meanwhile, the EC yesterday instructed all educational institutions designated as polling centres to ensure that their existing CCTV cameras remain operational.

The directive further states that at centres without CCTV coverage, the managing committees or authorities should be requested to make arrangements for CCTV installation for polling day.

The commission has also instructed the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to ensure equal opportunities for all candidates in election campaigns broadcast on Bangladesh Television (BTV) and all private TV channels ahead of the polls.

India advising on our polls 'unacceptable'

FROM PAGE 1

was not the case in the last 15 years," he added.

"They [India] know that they had a very good relationship with the previous government in the last 15 years. They [India] didn't utter a single word when the elections were a farce at that time. Now we are moving towards a good election, there is no need to advise us at this moment."

Asked about similar advice from other countries or blocs, including the European Union, Touhid said the situations were not the same. "We always have some communication with them [EU and others], and they also have communication with the Election Commission, because we want them to send their observers here."

Besides issuing the statement, the MEA summoned Bangladesh High Commissioner to India Riaz Hamidullah to express "strong concerns about the deteriorating security environment" around the Indian High Commission in Dhaka.

India's move came amid protests in Dhaka yesterday, when police stopped several hundred people under the banner of "July Oikya" from marching towards the high commission.

The demonstrators demanded the return of deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and others who fled to India during and after the July uprising last year. An announcement to lay siege to the mission prompted the Indian Visa Application Centre at Jamuna Future Park to close at 2:00pm.

Bangladesh's relations with India have remained strained since the fall of the Awami League government on August 5, 2024. Dhaka has for several times demanded Hasina's repatriation to face justice over killings during the uprising. She has been sentenced to death in a case over crimes against humanity.

On Sunday, Bangladesh's foreign ministry summoned Indian High Commissioner Pranay Verma to convey Dhaka's "strong concerns over India allowing Hasina to continue

making incendiary statements from Indian soil".

The ministry said Hasina had been calling on her supporters to engage in terrorist activities aimed at destabilising the country and derailing the upcoming parliamentary elections.

Dhaka also sought New Delhi's cooperation in preventing suspects in the recent attempted assassination of Sharif Osman Hadi, an independent aspiring candidate for Dhaka-8, from fleeing to India. Bangladesh urged their immediate arrest and extradition should they enter Indian territory.

The Indian MEA yesterday rejected what it called a "false narrative on extremist elements" surrounding recent events in Bangladesh.

"It is unfortunate that the interim government has neither conducted a thorough investigation nor shared meaningful evidence with India regarding the incidents," it said, adding that India's ties with Bangladesh are rooted in the Liberation War and strengthened through development and people-to-people exchanges.

The MEA also said India expects the interim government to ensure the safety of diplomatic missions in line with its obligations.

Touhid said Hasina had initially limited her remarks to social media but "subsequently, her statements with a lot of provocation have appeared in mainstream media".

"We will object to this or seek their [India's] cooperation to send her back. But they have not moved in that direction," he said, while acknowledging that Bangladesh cannot stop Hasina if India does not intervene.

"We will ask India to stop her so that the environment being created here for the election is not harmed by the incendiary statements she is giving. If they do that, we will take it as a good positive step. If not, I cannot force her," Touhid said.

Asked about comments by National Citizen Party leader Hasnat

Abdullah regarding India's Seven Sisters states, Touhid said Hasnat was not part of the government.

"Bangladesh does not believe in terrorism. We have a policy on this matter. We certainly will not shelter any separatists on our land. This government will not do this, and I presume no government in Bangladesh will do this," he said.

"A political activist might say that, but that is certainly not the government's position."

Touhid also talked about Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Victory Day tweet on December 16, which made no mention of Bangladesh. Touhid said this was not new.

"They [India] always try to downplay our role in the Liberation War. And they celebrate it differently in Kolkata, observing it as their 'Eastern Command Day' because they believe their army achieved victory through warfare," he said.

He noted that Indian experts themselves have written that the war would have taken longer, caused greater destruction and claimed many more lives had Bangladesh's freedom fighters not mounted strong resistance and weakened the Pakistani military.

"Those who deny the contribution of the freedom fighters have no knowledge of military history or military science. They try to deny it, but denial is meaningless. Without the freedom fighters, this victory could not be achieved."

On whether Bangladesh-India relations had entered a new phase, Touhid said it was difficult to say.

"We have always said that we want a good working relationship, but now both sides must try to move the relationship forward. I think perhaps both sides together have not been able to progress that far."

Asked if Dhaka was considering reducing manpower at its high commission in India, he said, "If we see that there is not sufficient work for our officers, then we will try to do that."

Condition of Osman Hadi 'very critical'

FROM PAGE 1

On Saturday, he was airlifted to Singapore for advanced treatment.

Earlier in the day, Inqilab Moncho in a Facebook post said doctors were waiting for Hadi's condition to be stable enough for surgery, which might take place in Singapore or in England.

It said the surgery would be done to restore his brain function and reconnect the brain with the body, while all other organs are currently functioning properly.

The post added that Hadi's family has sought special prayers for his recovery.

In a separate post, the platform said the government is bearing the full expense of Hadi's treatment and has assured his family of maximum support for advanced medical care.

PRIME SUSPECT'S PARENTS SENT TO JAIL

The parents of prime suspect Faisal Karim Masud were sent to jail yesterday after giving confessional statements in the attempted murder case filed over the attack on Hadi.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Monirul Islam recorded the statements of Humayun Kabir, 70, and his wife Hasi Begum, 60, after police produced them before the court, a court official said.

Following the recording, the magistrate ordered that they be sent to jail. The contents of the statements were not disclosed.

On Tuesday, the Rapid Action Battalion detained Humayun and

Hasi for allegedly assisting their son, the prime accused in the case, both before and after the incident. They were later handed over to the Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, which is investigating the case.

Meanwhile, investigators, following the recovery of the firearms allegedly used in the shooting, yesterday told The Daily Star that the weapons were taken to Narsingdi by the prime suspect Faisal's brother-in-law, Shipu, who was arrested on Monday.

After the attack, Faisal and his accomplice Alamgir left the weapons at Faisal's sister's residence on Colonel Gali in Dhaka's Agargaon. Shipu later transported the firearms to Faisal's house in Narsingdi.

According to DB sources, nine people have so far been arrested in connection with the case: Faisal's father Humayun Kabir and mother Hasi Begum; his wife Saheda Parvin Samia; his brother-in-law Wahid Ahmed Shipu; his girlfriend Maria Akter Lima; his associate Mohammad Kabir; his friend Shipu; Nuruzzaman, a rent-a-car businessman; and Abdul Hannan.

However, two individuals, Sibirun Dio and Sanjay Schism, detained in Mymensingh on Saturday night for allegedly helping the accused flee across the border, are yet to be shown arrested in any case.

Contacted, DB Chief and DMP Additional Commissioner Shafikul Islam said the two were being interrogated by Shahbagh police.

HANNAN'S ARREST RAISES QUESTIONS

Rab on Saturday detained Abdul Hannan from a flat in Mohammadpur's Chandrima Housing over the allegation that the motorcycle used in the shooting was registered in his name, police said. Paltan Police Station later showed him arrested under Section 54 and sought a three-day remand, which the court granted.

In a press release yesterday, however, the DMP Media Wing and the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime unit said they recovered the motorcycle used in the attack, fitted with a fake number plate, along with a helmet. The items were recovered from the ground-floor parking of a house in the Agargaon Bonolota Residential Area.

According to the release, the motorcycle was originally owned by Abdur Rahman and changed hands eight times before being registered in the name of Mainuddin Islam using the NID card of Faisal's associate Mohammad Kabir.

DB sources said the motorcycle used in the shooting was a Honda Hornet.

Earlier on Saturday, Hannan's wife told The Daily Star that her husband owned a Suzuki Gixxer, which they sold in December 2024.

Several attempts were made to reach Commander MZM Intekhab Chowdhury, director of Rab's Legal and Media Wing, but he could not be reached.

Election to be tough for BNP

FROM PAGE 12

that he is returning to Bangladesh from London on December 25. He urged party leaders and supporters not to gather at the airport on the day of his departure.

Stating that conspiracies are underway centring the polls, Tarique called on leaders and activists to keep the people of Bangladesh aware and alert against such efforts.

"Those who plotted in 1971 and were involved in conspiracies in November 1975, 1981, 1996 and at different later times remain active."

At the event, Tarique also laid out concrete plans before the people for rebuilding the country.

"This election is not an experiment or an experience. It is an opportunity for change, and we must use it wisely."

The BNP does not believe in dreams but concrete plans, he said. "We do not want to live in dreams. While dreaming, 16 billion has been smuggled out of the country. While dreaming, the country's economic condition, education system, agriculture system, roads have all been completely broken."

Outlining his party's plans to make Bangladesh a happy and welfare-oriented country, he emphasised initiatives such as family cards, farmer's cards, health cards and steps to reduce unemployment.

Meanwhile, the BNP has formed a reception committee ahead of Tarique's return to Bangladesh.

The committee was formed with BNP Standing Committee Member Salahuddin Ahmed as the convener and BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi as the member secretary, said BNP Media Cell member Shairul Kabir Khan.

The committee includes the party's 10 divisional organising secretaries, the presidents and general secretaries of BNP front organisations and the conveners and member secretaries of BNP's Dhaka North and South city units.

The party has appointed Brigadier General (ret'd) AKM Shamsul Islam as the chief security officer to oversee the security of Tarique and his mother, the party Chairperson Khaleida Zia.

Canada will miss climate targets for 2030, 2035: PM

AFP, Montreal

Canada will not meet its targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions for 2030 and 2035, Prime Minister Mark Carney acknowledged in an interview that aired Tuesday on Radio-Canada.

The federal government in Ottawa, under former prime minister Justin Trudeau, had set a target in 2021 of slashing total carbon emissions by 40-45 percent below 2005 levels by 2030.

Trudeau's government had also set a goal of creating a net-zero power grid by 2035.

"What's clear is that Canada is not going to reach our 2030 and 2035 climate targets with current policy," Carney, who took office in March 2025 after replacing Trudeau as Liberal Party leader, told the state broadcaster.

"We need to change that."

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'Everything's gone, except the clothes I'm wearing'

Says victim of Islambagh fire

KEERO ADHMAN AHMED

A fire that broke out at a plastic factory at Islambagh in Old Dhaka was brought under control after nearly two and a half hours of efforts yesterday.

The blaze started around 1:30pm and was brought under control at about 4:00pm. Eleven firefighting units worked to douse the fire. No casualties were reported.

Visiting the spot, this correspondent saw that four to five multi-storey tin-shed structures were completely gutted. The fire also spread to an adjacent eight-storey building, damaging several flats.

Locals said the tin shed structures were two to three storeys high. Plastic factories operated on the ground floors, while the upper floors were rented out for residential use.

Kaiyum, a resident, said the fire originated in a plastic factory and quickly spread to the tin sheds behind it.

Nazma Akter, 50, a tenant of one of the tin-shed buildings, was seen crying near the site. "I have no husband or children. I saved some money working as a domestic help. Everything is gone. I have nothing left but the clothes I'm wearing," she said.

Apurbo, 25, a resident of the fifth floor of the adjacent eight-storey building, said he was at his office when the fire broke out. "When I rushed back after hearing the news, I saw everything was gone. My entire flat has turned to ashes," he told The Daily Star.

Speaking to reporters around 4:30pm, Md Saleh Uddin, deputy director (Dhaka Division) of the fire service, said a

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Firefighters douse a blaze that broke out at a plastic factory in the Islambagh area of Old Dhaka yesterday. The fire originated in a warehouse around 1:30pm and spread to at least four others. Eleven fire engines brought the blaze under control around 4:00pm.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Police block the march to Indian High Commission

Organisers demand Hasina's repatriation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police barred a march towards the Indian High Commission in Dhaka's Gulshan yesterday afternoon, which was held with several demands, including the repatriation of deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and others who fled to India during and after the July uprising.

The protest followed the shooting of Sharif Osman Hadi, an independent MP aspirant for Dhaka-8 and spokesperson of Inqilab Moncho, amid reports that the prime suspect and an associate had fled to India.

The programme, titled "March to Indian High Commission", was also held to protest what organisers described as "continued conspiracies by Indian proxy political parties, media, and government officials".

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CHRISTMAS, NEW YEAR

Police roll out special security measures

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police have taken special security measures ahead of Christmas, the largest religious festival of the Christian community, and New Year's Eve.

A meeting on security and law and order for the celebrations of Christmas on December 25 and New Year's Eve on December 31 was held yesterday at the Police Headquarters, chaired by Inspector General of Police (IGP) Baharul Alam.

Leaders of the Christian community who attended the meeting expressed satisfaction with the security arrangements and thanked the police administration, according to a press release issued by the Police Headquarters (PHQ).

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Gaps in laws, enforcement fuel cyber violence against women

Speakers tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Preventing online violence is complex, it requires understanding technology, user behaviour, and the design of digital tools, which often leaves gaps in solutions, said speakers at a dialogue yesterday.

They highlighted the widespread problem of victim blaming, worsened by the rapid spread of harmful content online. They called for clear laws, well-defined roles, and standard processes so survivors do not have to act as case managers themselves.

The speakers also recommended paralegal and case-companion support to help victims collect evidence and file complaints more easily, stressing the need for coordination.

The remarks were made at a dialogue titled "Women and

RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Enact clear, survivor-friendly laws
- » Introduce paralegal and case-companion support for survivors
- » Strengthen coordination between police, NGOs, cyber units
- » Create digital platforms or apps for filing complaints safely
- » Ensure faster removal of harmful online content
- » Regulate social media platforms that profit from harmful content
- » Promote digital safety education in schools and families

Technology: Preventing Digital Violence and What to Do for Legal Protection", organised by Cyber Support for Women and Children (CSWC) at The Daily Star Centre yesterday afternoon.

Sharmin Khan, legal consultant at International Centre for Not-for-Profit Law, said, "Even though ordinances

exist, most people, including police and young users, do not fully understand them."

She said the government alone cannot address online harassment and called for collaboration with NGOs, technology companies and service providers.

"If victims can file complaints through an app, they will feel

safer and more comfortable, without having to visit a police station in person," she also said.

Sayed Ahamed, founder and CEO of the Institute of Informatics and Development, said online violence against women remains a serious problem due to weak legal protection and limited government action.

"Online harassment and misinformation are not being properly addressed. Victim blaming is still common, and women who led the July uprising have faced online attacks even after the protests ended," he said.

He criticised government initiatives, saying reform commissions often exclude women and focus on power-sharing rather than addressing inequality and online abuse.

"Social [media] platforms profit when violent content spreads. The

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4

Amnesty, CPJ demand release of journalist Anis Alamgir

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladeshi authorities must immediately drop terrorism charges against senior journalist Anis Alamgir, release him unconditionally, and stop targeting the press under national security laws, demanded Amnesty International and the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) yesterday.

In a statement, Amnesty said, "Anis Alamgir's arrest continues an alarming trend of individuals being targeted for being perceived to support activities of the now banned Awami League. Rather than misusing anti-terror legislation to silence people expressing their views and opinions, the interim government and authorities should instead be facilitating freedom of expression and association, including in the lead up to elections.

"The interim government must respect its obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and immediately release Anis Alamgir."

SEE PAGE 9 COL 7



47% newlyweds face mistimed pregnancies

Says icddr,b study conducted on 666 couples

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An icddr,b survey has found a strikingly high rate of mistimed pregnancies among newlywed couples in Bangladesh, with 47 percent of respondents reporting that their pregnancies occurred earlier than intended, largely due to social and familial pressure for early childbearing.

The rate was three times higher among participants in two urban slums compared to two rural sites, according to the cohort study conducted on 666 newlywed couples across four selected locations.

The study also identified high rates of early marriage, education discontinuation among newlywed women, and intimate partner violence.

Findings of the study, titled "Understanding the context and needs related to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) among newlywed couples in selected rural and urban areas of Bangladesh," were presented yesterday at a programme organised by icddr,b.

icddr,b Scientist and Principal Investigator Fauzia Akhter Huda, along with Assistant Scientist Tarana E-Ferdous and Research Investigator Syed Hassan Imtiaz, presented the findings.

The study was carried out between

December 2022 and December 2024 at four Health and Demographic Surveillance System sites of icddr,b - Chakaria in Cox's Bazar, Matlab in Chandpur, and the Mirpur and Korail slums in Dhaka.

The study showed that 43 percent of women in rural areas and 65 percent in urban slums were married before the age

AT A GLANCE

- » Mistimed pregnancy rate three times higher in urban slums
- » 73% couples became pregnant mostly within first year of marriage
- » 43% of rural, 65% of urban slum women married before 18
- » 60% of rural, 66% of urban women dropped out of education after marriage

of 18. Most marriages were arranged - 85 percent in rural areas and 53 percent in urban areas.

Early marriage among men (before 21 years) was comparatively lower, at 15 percent in rural areas and 37 percent in urban areas.

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A move to safeguard cultural heritage

Unesco launches exhibition, unveils action plan

STAR REPORT

Unesco Dhaka launched a cultural exhibition yesterday at the United Nations House in Gulshan, Dhaka, spotlighting a newly introduced National Action Plan aimed at safeguarding Bangladesh's cultural heritage and creative industries in times of crisis.

The event, supported by Unesco's Heritage Emergency Fund (HEF), brings together documentation, research insights, and community



narratives to showcase both the country's rich cultural diversity and the pathways towards long-term resilience in the culture sector.

Following the student-led mass

uprising in August 2024, Unesco conducted a rapid, evidence-based assessment across tangible and intangible heritage and creative industries, using field data and stakeholder consultations to inform the development of the National Action Plan.

According to Kizzy Tahnin, head of culture at Unesco Dhaka, the action plan translates ground-level findings into practical measures for immediate recovery while strengthening coordination and preparedness

to protect heritage and creative industries for the long term.

"Cultural heritage and creative communities are integral to Bangladesh's identity and resilience," emphasised Susan Vize, head of office and Unesco representative to Bangladesh.

She highlighted the central role of culture in social cohesion and recovery, adding that the initiative reflects Unesco's commitment to building systems, knowledge, and partnerships that safeguard culture while

preparing for future challenges.

Addressing the event, Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of Italy in Dhaka, Federico Zamparelli, underscored the human dimension of heritage protection.

He observed that many traditional art forms and crafts are increasingly at risk as artists and artisans struggle to sustain their livelihoods, stressing that safeguarding heritage also means supporting the people who keep these traditions alive.

Among the exhibition highlights was the presentation of the traditional saree weaving art of Tangail, recently inscribed on Unesco's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

The exhibition also featured visual documentation of heritage and creative industries, video storytelling on Old Dhaka's cultural legacy, and displays celebrating Bangladesh's internationally recognised heritage elements and stories.

Actor and producer Jaya Ahsan attended the event as a special guest.

MATHBARIA UPAZILA HEALTH COMPLEX

Construction stalled for 10 months, patients suffer

KM HABIBUR RAHMAN, Pirojpur

Patients at the Mathbaria Upazila Health Complex in Pirojpur are facing severe hardship as construction of the hospital's new building has remained suspended for the last 10 months, badly affecting both indoor and outdoor services.

Since the construction began, key facilities such as X-ray and caesarean sections relied upon by residents of at least five surrounding upazilas have remained closed, forcing patients to seek treatment elsewhere or endure delays.

The project to upgrade the 50-bed hospital to a 100-bed facility started in August 2023 at a cost of around Tk 31.5 crore under the Health, Population and Nutrition Sector Programme (HPNSP). The five-storey building, with a foundation for six storeys, is scheduled to be completed by June next year.

However, after around 45 percent of the work was completed, the contractor abandoned the project citing a fund crisis, leaving the construction site idle for months.

The project also includes



PHOTO: STAR

residential facilities for doctors, nurses and staff, as well as vertical expansion of the old building. With the new structure incomplete, indoor services are now being provided from an old staff quarters building, where male and female patients are forced to stay in the same rooms. Due to space constraints, patients suffering from infectious diseases are also being kept together.

"There are nine beds here, but at best four can be properly arranged," said Majnu Mia, a patient's relative, adding that the lack of basic facilities has made hospital stays extremely difficult. Another attendant, Jahana Begum, said they were compelled to share rooms with male patients despite feeling uncomfortable. "Although we are unwilling, we have no other option. We are

passing our days amid serious difficulties," she said.

Outdoor patient Farjana Akter said the hospital lacks minimum facilities, while long waits are common due to an acute shortage of doctors. "Patients often wait for hours but still fail to see the expected doctor," she said.

