



## A NATION IN MOURNING

Tears and silence marked the streets of Dhaka as news of Khaleda Zia's passing spread. A woman wept upon hearing the tragic news, while people from all walks of life, including BNP leaders and activists, gathered in front of Evercare Hospital, where she had been receiving treatment. Many stood in solemn silence holding black banners and placards, with some forming human chains along the road. Mourners also flocked to her Gulshan residence, overwhelmed with grief, as senior BNP leaders addressed the crowd in tribute to the late former prime minister.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN AND PALASH KHAN



### KHALEDA JANAZA DMP issues traffic advisory

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) yesterday issued a traffic advisory and diversion plan for the capital for today to facilitate BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's namaz e-janaza.

The funeral prayer is scheduled to take place after the Zohr prayers on Manik Mia Avenue, where a massive influx of mourners from across the country is anticipated.

According to a public notice from the DMP, the traffic restrictions and diversions will come into effect from 7:00am to ensure public safety and smooth vehicular movement.

The Farmgate down-ramp of the Dhaka Elevated Expressway via Indira Road will remain closed. Motorists have been advised to use the FDC ramp instead.

Furthermore, traffic on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue – specifically the stretch from the Sonargaon intersection to Farmgate and Bijoy Sarani – will be strictly limited. Commuters are requested to avoid this corridor.

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## Governance failures cripple e-waste management

Says TIB study, cites weak enforcement of existing laws

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh's hazardous waste, particularly electronic waste (e-waste), is being managed amid serious governance failures, as authorities have largely failed to enforce existing laws, according to a TIB study.

The findings came from a TIB study titled "Management of E-waste in Bangladesh: Challenges of Good Governance and Way Forward", unveiled at an event held at the organisation's office yesterday.

The research was conducted between January and December 2025, with data collected from May to October and an online survey carried out between June 4 and October 26, 2025.

The findings were presented by TIB researchers Abdullah Zahid Osmani and Nabil Haque, who said that the enforcement of the Hazardous Waste (E-waste) Management Rules 2021 remains weak and inconsistent.

"The rules exist, but implementation is weak and inconsistent," the study said, adding that key agencies such as the Ministry of Environment, Department of Environment (DoE) and Customs have not given sufficient importance to

enforcement.

The scope of the existing rules is limited, and many stated targets remain unmet. The absence of reliable and comprehensive data



### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Amend 2021 e-waste rules
- Regularly update e-waste list to reflect technological changes
- Introduce clear incentives, penalties to ensure compliance
- Form coordination committee to oversee e-waste management
- Issue specific provisions, guidelines for e-waste export
- Bring informal e-waste sector under formal framework

has made it impossible to measure actual progress, it said.

Despite widespread operations by informal e-waste traders across the country, they remain outside

the monitoring framework of the DoE.

"The failure to bring the informal e-waste sector under regulation even four years after the rules were introduced clearly shows a lack of accountability," it read.

The study also highlighted the continued illegal import of e-waste and old electronic equipment, despite clear bans under existing rules and import policy orders. The organisation termed this situation "gross negligence" by the responsible authorities.

The research found that the DoE has failed to hold local government institutions accountable for implementing the e-waste rules. It further said that the rules were formulated without a participatory process, leading to a lack of consensus among stakeholders, unrealistic expectations and regulations that do not reflect on the ground realities.

In addition, there is no clear action plan or technical guideline to support the effective implementation of the rules, creating confusion among regulators and businesses alike.

Based on these findings, TIB placed a set of key

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### BNP expels Rumeen, eight others

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP has expelled nine leaders, including Barrister Rumeen

Farhana, for carrying out activities that contradict the party's decisions.

The decision was announced in a press release signed by BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi yesterday evening.

The expelled leaders are: Barrister Rumeen Farhana, co-international affairs secretary of the party's national executive committee; national executive committee members Muhammad Gias Uddin, Mohammad Shah Alam, Hasan Mamun and Abdul Khalek; former assistant general secretary of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal Tarun Dey; former convener of Dhaka North City BNP unit Saiful Alam Nirab; Sylhet district BNP unit vice-president Mamunur Rashid; and Bancharampur upazila BNP unit president Mehdi Hasan Palash.



## 1,190 killed in workplace accidents in 2025 Says OSHE report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 1,190 workers were killed, and 222 were injured across various sectors in 2025 due to unsafe working conditions, according to the Bangladesh Occupational Safety, Health and Environment (OSHE) Foundation.

In 2024, 905 workers were killed and 218 were injured, the organisation said.

"The increase indicates a deteriorating state of workplace safety," OSHE said at a press conference held yesterday at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity.

**A large share of workplace accidents in 2025 occurred in the informal sector. Analysis found that around 84 percent of total accidents took place in workplaces outside the effective coverage of labour laws.**

The report was prepared using data collected from national and local newspapers, electronic and online media, trade union networks, and OSHE Foundation's verified field-level initiatives, it said.

The report was presented at a press conference by OSHE's Project Coordinator Mahmuda Sultana Snigdha, yesterday.

She said statistical analysis showed that, on average, more than eight out of every 10 workplace accidents resulted in fatalities, pointing to serious structural weaknesses in emergency rescue systems, access to medical treatment and preventive safety measures.

"The lack of preventive mechanisms, rather than reliance on post-accident damage control,

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## JnU student polls postponed to Jan 6 Students hold daylong protest on campus

JNU CORRESPONDENT

The Jagannath University Central Students' Union and hall union elections were postponed yesterday on the scheduled voting day, prompting daylong protests by all student bodies and general students.

The university authorities later set January 6 as the revised date for holding the elections.

According to the election schedule, voting was set to begin at 8:30am yesterday. However, the university authorities postponed the polls after convening an emergency syndicate meeting following the death of former premier and BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia.

Soon after the announcement, the JnU campus turned turbulent with students erupting in protest with daylong demonstrations till around 3:00pm.

The protesting students gathered around the offices of Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Md Rezaul Karim and JnU Teachers' Association General Secretary Prof Dr Rais Uddin around 9:00am, and confined them inside, demanding their resignation. They remained confined till 3:00pm.

The protesters also alleged that attempts had been made to deliberately foil the election by postponing it without prior discussion with all stakeholders.

Facing mounting protests, the university authorities

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Students of Jagannath University stage protests outside administrative offices and confine the vice-chancellor and the teachers' association general secretary inside their offices after the postponement of the JnU Central Students' Union and hall union elections on the scheduled voting day yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## Publish notice for Quader, 6 others to appear at ICT Says tribunal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal 2 yesterday asked the relevant authorities to publish notices in two newspapers directing accused fugitives Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader and six other leaders of the party and its affiliated organisations to appear before it on January 8 in a crimes against humanity case linked to the 2024 July uprising.

The tribunal passed the order a day after the prosecution placed a non-execution report before it on Monday, saying law enforcers did not find the accused when they went to their present and permanent addresses.

The prosecution yesterday sent a notification regarding the matter through a WhatsApp

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