Jara beats the clock to join

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challenge of contesting the polls independently, collecting the support of her constituency with just a day and a half left before the nomination submission deadline.

According to Election Commission sources, to run as an independent candidate in Bangladesh, the key requirement is submitting signatures of supporters from at least one percent of the total voters in the constituency. However, this condition is waived for any previously elected member of parliament.

After submitting her nomination form, Jara in a statement said, "Collecting the names, signatures, and other required information of nearly five thousand voters in just one and a half days was an almost impossible task. We had to start entirely from zero, without any party, organisation, or support network. But the people responded extraordinarily.

"From 7:00am until midnight, even in the biting cold, they stood by us. They signed themselves, brought along their entire families, and formed small teams to collect 10, 20, or even 40 signatures from their relatives and neighbours. It truly feels like I was able to submit my nomination as a genuine candidate of the people."

There are around 469,300 registered voters in Dhaka-9, where Jara aims to contest. She began collecting signatures in Khilgaon on Sunday and gathered nearly 3,000 signatures on the very first day, her campaigners said.

On the second day, all verification channels had been blocked due to a server outage at the EC. "As a result, completing and verifying 4,500 signatures and submitting the nomination form within the day had become extremely difficult," Khaled Saifullah, her husband and NCP joint convener, told The Daily Star.

Jara had also alleged to the media that none of the five official channels for obtaining voter numbers -- SMS, online services, phone calls, QR code, and the Election Commission's mobile application -- were functional.

Jamaat to prioritise youth

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Jamaat said the exercise was aimed at crafting a people-friendly, realistic and accountable manifesto by ensuring direct citizen participation.

Mia Golam Porwar, secretary general of Jamaat, said conventional politics leaves little room for public involvement in manifesto-making. "The main goal of the 'Janatar Ishtehar' initiative is to change that trend and involve the public not only as voters, but also as co-authors of the manifesto," he said.

Citizens submitted opinions, problems and policy suggestions at both national and local levels in written, audio and video formats.

Porwar said the digital platform helped the party reach a wider audience and systematically sort and evaluate feedback.

Based on this process, Jamaat now plans to introduce a digital promise tracker that will allow citizens to monitor progress in fulfilling election pledges.

According to Porwar, the tracker will have two tiers, one focusing on national issues and the other on constituency-based or local commitments.

All public inputs were analysed through a structured, data-driven process under a measurable, specific and time-bound framework to support this system.

Zubair said the manifesto's emphasis on youth reflects the party's intention to place young people "in the driving seat of nation-building".

Education will be a top priority, with a focus on technology-driven, practical and quality higher education rather than what he described as a certificate-oriented system.

"If voted to power, Jamaat will put extra emphasis on research, and the education sector will receive the highest allocation in the national budget," he said.

The manifesto will also encourage small entrepreneurs by creating opportunities for interest-free investment and pledging a business environment free from extortion and fear.

To combat corruption, Jamaat plans to identify its roots at both individual and institutional levels and implement "effective and comprehensive measures".

"We will also unearth major corruption incidents if voted to power. The Anti-Corruption Commission will be totally independent so that it can work effectively," Zubair said.

The manifesto will outline the party's political philosophy, stating that Jamaat will not engage in "politics of hatred and destruction".

"Our politics will be based on equal dignity and rights, irrespective of religion and caste. There will be no majority or minority in the country. We all are Bangladeshis," Zubair said.

On women's rights, he said the party will pledge to ensure women's freedom without interference. "Women will enjoy every right as a citizen of this country," he added.

A turbulent year

FROM PAGE 12

government. It seemed its only task was to make transfers and postings, and even that was not done properly," he told The Daily Star.

Official data shows that around 1,700 officers were elevated to the ranks of deputy secretary, joint secretary, and additional secretary between August last year and October this year -- an unprecedented number of promotions in such a short period.

At least 842 retired cadre officials were given retrospective promotions, and of them 764 were from the administration cadre.

In the last quarter of this year, confusion and doubts arose over the postings of deputy commissioners (DCs).

As part of a reshuffle in the field administration ahead of the national election, the government appointed new DCs in more than 50 districts in three phases.