Echoing her frustration, Doly Akter said, "I cannot express in words how much difficulty we face while receiving services."

Resident Medical Officer Dr Md Ferdous Islam acknowledged the crisis, saying inadequate space has worsened patient suffering.

He noted that only six doctors, including administrative staffers, are serving more than 500 patients daily against 31 sanctioned posts. "Posting more doctors and completing the building would ease the situation," he said.

Tanjila Ferdousi, executive engineer of the Health Engineering Department in Pirojpur, said funds were allocated by Ecne on November 10 to complete unfinished work. "Once the funds are released, necessary procedures will begin," she said, without giving a timeline.

Ctg cop dies while on duty

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A police constable of Chattogram Metropolitan Police (CMP) died while on duty at the court building in Chattogram's Court Hill area last evening.

The deceased, Mozammel Hoque, from Ashuganj in Brahmanbaria, was attached to Double Mooring Police Station under CMP's West Zone, police officials said.

Police said he had come to the court with documents and files from the police station. He collapsed in a corridor while walking out after submitting the files to the section concerned.

Aminur Rashid, assistant commissioner of police and spokesperson of CMP, said, "The constable was rushed to Chattogram Medical College Hospital, where the on-duty doctor declared him dead."

He added that doctors said he had a stroke.

EIGHT-POINT DEMAND

Rangamati agri institute students boycott classes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Students of Rangamati Agricultural Training Institute yesterday staged a protest by boycotting classes and examinations, pressing for their eight-point demand.

They observed the programme by locking the administrative and academic buildings as well as the main gate, leaving teachers and staff standing outside.

The students said diploma agriculturists should have opportunities to pursue higher education at independent public agricultural universities and that deputy assistant agricultural officers should be upgraded to second class gazette posts.

They said the movement aims to realise the eight-point demands to improve the quality of diploma agricultural education, including addressing the shortage of teachers.

"As our demands have not been implemented, we have started the agitation by skipping examinations," a student said, adding that the movement would continue until the demands are met and the boycott of classes and exams would remain in force.



পাওয়ার গ্রিড বাংলাদেশ পিএলসি
POWER GRID BANGLADESH PLC
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

Grid Bhaban, Avenue-3, Jahurul Islam City, Aftabnagar, Badda, Dhaka-1212 Web: www.powergrid.gov.bd
স্মারক নং- ২৭.২২.০০০০.৬৬৩.০৭.০০২.২৫.৪৪৭ তারিখঃ ১৪/১২/২০২৫ খ্রিঃ

e-Tender বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পাওয়ার গ্রিডের জিএমডি, ঢাকা (সেন্ট্রাল) দপ্তরের আওতাধীন নিম্নলিখিত দরপত্র e-GP পোর্টালে প্রকাশিত হয়েছে।

| ID | Title of Works |
|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1191752 | Supplying and installation of IP Camera based Surveillance System at Gulshan 132/33 kV Grid Sub-Station under GMD, Dhaka-Central, Power Grid. |
| 1191820 | Supply, installation & Commissioning of IP Camera based Surveillance System at Cantonment 132/33 kV GIS Grid Sub-Station under GMD, Dhaka-Central, Power Grid. |
| 1193190 | Renovation/Repair, Maintenance and Painting Works of Control Room Building, Boundary Wall, Barbed Wire and Chain Link Fencing at Maniknagar 230/132 KV Grid Substation under GMD, Dhaka-Central, Power Grid Bangladesh PLC. |
| 1193202 | Supplying, Installation & Commissioning of 02 (two) nos. 5.0 Ton and 01 (one) nos. 2.0 Ton capacity Air Cooler for Cantonment 132/33 KV grid Substation and 01 (one) Nos. 2.0 Ton capacity Air Cooler for GMD office under GMD, Dhaka-Central, Power Grid. |

আগ্রহী ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানকে www.eprocure.gov.bd সাইটের মাধ্যমে দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণের জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

মোহাম্মদ তাজেদুল ইসলাম
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, জিএমডি, ঢাকা (সেন্ট্রাল)

Cases against

FROM PAGE 12

candidates who submit false information in affidavits. The EC has set December 29 as the deadline for submitting nomination papers.

According to BNP's cell on cases, enforced disappearances and killings, between 2009 and August 2024, over 1.5 lakh cases were filed against party leaders and activists, naming more than 64 lakh accused. Party leaders said around 37,000 of those cases were later withdrawn.

Senior BNP figures said they fear a section of election officials with close ties to a certain political party may attempt to create legal complications for BNP candidates by scrutinising these cases.

"As many of our candidates faced cases over the last 16 years under the fascist government, the party advised them to act carefully. If needed, the party will help them," a senior party leader told The Daily Star after the meeting.

At the meeting, Tarique urged party leaders to keep the grassroots united and active, warning that they must remain vigilant amid what he described as an ongoing conspiracy against the party.

Sirajganj-6 candidate Amirul Islam said, "The party advised us on how to submit nominations properly following the polls code of conduct under the RPO. It also asked us to follow the electoral code of conduct."

Rajshahi-3 candidate Shaiful Haq Milon said party leaders guided them on running effective campaigns, while Khulna-2 candidate Najrul Islam Manju noted, "Candidates' words and behaviour should not face any kind of criticism. That is why we were warned at the meeting."

According to meeting sources, candidates were also asked to centre their

campaigns on an eight-sector plan covering family welfare, agriculture, health, education, sports, the environment, religious affairs and employment. They were warned against using offensive language that could give rivals ammunition during the campaign.

The party further advised candidates on public communication — how to address rallies, respond to questions and remain alert to propaganda and what it described as false allegations, particularly on social media.

The BNP yesterday also held separate meetings with two allied platforms at its chairperson's office as part of ongoing efforts to resolve seat-sharing disputes ahead of the polls, party sources said.

The allies urged the BNP to reconsider several constituencies where it has already decided to nominate its own candidates, while BNP leaders assured them that partners would receive due consideration, including in future roles if the party forms the next government.

Syed Ehsanul Huda, coordinator of the 12-party alliance and chairman of Bangladesh Jatiya Dal, described the talks as positive. Fariduzzaman Farhad, coordinator of the Jatiyotabadi Somomona Jote and chairman of NPP, said their discussion was fruitful and that they had sought nine seats, with BNP giving assurances.

According to BNP sources, the party will continue one-to-one talks today with Colonel (ret'd) Oli Ahmed-led LDP, the six-party Ganatantra Mancha and Gono Forum, and will meet the Nationalist Democratic Movement, Left Democratic Unity and BJP tomorrow. After concluding discussions with all allies, BNP is also set to hold talks with Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam.

STATUTORY NOTICE
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(ORIGINAL STATUTORY JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO. 2234/2025

IN THE MATTER OF:
An application under Sections 81(2), 85(3) read with section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994.

AND

In the Matter of
Md. Mobarak Hossain, shareholder of NATIONAL TEA COMPANY LTD. at Dakkhingano of Holding No. 970, Kusumbag of Basaboo, P.S. Sabujbag, Dhaka-1214

.....Petitioner

NATIONAL TEA COMPANY LTD., a Public Limited Company having its Office- at BGIC Tower (7th floor), 34, Tophkhana Road, P.S. Shahabag, Dhaka-1000 representative by its Managing Director H.S.M. Ziaul Ahsan and another.

.....Respondents

Notice is hereby given that an application under Sections 81(2) and 85(3) read with section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994 was moved in the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh on 14.12.2025 by the petitioner for condoning the delay in holding the Annual General Meeting of 2024 of the company name & style as "NATIONAL TEA COMPANY LTD." The Hon'ble Company Judge Mr. Justice Ahmed Sobel has admitted the said application on 14.12.2025 and Hon'ble Court directed the petitioner to publish the notices within 3(three) weeks from the date and also to submit affidavit-in-compliance on or before 18th January, 2026. Any person interested in the said application may appear before this Hon'ble Court. A copy of the said application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of charges.

(A.B.M. Mostafa Kamal)
Advocate
Supreme Court of Bangladesh
Flat No. 402, Eastern Homes,
116, Segun Bagicha, Dhaka.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
Power Division
Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.
Admin-3 Section
www.powerdivision.gov.bd

No. 27.00.0000.043.07.042.25.595 Date: 17.12.2025

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited through the National e-GP Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of:

| SL No. | Tender ID | Description | Tender Publish Date | Tender Closing Date |
|--------|----------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. | 1193408, GR-02 | Procurement of Computer Consumables | 17.12.2025 | 01.01.2026 |

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted through National e-GP Portal. No hard copy will be accepted. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP Portal have to be deposited through any registered branch of enlisted banks. Further information and guidelines are available on the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Size: DG-1315/7025(5x3)

17.12.2025
Md. Masudur Rahman Masud
Senior Assistant Secretary
Power Division
Ph: 02223390024
E-mail: admin-3@pd.gov.bd

GD-2768

Career Opportunity Bangladesh Cricket Board

Ref No: BCB/Admin/HR/2025/952 Date: December 18, 2025

The Bangladesh Cricket Board is the national governing body for cricket in Bangladesh, responsible for the promotion and development of the game at all levels. With a dynamic and fast-growing cricket ecosystem, BCB plays a pivotal role in shaping the future of the sport nationally and internationally.

Position Title : HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES (HR)

Organization: Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB).
Location: Dhaka, Bangladesh.
Reports to: Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Board of Directors.
Employment Type: Full-Time.

Position Overview :

The Head of Human Resources (HR) at BCB is responsible for providing the organization's strategic leadership and operational oversight of all people functions across the BCB supported by modern HR systems and guided by best practices. This role involves advising the Board and CEO on the HR implications of strategic initiatives and overseeing the HR practices comply with Bangladeshi labor laws, international sporting regulations, and BCB's own governance standards. This position requires a strategic thinker with strong leadership skills, capable of driving HR performance and supporting operational excellence across the organization.

Key Responsibilities :

Strategic HR Leadership

- Develop and execute HR strategy aligned with BCB's vision and goals.
- Lead workforce planning, recruitment, learning and development, performance management, talent management, people governance initiatives.
- Advise CEO and Board on HR trends, risks, and opportunities.

Talent Acquisition & Retention

- Oversee local and expatriate recruitment, onboarding, and succession planning.
- Build and maintain a diverse, inclusive and skilled workforce.
- Implement retention strategies for critical roles.

Performance Management & Employee Relations

- Manage performance appraisal at required intervals, goal setting, and feedback.
- Resolve employee relations issues, ensuring fairness and transparency.
- Promote a positive organizational culture and high employee morale.

Compensation, Benefits & HR Operations

- Oversee payroll, compensation structures, fund management and benefits administration.
- Benchmark salaries and benefits against industry standards.
- Ensure accuracy and timeliness of HR operations.

Learning & Development

- Design and implement training and development programs.
- Develop leadership and succession programs for BCB staff.
- Encourage continuous professional development across the organization.

Governance & Compliance

- Ensure compliance with labor laws, BCB Code of Ethics and Conduct.
- Maintain HR policies, procedures, and employee handbooks.
- Prepare HR reports and metrics for the CEO and Board.

Qualifications & Experience:

- Masters degree in Human Resources, Business Administration, or related discipline.
- Minimum 12-15 years' progressive HR experience, including 5 years in a leadership role.
- Strong knowledge of labor law, HR governance, and compliance.
- Experience in sports organizations or large corporate settings desirable.
- Proven expertise in talent management, employee relations, and organizational development.

The interested candidates are requested to send their CV along with a forwarding letter mentioning expected salary and 01 (One) recent photographs to the Chief Executive Officer, Bangladesh Cricket Board, Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium, Mirpur-2, Dhaka 1216 at the email: job@bcb-cricket.com or before 01 January 2026. Only the short listed candidates will be called for an interview. Please mention the position of the application applied for on the top of forwarding letter.

Career Opportunity Bangladesh Cricket Board

Ref No: BCB/Admin/HR/2025/953 Date: December 18, 2025

The Bangladesh Cricket Board is the national governing body for cricket in Bangladesh, responsible for the promotion and development of the game at all levels. With a dynamic and fast-growing cricket ecosystem, BCB plays a pivotal role in shaping the future of the sport nationally and internationally.

Position Title : HEAD OF PROCUREMENT

Organization: Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB).
Location: Dhaka, Bangladesh.
Reports to: Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Board of Directors.
Employment Type: Full-Time.

Position Overview :

The Head of Procurement is responsible for the organization's strategic leadership, governance, and operational oversight of all procurement and inventory-related activities at BCB. The role ensures transparency, efficiency, and ethical compliance across sourcing, vendor management, purchasing, and inventory operations. Advising the Board and CEO, the Head of Procurement plays a vital role in driving cost efficiency, risk management, and stakeholder confidence while ensuring uninterrupted provision of goods and services to support BCB's operations.

Key Responsibilities :

Strategic Planning & Policy Leadership

- Develop long-term procurement strategies aligned with BCB's financial and operational goals.
- Establish and enforce procurement policies, covering tendering, vendor selection, and conflict-of-interest protocols.
- Oversee implementation of supply chain risk management practices.

Procurement Operations Oversight

- Supervise category management, purchasing, and logistics functions.
- Ensure purchase orders, contracts, and payments are processed efficiently.
- Monitor adherence to approved procurement policies through audits and compliance checks.

Vendor & Stakeholder Management

- Lead strategic sourcing initiatives for major contracts (broadcasting, sponsorship, construction, etc.).
- Manage relationships with high-value suppliers and stakeholders.
- Negotiate favorable terms while ensuring supplier compliance with ethical and quality standards.

Inventory Management Leadership

- Oversee budget allocation and policy compliance for inventory management.
- Act as the escalation point for major inventory discrepancies or losses.
- Ensure inventory systems are accurate, efficient, and transparent.

Risk Management & Compliance

- Identify potential risks in procurement and supply chain processes.
- Implement anti-fraud controls and due diligence mechanisms.
- Ensure full compliance with BCB, government, and ICC procurement regulations

Reporting & Governance

- Prepare procurement and vendor performance reports for BCB leadership.
- Track procurement metrics (savings achieved, cycle times, supplier ratings).
- Provide visibility of procurement and inventory performance through dashboards and presentations

Qualifications & Experience:

- Master's degree in Supply Chain Management, Business Administration, or related field.
- 12-15 years of procurement and supply chain experience, with at least 5 years in a senior leadership role.
- Professional certification (e.g., CIPS, CPSM) strongly preferred.
- Demonstrated success in strategic sourcing, vendor negotiations, and procurement governance.
- Experience with large-scale sports organizations or public procurement desirable.

The interested candidates are requested to send their CV along with a forwarding letter mentioning expected salary and 01 (One) recent photographs to the Chief Executive Officer, Bangladesh Cricket Board, Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium, Mirpur-2, Dhaka 1216 at the email: job@bcb-cricket.com or before 01 January 2026. Only the short listed candidates will be called for an interview. Please mention the position of the application applied for on the top of forwarding letter.

TRUMP'S GAZA PLAN Pak military chief Munir in spotlight

REUTERS, Islamabad

Pakistan's most powerful military chief in decades faces the toughest test of his newly amassed powers as Washington pushes Islamabad to contribute troops to the Gaza stabilisation force, a move analysts say could spark domestic backlash.

Field Marshal Asim Munir is expected to fly to Washington to meet President Donald Trump in the coming weeks for a third meeting in six months that will likely focus on the Gaza force, two sources told Reuters, one of them a key player in the general's economic diplomacy.

Many countries are wary of the mission to demilitarise Gaza's Hamas, which could drag them into the conflict and enrage their pro-Palestinian and anti-Israeli populations. But Munir has built a close relationship with the mercurial Trump to repair years of mistrust between Washington and Islamabad. In June, he was rewarded with a White House lunch - the first time a US president hosted Pakistan's army chief alone, without civilian officials.



Paramedics assist a resident during an evacuation from an apartment building hit by a Russian air strike in Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine, yesterday. President Vladimir Putin said that Russia would achieve its goals in Ukraine by diplomatic or military means, and would seek to expand a "security buffer zone" there.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Romanian journals back outlet behind graft protests

AFP, Bucharest

Dozens of Romanian journalists and several NGOs signed an open letter yesterday backing an under pressure media outlet whose investigation sparked nationwide anti-corruption protests.

The Recorder outlet's two-hour documentary into corruption in the court system touched a nerve in the eastern European country, which ranks as one of the most graft-ridden in the EU, according to Transparency International's corruption perception index.

Thousands have taken to the streets in rolling protests over the past week, but senior judicial officials have hit back and accused the outlet of being part of a "campaign to destabilise the judiciary".

The open letter published yesterday condemned "repeated and aggressive attacks" on the work done by Recorder, especially coming from within the judiciary.

Still plagued by high costs, low safeguards

FROM PAGE 12
despite migrants generating over USD 30 billion annually in remittance.

Prof Tasneem Siddiqui, executive director (acting) of the Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit, said, "The decline in allocation sends a clear signal that migrant welfare was not treated as a priority."

She said recent government initiatives - including a migrant lounge, overseas postal ballot voting, and a bilateral labour agreement with Saudi Arabia - failed to bring systemic reform.

"The election initiative is symbolically important, but what the sector needed was long-term planning. Instead, the ministry focused on day-to-day administration and missed a historic opportunity to reshape migration governance."

After the ousting of the previous government,

experts repeatedly called for a "National Migration Decade" - a roadmap for skills, welfare, recruitment reform and labour diplomacy - but no such vision emerged.

THE COST BORNE BY WORKERS

The cost of migration remains the heaviest burden on Bangladeshi workers.

Shariful Hasan, associate director at the BRAC Migration Programme and BRAC Youth Platform, said workers pay three to four times more than Nepali migrants to access the same markets, as recruitment remains dominated by unregulated middlemen.

"Reducing harassment at the airport should be a priority. A lounge will not solve their problems - migrant workers want a hassle-free experience, not cosmetic fixes," he said.

Prof Tasneem said,

"The government fixed official cost ceilings but failed to enforce them. No meaningful action was taken against agencies charging excessive fees, allowing exploitation to continue openly."

"Workers paid for a system meant to protect them, while their actual welfare needs remained unmet."

The Wage Earners' Welfare Fund, financed by Tk 3,500 from each migrant, is increasingly spent on administration instead of aiding distressed workers.

Experts say Bangladesh remains locked into exporting low-skilled labour to low-paying markets. BMET training programmes are short, weakly accredited, and misaligned with global labour demand.

There is no effective coordination between the

expatriate welfare ministry, the education ministry and vocational bodies, leaving no skilled migration pipeline. "This lack of integration kept Bangladesh trapped in low-value labour export," said Prof Tasneem.

She said opportunities in nursing and technical professions were missed because universities are barred from offering internationally recognised nursing degrees, making overseas placement unviable.

Although legal provisions exist to register sub-agents, Prof Tasneem said the rules were designed in ways that undermine accountability.

"Proposals for centralised digital registration and police verification were ignored, giving recruiters plausible deniability and workers no clear path to justice," she said.

Meanwhile, reports from Malaysia, the Gulf and Europe point to persistent failures in embassy services. Labour wings are often understaffed, poorly allocated, and difficult for workers to access.

A Bangladeshi construction worker in Kuala Lumpur, who has lived there for seven years, said, "When we go to the embassy, they tell us to make appointments or come later. Calls are never answered. If we face problems with employers, we get no guidance."

He added that embassy-linked officials sometimes "create hurdles instead of solving problems," pushing migrants toward private brokers even during emergencies.

The interim government, meanwhile, has yet to reopen key labour destinations - Malaysia, Oman, and the UAE - or revive nine previously closed markets.

Shariful warned that without progress, out-migration could drop sharply next year.

Even Saudi Arabia - Bangladesh's most reliable destination - is tightening requirements through measures such as the Takamul certificate, alongside delays in Iqama processing, salary payments and job transfers, heightening uncertainty among workers.

"These pressures expose a deeper vulnerability," Shariful said. "This model survives on one market. Any policy shock in Saudi Arabia can cripple the system."

As Bangladesh marks International Migrants Day and National Diaspora Day 2025 today, many workers say the observances feel hollow.

Niloy Mazumder, a migrant worker in Malaysia, said, "We bring dollars to our country. But when we need help, nobody stands with us."

Prof Tasneem said Bangladesh continues to prioritise remittance flows over the workers who generate them.

Prof Asif Nazrul, adviser to the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, could not be reached for comment despite repeated phone calls and text messages.



Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons (BCPS)

67, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Sarani, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.
BCPS No. 355/2025/29718 Date: 17-12-2025

Schedule of FCPS Part-I, FCPS (Final), Preliminary FCPS, FCPS Mid-Term and MCPS Written Examinations - January, 2026.

FCPS (Final), Preliminary FCPS and MCPS Examinations.

| Subject | Paper | Date & Day | Time | Venue |
|--------------|------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| All Subjects | Paper - I | 01.01.2026 (Thursday) | 9.00 A.M. to 12.00 Noon | BCPS, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212. |
| | Paper - II | 03.01.2026 (Saturday) | | |

FCPS Mid-Term Examination

| Subject | Paper | Date & Day | Time | Venue |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Anaesthesiology 2. Conservative Dentistry & Endodontics 3. Dermatology & Venereology 4. Haematology 5. Medicine & Allied 6. Obstetrics & Gynaecology & Allied 7. Ophthalmology & Allied 8. Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery 9. Orthodontics & Dentofacial Orthopaedics 10. Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery 11. Paediatrics & Allied 12. Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation 13. Prosthodontics 14. Psychiatry & Allied 15. Radiology & Imaging 16. Radiotherapy 17. Surgery & Allied | Paper - I | 01.01.2026 (Thursday) | 9.00 A.M. to 10.40 A.M. | BCPS, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212. |
| | Paper - II | 03.01.2026 (Saturday) | 9.00 A.M. to 12.00 Noon | |

FCPS Part-I Examination

| Subject | Date & Day | Time | Venue |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Medicine & Allied | 04.01.2026 (Sunday) | 9.00 A.M. to 01.00 P.M. | BCPS, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212. |
| 1. Anaesthesiology 2. Biochemistry 3. Dental Surgery (Conservative Dentistry & Endodontics, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Orthodontics & Dentofacial Orthopaedics and Prosthodontics) 4. Dermatology & Venereology 5. Forensic Medicine 6. Microbiology 7. Obstetrics & Gynaecology & Allied 8. Psychiatry & Allied 9. Radiology & Imaging | 05.01.2026 (Monday) | 9.00 A.M. to 01.00 P.M. | BCPS, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212 |
| 1. Anatomy 2. Community Medicine 3. Family Medicine 4. Haematology 5. Ophthalmology & Allied 6. Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery 7. Paediatrics & Allied 8. Pathology 9. Pharmacology 10. Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation 11. Physiology 12. Radiotherapy 13. Surgery & Allied 14. Transfusion Medicine | 06.01.2026 (Tuesday) | 9.00 A.M. to 01.00 P.M. | BCPS, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212 |

Program for OSCE, IOE, Oral, Clinical & Practical examinations for FCPS (Final), Preliminary FCPS, FCPS Mid-Term and MCPS examinations will be notified on the notice board and website of BCPS well in advance.

The list of the examinees and the name of the venue of the OSCE, IOE, Oral, Clinical & Practical examinations will be notified on the notice board and website of BCPS on the day before examination (after 8.30pm).

The Admit Card for FCPS (Final), Preliminary FCPS, FCPS Mid-Term and MCPS examinations will be available through online only from 20 December 2025 to 03 January 2026 (till completion of the written examination) and for the FCPS Part-I examination will be available through online from 20 December 2025 to 06 January 2026 (till completion of the FCPS Part-I examination). Please visit exams.bcps.edu.bd and login to the password-protected profile and print the admit card. Please contact examination department by 28 December 2025 if there is any problem related to download of the admit card. **The Admit Card for the January 2026 session is a prerequisite for entering the examination hall.**

- > **No Admit Card will be issued after the deadline.**
- > **No Admit Card will be printed and distributed from BCPS campus.**

Instructions for Examinees

- Bring colour printed admit card, ballpoint pen, 2B pencil and eraser.
- The examination hall will be opened 40 minutes before the commencement of the examination. Examinees will go directly to the examination hall.
- Examinees are not allowed to stay anywhere other than the examination hall.
- Examinees are not allowed to write anything on the admit card, question papers or keep any other papers. These may lead to the cancellation of the answer sheet/scripts.
- Copying in any form or talking with other examinees in the examination hall shall lead to the cancellation of the paper or any other disciplinary action.
- Carrying mobile phones/laptops/tabs/wrist watch/calculator/other electronic devices/bags/packets/water bottles/beverage cans/lighter/coins/metal objects other than keys by the examinees is prohibited. Carrying such materials shall be subject to expulsion from the examination.
- Examinees must use the same signature for the application, attendance sheet and answer script.
- Examinees are not allowed to write anything on the admit card/instruction sheet or keep any other papers. These may lead to the cancellation of the paper.
- FCPS (Final) written qualified examinees have to submit an "Information Update Form" immediately after publication of the written result through a link (<https://sds.bcps.edu.bd/bcps-erp/exam-info-update>). It is mandatory to submit the form. If found, incorrect information and an incomplete form, the examination will be held up/legal action will be taken against the candidate.



Professor Md. Billal Alam
Controller of Examination

GD-2769



বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক

(সেন্ট্রাল ব্যাংক অব বাংলাদেশ)
প্রধান কার্যালয়: মতিবিল, ঢাকা-১০০০

ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটি সচিবালয়

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নম্বর-১৫৭/২০২৫ তারিখঃ ৩০ অগ্রহায়ণ, ১৪৩২
১৫ ডিসেম্বর, ২০২৫

ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটির সদস্যভুক্ত ০৫টি ব্যাংকে ২০২২ সাল ভিত্তিক 'সিনিয়র অফিসার (প্রকৌশলী-সিভিল)/এসিস্ট্যান্ট ইঞ্জিনিয়ার (সিভিল)/সহকারী প্রকৌশলী (সিভিল) (৯ম গ্রেড, Job ID: 10211) এর ২৯টি শূন্য পদে নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে অনুষ্ঠিত MCQ Test ও লিখিত পরীক্ষার সময়সূচি, প্রশ্নপত্রের Content ও নম্বর বিভাজন সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

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ডিসিপিঃ ৪৮/২০২৫-৩৩৬৬ স্বাক্ষরিত/-
তারিখঃ ১৭/১২/২০২৫ মিজানুর রহমান আকন

পরিচালক (বিএসসিএস) ও
সদস্য-সচিব, বিএসসি

GD-2773

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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e-Tender Notice (OTM)

Memo No. 05.07.0000.000.034.07.0036.25-127 Date: 17 December, 2025

This is to notify all concerned that the following e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of goods as follows:

| Tender ID No. | Name of work | Publishing date & time | Last selling date & time | Closing date & time |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 1196698 | Procurement of Computer Accessories (Printer, Photocopier, Scanner, Portable Hard Disk etc.) for National Academy for Development Administration (NADA) | 18.12.2025; 12:00 | 29.12.2025; 10:00 | 29.12.2025; 14:00 |

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Mir Mohammad Mahbubur Rahman
Director
(Finance & Public Procurement)
National Academy for Development Administration

GD-2766

The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

We must protect our remittance heroes

Provide ethical recruitment standards, better skills

Today, we are observing International Migrants Day, recognising the enormous contribution of migrant workers in driving growth, enriching societies and shaping economies. For Bangladesh, this could not be truer: Bangladesh received a record remittance of \$30.32 billion in the last fiscal year. Remittances form the bulk of our foreign exchange reserves, stabilise the balance of payments and sustain millions of households. Yet while we glorify the importance of remittances, we cannot ignore the reality that migrant workers are among the country's most vulnerable citizens, exposed to exploitation, unsafe migration pathways and continued neglect.

Many aspiring migrants have been at the mercy of recruitment syndicates, which are powerful networks involving middlemen, sub-agents and in some cases, licensed agencies. These syndicates charge exorbitant fees that are much higher than the government-set ceilings, which result in these workers becoming mired in huge debts. Once they reach the destination countries, many discover that they have been duped, receive wages lower than promised, face harsh working conditions, or the jobs they had been promised simply do not exist. This paper has reported many times on the high number of deaths of both male and female workers, along with cases of abuse by the employer, lack of access to medical care or places where they can seek help. Migrants are also lured by trafficking cartels to take hazardous journeys by sea, often to be tortured and held hostage by gangs forcing families of the victims to pay exorbitant sums for their release. Many end up dying at sea.

Most migrant workers are low-skilled or semi-skilled and so are restricted to low-paying jobs. Often, countries hosting the highest number of Bangladeshi workers are not always the top remittance sources. Higher remittances come from destinations where migrants are better skilled, even if the number of workers is smaller. Besides, an over-reliance on a few Gulf markets makes labour demand and remittance flows vulnerable to policy shifts, economic upheavals, or geopolitical tensions in these regions. Destination markets have to be diversified and include East Asia and Europe. This requires sustained investment in skills and language training and certification that will be recognised globally.

Government policies must focus on workers' welfare and improving their opportunities. The chief adviser has recently stated that the priority has to be on building a broker and fraudulence-free system. This means breaking the grip of broker syndicates and punishing illegal sub-agents. Human trafficking cases must be disposed of quickly and the perpetrators brought to justice. Skills development, moreover, must be ramped up by the government so that workers can earn more and are less at risk of abuse. Finally, those migrants who return home unemployed and with hardly any savings must be supported through employment schemes, access to credit and social protection. Our migrant workers have proven their value many times over, during economic crises, currency shortages and global uncertainty. It is time Bangladesh truly honoured its migrant workers and provided the support that they deserve.

End the brick kiln menace in the hills

Court orders must not be reduced to empty words

The continuing operation of illegal brick kilns in Bandarban, despite a clear High Court directive and repeated enforcement drives, is deeply concerning. According to a report in this daily, kiln furnaces flare back to life as soon as inspection teams leave. This reveals how deeply entrenched this menace has become, while also showing that sporadic crackdowns, however well intentioned, are failing to deter violators.

Brick kilns are entirely prohibited in the hill districts as per the HC directive, yet a total of 70 kilns reportedly operate in Bandarban. The Department of Environment and the district administration have conducted mobile court drives, imposing fines, filing cases, and demolishing several illegal kilns. However, due to manpower shortages and dependence on multiple agencies to organise drives, continuous monitoring has not been possible. Moreover, according to locals, new kilns are being constructed by cutting hills and burning forest wood as fuel. Such illegal practices are accelerating deforestation and ecological degradation in one of the country's most environmentally sensitive regions. Alarming, some kiln operators have even attempted to attack government inspection teams, openly challenging the authority of the state.

The suffering of the local communities is also immense. In Thanchi, for instance, an illegal kiln has been found operating close to schools, government offices, a Buddhist temple, and an indigenous village. Students have complained of smoke entering classrooms and dust disrupting lessons, while residents say daily life has become unbearable. That similar complaints raised a decade ago went unheeded speaks volumes about institutional neglect, particularly towards Indigenous and hill communities.

What is at stake here is more than environmental compliance. Hill cutting, forest destruction, and unregulated emissions threaten biodiversity, public health, and social harmony in the hill tracts. Allowing illegal kilns to operate with impunity sends a dangerous message that laws and court directives can be ignored with little consequence.

The government, therefore, must move beyond reactive drives and adopt a permanent, coordinated enforcement mechanism in Bandarban and other hill districts. Kilns that restart after closure must face immediate sealing, confiscation of equipment, and criminal prosecution of owners. Adequate manpower and logistical support for enforcement agencies are essential, as is accountability for local-level inaction. Environmentally sensitive regions like the hills must be strictly protected from such destructive industries at all costs. Finally, the government must accelerate the transition from traditional brick kilns to environmentally friendly construction alternatives. Otherwise, illegal brick kilns will continue to undermine the environment and public health.

Bangladesh's flag belongs on the world's shipping lanes



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AHAMEDUL KARIM CHOWDHURY

Bangladesh is a maritime nation by location, heritage and workforce, yet its maritime policy remains anchored to a framework designed for another era. While nearly 90 percent of global trade moves by sea, Bangladesh continues to operate a closed ship registry that restricts foreign participation and limits the growth of national tonnage. In contrast, countries with fewer natural advantages—Panama, Liberia and the Marshall Islands—have turned their registries into global economic and strategic assets. Bangladesh's registry, by comparison, remains small and inward-looking, with only 95 vessels flying the national flag as of 2023. For a country with a 700-kilometre coastline, established marine academies and one of the world's largest ship-recycling industries, this marginal presence on global shipping lanes is not inevitable. It is the result of policy choices and a condition that can be changed.

At the heart of the matter lies a legal and structural constraint: under the Merchant Shipping Ordinance of 1983, only ships with majority ownership held by Bangladeshi entities may register under the national flag. This rule, a vestige of protectionist thinking, has inadvertently weakened the very capacity it was meant to preserve. Local shipowners often bypass the Bangladeshi flag entirely, choosing instead to register in Panama, Malta, or the Cook Islands, where taxes are lower, documentation is minimal and global service networks operate round the clock. Foreign owners, who control the overwhelming majority of world tonnage, have no pathway to register in Bangladesh even if they wished to. As a result, our flag appears rarely on global shipping lanes, relegated to coastal vessels and a small group of domestic operators. The consequences are severe: lost revenue and visibility, diminished diplomatic influence at the International Maritime Organization, and perhaps most painfully, lost opportunities for Bangladeshi seafarers.

It is here that the crisis becomes personal. Bangladesh produces a large number of competent maritime cadets each year—young men and women who complete rigorous academic programmes and meet international standards. Yet many of them cannot obtain the mandatory sea time required to qualify as officers because the national fleet is too small to accommodate them. This mismatch between talent and opportunity causes thousands of cadets to remain unemployed or underemployed, even

though global shipping periodically faces shortages of trained officers. Bangladesh has yet to solve this issue because it lacks the tonnage necessary to anchor a sustainable pipeline of maritime employment.

A path forward exists, and it is both practical and proven. Bangladesh can establish an international open ship registry under a public-private partnership model, allowing foreign-owned vessels to register under the Bangladeshi flag while maintaining strong regulatory oversight. Under such an arrangement, the state retains sovereignty, legal authority

and incentivise shipowners to employ its citizens. India has understood this better than perhaps any other country in the region. In 2025, MSC, the world's largest container carrier, agreed to re-flag twelve vessels to the Indian registry following high-level discussions in New Delhi. This outcome did not occur by chance. India tightened cabotage rules, reformed its merchant shipping law, offered targeted incentives for Indian-flagged vessels and used its vast domestic cargo base to make Indian registration commercially attractive. The results were immediate: more ships under the flag and more jobs for Indian seafarers.

That initiative marked only the beginning. India has since announced an ambitious target to re-flag at least 300 foreign-owned ships by 2030. This drive is part of a broader strategic vision—to reduce the country's massive annual freight bill, enhance logistical resilience, strengthen its maritime industrial base and position itself as a global supplier

berths, officer development quotas, financial incentives or reduced fees for compliant vessels—Bangladesh can convert each newly registered ship into a training platform. Liberia, Cyprus and the Marshall Islands already employ such mechanisms, and they work.

Critics often argue that open registries primarily benefit foreign shipowners. They misunderstand the nature of the modern registry business. It is not about subsidising trade; it is about exporting a sovereign service—legal order, regulatory reliability and compliance infrastructure. Panama and Singapore have demonstrated how such models can strengthen national capacity rather than dilute it. The greater risk lies in inaction. Maintaining a closed, outdated system means forfeiting revenue, influence and human capital while neighbours move ahead. We cannot afford to remain a spectator.

To move forward, a political endorsement is essential. An international registry must be treated



The Bangladeshi flag appears rarely on global shipping lanes, relegated to coastal vessels and a small group of domestic operators.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

and control over standards, while a private partner—typically an experienced international registry operator—handles marketing, global customer service, digital certification and compliance support. This structure mirrors the Liberia registry, the Marshall Islands registry and the modern Panamanian model. It is efficient, profitable and globally accepted. Most importantly, it is fast. Rather than spending decades building overseas offices, technical capacity and marketing channels, Bangladesh could leapfrog directly into the global registry market by leveraging a partner with existing infrastructure.

But revenue, while important, is not the primary motivation for such reform. The strongest national interest lies elsewhere: expanding employment and training opportunities for Bangladeshi cadets and officers. When a country operates a substantial fleet under its own flag—whether domestically owned or foreign-owned, it gains leverage to require or

create employment for its maritime workforce. Re-flagging is viewed not as a narrow fiscal instrument, but as a national development strategy. Through tax incentives at Gujarat International Finance Tec (GIFT) City, simplified digital registration, broader ownership eligibility, bareboat charter registration and favourable cargo policies, India has made its flag commercially compelling. The lesson for Bangladesh is not about scale, but about intent: a nation that controls more tonnage creates more opportunities for its people.

For Bangladesh, a modern, well-regulated international ship registry would generate revenue, enhance global stature and expand maritime services, but its most meaningful contribution would be resolving the long-standing bottleneck in cadet training and officer progression. By embedding seafarer employment requirements into the registry framework—through mandatory cadet

not as a bureaucratic extension but as a core pillar of the country's Blue Economy strategy. Legislative reform should allow dual registries: a closed national registry for domestic vessels and an open international registry for foreign-owned ships. A transparent and competitive tender should select an experienced global registry operator to manage day-to-day operations under state supervision. Compliance must be strict, with recognised classification societies authorised to inspect and certify vessels on Bangladesh's behalf. Digitalisation must be mandatory, ensuring fast, paperless and globally accessible services.

Bangladesh's maritime future does not depend on building more ships; it depends on building smarter policy. With a well-structured, PPP-run international ship registry, Bangladesh can honour its past while claiming its place in the future. The Bangladeshi flag can fly across the world—not as a flag of convenience, but as a flag of confidence, capability, and national aspiration.

INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY

High labour migration cost burdens Bangladesh

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MAX TUÑÓN and LANCE BONNEAU

When Shafiqul boarded a plane to Saudi Arabia last year, he carried two things: a small bag of clothes and a debt his family had never imagined. To secure a modest construction job, he borrowed nearly \$5,000—around Tk 5 lakh—demanded by brokers in his village.

His plan was simple: work hard, send money home, and repay the loan quickly. That did not happen. Earning \$300–350 a month, close to the average wage for a low-skilled migrant worker, Shafiqul spent almost his entire first year abroad repaying debt. His migration journey did not move him forward; it barely brought him back to zero debt. His story is not an exception. It is all too common.

Labour migration remains one of Bangladesh's strongest engines of employment and growth. More than 1.3 crore Bangladeshi workers support

economies across the Gulf, Southeast Asia, and beyond. In 2024, they sent home an estimated \$26.9 billion, around six per cent of national GDP.

Yet this success masks a troubling reality. Bangladeshi workers pay some of the highest recruitment fees in the world. The Labour Force Survey 2024 shows that the average cost of migration exceeds \$3,500 (Tk

not only exploitative for the workers, but they also affect Bangladesh's competitiveness in the labour markets it depends on. Bangladeshi migrants to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and Malaysia pay two to three times more than Indian or Nepali workers for the same jobs. This disparity is well known to employers and governments abroad and affects

practices, pushing employers to source workers from countries with transparent, regulated recruitment systems.

High recruitment fees cannot be explained by demand alone. Many countries with large underemployed populations do not face costs at this scale. Fees rise when oversight is weak, unethical practices go unchecked, intermediaries operate without accountability, and enforcement fails across migration corridors.

The Labour Reform Commission has rightly prioritised recruitment fees. While steps such as digital verification and stronger welfare support are welcome, they must be matched with bolder action, including tighter regulation of recruiters, effective complaints mechanisms, and clear liability for excessive fees.

Overseas employment remains critical to easing Bangladesh's job crisis. Reducing recruitment fees must therefore become a national priority, alongside investing in workers' skills. Migration should not begin with debt and desperation. To protect workers' dignity and secure future labour market opportunities, Bangladesh must confront one of the greatest barriers to safe and sustainable migration: the cost of migration itself.

Heavy debt forces workers to accept lower wages, unsafe conditions and excessive working hours, while limiting their ability to negotiate or complain. Families back home face financial strain, and many returnees without savings feel compelled to migrate again through riskier channels, being trapped in a cycle of debt-driven migration.

462,000), which takes roughly ten months of work to recover.

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Excessive recruitment fees are

Bangladesh's reputation. Workers remain under pressure to earn quickly, contributing to disputes, frequent employer changes, overstay, and irregular work. These outcomes are not choices; they are consequences of debt.