However, several DCs were withdrawn less than a month after assuming their new roles. For instance, the DCs of Madaripur and Chapainawabganj were removed only 19 days after taking charge on October 27.

Such indecision sparked fear among the newly appointed field administrators, who remain unsure how long they will be able to hold their current posts.

Around the same time, the ministry assigned postings to 230 Upazila Nirbahi Officers (UNOs) in two phases through a lottery. However, it did not disclose where the lottery was held or who attended, raising doubts among junior officers.

Many officials said the decision to use lottery as a method for determining postings was not judicious, as it raised questions about the leadership of top officials in the ministry.

Meanwhile, many experienced UNOs were withdrawn from the field due to their roles in the one-sided 2024 election.

This raised questions within the administration; senior officials who are now part of the government were involved in conducting controversial elections in 1986 and 1988 when they were junior officers. The same officials later played significant roles in holding the historic 1991 election.

"If they could play such roles, then there is no reason why the UNOs cannot do so," said a senior official, seeking anonymity.

Several senior officials said many of the problems in the field administration stemmed from a leadership vacuum at the centre. The ministry remained without a secretary for 21 days after Mokhles Ur Rahman was removed from the post.

Moreover, the key post of additional secretary (appointment, promotion, and deputation) has been vacant for the past two and a half months.

The officials also questioned the rationale for forming the "Public Administration Committee" instead of appointing a dedicated adviser to the ministry to oversee appointments, transfers, and disciplinary matters involving senior officials.

Six months after taking office, the interim government set up the committee, led by Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed. However, it was dissolved on October 29 this year, indicating that managing public administration through a committee was not the right approach.

The government made another "major mistake" by amending the Service Act in May this year, which contributed to further instability in the public administration, according to officials and experts.

Despite strong opposition from government employees, the ordinance on the amendment to the Act was gazetted on May 25. Secretariat employees launched protests against the provision allowing dismissal of public employees on the grounds of "disobedience" within eight days of serving a notice.

The Secretariat saw strikes, sit-ins, and processions throughout June. Though cadre officers did not directly join the demonstrations, they supported them, said officials.

Intense protests eventually forced the government to retreat and make a second amendment to the Act within two months.

Analysts argue the episode underscores flaws in policy formulation.

Firoz Mia, a public administration expert, said the government gained nothing from the unnecessary amendment to the Service Act; rather, it was weakened by the protests.

"The interim government has largely been unable to effectively manage public administration. As a result, many of its positive initiatives in other sectors failed to gain the recognition they deserved," he told The Daily Star.

"I hope the next elected government will consider these issues and take steps to build a public administration that meets public expectations," added Firoz.

This correspondent called Public Administration Secretary Ehsanul Hoque on his mobile phone several times and also sent him text messages, but he did not respond.

When this correspondent approached him at his office last week, he said he would not make any comments.

Actively contribute

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During his address, Tarique asked his supporters to disperse to ease traffic movement in the Naya Paltan area.

"As there is no programme here today, we should try to move away from the road and ensure smooth movement. When we organise a programme, I will speak to you then," he said, while seeking prayers for his ailing mother, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

Tarique arrived at the party office at around 4:06pm, but it took him a while to enter the office premises due to the large crowd gathered along the route.

Security was tightened in and around the party office ahead of the visit. The headquarters' main gate was closed from 12:35pm, with entry restricted to a limited number of senior party leaders.

Senior party leaders, including Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, received him at the main gate of the headquarters.

He sat for about three hours in the separate chamber set up for him and held discussions with party leaders and office staff, according to Rizvi.

He left around 7:30pm for Evercare Hospital in capital's Bashundhara to see his mother.

Earlier on Sunday, Tarique visited the BNP chairperson's Gulshan office and stayed there for nearly nine hours.

Cold brings misery

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admitted with ARI in the 24 hours until 8:00am on Saturday, which rose to 963 in the 24 hours ending at 8:00pm yesterday.

On the other hand, 1,998 were hospitalised with diarrhoea in the 24 hours until 8:00am on Saturday, a figure that went up to 2,676 in the subsequent 24 hours as of 8:00pm yesterday.