Global expectations are also shifting. As human rights and due diligence laws tighten in major markets, companies are increasingly accountable not just for working conditions, but for fair recruitment

How power and profit paralyse Dhaka's transport system



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Persistent traffic congestion, smog-choked air, and a fleet of poorly maintained buses define Dhaka's transport reality. These conditions are often described as a functional crisis. Yet, despite decades of sophisticated, internationally supported planning, efforts to modernise the city's transport system have faced continuous setbacks. This chronic disorder is not merely a technical failure awaiting the right managerial fix; rather, it appears to be a stable, politically constructed equilibrium that generates significant private rents for an entrenched political-economic network.

Evidence from the past 15 years confirms the remarkable resilience of this system. A 2009 World Bank study identified a network of bus syndicates, politicians, police, and trade unions that successfully frustrated reform. Fifteen years later, a 2024 Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) report identifies essentially the same network of challenges, suggesting that the system is not unstable; it is a highly resilient. The immobility experienced by the public, in this view, is the external cost of a rigid and established stakeholder arrangement.

The core dynamic driving Dhaka's transport dysfunction is a consolidated private network that views public transport not primarily as a service, but as a private rent-generating asset. The bus sector is dominated by powerful owner-worker associations, which benefit from close affiliations with political parties. According to TIB's 2024 study of registered bus owners, nearly 92 percent of them are associated with political parties, with 80 percent affiliated with the then-ruling party. This level of integration gives the network the capacity to exercise influence over decision-making and to share in the resulting illicit gains.

The returns from this system are substantial and quantifiable. According to the TIB report, the economy of unregulated financial transactions linked to private bus and minibus operations amounts to nearly Tk 1,059.37 crore annually. This figure represents the price paid by operators to maintain operational flexibility, shielding them from strict safety regulations, traffic enforcement, and effective regulatory modernisation.

At the operational level, an estimated

Tk 2.21 crore is generated daily from buses and hauliers at terminals and street-level hotspots. This massive, decentralised cash flow ensures that on-the-ground agents—enforcement bodies and local political actors—become integral stakeholders in the revenue stream rather than neutral arbiters of the law. The persistence of the entire system derives from this alignment of interests: owners secure profits, political patrons gain resources, and enforcement channels receive revenue.

Furthermore, the macro-level arrangement is protected by an institutional landscape marked by complexity and fragmented authority. Dhaka's transport sector is overseen by a wide array of institutions, including seven ministries and 13 agencies. What is often perceived as administrative inefficiency can, from a political economy perspective, be understood as a structural condition that dilutes accountability. By dispersing regulatory oversight across numerous bodies, the system effectively shields politically powerful, rent-seeking networks from meaningful state-led reform.

The Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority (DTCA), intended to serve as the central coordinating body, remains limited in effectiveness and demonstrably lacks the capacity and empowerment to coordinate effectively. The repeated failure to strengthen the DTCA, despite decades of plans calling for such reform, is viewed by some analysts as a successful defence of the profitable, decentralised rent model.

For micro-scale operation, the network's private profits are translated into everyday practice on the streets through a common

contractual arrangement known as the "daily deposit basis." This practice is a central mechanism fuelling driver behaviour, congestion, and operational impunity. Under this system, the bus owner is guaranteed a fixed daily deposit, insulating them entirely from market volatility and risk. The full burden of operational costs—traffic congestion, fluctuating fuel prices, and crucially, the daily payments required to ensure operational flexibility—is transferred to low-wage drivers and conductors.

To survive financially by meeting the deposit target, covering external costs, and earning a personal income, drivers are structurally compelled to violate traffic laws, speed, and compete recklessly. This contractual transfer of risk creates an urgent pressure to maximise daily revenue. In effect, transport workers bear the operational costs while sustaining the wider political-economic apparatus through their daily earnings.

So-called "soft" reforms aimed at fixing the foundational bus service, which would directly threaten the existing daily deposit model, are consistently undermined. The 2021 Dhaka Nagar Paribahan pilot, under the Bus Route Rationalisation committee, was designed to consolidate fragmented operators into a unified franchise system, but it ultimately failed. It was defeated by significant resistance from bus operators and internal political influence.

In contrast, capital-intensive infrastructure projects, such as expressways, are actively championed because they create new opportunities for large-scale procurement and construction rents. This strategy of selective implementation allows

decision-makers to project an image of modernisation and problem-solving, while simultaneously creating space for financial overruns and opaque procurement practices. In effect, political pressure and donor funding are diverted away from fundamental bus reform—the politically sensitive solution that would disrupt the persistent and profitable mechanisms underpinning the existing network.

The limited success of technical transport plans in Dhaka is a predictable outcome of deep-seated political-economic dynamics. Moving beyond this profitable equilibrium requires reform that is not merely administrative, but politically determined. Any viable path forward must confront the underlying political economy by directly challenging regulatory vulnerabilities through targeted scrutiny and enforcement of illicit transactions within key regulatory bodies. It must also establish a genuinely empowered and unified transport authority with clear executive authority to integrate planning and enforcement across the metropolitan area, overcoming institutional fragmentation. Finally, it requires reforming operational incentives by legally abolishing the structural risk-transfer model and enforcing a transparent and stable wage structure for transport workers.

Until the political and economic costs of maintaining this organised disorder outweigh the immense private benefits it generates, Dhaka's paradox of immobility will persist. The challenge is not one of finding the right technology, but of generating the political will to confront a deeply entrenched system.

COP30's outcome: A diplomatic setback



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The 30th Conference of the Parties (COP30) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) produced a lacklustre outcome by any measure, as reflected in many post-COP analyses. This remains significant because COP outcomes continue to shape the direction, pace, and credibility of global climate diplomacy, even when they fall short.

The COP presidency undertook extensive year-round preparations, circulating a series of letters, appointing around two dozen foreign and national envoys, and establishing four high-level leadership circles, including one of finance ministers. These initiatives were meant to mobilise global support to uphold multilateralism and align climate negotiations with people's lives. The presidency even decried the "banality of inaction" and pledged to avoid the "brutality of inaction" seen at previous COPs.

Despite such resolve, the Political Package largely represents non-substantive and non-effective decisions. This matters because weak outcomes at one COP often lower ambition in subsequent negotiations. The two cardinal issues of climate diplomacy—ambitious mitigation and climate finance—failed to pass even a minimum test.

Aspirations for ambitious mitigation are not backed by real commitments, as reflected in more than 60 formally recorded new Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), with slightly higher unofficial counts cited during COP30. Even the word "fossil fuel," or a reference to the previously agreed "transition away," was absent from the text. This avoidance points to a troubling alliance of major emitters from both developed and developing countries, to which the presidency itself appeared complicit.

Alongside being the largest producer of petroleum and other liquid fuels in South America, reports suggest that vast stretches of the Amazonian coastline hold a major share of newly discovered reserves. Even weeks before the COP, the host government commissioned offshore drilling, ignoring strong opposition from global advocacy groups. A report by the Stockholm Environment Institute further notes that by 2030, fossil fuel production will be double the level compatible with emissions reductions needed to keep the 1.5 degrees Celsius target under the Paris Agreement within reach.

Although climate finance was not a prominent agenda item, adaptation

finance was promoted under the banner of a "COP of Adaptation and Implementation." There was a "call for efforts to at least triple adaptation finance by 2035," without specifying any baseline. Based on the Glasgow COP26 decision to double adaptation finance by 2025 compared to the 2019 level of \$20 billion a year, the least developed countries (LDCs) have called for \$120 billion annually by 2030.

A "call" is a weak operative verb, and a call for "efforts" does not amount to a commitment. Once again, there is a blatant use of constructed ambiguity in the decision text, allowing rich countries a wide scope for subjective interpretation. If UNEP's latest

estimate of \$26 billion for adaptation finance in 2023—down from \$28 billion in 2022—is any indication, the tripling target is unlikely to be met by 2035.



FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

Brazil did, however, succeed in launching its flagship initiative, the Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF), with an initial capitalisation target of \$25 billion and pledges amounting to \$6.7 billion. A key reason for holding COP30 in Belém, a relatively small city in the Amazon, was to mobilise resources for the TFFF, even though the city was arguably ill-equipped to host an event of this scale.

This raises a recurring question: what is the utility of continuing the COP process when even minimal agreed outcomes fail to justify such hugely expensive annual gatherings? Yet, no viable alternative exists for a universal climate negotiation platform. The frequent extension of COPs beyond the stipulated two weeks itself signals dysfunction. Many negotiators from small countries are

forced to leave early, while those who remain are exhausted by late-night, non-stop negotiations. Decisions are then hastily gavelled through, often overlooking dissenting voices, on the argument that consensus does not mean unanimity.

Amendments to decision-making are technically allowed under Article 15 of the UNFCCC and Article 22 of the Paris Agreement, based on a three-fourths majority vote, but only as a "last resort." This option is unlikely to be exercised, as developing countries command more than three-fourths of the majority.

Consequently, negotiators repeatedly defer unresolved issues to future meetings or settle for innocuous work plans. Despite climate change affecting all countries, vulnerability and interdependence have failed to anchor negotiations in pragmatic realpolitik. The raw pursuit of national interests by major emitters continues to prevail, even within climate diplomacy.

The persistent intractability of fundamental issues reflects a dire lack of leadership. History shows that multilateral negotiations succeed when a powerful country, or a

cohesive group, leads the process. Ozone diplomacy under the Montreal Protocol succeeded largely due to US leadership, supported by European countries. A genuine global crisis like climate change cannot be resolved without similar strong leadership.

However, current global trends—including a fraught geopolitical and geoeconomic environment, the US withdrawal from the Paris process, the rise of right-wing politics in rich countries, sharp cuts in foreign aid by major European governments, and renewed emphasis on military security at the expense of climate security—do not bode well.

Western European countries, historically the most progressive bloc, remained largely muted, perhaps due to President Trump's distancing from their economic and security concerns. China, too, maintained a low-key presence, unlike in previous COPs. Yet, as the largest emitter and the global leader in green technology, China retains the capacity to fill this leadership vacuum.

China is no warmonger, historically

or in modern times. It possesses unparalleled liquidity, enabling it to establish two development banks operating across continents. After the Paris Agreement, it also created the South-South Solidarity Fund to support climate action in developing countries. With greater transparency, high concessionality,

and easier accessibility, this fund could meaningfully address the needs of climate-vulnerable nations. The institutional foundations for leadership are already in place.

Perhaps the world must wait and observe China's tradition of reflection before action. Yet, one thing is clear: no other country

currently has the potential to assume leadership in addressing this extraordinarily complex global commons challenge. One can only hope that when the Asian turn comes in 2027, China hosts COP32 and demonstrates such leadership in confronting the defining global crisis of our time.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Department of Social Services
Samajseba Bhaban, E-8/B-1
Agargaon, Dhaka-1207

Number: 41.01.0000.013.07.05.25 Date: 15.12.2025

Invitation for Tenders

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Ministry/Division | Ministry of Social Welfare | | | |
| 2 | Agency/Department | Department of Social Services, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207 | | | |
| 3 | Procuring entity name | Director (Admin & Finance), Department of Social Services (DSS), E-8/B-1, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207. | | | |
| 4 | Procuring entity code | Not used at present | | | |
| 5 | Procuring entity district | Dhaka. | | | |
| 6 | Invitation for | Procurement of Training and Training Materials (Event Management) | | | |
| 7 | Invitation Ref No. | 41.01.0000.013.07.05.25- | | | |
| 8 | Date | 15.12.2025 | | | |
| KEY INFORMATION | | | | | |
| 9 | Procurement method | (OTM) Open Tendering Method | | | |
| FUNDING INFORMATION | | | | | |
| 10 | Budget and source of funds | Revenue Budget, GOB | | | |
| 11 | Development partners (if applicable) | Not applicable | | | |
| PARTICULAR INFORMATION | | | | | |
| 12 | Tender Package No. | DSS/2025-26 SRO-03 | | | |
| 13 | Tender package name | Procurement of Training and Training Materials (Event Management) | | | |
| 14 | Tender publication date | 15.12.2025 | | | |
| 15 | Start of tender document selling date | 21.12.2025 | | | |
| 16 | Tender last selling date | 28.12.2025 (office working time) | | | |
| 17 | Tender closing date and time | 29.12.2025 Time: 12:00pm | | | |
| 18 | Tender opening date and time | 29.12.2025 Time: 12:30pm | | | |
| 18 | Name & address of the office(s) | Address | | | |
| | -Selling tender document (principal) | Not applicable | | | |
| | -Selling tender document (others) | Md. Saifur Rahman, Social Service Officer (Audit), Department of Social Services (DSS), E-8/B-1, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207. | | | |
| No conditions apply for sale, purchase or distribution of tender documents | | | | | |
| | Receiving tender document | 1st Floor, Department of Social Services (DSS), E-8/B-1, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207. | | | |
| | Opening tender document | 1st Floor, Department of Social Services (DSS), E-8/B-1, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207. | | | |
| 20 | Place/date/time of | 1st Floor, Department of Social Services (DSS), E-8/B-1, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207. | | | |
| | Pre-tender meeting (optional) | Date: 24/12/2025, Time: 12.30pm | | | |
| INFORMATION OF TENDERER | | | | | |
| 21 | Brief eligibility and qualification of tenderer | Upgrade trade license, current income tax certificate, VAT registration, related experiences and other requirements described in the tender document, as per tender | | | |
| 22 | Brief description of goods | Package No. 1, Lot-1: Event Management | | | |
| 23 | Brief description of related services | As specified in the Tender Document | | | |
| 24 | Price of tender document (Tk) (each lot) | As deposit of 2000.00 Taka (non-refundable) for Lot 1 must be deposited in the Government Treasury through online Challan Code: 1422328 | | | |
| | Lot No. | Identification of lot | Location | Tender security amount (Taka) | Completion time in weeks/months |
| | 1 | Procurement of Training and Training Materials (Event Management) | Dhaka | 3,90,000.00 (three lac ninety thousand) Taka only Pay Order/Bank Draft/Bank Grantee from any schedule bank of Bangladesh Bank. | 30 June 2026 (Contract may extend for the fiscal year 2026-27 as per conditions mentioned in tender documents) |
| PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS | | | | | |
| 25 | Name of official inviting tender | | | | |
| 26 | Designation of official inviting tender | | | | |
| 27 | Address of official inviting tender | | | | |
| 28 | Contact details of official inviting tender | | | | |
| 29 | The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the tender proceedings. | | | | |

Director (Admin & Finance)
 Phone: +8802 55007022
 Email: director-admin@dss.gov.bd

GD-2762

আন্তর্জাতিক অভিবাসী দিবস এবং জাতীয় প্রবাসী দিবস ২০২৫ International Migrants Day and National Expatriates Day 2025

প্রবাসী কল্যাণ ও বৈদেশিক কর্মসংস্থান মন্ত্রণালয়

My Great Story:
Cultures and Development

দক্ষতা নিয়ে যাবো বিদেশ
রেমিট্যান্স দিয়ে গড়বো স্বদেশ

বৃহস্পতিবার, ৩ পৌষ ১৪৩২ / ১৮ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৫

বিশেষ ক্রোড়পত্র | আয়োজনে: প্রবাসী কল্যাণ ও বৈদেশিক কর্মসংস্থান মন্ত্রণালয় | সহযোগিতায়: তথ্য অধিদপ্তর (পিআইডি) এবং চলচ্চিত্র ও প্রকাশনা অধিদপ্তর (ডিএফপি), তথ্য ও সম্প্রচার মন্ত্রণালয়

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ



প্রধান উপদেষ্টা
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
০২ পৌষ ১৪৩২
১৭ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৫

বাণী

প্রবাসী কল্যাণ ও বৈদেশিক কর্মসংস্থান মন্ত্রণালয়ের উদ্যোগে 'আন্তর্জাতিক অভিবাসী দিবস ২০২৫' এবং 'জাতীয় প্রবাসী দিবস ২০২৫' একসাথে পালিত হচ্ছে যার মাধ্যমে আমরা আনন্দিত। এ দিবস উদযাপন উপলক্ষে সকল প্রবাসী বাংলাদেশি, তাঁদের পরিবার, অভিবাসন-এর সাথে সংশ্লিষ্ট উন্নয়ন সহযোগী, আন্তর্জাতিক সংস্থাসমূহের প্রতিনিধিসহ সকলকে জড়িত করা হবে।

আমাদের জাতীয় অর্থনীতি ও অগ্রগতিতে প্রবাসী বাংলাদেশিদের ভূমিকা অপরিসীম। প্রবাসী কর্মীদের পাঠানো রেমিট্যান্স দেশের অর্থনীতির চাকাতে সচল রাখতে বিরাট গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ভূমিকা পালন করছে। এটি বাংলাদেশের বৈদেশিক মুদ্রা রিজার্ভের অন্যতম বড়ো উৎস।

দেশের গণতান্ত্রিক অগ্রযাত্রায় ও প্রবাসী বাংলাদেশিরা বড়ো ভূমিকা রাখছেন। জুলাই গণঅভ্যুত্থানে প্রবাসী ভাই-বোনদের সক্রিয় অংশগ্রহণ আন্দোলনের ছাত্র-শ্রমিক-জনতাকে শক্তি ও সাহস যুগিয়েছে।

বর্তমান সরকারের সমন্বয়যোগী নানামুখী পদক্ষেপের ফলে বৈদেশিক কর্মসংস্থানের ক্ষেত্রে আগের তুলনায় অনেকটা উন্নতি হয়েছে। বিশেষ করে জাপানে বাংলাদেশি দক্ষ কর্মীদের জন্য কর্মসংস্থানের এক নতুন দিগন্ত উন্মোচিত হয়েছে। জাপানে যুব শ্রম যাঁরা পুরনো লক্ষ্যে এ মন্ত্রণালয় কর্তৃক 'জাপান সেন্স' গঠনসহ জাপানি ভাষা শিক্ষা কার্যক্রম এবং জাপানের চাহিদা অনুযায়ী বিশেষ বিশেষ ট্রেড প্রয়োজনীয় প্রশিক্ষণ প্রদানের মাধ্যমে জাপানে অভিবাসনের জন্য যোগ্য করে তোলা হচ্ছে। সরকার অনুমোদিত বেসরকারি রিক্রুটিং এজেন্ট, বিএমইটি ও বয়োসেল কর্তৃক বিদেশে কর্মী প্রেরণের কাজে গতিশীলতা আনা হয়েছে। ২০২৪-২৫ অর্থবছরে বিদেশে ১০ লক্ষ ১৫ হাজার ৩১১ জনের কর্মসংস্থান হয়েছে, এর মধ্যে ৯৪,১৭ শতাংশ পুরুষ কর্মী এবং ৫,৮৩ শতাংশ নারী কর্মী। বয়োসেলের মাধ্যমে ২০২৩-২৪ অর্থবছরে ১৫,৫৫৮ জনের এবং ২০২৪-২৫ অর্থবছরে ১৬,০৬৬ জনের বৈদেশিক কর্মসংস্থান হয়েছে।

আমি 'আন্তর্জাতিক অভিবাসী দিবস ২০২৫' ও 'জাতীয় প্রবাসী দিবস ২০২৫' উপলক্ষে আয়োজিত সকল কর্মসূচির সর্বস্বীকৃত সাফল্য কামনা করছি।

প্রফেসর মুহাম্মদ ইউনুস

বৈষম্যমুক্ত বাংলাদেশ বিনির্মাণে বৈদেশিক কর্মসংস্থান: আমাদের অর্জন ও সম্ভাবনা

বাংলাদেশ বিশ্বের অন্যতম প্রধান জনশক্তি প্রেরণকারী দেশ। বিশ্বের প্রায় ১৭৬টি দেশে দেড় কোটিরও বেশি প্রবাসী বাংলাদেশি বিভিন্ন পেশায় নিয়োজিত রয়েছেন। তাঁদের প্রেরিত রেমিট্যান্স দারিদ্র্য বিমোচন এবং বৈদেশিক মুদ্রার রিজার্ভ বৃদ্ধির দেশের অর্থনৈতিক উন্নয়নে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ অবদান রাখছে। বিদেশে কর্মসংস্থানের সুযোগ সম্প্রসারণ এবং আন্তর্জাতিক শ্রমবাজারে প্রতিযোগিতামূলক অবস্থান তৈরিতে প্রবাসী কল্যাণ ও বৈদেশিক কর্মসংস্থান মন্ত্রণালয় নিরলসভাবে কাজ করে যাচ্ছে।

- বর্তমান সরকারের সমন্বয়যোগী নানামুখী পদক্ষেপের ফলে বৈদেশিক কর্মসংস্থানের ক্ষেত্রে আগের তুলনায় অনেকটা উন্নতি হয়েছে। বিশেষ করে জাপানে বাংলাদেশি দক্ষ কর্মীদের জন্য কর্মসংস্থানের এক নতুন দিগন্ত উন্মোচিত হয়েছে। জাপানে যুব শ্রম যাঁরা পুরনো লক্ষ্যে এ মন্ত্রণালয় কর্তৃক 'জাপান সেন্স' গঠনসহ জাপানি ভাষা শিক্ষা কার্যক্রম এবং জাপানের চাহিদা অনুযায়ী বিশেষ বিশেষ ট্রেড প্রয়োজনীয় প্রশিক্ষণ প্রদানের মাধ্যমে জাপানে অভিবাসনের জন্য যোগ্য করে তোলা হচ্ছে। সরকার অনুমোদিত বেসরকারি রিক্রুটিং এজেন্ট, বিএমইটি ও বয়োসেল কর্তৃক বিদেশে কর্মী প্রেরণের কাজে গতিশীলতা আনা হয়েছে। ২০২৪-২৫ অর্থবছরে বিদেশে ১০ লক্ষ ১৫ হাজার ৩১১ জনের কর্মসংস্থান হয়েছে, এর মধ্যে ৯৪,১৭ শতাংশ পুরুষ কর্মী এবং ৫,৮৩ শতাংশ নারী কর্মী। বয়োসেলের মাধ্যমে ২০২৩-২৪ অর্থবছরে ১৫,৫৫৮ জনের এবং ২০২৪-২৫ অর্থবছরে ১৬,০৬৬ জনের বৈদেশিক কর্মসংস্থান হয়েছে।
- বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের তথ্যানুযায়ী সম্প্রতি রেমিট্যান্স প্রবাহ উল্লেখযোগ্য হারে বৃদ্ধি পেয়েছে। ২০২৩-২৪ অর্থবছরে প্রেরিত রেমিট্যান্সের পরিমাণ ছিলো ২৩.৯১ বিলিয়ন মার্কিন ডলার। ২০২৪-২৫ অর্থ বছরে রেমিট্যান্সের পরিমাণ বেড়ে দাঁড়ায় ৩০.৩২ বিলিয়ন মার্কিন ডলারে। বিশেষভাবে উল্লেখ্য, গত কয়েক মাস যাবৎ রেমিট্যান্স প্রবাহে নতুন গতির সঞ্চার হয়েছে যা দেশের বৈদেশিক মুদ্রার রিজার্ভ বৃদ্ধিতে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ভূমিকা পালন করছে। উল্লেখ্য, চলতি ২০২৫-২৬ অর্থবছরের নভেম্বর পর্যন্ত (৫ মাসে) মোট রেমিট্যান্স এসেছে ১৩.০৩ বিলিয়ন মার্কিন ডলার। গত অর্থবছরের একই সময়ের তুলনায় রেমিট্যান্স প্রবাহ প্রায় ১৮ শতাংশ বৃদ্ধি পেয়েছে।
- গয়েজ আর্নার্স কল্যাণ বোর্ড অভিবাসী কর্মী ও তাঁদের পরিবারের সার্বিক কল্যাণে নিয়োজিত। গয়েজ আর্নার্স কল্যাণ বোর্ড কর্তৃক ২০২৪-২০২৫ অর্থবছরে মৃত প্রবাসীর উত্তরাধিকারীদের বীমা দাবী বাবদ ১৭৮ কোটি ২৫ লক্ষ, আর্থিক অনুদান বাবদ ১২০ কোটি ৩৬ লক্ষ, লাস পরিবহন বাবদ ১৫ কোটি ৮২ লক্ষ, প্রবাসীর সম্মাননের শিক্ষাবৃত্তি বাবদ ১২ কোটি ২১ লক্ষ, বিদেশে দূতাবাস সহৃদয় মাধ্যমে কল্যাণমূলক কার্যক্রম পরিচালনার জন্য ৫২ কোটি ৮৯ লক্ষ, আহতদের চিকিৎসা সহায়তা বাবদ ৯ কোটি ১৭ লক্ষ এবং প্রবাসীদের বিদেশ যাত্রার ব্যয় নির্বাহের জন্য স্বর্ণের সুবিধার্থে প্রবাসী কল্যাণ ব্যাংককে ৭০ কোটি টাকা প্রদান করা হয়েছে। এ ছাড়াও প্রবাসীদের বর্ধমান এবং আগমন নিরাপদ ও আনন্দময় করার লক্ষ্যে বিমান বন্দরে ২৮৪ জন কর্মকর্তা কর্মচারী ঘুরা বিভিন্ন সেবা প্রদান করা হয়েছে।
- প্রবাসী কল্যাণ ব্যাংক অভিবাসনে ইচ্ছুকদের বিনা জামানতে অভিবাসন ঋণ প্রদান করে। তাছাড়া, নারী অভিবাসন ঋণ, প্রবাস ফেরত কর্মীদের পুনর্বাসন ঋণ, অভিবাসী বৃহৎ পরিবার ঋণ, আত্মকর্মসংস্থান ঋণ, বিশেষ পুনর্বাসন ঋণ, নারী পুনর্বাসন ঋণ এবং প্রবাসী কল্যাণ সাধারণ ঋণ প্রদান করে থাকে। সম্প্রতি এ ব্যাংক বৈদেশিক কর্মসংস্থানের উদ্দেশ্যে বিশেষ দক্ষতা অর্জনের জন্য ঋণ প্রদান কার্যক্রম চালু করেছে।
- রিএমইটি ১০৪ টি টিটিসি এবং ৬৬টি আইএমটি এর মাধ্যমে গৃহস্থ দেশের চাহিদা অনুযায়ী আরবি, ইংরেজি, জাপানি, চাইনিজ ও কোরিয়ান ভাষা প্রশিক্ষণ এবং ৫৫ টি ট্রেডে দক্ষতা উন্নয়ন প্রশিক্ষণ দিয়ে থাকে। ২০২৪-২৫ অর্থবছরে পিডিওসহ বিভিন্ন পেশায় ১২ লক্ষ ৭৫ হাজার ১৯৮ জনকে প্রশিক্ষণ প্রদান করা হয়েছে।

বৈদেশিক কর্মসংস্থানের সম্ভাবনা

বাংলাদেশের বিপুল জনগোষ্ঠীর একটি বড় অংশ কর্মক্ষম, যারা বিদেশে গিয়ে বৈধভাবে কাজ করতে আগ্রহী। কঠোর পরিশ্রমী হিসেবে বিশ্বের বিভিন্ন দেশে বাংলাদেশের কর্মীদের সুনাম ও ব্যাপক চাহিদা রয়েছে। জাপানে মোট জনসংখ্যা ত্রাসের ফলে সে দেশে বিদেশী কর্মীদের চাহিদা বৃদ্ধি পাবার প্রেক্ষাপটে তাদের চাহিদার আলোকে দক্ষ কর্মী প্রেরণের লক্ষ্যে বর্তমান সরকার বিভিন্ন ব্যবস্থামুখী পদক্ষেপ গ্রহণ করেছে। ইউরোপীয় ইউনিয়নের ট্যালেন্ট পার্টনারশিপ প্রোগ্রামের আওতায় ইউইউ সদস্য দেশসমূহে দক্ষ কর্মী নিয়োগের সম্ভাবনা দেখা দিয়েছে। বর্তমান সরকারের উদ্যোগে ইতালি, সৌদি আরব, দক্ষিণ কোরিয়া, জাপানসহ বিভিন্ন দেশের সঙ্গে নতুন করে কর্মসংস্থান চুক্তি স্বাক্ষরের ফলে সেসব দেশে বাংলাদেশি কর্মীদের কর্মসংস্থানের পথ সুগম হয়েছে। তাছাড়া, ইউরোপে কোয়ারিটার ও কুবিখাতে, জর্ডানে নারী কর্মীসহ দক্ষিণ কোরিয়া, ফিজি ও ক্রনাইয়ে মৌসুমি কর্মী প্রেরণের উজ্জ্বল সম্ভাবনা রয়েছে।

বর্তমান সরকারের গৃহীত পদক্ষেপ

- মাশবেশিয়ায় বাংলাদেশি কর্মীদের জন্য প্রথমবারের মতো মাল্টিপল এন্ট্রি ভিসা চালু হয়েছে;
- নির্ধারিত তারিখের মধ্যে (৩১ মে, ২০২৪) মালয়েশিয়ায় যেতে না পারা কর্মীদের পুনরায় ২৫ নভেম্বর ২০২৫ তারিখ হতে সরকারিভাবে সে দেশে গমনের ব্যবস্থা করা হয়েছে।
- শ্রমবাজার সম্প্রসারণের লক্ষ্যে ইতালি, সৌদি আরব, দক্ষিণ কোরিয়া ও জাপানের সাথে ০৭ টি সমঝোতা স্মারক/চুক্তি স্বাক্ষরিত হয়েছে। এছাড়া, সম্প্রতি জাপানের কর্মী নিয়োগকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের সঙ্গে বাংলাদেশের সেক্টর অর্গানাইজেশনসমূহের ৪০টি সমঝোতা স্মারক স্বাক্ষরিত হয়েছে।
- 'জাপান সেন্স' গঠন করে ৯৬টি সেক্টর অর্গানাইজেশন, ২০০টির বেশি বেসরকারি জাপানি ভাষা প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্র, ৩৩টি টিটিসি এবং সংশ্লিষ্ট পরীক্ষাকেন্দ্রে একক কার্ডামের আনা হয়েছে। এর ফলে মাত্র ছয় মাসে জাপানে ৬,০০০-এর বেশি কর্মী প্রেরণ করা হয়েছে, যা আগের বছরের তুলনায় ৫০ শতাংশের বেশি।

আইন ও বিধি সংশোধন

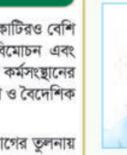
- বৈদেশিক কর্মসংস্থান ও অভিবাসী (রিক্রুটিং এজেন্ট শ্রেণিবিন্যাস) বিধিমালা, ২০২০ সংশোধনের মাধ্যমে রিক্রুটিং এজেন্টদের গ্রেডিং ও ক্ষমতায়ন পদ্ধতি সর্লীকরণ করা হয়েছে।
- সার-এজেন্টদের আইনি কার্ডামের আওতায় এনে জরুরিবিহিতা নিশ্চিতকরণের লক্ষ্যে বৈদেশিক কর্মসংস্থান ও অভিবাসী (রিক্রুটিং এজেন্ট লাইসেন্স ও সার-এজেন্ট নিবন্ধন ও আচরণ) বিধিমালা, ২০২৫ (সংশোধিত) প্রণয়ন করা হয়েছে।
- নিয়োগানুমতি প্রক্রিয়া দ্রুত ও সহজ করার লক্ষ্যে বৈদেশিক কর্মসংস্থান ও অভিবাসী ব্যবস্থাপনা বিধিমালা, ২০১৭ সংশোধন করা হয়েছে।
- অভিবাসন প্রক্রিয়ায় অনিয়ম প্রতিরোধে বৈদেশিক কর্মসংস্থান ও অভিবাসী আইন-২০১৩ সংশোধনপূর্বক মোবাইল কোর্টের আওতা বাড়ানো হয়েছে।
- জাতীয় পুনঃপ্রবাসীকরণ নীতি-২০২৫ প্রণয়ন করা হয়েছে। এর মাধ্যমে বিদেশ প্রত্যাগত কর্মীরা, বেকার ও অসহায় কর্মীদের বাছাই করে সুনির্দিষ্ট কর্মের আওতায় প্রশিক্ষণ প্রদানপূর্বক পুনর্বাসনের ব্যবস্থা করা হচ্ছে।
- হাউজ কিপিং প্রশিক্ষণ পরিচালনা নীতিমালা (সংশোধিত)-২০২৩ প্রণয়নের মাধ্যমে গৃহকর্মীদের প্রশিক্ষণ সেলসেবাস সক্ষিণ্ড ও যুগোপযোগী করে ০২ মাসের পরিবর্তে ০১ মাস এবং প্রত্যাগত গৃহকর্মীদের প্রশিক্ষণ ১৫ দিনের পরিবর্তে ০৩ দিন করা হয়েছে।

প্রবাসীদের কল্যাণ

- হরত শাহজালাল আন্তর্জাতিক বিমানবন্দরে 'প্রবাসী লাউঞ্জ ও ওয়েটিং লাউঞ্জ' স্থাপন করা হয়েছে। প্রবাসী রেমিট্যান্স যোদ্ধাদের জন্য ফ্রি সহায়কারী, ফ্রি WiFi, টেলিভিশন, স্বেচ্ছাসেবক এবং ফ্রি টেলিফোন সুবিধাসহ ৩০% ডিসকাউন্টে প্রবাসী লাউঞ্জে স্বাস্থ্যসমত খাবারের ব্যবস্থা করা হয়েছে।
- গয়েজ আর্নার ডেভেলপমেন্ট বন্ড-এ বিনিয়োগের সর্বোচ্চ সীমা তুলে দেওয়া হয়েছে।
- প্রবাসী কল্যাণ ব্যাংকের সাথে সিটি ব্যাংক-এর চুক্তির ফলে প্রবাসী কর্মীরা বিদেশ থেকে পাঠানো রেমিট্যান্সের মাধ্যমে গ্রাহকের ঋণ সমর্থনের পাশাপাশি এই ব্যাংক থেকে অর্থ উত্তোলন করতে পারবেন।
- বৈদেশিক মুদ্রা বিনিময় সফটওয়্যার চালুর মাধ্যমে প্রবাসী কল্যাণ ব্যাংকের ব্যাংকিং প্রক্রিয়া ডিজিটাইজড হয়েছে; এতে রেমিট্যান্স লেনদেন ও ঋণ প্রদান আরও দ্রুত, নিরাপদ ও স্বচ্ছ হয়েছে।
- প্রবাসী কল্যাণ ব্যাংকের অনুমোদিত মূলধন ৫০০ কোটি থেকে বাড়িয়ে ২,০০০ কোটি টাকায় উন্নীত করা হয়েছে এবং সুদ হার ১% কমিয়ে ৮% সর্বমুঠ ঋণ প্রদান করা হয়েছে।
- প্রবাসী কল্যাণ ব্যাংক জাপানে ন্যাচুরেল স্টুডেন্ট ভিসায় গমনক্ষমের সহজ শর্তে ঋণ প্রদান করছে।
- বিধিমালা সংশোধন করে গয়েজ আর্নার্স গয়েজফোর বোর্ডের কার্যক্রমের পরিধি বাড়ানো হয়েছে। ফলে কর্মীর পরিষ্কৃতিতে সহায়তা, কল্যাণকেন্দ্র সম্প্রসারণ ও বিদেশে কর্মরত প্রমিকদের জন্য 'আইনি সহায়তা প্রদান' করা সম্ভব হয়েছে।
- জুলাই গণঅভ্যুত্থানে আন্দোলনের জন্য মধ্যপ্রাচ্যে বিভিন্ন মেয়াদে সাজাপ্রাপ্ত দুই শতাধিক প্রবাসী কর্মীকে দেশে ফিরিয়ে আনা হয়েছে। এসকল রেমিট্যান্স যোদ্ধাদের জন্য প্রতি ৫০ হাজার টাকা আর্থিক সহায়তা প্রদান ও পুনর্বাসনের ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হয়েছে।
- সৌদি আরবের যুদ্ধাবস্থায় বিপন্ন বাংলাদেশি কর্মীদের সরকারি অর্থায়নে দেশে ফিরিয়ে আনা হয়েছে।
- লোনির বৃত্ত, জর্ডান ও ওমানে অনিয়মিত নারী শ্রমিকদের নিয়মিত করার ব্যবস্থা নেয়া হয়েছে।
- জর্ডানে নারীকর্মী ও ওমানে লক্ষিকর্মী অর্থাৎ কর্মীকে বৈধ করার প্রক্রিয়া চলছে।
- কাতার, ওমানে, সৌদি আরব, সংযুক্ত আরব আমিরাত এবং কুয়েতে ল-ফর্ম নিয়োগ করা হয়েছে। অন্যান্য দেশে ল-ফর্ম নিয়োগের ব্যবস্থা করা হচ্ছে।
- সৌদি আরবে অবস্থানরত প্রবাসী কর্মীর সমস্যা সমাধানকল্পে একটি বৌথ টাফফোর্স গঠন করা হয়েছে।
- ২০২৫ সালের ১ এপ্রিল 'ওভারসিস এমপ্লয়মেন্ট প্র্যাকটিস' চালুর মাধ্যমে বিএমইটি-এর সব সেবা এখন সম্পূর্ণ ডিজিটাল হয়েছে। এর ফলে সার্বিক কার্যক্রমে স্বচ্ছতা ও জরুরিবিহিতা নিশ্চিত হয়েছে।
- স্মার্টকার্ড ও বারকোডভিত্তিক অলাইন ইমিগ্রেশন হাউসের চালুর ফলে কয়েক মিনিটে ক্রিয়াকর্ম পাওয়া যাচ্ছে।

দক্ষতা উন্নয়ন সফলত

- ILO ও NSDA-এর সহায়তায় Recognition of Prior Learning কার্যক্রম সম্প্রসারণের মাধ্যমে অর্জিত দক্ষতাকে আনুষ্ঠানিক সনদস্বরূপে আওতা আনা হয়েছে।
- ৬৪টি টিটিসিতে 'ড্রাইভিং উইথ অটো-মেকানিক' শীর্ষক নতুন কোর্স চালু হয়েছে, যা দেশীয় ও আন্তর্জাতিক উভয় বাজারে কর্মসংস্থান সৃষ্টিতে সহায়ক।
- ১৩টি TTC-তে জাপানি (N4 ও N5) এবং জার্মান ভাষায় ছয় মাস মেয়াদি হাইব্রিড প্রশিক্ষণ চালু হয়েছে।
- বৈদেশিক কর্মসংস্থানের সম্ভাবনার ক্ষেত্রে ব্যাপক হলেও চ্যালেঞ্জও কম নয়। উন্নত ব্যবস্থাপনা, দক্ষ শ্রমিক তৈরি, স্বচ্ছ রিক্রুটিং ব্যবস্থা ও কর্মী সুরক্ষা নিশ্চিত করা গেলে বৈদেশিক কর্মসংস্থান বাংলাদেশের উন্নয়নে অধিকতর বিস্তৃত ভূমিকা রাখতে পারবে।



উপদেষ্টা
প্রবাসী কল্যাণ ও বৈদেশিক কর্মসংস্থান মন্ত্রণালয়
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বাণী

আন্তর্জাতিক অভিবাসী দিবস এবং জাতীয় প্রবাসী দিবস-২০২৫ এর এ আনন্দময় মুহূর্তে প্রিয় প্রবাসী ভাই-বোন, অভিবাসী কর্মী এবং তাদের পরিবারসহ সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের প্রতি জানাই আন্তরিক অভিবাদন।

প্রবাসী ভাইবোনদের প্রেরিত রেমিট্যান্স বাংলাদেশের অর্থনীতির প্রাণসঞ্চালক। নানা প্রতিকূলতার মাঝেও প্রবাসীগণ নিজ পরিবার এবং আমাদের অর্থনৈতিক সমৃদ্ধিসহ বিশ্বের বিভিন্ন দেশের সাথে বাংলাদেশের সেতুবন্ধন সুদৃঢ় করতে অসামান্য অবদান রেখে চলেছেন। প্রবাসী ভাই-বোনদের দেশমাতৃকার সেবার আত্মনিয়োগ, পরিশ্রম ও অবদানের প্রতি রইলো গভীর শ্রদ্ধা।

মাননীয় প্রধান উপদেষ্টা প্রফেসর ড. মুহাম্মদ ইউনুস এর বিচক্ষণ নেতৃত্বে বর্তমান সরকার অভিবাসন ব্যবস্থাপনায় স্বচ্ছতা ও গতিশীলতা আনয়নের লক্ষ্যে কতিপয় আইন ও বিধি সংশোধন করাসহ প্রবাসীদের কল্যাণে নানামুখী কার্যক্রম গ্রহণ করেছে। জুলাই গণঅভ্যুত্থানে অংশ নেওয়া মধ্যপ্রাচ্য থেকে দপ্তরপ্রাপ্ত ২১২ জন বাংলাদেশিকে মুক্ত করে দেশে ফেরত আনা হয়েছে এবং তাদেরকে 'রেমিট্যান্স যোদ্ধা' হিসেবে স্বীকৃতি দেওয়া হয়েছে। তাছাড়া সংযুক্ত আরব আমিরাতের কারাবন্দি অবশিষ্ট ২৪ জন প্রবাসীও সাধারণ ক্ষমার আওতায় এসেছেন।