A total of 25,651 patients with ARI received treatment at hospitals between November 1 and December 29, and 32 of them died, while 60,750 patients with diarrhoea have been hospitalised since November 1, of them four died, the data shows.

Prof Mahbubul Hoque, director of Shishu Hospital, said the number of patients with cold-related diseases has seen a sharp increase amid the cold wave, with many of them suffering from breathing difficulties.

"Our hospital beds are always occupied, and the pressure of patients has intensified over the past few days," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

When asked what guardians should do amid the surge in cold-related diseases, Prof Mahbubul said antibiotics should not be used for diarrhoea or the common cold.

For patients with a common cold, guardians can use nasal drops to keep the nose clear and certain types of antihistamine medicines, he added.

In cases of breathing problems, patients should be taken to the hospital, he said.

Abu Hussain Md Moinul Ahsan, director (hospital) of DGHS, said they have already instructed hospitals to take necessary measures to cope with the growing number of patients with cold-related illnesses.

He added that the hospital authorities have been asked to ensure an adequate supply of nebulisers, provide additional blankets for child patients, and repair any broken glass in hospital wards. "If needed, a separate ward for children will be arranged."

Recognise Hadi as cultural icon

FROM PAGE 12

permits for Indian nationals living in Bangladesh, filing a case against India in an international court if it refuses to repatriate convicted criminals, and identifying what the platform described as "collaborators of fascists" within civil and military intelligence agencies.

The protesters occupied the busy intersection overnight on the first day. Since then, the programme has been held daily from 2:00pm, drawing participants from diverse professions and political backgrounds.

Addressing a rally at Shahbagh yesterday, Jaber said, "If any of our brothers is killed again and the government claims the killers have fled abroad, we will be compelled to take up arms to protect the sovereignty of our country and fight for Insaf [fairness] ...."

Earlier in the day, Jaber said his platform will not field any candidate in Dhaka-8 unless someone with a similar calibre and qualifications to Hadi emerges.

He also stressed that Inqilab Moncho is not a political party, but rather a cultural movement and a platform for political pressure.

Jaber added that Hadi had sought to contest the election as an independent candidate, not under Inqilab Moncho's banner.

He also urged political parties, including BNP, Jamaat, and NCP, to stand by the people in demanding justice for Hadi's murder. "If you are not vocal about justice, the people will compel you to be vocal in the next election," he warned.

Hadi, who was shot in the head in the capital's Paltan area on December 12, died at a hospital in Singapore on December 18.

Afghan Taliban

FROM PAGE 12

at the invitation of a think tank, Osmani Centre for Peace and Security Studies.

Earlier, on September 17, a delegation led by Mamunul travelled to Afghanistan at the invitation of the Taliban government.

Other members of the delegation included Hefazat-e-Islam Bangladesh Nayeb-e-Ameer Abdul Hamid, also known as the pir of Madhupur, along with Abdul Awal, Abdul Haque, Habibullah Mahmud Kasemi, Monir Hossain Kasemi and Mahbubur Rahman.

The delegation held meetings with the Afghan chief justice, several ministers, senior religious scholars and high-ranking Taliban officials, according to sources familiar with the visit.

Speaking to Prothom Alo newspaper upon their return, they said they appreciated what they described as a "rule-based society" in Afghanistan.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Barishal
Tel: 02-478831254
E-mail: eebar@rhd.gov.bd

Memo No. 35.01.0651.403.07.019.25-4189 Dated: 29.12.2025

Invitation for e-Tender (LTM)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the works mentioned in the table below:

Invitation Reference No.	35/e-GP/PMP-Minor/BRD/LTM/2025-26
Tender ID	1203266
Name of works	Maintenance of Existing Pavement with Base Type-II, Repair of potholes, Carpeting, Seal Coat and RCC Palisiding Work from Ch: 09+000 to 10+000 km of Barisal (Beltala)-Shaistabad-Fakirbari (Sarikol) Road (Z-8040) under Barishal Road Division during the year 2025-2026.
Qualification criteria	As stated in Tender Notice & Tender Data Sheet (TDS) of the Tender Document.
Tender document price	Tk. 1,000.00 (one thousand) only.
Tender security amount	Tk. 45,000.00 (forty-five) only.
Tender document last selling	Date: 11 January 2025, Time: 17:00
Last date and time for tender security submission	Date: 12 January 2025, Time: 11:00
Tender closing date and time	Date: 12 January 2025, Time: 12:00
Tender opening date and time	Date: 12 January 2025, Time: 12:00