অভিবাসন প্রক্রিয়াকে ডিজিটাইজড করা হয়েছে। বিদেশে কর্মী গমন প্রক্রিয়া দ্রুত, স্বচ্ছ ও সহজ করার লক্ষ্যে সমন্বিত অনলাইন Overseas Employment Platform (OEP) চালু করা হয়েছে। শ্রমবাজার সম্প্রসারণে বর্তমান সরকারের সময়ে ইতালি, দক্ষিণ কোরিয়া, জাপান ও সৌদি আরবের সাথে ০৭টি চুক্তি স্বাক্ষরিত হয়েছে। জাপানে দক্ষ জনশক্তি প্রেরণে সমর্থন কেন্দ্র হিসেবে প্রবাসী কল্যাণ ও বৈদেশিক কর্মসংস্থান মন্ত্রণালয় কর্তৃক 'জাপান সেন্স' খোলাসহ বিভিন্ন নতুন উদ্যোগ গ্রহণ করা হয়েছে।

বর্তমানে রেমিট্যান্স প্রবাহে নতুন গতির সঞ্চার হয়েছে, যা বৈদেশিক মুদ্রার রিজার্ভ বৃদ্ধিতে তাৎপর্যপূর্ণ ভূমিকা পালন করছে। বিদেশ যাত্রার আগে, পরে এবং বিদেশে কর্মকালীন প্রতিটি ধাপে প্রবাসী ভাইবোনদের যেন সঠিক সেবা, নিরাপদ ও সহায়তা পান তা সুনিশ্চিত করাই আমাদের মূল লক্ষ্য।

আসুন, সমন্বিত প্রয়াসের দ্বারা প্রবাসী ভাই-বোনদের সমান ও অধিকার নিশ্চিত করার মাধ্যমে একটি উন্নত, বৈষম্যমুক্ত মানবিক বাংলাদেশ গড়ে তুলি।

আন্তর্জাতিক অভিবাসী দিবস ও জাতীয় প্রবাসী দিবস ২০২৫ এর সার্বিক সফলতা কামনা করছি।

Asif Nazam
ড. আশিফ নাজম



উপদেষ্টা
পররাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

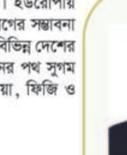
বাণী

সুষ্ঠু ও নিরাপদ শ্রম অভিবাসন নিশ্চিত করার লক্ষ্যে অভিবাসীদের অধিকার ও মর্যাদা রক্ষায় 'আন্তর্জাতিক অভিবাসী দিবস ও জাতীয় প্রবাসী দিবস-২০২৫' উদযাপন এর বিষয়টি বিশেষভাবে তাৎপর্যবহু। এ বছরের মূল প্রতিপাদ্য বিষয় 'দক্ষতা নিয়ে যাবো বিদেশ, রেমিট্যান্স দিয়ে গড়বো স্বদেশ'। আমি এ আয়োজনের সাথে সম্পৃক্ত সকল অংশীজনকে জানাই নিঃসঙ্কত শুভকামনা।

একটি নিরাপদ অভিবাসন প্রক্রিয়াকে প্রতিষ্ঠিত করতে পররাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়, প্রবাসী কল্যাণ ও বৈদেশিক কর্মসংস্থান মন্ত্রণালয়ের সাথে সমন্বিতভাবে কাজ করছে। বিভিন্ন আন্তর্জাতিক ও আঞ্চলিক ফোরামসমূহে অভিবাসন ও বঙ্গবন্ধু ক্রিয়াকলাপের মাধ্যমে বাংলাদেশের মাধ্যমে অভিবাসীদের স্বার্থ রক্ষায় কাজ করে যাচ্ছে। জুলাই গণঅভ্যুত্থান এর মাধ্যমে বর্তমান সরকার দায়িত্ব গ্রহণের পরবর্তীতে অভিবাসন উন্নয়ন, শ্রম কূটনৈতিক তৎপরতা বৃদ্ধি এবং অভিবাসীদের জন্য বিভিন্ন সেবা প্রাপ্তি সহজ করতে বাংলাদেশের প্রতিটি দূতাবাসে ২৪ ঘণ্টা হট-লাইন সেবার কার্যক্রম চলমান আছে। এছাড়াও নারী অভিবাসীদের জন্য শেল্টার হোম এবং দূতাবাস অ্যাপসের মাধ্যমে কনসালার সেবা চলমান রয়েছে। এছাড়া আন্তর্জাতিক ও আঞ্চলিক ফোরামসমূহে সক্রিয় অংশগ্রহণের মাধ্যমে বাংলাদেশের জন্য একটি নিরাপদ ও আন্তর্জাতিক মানের অভিবাসন ব্যবস্থা প্রতিষ্ঠার জন্য পররাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয় সর্বদা সচেষ্ট রয়েছে। বাংলাদেশের অর্থনৈতিক চাকা সচল রাখতে প্রবাসী কর্মীদের প্রেরিত রেমিট্যান্স এক অন্যতম ভূমিকা পালন করে থাকে। আজকের এই দিনে বাংলাদেশের এই রেমিট্যান্স যোদ্ধা কর্মী তাঁদের পরিবারের প্রতি রইলো শ্রদ্ধা ও ভালোবাসা। আন্তর্জাতিক মানদণ্ড ও বঙ্গবন্ধু ক্রিয়াকলাপের মাধ্যমে অভিবাসন জাতীয়, আন্তর্জাতিক সংস্থা, সুশীল সমাজের প্রতিনিধিদের একত্রিত প্রচেষ্টায় বাংলাদেশের জন্য একটি নিরাপদ অভিবাসন ব্যবস্থাপনা গড়ে উঠবে বলে আমি বিশ্বাস করি।

আমি 'আন্তর্জাতিক অভিবাসী দিবস ও জাতীয় প্রবাসী দিবস-২০২৫' উদযাপনের সার্বিক সফলতা কামনা করছি।

মোঃ হৌদ হোসেন



উপদেষ্টা
পররাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বাণী

অভিবাসীদের অধিকার ও মর্যাদা সমন্বিত রাখা এবং তাদের সার্বিক অবদানকে স্মরণীয় করে রাখতে প্রতি বছরের ন্যায় প্রবাসী কল্যাণ ও বৈদেশিক কর্মসংস্থান মন্ত্রণালয়ের আয়োজনে 'আন্তর্জাতিক অভিবাসী দিবস এবং জাতীয় প্রবাসী দিবস- ২০২৫' উদযাপিত হচ্ছে যার মাধ্যমে আমরা আনন্দিত। অভিবাসী কর্মী এবং তাদের পরিবারের সদস্যদের জন্য এ দিবসটির তাৎপর্য অপরিসীম। এ দিবসে সকল অভিবাসী ও তাঁদের পরিবার এবং সংশ্লিষ্ট সকল অংশীজনকে জানাই আন্তরিক প্রতি ও শুভেচ্ছা।

বর্তমান অর্থনীতির সরকার প্রবাসীদের দ্রুত ও যুগোপযোগী সেবা প্রদানের জন্য নিবিড়ভাবে কাজ করে যাচ্ছে। এরই অংশ হিসেবে প্রবাসীদের জন্য ই-পাসপোর্ট ব্যবস্থার প্রচলন অভিবাসন প্রক্রিয়াকে অনেকটা সহজ করে দেবে। মানব পাচার ও অভিবাসী চোরালান দমনের জন্য কঠোর আইনি ব্যবস্থা নিশ্চিত করতে 'মানবপাচার ও অভিবাসী চোরালান প্রতিরোধ ও দমন অধ্যাদেশ ২০২৫' প্রণীত হয়েছে। অনিরাপদ অভিবাসন ও মানব পাচার রোধে পররাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয় এবং প্রবাসী কল্যাণ ও বৈদেশিক কর্মসংস্থান মন্ত্রণালয়সহ সরকারের সংশ্লিষ্ট দপ্তরসহ নিবিড়ভাবে কাজ করে যাচ্ছে। সুষ্ঠু ও নিয়ন্ত্রিত প্রক্রিয়ায় শ্রম অভিবাসন নিশ্চিত করতে বর্তমান সরকার প্রতিশ্রুতিবদ্ধ।

বৈশ্বিক অর্থনৈতিক মন্দাসহ নানা প্রতিকূল পরিস্থিতি বিরাজমান থাকা সত্ত্বেও প্রবাসী বাংলাদেশিদের প্রেরিত রেমিট্যান্স দেশের অর্থনৈতিক চাকা সচল রাখতে এবং বিধিবিধি বাংলাদেশের মর্যাদা বৃদ্ধিতে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ অবদান রাখছে। বাংলাদেশের আর্থ-সামাজিক উন্নয়নে প্রবাসী কর্মীদের অবদানকে গভীর শ্রদ্ধার সাথে স্মরণ করছি।

আমি 'আন্তর্জাতিক অভিবাসী দিবস এবং জাতীয় প্রবাসী দিবস- ২০২৫' এর সর্বস্বীকৃত সাফল্য কামনা করছি।

লেফটেন্যান্ট জেনারেল মোঃ জাহাঙ্গীর আলম চৌধুরী (অব.)



সিনিয়র সচিব
প্রবাসী কল্যাণ ও বৈদেশিক কর্মসংস্থান মন্ত্রণালয়
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বাণী

প্রবাসী কল্যাণ ও বৈদেশিক কর্মসংস্থান মন্ত্রণালয় আন্তর্জাতিক অভিবাসী দিবস এবং জাতীয় প্রবাসী দিবস ২০২৫ যথাযথ মর্যাদায় উদযাপনের লক্ষ্যে বিভিন্ন কর্মসূচি গ্রহণ করেছে। এ দিবস শুধু একটি আনুষ্ঠানিকতা নয়; বরং অভিবাসী মানুষের অধিকার, নিরাপত্তা, দক্ষতার উন্নয়ন, সুশৃঙ্খল অভিবাসন ও মর্যাদাপূর্ণ শ্রমবাজার নিশ্চিত করার অঙ্গীকার পুনর্ব্যক্তি করার এক অন্যতম সুযোগ। এ দিবস উপলক্ষে আমি সকল প্রবাসী বাংলাদেশি ভাই-বোন, তাঁদের পরিবারের সদস্য এবং জাতীয় ও আন্তর্জাতিক সকল অংশীজনদের প্রতি জানাই আন্তরিক শুভেচ্ছা ও উষ্ণ অভিনন্দন।

বাংলাদেশের উন্নয়ন অগ্রযাত্রায় দেশপ্রেমিক প্রবাসীদের অবদান অপরিসীম। প্রবাসী ভাই-বোনদের শ্রমে ও ঘামে অর্জিত বৈদেশিক মুদ্রা পরিবার ও দেশের জাতীয় অর্থনীতিতে সমৃদ্ধ করার ক্ষেত্রে অন্যতম ভূমিকা পালন করে চলেছে। আমি সকল সম্মানিত রেমিট্যান্স যোদ্ধাদের প্রতি আন্তরিক কৃতজ্ঞতা জ্ঞাপন করছি।

আজকের বৈশ্বিক শ্রমবাজারে প্রতিযোগিতা বাড়ছে, প্রযুক্তি ও দক্ষতার গুরুত্ব আগের যেকোনো সময়ের চেয়ে বেশি। তাই এ বছরের প্রতিপাদ্য নির্ধারণ করা হয়েছে 'দক্ষতা নিয়ে যাবো বিদেশ, রেমিট্যান্স দিয়ে গড়বো স্বদেশ'।

মাননীয় প্রধান উপদেষ্টার সান্নিধ্য অনুপ্রেরণায় বিভিন্ন দেশের সঙ্গে চুক্তি ও সমঝোতা স্মারক স্বাক্ষরের মাধ্যমে নতুন নতুন শ্রমবাজার সম্প্রসারণের দক্ষতা উন্নয়ন, কর্মসংস্থান ও নিরাপদ প্রবাস নিশ্চিত করা হচ্ছে। প্রবাসী কর্মীদের নিরাপদ কর্মসংস্থান ও সুরক্ষা নিশ্চিতকল্পে মন্ত্রণালয়ের তত্ত্বাবধানে ২৭ টি দেশে বাংলাদেশি মিশনসমূহে ৩০টি শ্রম কল্যাণ উইং কাজ করছে। বিদেশ ফেরত কর্মীদের মর্যাদাপূর্ণ পুনর্বাসনের লক্ষ্যে ইতোমধ্যে 'জাতীয় পুনঃপ্রবাসীকরণ নীতি ২০২৫' প্রণয়ন করা হয়েছে এবং RAISE প্রকল্পের মাধ্যমে রিইন্ট্রিশনের ব্যবস্থা জোরদার করা হয়েছে। প্রবাসী বাংলাদেশি ডায়াস্পোরাদের দেশের উন্নয়নে অংশগ্রহণ নিশ্চিত করতে নীতিমালা প্রণয়ন করা হয়েছে।

আমি বিশ্বাস করি, দক্ষতা অর্জনের মাধ্যমে আন্তর্জাতিক শ্রমবাজারে বাংলাদেশের অবস্থান আরও সুসংহত হবে। এ দিবসটি যেন প্রবাসীদের অধিকার সুরক্ষণ, সেবা নিশ্চিতকরণ ও মর্যাদা রক্ষায় নতুন অঙ্গীকার নিয়ে আসে- এই প্রত্যাশা করছি।

আমি আন্তর্জাতিক অভিবাসী দিবস এবং জাতীয় প্রবাসী দিবস, ২০২৫ উপলক্ষে আয়োজিত কর্মসূচির সার্বিক সাফল্য কামনা করছি।

ড. নেয়ামত উল্লাহ উইয়া



Chief of Mission
IOM Bangladesh

Message

On the occasion of International Migrants Day 2025, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) proudly joins the global community in celebrating the theme "My Great Story: Cultures and Development." This theme compels us to look beyond statistics and see the human faces behind migration—the individual journeys that weave together cultures, spark innovation, and drive progress across borders. As we commemorate this significant day, we extend our sincere appreciation to the Government of Bangladesh for its leadership in producing this valuable publication, bringing together important perspectives on migration that will inform policy and practice.

Every migrant carries a story worth telling. These stories speak of courage and determination, of families building better futures, and of communities transformed by new connections. Migration shapes our world through this exchange of ideas, traditions, and skills—creating bridges between nations and enriching societies in ways both visible and profound.

Bangladesh's migration story is particularly compelling. Over 13 million Bangladeshis workers have sought opportunities abroad since 1976, and their contributions continue to grow. The record \$30 billion in remittances received in fiscal year 2024-25 represents more than economic flows—it reflects investments in children's education, improved healthcare for families, new businesses in local communities, and the strengthening of Bangladesh's economy. These workers serve as cultural ambassadors while maintaining deep ties to their homeland, embodying the spirit of this

3 charges brought against ex-NTMC chief Govt suspends

FROM PAGE 12
Addressing the tribunal, Tajul said that after 2009, a culture of enforced disappearance and extrajudicial killing became entrenched in Bangladesh, with Ziaul playing an "epic" role.

Charge 1 states that, acting on Ziaul's planning and with his direct participation, four persons, including one unidentified individual, were killed in 2011 near the Bypass Road area of Gazipur's Pubail.

Charge 2 alleges that between 2010 and 2013, at least 50 people, including former BDR member Nazrul Islam Mallik and Alkas Mallik, were shot dead at the confluence of the Baleswar river in Barguna, and their bodies were dumped into the river.

Charge 3 states that between 2010 and 2013, Ziaul was involved in the killing of another 50 people in Barguna and in the Sundarbans in Bagerhat under the guise of anti-forest bandit operations.

Chief Prosecutor Tajul Islam urged the tribunal to take cognisance of the charges, award the accused the highest punishment or any punishment deemed appropriate, and order the confiscation of his properties following trial.

The three-member tribunal, headed by Justice Md Golam Mortuza Mozumder, took cognisance of the charges and issued a production warrant against Ziaul, who is currently in custody, ordering that he be produced before the tribunal on December 21.

'EPIC ROLE' IN ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

He said Ziaul was posted to Rab as a major in 2009 and soon became "one of the most trusted officers" of then prime minister Sheikh Hasina through his activities.

"As a result, he never returned to his parent force, the Bangladesh Army, and remained in Rab until he was forced to retire as a major general in 2024," Tajul told the tribunal.

Despite allegedly not completing mandatory promotion courses or commanding a battalion, brigade, or formation, Ziaul was promoted to the rank of major general, an "unprecedented incident" in the history of the Bangladesh Army, Tajul said.

Briefing journalists after the hearing, the chief prosecutor alleged that the promotion was a reward. "Because of his extraordinary efficiency in killings and enforced disappearances, the then government rewarded him by granting the post in this irregular, rule-breaking manner," he said.

HORRIFYING KILLINGS
Tajul said one of the major killing zones was Char Duani of Barguna's Patharghata, stretching through the Char Duani canal to multiple points and the estuary of the Baleswar.

According to eyewitness

accounts, law enforcers in plain clothes would instruct shopkeepers at Char Duani Bazaar to close by 9:00pm, order lights to be switched off, and warn residents not to leave their homes, creating an atmosphere of fear.

Around 11:00pm or later, Rab members would arrive in black glass minibuses, jeeps, and double-cabin pickup trucks. Detainees were brought with their hands and mouths tied and heads covered with black cloth, leaving no chance of identification.

"From the Char Duani Bazaar Ghat, these detainees were taken on trawlers or boats to the middle of the river and shot dead using pistols with pillows pressed against their heads or chests," Tajul told the tribunal.

"After the shooting, their stomachs were slit open, cement blocks were tied to their heads and legs, and the bodies were dumped into the water. Blood and other traces on the boats were scrubbed to erase evidence. The code name of such preparation was 'Gestapo'," he said, adding that those involved in the operations were warned that speaking out would result in the same fate.

Similar operations were allegedly carried out in the Buriganga and Shitalakkhya rivers near Dhaka, the estuary of the Karnaphuli River, and the Bay of Bengal near Patenga in Chattogram, Tajul told the tribunal.

In many cases, Ziaul personally participated in the killings; in others, Rab

intelligence members or selected personnel from different battalions carried out the operations under his direct instructions, the prosecution said.

KILLING IN SUNDARBANS
The prosecution further alleged that Ziaul used so-called anti-robbery operations in the Sundarbans as a cover for mass killings, effectively turning the forest into a sanctuary for "killing missions".

Investigations found the involvement of both senior and junior officers, though their identities were withheld due to ongoing probes, Tajul told the tribunal.

According to the charges, detainees were taken at night to pre-arranged "robber dens" inside the Sundarbans. Rab allegedly built makeshift huts stocked with household items, clothes, and food to create the appearance of robber hideouts.

Victims were brought blindfolded and bound, shot dead, and Rab members then fired repeatedly to simulate gunfights. In some cases, loyal journalists were taken to nearby locations, kept away from the killing sites, and later briefed with fabricated narratives.

Many of the operations were either led by Ziaul or carried out under his direct supervision by Rab intelligence and selected members of Rab-8 and Rab-6, he added. Three major operations were cited - Operation Nishankhali, Operation Mora Bhola, and Operation Katka.

FROM PAGE 12
Badul is the president of the unity council, while Rabbani and Nazrul are vice-presidents and Sumon is the publicity secretary.

Meanwhile, the Inter-Ministry Employees Association has filed applications with the relevant ministries, seeking a meeting with several advisers and secretaries.

The applications, signed by Nazrul Islam, coordinator of the association, stated, "The employees are deeply ashamed and saddened by these short-sighted actions. Because of these activities, many innocent and low-paid employees and their families are living in fear - a situation that must be resolved urgently."

Contacted, Nazrul said, "Behaving in an unprofessional manner while protesting for fair demands is not acceptable; it cannot be supported. Because some individuals crossed the line during that day's protest, the leaders of the movement are now in a difficult position."

Assistant Sub-Inspector Hafizur Rahman filed the case with Shahbagh Police Station on December 12 against the 14 employees and 200 to 250 unnamed persons.

The case document said, "With the intent to endanger the integrity, solidarity, public safety or sovereignty of the country,

the accused conspired to create panic among the officials and employees, to confine the finance adviser, and to cause damage to Secretariat property."

The forwarding report submitted to the court mentioned that the accused confined Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed inside the Secretariat on the first day of protests on December 10.

It said the accused also conspired, aided, or instigated acts "to engage in terrorist and subversive activities".

Citing sources, the case's investigator Sub-inspector KM Rezaul Karim claimed the accused reportedly colluded with absconding fascist Awami League criminals and unlawfully assembled inside the Secretariat to render the interim government and the Secretariat ineffective.

"They did it to thwart the upcoming election," he said.

Police block march

FROM PAGE 3
Several hundred protesters under the banner of "July Oikya" gathered in the Rampura Bridge area and began the march around 3:15pm. When the procession reached North Badda around 4:00pm, police set up barricades and stopped the march.

Protesters later broke through the barricade but were halted again by a stronger blockade. They eventually sat on the road, chanting slogans and delivering speeches through loudspeakers.

At a sit-in in front of Hossain Market in North Badda, July Oikya leaders alleged that those involved in the July-August 2024 killings had fled to India and demanded their immediate repatriation.

They also said no political party would be allowed to build "friendly relations" with India in the way the Awami League had done to come to power.

The speakers demanded an end to border killings and called for immediate action to

stop such incidents. They also demanded the arrest of those involved in the shooting of Hadi. The programme ended around 5:00pm.

Meanwhile, traffic movement was severely disrupted in the Rampura, Badda, and Pragati Sarani areas, with hundreds of vehicles stuck for over an hour due to police barricades, the procession and the sit-in.

In North Badda, barricades on both sides of the road left only a narrow passage, causing long delays for commuters.

In another update, students under the banner of "Adhipotto Birodhi Shikharthirindo" staged an "Azadi" march at Dhaka University last night, protesting what they called interference by the Indian high commissioner in Bangladesh's internal affairs and a threat to the country's sovereignty.

The march began around 10:00pm from Madhur Canteen, moved through campus roads, and ended with a brief rally at the Raju Memorial Sculpture.

Police roll out special security

FROM PAGE 3
They said they hoped that, with everyone's cooperation, Christmas would be celebrated this year in a festive atmosphere while maintaining religious solemnity, as in previous years.

Welcoming the community leaders, the IGP said Christmas is a universal festival and that police remain alert around the occasion.

He expressed optimism that Bangladesh Police would use its full capacity to ensure peaceful celebrations of both Christmas and New Year's Eve.

The meeting reviewed the overall security situation and decided to take appropriate measures for the two occasions.

The PHQ press release said immediate legal action would be taken against anyone attempting to disrupt communal harmony by spreading misleading

posts, comments or images on social media centring Christmas and New Year's Eve. Cyber monitoring will be strengthened to prevent the spread of rumours.

Parties concerned were requested to deploy volunteers alongside law enforcement agencies to ensure security at churches across the country, and to ensure adequate lighting, including standby generators or rechargeable lights.

Security will also be tightened in tourist areas, including Cox's Bazar and Kuakata, on New Year's Eve, the PHQ said.

Action will be taken against excessive use of vehicle horns and reckless driving of cars or motorcycles.

People were advised to seek assistance from the National Emergency Service 999 or local beat police officers in case of any emergency.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court Secretariat has moved to strengthen security measures at all lower courts across the country in order to ensure the safe and uninterrupted conduct of judicial proceedings.

Mohammad Habibur Rahman Siddique, senior secretary of the SC Secretariat, issued a letter to the IGP on December 14 requesting him to take necessary security measures at all the subordinate courts.

In the letter, he said the judiciary requires heightened protection as subordinate courts witness the daily presence of large numbers of people, including litigants, lawyers, court officials, and staff members.

The letter also said the SC has recently taken several security-related decisions, under which access to courtrooms of both its Appellate and High Court Divisions has been restricted.

47% newlyweds face mistimed

FROM PAGE 3
Almost all marriages were legally registered, indicating age manipulation, Fauzia Akhter said.

The survey found that 60 percent of rural women and 66 percent of urban women discontinued their education immediately after marriage. Barriers included disapproval from husbands and in-laws, parental influence, relocation after marriage, prevailing social norms and financial constraints.

By the end of the study, 73 percent of respondents had become pregnant, mostly within the first year of marriage.

Of them, 47 percent reported mistimed pregnancies - three times higher in urban slums than in rural sites.

Although 68 percent of urban women preferred to wait at least two years before conceiving, 67 percent

became pregnant within two years of marriage.

Only 17 percent of urban women planned to conceive within one year, but 36 percent became pregnant within that time.

In contrast, 73 percent of rural women planned to conceive within one year of marriage, while 58 percent did so.

Asked about the reasons, Fauzia Akhter said pressure from husbands, in-laws and even parents was a major factor. She added that issues such as discontinuation of contraceptive use need further investigation.

The study also showed that 79 percent of surveyed wives experienced controlling behaviour by their husbands within six months of marriage.

During this period, 52 percent experienced economic violence, 23 percent psychological violence, 15 percent physical violence and

Amnesty, CPJ demand

FROM PAGE 3
In another statement, CPJ said police on December 15 opened an investigation against Alamgir and three others under the Anti-Terrorism Act. They were accused of spreading propaganda through talk shows and social media posts and of conspiring to rehabilitate the banned Awami League, citing news reports.

"Using a counterterrorism law to detain a journalist months before a landmark election raises serious concerns about the interim government's commitment to press freedom, a pillar of democracy," said CPJ Asia-Pacific Program Coordinator Kunal Majumder.

"Authorities in Bangladesh must immediately release senior journalist Anis Alamgir and stop targeting members of the press for expressing views critical of the government," the statement said.

Anis Alamgir was arrested by the detectives at a gym in the capital on December 14. A Dhaka magistrate granted police a five day remand to question Alamgir the following day.

The arrest followed a complaint filed by an individual who identified himself as an organiser of the anti-discrimination

student movement.

If convicted under the Anti-Terrorism Act, Alamgir could face life imprisonment and a substantial fine, CPJ said.

CPJ said it could not determine which sections of the act were applied, as it was unable to obtain a copy of the First Information Report.

CPJ also said it has documented a sharp rise in attacks on journalists in Bangladesh, including at least 17 journalists assaulted in February 2025 alone, along with multiple arrests and detentions under security-related laws.

A former war correspondent, Alamgir covered conflicts in Afghanistan in 2001 and Iraq in 2003. He has decades of experience in print and broadcast media and has recently commented on national politics, security issues, and media freedom through television appearances and social media.

বাংলাদেশ পানি উন্নয়ন বোর্ড

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর
খুলনা পানি উন্নয়ন বিভাগ-১
বাপাউবো, খুলনা-৯০০০
অফিস: ০২-৪৭৭৭০২৪০৮

Office of the Executive Engineer
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Memo No. 42.01.4794.000.629.07.0006.24-1105 Date: 17/12/2025

e-Tender Notice No. 03/2025-2026

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

| Sl. No. | Tender ID | Package No. & description | Location of the work | Tender/proposal document last selling date & time | Tender/proposal closing & opening date & time |
|---------|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 01. | 1196777 | Precautionary river bank protection work along the right bank of Atai river from km. 12.519 to km. 13.010 total 491.00m of Barakpur Digholia sub-project at Mominpur in upazila: Digholia, Dist: Khulna in c/w Disaster Risk Management Enhancement Project (Component-1, BWDB Part) under Khulna WD Division-1, BWDB, Khulna during the year 2025-2026. | Digholia Khulna | Date: 08/01/2026 Time: 11:30 | Date: 08/01/2026 Time: 12:00 |
| 02. | 1198451 | Re-excavation of Salta River from km. 5.000 to Km. 9.100=4.100km in connection with the project Re-excavation of Salta River for mitigation of pollution, eviction of illegal Structures & Rejuvenation of Salta River under Khulna District under Khulna Water Development Division-1, BWDB, Khulna. | Dumuria Khulna | Date: 08/01/2026 Time: 11:30 | Date: 08/01/2026 Time: 12:10 |
| 03. | 1198450 | Re-excavation of Salta River from km. 0.000 to Km. 5.000=5.000km in connection with the project Re-excavation of Salta River for mitigation of pollution, eviction of illegal Structures & Rejuvenation of Salta River under Khulna District under Khulna Water Development Division-1, BWDB, Khulna. | Dumuria Khulna | Date: 08/01/2026 Time: 11:30 | Date: 08/01/2026 Time: 12:20 |

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Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd) (16575) (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

পানি-৪৪২/২০২৫-২০২৬ (৭)৩০
Uzzwal Kumar Sen
ID No. 880108001
Executive Engineer (Addl. Ch.)

FROM PAGE 3

more views it gets, the more money platforms make. This must stop, and government intervention is essential," he said. He cited measures in Europe and Australia, such as age restrictions on social media, as examples that Bangladesh could consider.

He also said men in positions of power must take responsibility for addressing online violence against women.

Nova Ahmed, associate professor at North South University, warned that cyber violence spreads quickly and leaves permanent digital traces.

"Even women studying abroad hesitate to speak out due to fear of judgment or backlash," she said, urging greater inclusion of women and technology experts in efforts to create safer digital spaces.

Barrister Priya Ahsan Chowdhury, adviser at CSWC, said while Bangladesh has the Cyber Security Act and pornography control laws, challenges remain in their definitions and implementation.

"The earlier definitions were too broad and were

sometimes misused against women," she said.

She added that the new cyber law addresses issues such as revenge porn and online sexual harassment, but careful implementation is needed to prevent misuse.

Naziba Basher, journalist at The Daily Star, said online violence against women reflects long-standing social attitudes that have intensified with digital platforms. "When society demonises sexual desire and blames women, digital spaces amplify this violence," she said.

She said enforcement remains weak, and victims often feel intimidated or blamed when reporting abuse.

"Laws should protect survivors, ensure immediate safety, and help handle digital evidence properly, not just punish offenders," she added.

Farhana Yasmin, deputy commissioner of the DMP's Victim Support Centre, said many victims do not know where to seek help, and there is no quick mechanism to remove harmful online content.

She called for stronger coordination among police,

NGOs, and cyber units.

"Victims first need counselling to recover from trauma, followed by guidance on how to proceed with complaints," she said.

She also stressed the importance of digital safety education in schools and parental monitoring, adding that children should have parental controls and linked accounts to ensure safe online use.

Everything's gone

FROM PAGE 3
committee would be formed to determine the cause of the fire and assess the damage.

He said firefighting efforts were hampered by the area's narrow roads. "It is difficult even for a person to walk through these alleys," he said.

Calling the area hazardous, Saleh Uddin said

it did not fall clearly under residential or commercial zoning and showed little regard for safety or building codes.

Md Abdullah Al Mamun, officer-in-charge of Chawkbazar Police Station, said no cases were filed in connection with the fire as of last evening.

PRAYER TIMING

DECEMBER 18

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5-20 12-45 3-45 5-22 7-30

JAMAAT 5-55 1-15 4-00 5-25 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

পরিচালক (পরিকল্পনা ও উন্নয়ন) এর কার্যালয়
খুলনা প্রকৌশল ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
খুলনা-৯২০০, বাংলাদেশ।

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT)
Khulna University of Engineering & Technology
Khulna-9203, Bangladesh.

e-Tender Notice

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

| Sl. No. | Tender ID No. | Package No. | Description | Online Tender Notice Publication date | Online Tender Closing date |
|---------|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 01. | 1196620 (KUET/P&D/3169(05)/2025 Date-17/12/2025) | Package No.-RG-12 (Rev.) 2025-2026 Open Tendering Method (OTM) | Supply of Lab Equipment for Mechatronics Engineering Department | 17 December 2025 | 31 December 2025 |
| 02. | 1196621 (KUET/P&D/3170(05)/2025 Date-17/12/2025) | Package No.-RG-13 (Rev.) 2025-2026 Open Tendering Method (OTM) | Supply of Lab Equipment for Energy Science and Engineering Department | 17 December 2025 | 31 December 2025 |
| 03. | 1196622 (KUET/P&D/3171(05)/2025 Date-17/12/2025) | Package No.-RG-14 (Rev.) 2025-2026 Open Tendering Method (OTM) | Supply of Lab Equipment for Industrial Engineering and Management Department | 17 December 2025 | 31 December 2025 |
| 04. | 1196623 (KUET/P&D/3172(05)/2025 Date-17/12/2025) | Package No.-RG-15 (Rev.) 2025-2026 Open Tendering Method (OTM) | Supply of Lab Equipment for Chemistry Department | 17 December 2025 | 31 December 2025 |

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(Prof. Dr. Md. Foisal Hossain)
Director, Planning & Development
Khulna University of Engineering & Technology (KUET)
Khulna-9203.

GD-2776

THE SHELF

5 literary characters you might run into at a biye bari this winter

Tenida and his gang would have finished round two of the buffet and moved on to dessert. He would loudly complain that the firmi is not as good as the one in his neighbourhood sweet shop while eating three bowls anyway.

AGNILA ROY

As the breeze takes on its familiar chill and exams finally come to an end, my favourite season quietly takes over the city. It is not the long vacation, nor the crisp winter air. It is wedding season. All I want from this stretch of the year is a fresh stack of invitations, each promising a feast for the senses and, of course, a plate of biryani. For someone who secretly indulges in wedding films and cannot stop scrolling through endless pictures of celebrations, the thought of literary characters appearing at these venues adds an extra layer of delight to an already intoxicating season.

Lady Bracknell from "The Importance of Being Earnest"
Oscar Wilde
1895

No deshi wedding is complete without those sharp, sweeping glances that feel like they can slice through your soul. We have all walked into a hall only to feel a wave of judgment before the biryani even arrives. Lady Bracknell would not just participate in these exchanges, she would be their gravitational centre. The aunts would orbit around her, drawn to the sheer elegance of her disapproval, delighted to find a worthy leader in the noble sport of gossip. She would smile at you with a sweetness so polished it almost feels generous, yet behind it, the judgments bloom like fireworks. Her eyes would narrow at uncles whose kurtas lack the crispness she considers morally essential, and widen dramatically at aunts who dare to arrive without enough gold to trigger retinal damage. Her sole mission is to measure the world against an invisible standard and mentally sort them into her vast archive of societal shortcomings.

Pagla Dashu from Pagla Dashu
Sukumar Ray

M.C. Sarkar & Sons Pvt Ltd, 1940
Have you ever had a saree hem yanked by a rogue child sprinting past you like he was training for the 2032 Olympics? If not, count your blessings. If yes, then you already know the particular brand of havoc younger cousins unleash at every wedding. Pagla Dashu would be the beating heart of that chaos. While the bride's carefully curated Pinterest aesthetic tries its best to remain intact, Dashu would treat the venue like his personal adventure park. He is that cousin who cannot remain in one location for more than five seconds, whose footsteps sound like drumbeats of



ILLUSTRATION: MAISHA SYEDA

incoming chaos. You would look down to pick up a tissue and look up to find him sprinting across the stage, tripping over cables, nearly knocking down the ring light stand that the photographer begged everyone not to touch. While relatives ask him to stop, he only laughs louder. By the time someone decides to scold him, he has already escaped to another corner of the hall.

Hamlet from "The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark"
William Shakespeare
1623

If there is one person who absolutely should not be invited to a winter wedding—especially one at a cavernous venue like Shena Kunjo—it is Hamlet. Because while the rest of us struggle with long queues at the buffet, humidity-ruined makeup, and the eternal wait for the bride's entrance, Hamlet would struggle with the meaning of existence itself. One can only pray he does not get lost in the sheer size of the place and drift into a philosophical meltdown

about whether marriage is worth it in the first place, ideally not within earshot of the bride and groom. While everyone else takes selfies near the floral arch, Hamlet stands there brooding, arms folded, questioning why people smile in photographs when life is so fundamentally unpredictable. So while the rest of us worry about whether the biryani will finish early, Hamlet quietly debates whether attending this wedding was fate, an accident, or the first step toward a tragedy only he can foresee.

Keiko Furukura from Convenience Store Woman
Sayaka Murata
Bungeishunju, 2016

Wedding invitations take on a different weight when you are well past society's preferred age of marriage, yet perfectly content with your life. That alone can trigger an entire ecosystem of reactions from aunts who whisper in tight little clusters to those who look you up and down as if happiness without a husband is a puzzle they must urgently solve.

Keiko Furukura would walk straight into this atmosphere with her quiet, unfazed grace. Some aunts would adore her independence and immediately begin offering thinly veiled proposals for their sons. Others would stare with polite discomfort, confused by a woman who chooses routine and her own rhythm over the expected script of marriage. In their eyes, she becomes someone who must be corrected or at least explained. She simply does not understand why certain unreasonable rituals exist, and that alone is enough to make half the aunts glance at her with polite alarm. But Keiko would not mind, she simply notices them.

Tenida from Tenida Shomogro
Narayan Gangopadhyay
Ananda Publishers, 1996

There is always a group that appears out of nowhere and leaves without anyone knowing which side of the family they are from. Tenida would march into a Gulshan Club wedding with the confidence of someone who owns the

building. Behind him, Habul, Kyabla, and Pyalaram would follow like slightly bewildered backup dancers who are not sure what performance they have been dragged into. On the way, he pats strangers on the back as though they are old friends and laughs so loudly that heads turn. Between mouthfuls of roast and polao, he would narrate stories of how he once wrestled a tiger (he did not), swam across the Buriganga (he did not), or ate 32 shingaras in one sitting (this one might actually be true). By the time the groom's cousins begin their group dance, Tenida and his gang would have finished round two of the buffet and moved on to dessert. He would loudly complain that the firmi is not as good as the one in his neighbourhood sweet shop while eating three bowls anyway.

Agnila Roy is hoping for wedding invites every other weekend to keep the winter blues at bay and cannot wait to bump into familiar faces at the dawats. Send her wedding invitations at agnilaroy@gmail.com.

BOOK REVIEW: NONFICTION

Borders, blind spots, and broken histories

Review of Sam Dalrymple's 'Shattered Lands: Five Partitions and the Making of Modern Asia' (W. W. Norton & Company, 2025)

ZARIN JUNAINAH ANAM

I have officially read the first nonfiction book of my life, *Shattered Lands: Five Partitions and the Making of Modern Asia*, by Scottish Historian Sam Dalrymple. The reading was aided by a South Asian literature and Bangladeshi History course I have taken this semester, and I found myself engrossed to have come across familiar records the writer has shared in the book that I already read in depth for this class. It was equally invigorating to witness the gaping holes present in our national history.

These omissions are brought forth in *Shattered Lands*; the book looks at Southasian history through telescopic vision connecting dots from the Partition of Burma to the making of Bangladesh, intertwining it with modern day politics. Dalrymple introduces the book as one of the "epics" of the 20th century, and he unfolds this tale as the beginning of the end of Indian administrative colonialism in 1928. Initially, the author stars well-known characters like Mohammad Ali Jinnah, Mohandas Gandhi, Lord Louis Mountbatten, Jawaharlal Nehru and their ilk, embellishing the novel with glimpses into their love life and internal relationships that have shaped their politics. The author briefly explores the controversial friendship between Mountbatten and Nehru—that the commander of the Viceroy's Bodyguards called him "Pro-Hindu"—despite Nehru's love affair with Edwina, an English heiress and wife of Lord Mountbatten. The narrative further discusses the aristocrats often prioritising them as their desires and power remaps the land, using quotations from their own biographies to provide further historical information. For example, he uses an excerpt from VP Menon's biography to allude that at a



ILLUSTRATION: MAHMUDA EMDAD

party Mount Batten had a 'friendly talk' with the princely rulers who had not yet decided whether to accede to India or Pakistan.

As the book progresses, it expands to include people on the periphery, however, they are addressed as a collective. Dalrymple's practice in oral history allows him to shed light on the people who were deeply connected to such historical events—from a Sikh mining

engineer in Burma to a Bihari who underwent his third nationality change—ones whose identities were abandoned in mainstream history. Although the book features accounts of people like the king of Chakma tribe, Tridiv Roy, who later chose to stay in West Pakistan due to anger over Bengali Nationalism, and the Hindu Urdu poet Fikr Taunsvi, it could have also benefited from oral records of

women from marginalised backgrounds.