- This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.
- To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required.
- The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branch.
- Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

29.12.25
Md. Nazmul Islam
ID No. 602232
Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Barishal

GD-2794

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১। প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম : ১২ সিগন্যাল ব্যাটালিয়ন, বরিশাল সেনানিবাস
২। কাজের বিবরণ : ২০২৫-২০২৬ অর্থ বৎসরের বাজেট কোড নং ১১৯০৬০১১০৪২৩৩/৩২৫৮১০৩ (কম্পিউটার) খাতে বরাদ্দকৃত অর্থ হতে BAnet ও Office Internet সেবা প্রদানের লক্ষ্যে প্রয়োজনীয় নেটওয়ার্ক ব্যবস্থাপনা, রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ, সরঞ্জামাদি ক্রয় ও স্থাপন এবং অন্যান্য প্রয়োজনীয় নেটওয়ার্ক সরঞ্জামাদি রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ ও ক্রয়ের ব্যয় নির্বাহ বাবদ।
৩। দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের তারিখ : ০৪ জানুয়ারি ২০২৬।
৪। দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ : ০৬ জানুয়ারি ২০২৬।
৫। দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময় : ০৭ জানুয়ারি ২০২৬ সকাল ১০০০ ঘটিকা।
৬। বিস্তারিত তথ্যের জন্য ভিজিট করুন : www.army.mil.bd

আইএসপিআর/সেনা/৮৭৮

লেঃ কর্নেল
অধিনায়ক
১২ সিগন্যাল ব্যাটালিয়ন
বরিশাল সেনানিবাস

GD-2793

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
Memo No: 27.21.0000.101.07.433.25.6120 Date: December 29, 2025

NOTICE OF 2ND TIME EXTENSION

Design, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 132/33 kV AIS Substation at Paikgacha and 132/33 kV AIS Substation at Mathbaria including associated 132KV bay extension at Sathkhira 132/33kV grid substation & at Bhandaria 132/33kV grid substation on turnkey basis (Package-3)
(OCB NO. POWERGRID/ADB/PTSIREP/Package-3)

Ref.: IFB No. 27.21.0000.101.07.433.25.4979, dated October 27, 2025
1st Time Extension Notice Memo No. 27.21.0000.101.07.433.25.5709, dated: December 04, 2025

The deadline for submission of bids for the above Works has been extended from January 05, 2026, 11:00 AM Bangladesh Standard Time (BST) to **January 15, 2026, 11:00 AM BST.**

All other terms and conditions of the above Bidding Document shall remain unaltered.

(Md. Jahangir Azad)
Company Secretary

Office of the Executive Engineer
Jashore Water Development Division
BWDB, Jashore

Invitation for e-Tenders

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

Invitation Reference No.	Tender ID	Package No. & description	Tender/ proposal document last selling date & time	Tender/ proposal closing & opening date & time
42.01.4100.622.01.07.09.25-1629 Date: 23.12.2025	1202698	Package No. Jash/OEB-19/25-26 Survey works for prepared design and estimate of Jashore WD Division, BWDB, Jashore under Operational expenditure Budget during the FY year 2025-26.	12-Jan-2025 17:00 hrs	13-Jan-2025 12:00 hrs
42.01.4100.622.01.07.09.25-1653 Date: 29.12.2025	1204531	Package No-Jash/OEB-29/25-26 Re-excavation of Gopinathpur Khal from km 0.000 to km 1.500 = 1.500 km at Chowgacha Upazilla in Operational & Expenditure budget under Jashore WD Division, BWDB, Jashore during the year 2025-26.	12-Jan-2025 17:00 hrs	13-Jan-2025 12:00 hrs

This is online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in National e-GP Portal and no offline and hard copies will be accepted.

পানি- ৫৩৬/২০২৫-২০২৬
৬"x৩

29.12.2025
Polash Kumar Banerjee
Executive Engineer
Jashore Water Development Division
BWDB, Jashore

GD-2795