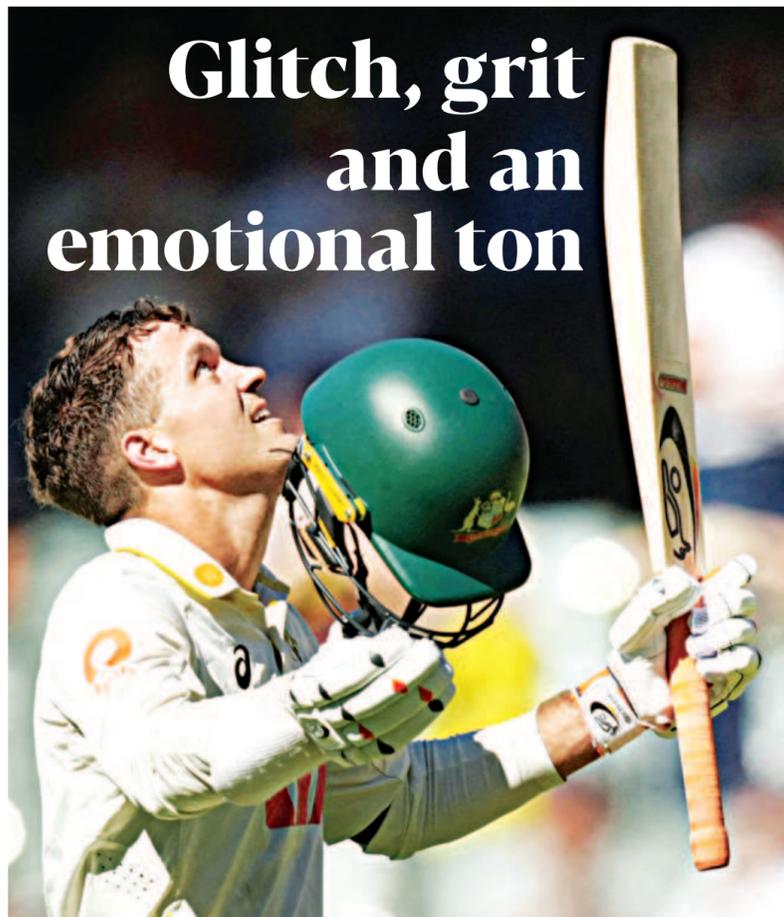
Notably, Burma's Partition is largely omitted from our national curriculum despite the country sharing a border with us. Dalrymple refocuses his historiographical lens on the borderlands. The author provides the history of the Arakan state that has enabled the military to otherwise and justify the Rohingya genocide. Dalrymple

also zooms in on the Naga independence movement and the Mizo uprising, and their connection to Bangladesh's war of liberation. The author underlines the people's suffering as he talks about how these movements were co-opted by politicians in a geographical competition between India and Pakistan. The historian writes, "it is perhaps more useful to see it as an attempt to undo the partition of India and Burma and reunite the Nagas on both sides" rather than secessionism. He doesn't just share historical information but takes historical stances by recognising East Pakistan's liberation before moving on to address the breaking of the nation as the "Partition of Pakistan".

The book also dives into the partition of the Arabian Peninsula from India where the formation of South Yemen led to an exodus of Indians and Pakistanis, in the same way Arabs were othered and exiled from Hyderabad after its annexation to India. Dalrymple tells a succinct tale of the fall of Shaykhs and the rise of the nationalist leaders, propelled by Britain hurrying to end their imperial rule. More than that, the author revives the forgotten connection by reminding readers of Haleem, a Hyderabad Sultan of Yemen and Oman's temples.

Sam Dalrymple's *Shattered Lands* should be an essential read across South Asia. The book is a reminder of a recent, shared history where the blindspot on one narrative often acts as a censor and a nationalistic tool. It is a reminder of the violence and fragility of borders.

Zarin Junainah Anam is an English literature major and bookstagrammer (@juntasbookshelf). When she doesn't have her nose stuck in a book, she either paints or doomsdrolls.



Glitch, grit and an emotional ton

An emotional Alex Carey enjoyed a 'special moment', Usman Khawaja seized an unexpected opportunity, a technological glitch worked in Carey's favour, and Australia mounted a comeback after a stutter against England – the opening day of the third Ashes Test in Adelaide produced several talking points.

- After Australia were reduced to 94 for four, with Jofra Archer removing Marnus Labuschagne and Cameron Green in the first over after lunch, Carey took charge. He shared crucial partnerships with Khawaja, Josh Inglis, Pat Cummins and Mitchell Starc on his way to a 143-ball 106.
- It was Carey's third Test hundred and his first in the Ashes. He raised his bat and looked to the sky in tribute to his father, who died of leukaemia in September, in front of family, friends and 56,298 fans at his home ground -- the largest cricket crowd ever at the Adelaide Oval.
- Carey survived a caught-behind decision on 72 after a glitch in the review technology. He later admitted he may have "feathered" the ball, but the noise detected by Snicko did not align with the ball passing the bat. The Snicko operator also later took "full responsibility for the error".
- Khawaja, who missed the Brisbane Test due to back spasms sustained in Perth and had been overlooked as opener in favour of Travis Head and Jake Weatherald, was drafted into the XI only after Steve Smith withdrew minutes before the start because of illness.
- Khawaja made the most of his chance, despite being dropped once, with a stoic 82 off 126 balls and a vital 91-run stand with Carey, helping Australia recover to reach 326 for eight at stumps.
- Australia lead the five-Test series 2-0 and will retain the Ashes with a win or draw.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Alcaraz parts ways with longtime coach

AFP, Paris

Men's tennis world number one Carlos Alcaraz announced on Wednesday that he has split from coach Juan Carlos Ferrero after seven highly successful years together.

Under the guidance of fellow Spaniard Ferrero, Alcaraz won six Grand Slam titles among his 24 tour-level crowns, including this year's French Open and US Open. The 22-year-old ends the season as world number one after claiming eight titles, highlighted by his dramatic victory over Jannik Sinner in Paris.

"It is very difficult to write this post," Alcaraz said on social media, sharing photos of the pair embracing. "After more than seven years together, 'Juanki' and I have decided to end our story as coach and player."

Alcaraz began working with former world number one Ferrero, 45, in August 2018 while still a teenager. He has never gone beyond the Australian Open quarterfinals, with next year's tournament starting on January 18.

Alcaraz did not name a successor, though Spanish media reported assistant coach Samuel Lopez will take over.



FIFA World Cup 2026 winners to get \$50m

AFP, Paris

The winners of the 2026 World Cup will receive \$50 million in prize money as part of a record financial distribution announced by FIFA on Wednesday.

The total World Cup prize fund will be \$655 million, an increase of almost 50 percent from the \$440 million at the 2022 tournament in Qatar.

The 2026 World Cup, to be held in the United States, Mexico and Canada from June 11 to July 19, will be the first edition to feature 48 teams, up from 32 in 2022.

Argentina received \$42 million in prize money in 2022 after lifting their third title in Qatar.

France earned \$30 million as runners-up. At the 2026 tournament, the beaten finalists will receive \$33 million, while the third-place team will earn \$29 million and the losing semi-finalists \$27 million.

Teams eliminated in the group stage will receive \$9 million, and all 48 participating nations will be paid an additional \$1.5 million to cover "preparation costs".

JUNIOR TIGERS SET UP ASIA CUP SEMIFINAL CLASH WITH PAKISTAN

Bangladesh pacer Iqbal Hossain Emon celebrates after dismissing Sri Lanka's Viran Chamuditha during their final Group B match of the ACC U-19 Asia Cup at the ICC Academy in Dubai yesterday. Bangladesh, sent in to bat first, were bowled out for 225 but bounced back with a disciplined bowling performance to dismiss Sri Lanka for 186 in 49.1 overs, sealing a 39-run victory. The win marked Bangladesh's third consecutive victory in the group stage, making them unbeaten group champions and setting up a semifinal clash with Group A runners-up Pakistan tomorrow.

PHOTO: BCB



'Special skill creates that demand'

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI

There is a long-standing perception that Mustafizur Rahman has not been the same since undergoing a shoulder surgery in 2016.

The left armer bamboozled one and all in his first year in international cricket, but once the novelty wore off and the surgery curtailed his unique skill, his effectiveness reduced considerably.

However, Mustafizur, now 30, still remains the most sought after Bangladeshi cricketer in franchise leagues across the world as just this Tuesday, Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) bought him for a whopping INR 9.2 crore, the highest ever bid for a Bangladeshi in the Indian Premier League (IPL).

Six more Bangladeshi cricketers were listed in this year's mini-auction, including Rishad Hossain, the Tigers' highest wicket-taker in T20Is in the last 12 months, who is currently playing for the Hobart Hurricanes in his maiden season in the Big Bash League.

Pacer Taskin Ahmed was also in the mix, who took three more wickets than Mustafizur during this period and had a significantly better strike rate, 11.6, compared to the left-arter, 17.3.

Still, only Mustafizur attracted interest in the auction. What then separates him from the rest?

According to Bangladesh batting coach Mohammad Ashraful, it's his unique abilities -- slowers and cutters -- and proven record on IPL wickets that fetched him the big bucks from KKR.

"He has a special skill, obviously, which creates the demand. He is different and you can say that there is no other bowler in the world like him," Ashraful told The Daily Star yesterday.

"I used to play [Muttiah] Muralitharan, a right arm off-spinner, and although Mustafizur is a



fast bowler, he produces a lot of revolutions on the ball like Murali... Playing him is a difficult prospect and if there is help in the wicket, it's even more challenging since it grips," he added.

Mustafizur, who made his IPL debut in 2016, has played for five different franchises across eight seasons in the league. In the last five seasons, he has claimed 41 wickets in 36 matches.

His economy rate in T20Is in the last 12 months is only 6.09, and in his three outings for the Delhi Capitals in the previous IPL season, he went for less than eight runs per over.

"Since the games are played on Indian surfaces, we see high scoring games, scores of 280, which again are being chased down at times. In those kinds of games, Mustafizur often turns out to be the difference-maker.

"In 14 matches in a season, at least 5-6 matches take place on a surface where Mustafizur can beat

a team all on his own. So, when a player can do that, he will always be in demand," he said.

Mustafizur, however, won't get a full NOC from the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) for the IPL as according to statements from cricket operations chairman Nazmul Abedeen Fahim, he would have to return to Bangladesh for 8-10 days between the stint for a home series against New Zealand.

Ashraful felt that the board should give Mustafizur substantial opportunity to shine in the IPL and he also rued how players with unique skills, like Mustafizur, fall through the cracks in Bangladesh cricket.

"We have players who are different but you can't just develop them through practice sessions, they aren't playing enough matches. When you play in Chattogram, you see many varieties in the nets but they aren't playing and I still don't know how these talents can come through," he said.

Bangladesh's Gourab defies 207-rank gap

SPORTS REPORTER

Three-time national champion Gourab Singha stood out among Bangladesh shuttlers at the Yonex-Sunrise Bangladesh International Challenge, advancing to the round of 32 with a convincing win over higher-ranked Australian Pushkal Irumumalla in Dhaka yesterday.

World No. 676 Gourab beat Irumumalla (469) 21-12, 21-11 on an otherwise disappointing day for the hosts at Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Stadium.

Top local players, including current national champion Abdus Soad (353), Shwi Ching Mong Marma (534) and Sifat Ullah (633), were eliminated in their opening main-draw matches.

"It is always pleasant to win an international match, and I want to carry this momentum forward as I will also be playing the men's doubles," said Gourab, who clinched National Badminton Championship titles from 2020

to 2022. The 23-year-old credited his recent exposure on the international circuit for the upset, having played four tournaments in Australia and Thailand.

"We could compete well against overseas opponents... but we often failed to earn the last four or five points. This has been an old weakness for us, either due to lack of stamina or technique.

"But training for the South Asian Games under foreign and local coaches helped improve our fitness and technique. We have also finished matches better in recent international tournaments in Australia and Thailand. [Al-Amin] Umar even reached the semifinals of the Canadian International Series because of improved finishing," he said.

Gourab admitted Bangladeshi shuttlers still lag behind overseas opponents in speed, experience and training quality, but felt individual adaptation also played

a role in results. "It's not possible for everyone to perform well every time. It also depends on how players adapt what they learned during South Asian Games training and how effectively they apply it."

Since 2011, the Bangladesh Badminton Federation (BBF) has hosted 12 Yonex-Sunrise-sponsored international events to improve exposure, an initiative driven by former general secretary Mahabubur Rob.

However, preparation support for local shuttlers remains limited, with some players reportedly competing after playing paid exhibition matches outside Dhaka. Gourab informed they often rely on these matches to fund equipment and travel, with a top player needing at least Tk 2 lakh a year and overseas tournaments costing even more. He spent nearly Tk 4 lakh on four recent overseas events, with the federation only assisting with visas.

Looking ahead, Gourab believes with better prize money, more ranking tournaments at home, and financial support for overseas events, Bangladesh will flourish on the international stage.



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Election to be tough for BNP, bigger test if voted to power

Says Tarique

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The next national election will be tough for the BNP, but the bigger test will come for the party if it is voted into power, said BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman yesterday.

"We strongly believe that, with people's support, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party will be able to form the government. The problem comes after that, the danger comes after that... The path ahead is extremely, extremely hard," he said at an event organised by the London Chapter BNP on the occasion of Victory Day.

The programme turned into a farewell event ahead of his return to Bangladesh.



At the event, Tarique confirmed

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Protesters try to breach police barricades in the capital's Badda as they march towards the Indian High Commission yesterday afternoon. They eventually sat on the road and chanted slogans in favour of their demands, including the extradition of deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and others who fled there during and after last year's July uprising. Story on page 3.

CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

3 charges brought against ex-NTMC chief Ziaul Ahsan

ICT takes cognisance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The prosecution yesterday brought formal charges on three counts against Maj Gen (relieved) Ziaul Ahsan for allegedly committing crimes against humanity, accusing him of orchestrating a systematic campaign of enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings.

Systematic campaign of killings, enforced disappearances

Complicit in over 100 killings during AL rule

Reading out the charges before International Crimes Tribunal-1, the prosecution said Ziaul's actions allegedly claimed the lives of more than 100 people during the Awami League regime.

According to the prosecution, Ziaul, while serving in key intelligence and operational roles in the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), directly participated in and commanded operations in which detainees were abducted, tortured, killed, and their bodies disposed of to conceal evidence.

The former director general of the National Telecommunication Monitoring Centre faces charges of murder, abduction, torture, enforced disappearance,

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Cases against its candidates a concern for BNP

Party warns them against filing inaccurate info

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

The BNP has alerted its election candidates that their nomination may get cancelled if they file inaccurate information regarding cases filed against them in the affidavits submitted with their nomination papers.

The party has asked nominees to seek assistance from its legal team while filling out the forms, amid concerns that many are entangled in cases filed during the Awami League's rule.

The guidance came at a six-hour meeting yesterday with about 100 BNP candidates, including 24 first-time contenders, at the party chairperson's Gulshan office. BNP leaders estimate that around 70 of the 100 candidates face multiple cases.

The session, chaired by BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman, focused on nomination procedures, campaign strategy, the electoral code of conduct and managing internal dissent.

Under the constitution, individuals convicted of criminal offences involving moral turpitude and sentenced to at least two years in prison are barred from contesting elections unless five years have passed since their release.

In addition, the Representation of the People Order empowers the Election Commission to act against

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



RPO empowers the Election Commission to act against candidates who submit false information in affidavits.

TK 2,032CR GRAFT ACC files case against S Alam and 35 others

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ACC yesterday filed a case against S Alam Group Managing Director Mohammad Saiful Alam and 35 others on charges of loan irregularities and embezzlement involving Tk 2,032 crore from Janata Bank. The case was lodged with the Chattogram District Integrated Office.

The accused abused their power, in collusion with senior and relevant bank officials, to siphon off huge sums of money through irregular approval, renewal and top-up of loans in favour of S Alam Refined Sugar Industries between 2009 and 2025 from Janata's Agrabad Corporate branch in Chattogram, according to the case statement.

Other than Saiful Alam, the accused include Mohammad Abdullah Hasan, director of S Alam Refined Sugar Industries; directors of several S Alam Group-affiliated companies; and former chairman, directors, managing director, general managers, and deputy general managers of Janata Bank.

BANGLADESHI MIGRANT WORKERS Still plagued by high costs, low safeguards

Experts warn labour export model remains fragile

MD ABBAS

After sending over a million workers overseas this year, experts warn Bangladesh remains locked in a fragile, low-

712,044 workers -- more than half of the total. Experts say such concentration leaves Bangladesh dangerously exposed to policy shifts in the kingdom.

Most recently, Overseas Employment Platform data shows that 56,292 women migrated between January 1 and December 6, 2025 -- a drop of about 47 percent

INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY



- KEY ISSUES**
- High cost, unregulated middlemen
 - Stuck in low-skilled labour export
 - Unregulated sub-agents
 - Inadequate embassy support
 - Shrinking market

skilled labour-export model dependent on one market, exorbitant recruitment costs, and inadequate protection for migrant workers.

According to data from the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET), 10,71,570 Bangladeshis travelled abroad for work so far this year, with Saudi Arabia alone absorbing

BMET data shows that 105,466 Bangladeshi women migrated for overseas employment in 2022, marking a recovery from the pandemic downturn of 2020. While annual figures exceeded 100,000 before Covid-19, female migration has declined steadily since then.

By 2024, the number fell to just over 60,000.

from 2022 -- with no clear strategy to reverse the trend or ensure safer, skilled overseas placements.

Budgetary commitment has weakened further, as the expatriate welfare ministry's allocation fell from Tk 1,217 crore to Tk 855 crore, averaging just 0.08 percent of national expenditure over five years,

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SECRETARIAT PROTEST

Govt suspends 14 arrested employees

BAHARAM KHAN and EMIRUL HASAN BAPPI

The government has suspended 14 employees from four ministries and the Cabinet Division after police arrested and sued them under the Anti-Terrorism Act for protests at the Secretariat.

The 14 employees, including four leaders of Bangladesh Secretariat Officers and Employees Unity Council, were arrested on December 11 afternoon while protesting for the second consecutive day, demanding a 20 percent Secretariat allowance.

According to the ministry notifications, the suspension orders took effect from December 12, the day the case was filed.

Of the 14, the public administration ministry suspended personal officer Badiul Kabir and office assistants Kamal Hossain, Mohammad Alimuzzaman and Nazrul Islam, citing their arrest in a criminal case.

Health ministry administrative officers Roman Gazi, Golam Rabbani Shahin and Bikash Chandra Roy; personal officers Islamul Haque, Mohsin Ali and Taiful Islam; and office assistant Abu Belal; finance ministry office assistant Bipul Rana Biplob, information ministry office assistant Mizanur Rahman Sumon and Cabinet Division office assistant Nasirul Haque Nasir are among the suspended.

According to the case documents,

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More than 100 buildings collapse in Gaza storms

AGENCIES

Palestinian Civil Defence spokesperson Mahmoud Basal said yesterday at least 17 residential buildings have completely and 90 partially collapsed since the heavy rains and high winds lashed the enclave.

Winter rains also flooded 90 percent of tents in the war-torn enclave, leaving thousands of families without shelter, the spokesperson said in a statement.

Civil Defence teams received more than 5,000 calls for help from citizens since the storms began affecting the Gaza Strip last week, reports AL Jazeera online.

At least 17 people died from the cold, including four children, while dozens of others died as a result of buildings collapsing, he said.

The UK-based humanitarian organisation Save the Children said it has not been able to bring its own aid supplies into Gaza since March, when Israel imposed a total blockade on the Strip.

Despite a ceasefire having entered into effect on October 10, Israel has largely continued to block aid, including tents, blankets and other shelter supplies, as storms ravage the enclave.

In the occupied West Bank, Israeli forces conducted raids and arrested at least 40 Palestinians, according to the Palestinian Prisoner's Society.

Among those arrested were a child and former prisoners, the advocacy group added. The raids took place in the governorates of Salfit, Jenin, Bethlehem, Ramallah, Nablus, Tulkarem, and Hebron.



Displaced Palestinians gather to receive donated food portions at a charity kitchen in Khan Yunis, in the southern Gaza Strip, yesterday.

Ekushey book fair begins February 20

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amar Ekushey Book Fair 2026 will begin on February 20 and continue till March 15.

The decision was made at a meeting held yesterday afternoon at the Shaheed Munier Chowdhury Auditorium of Bangla Academy, said Bangla Academy's Public Relations Department.

On September 18, the authorities announced that the 2026 edition of the fair would be held from December 17 this year to January 17, 2026. However, following protests from publishers and writers, the decision was withdrawn on September 28.

The meeting was attended by Cultural Affairs Secretary Md Mofidur Rahman, Bangla Academy Director General Prof Mohammad Azam, Dhaka University Proctor Prof Saifuddin Ahmed, and directors of Bangla Academy.