

Home ministry bars Bishwa Jtama

Order issued citing upcoming polls

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Gazipur

In light of the prevailing situation in the country and in order to smoothly conduct the upcoming national election and referendum, the home ministry has ordered that the "Khurujor Jor" and "Bishwa Jtama" scheduled at the Tongi Bishwa Jtama Maidan not be organised in 2026.

According to the instructions, the Khurujor Jor scheduled January 24, 2026, and the Bishwa Jtama scheduled January 22-24, 2026, cannot be organised.

Confirming the matter yesterday morning, Officer-in-Charge (OC) Shahin Khan of Tongi West Police Station told The Daily Star that on Tuesday, deputy secretary of the political branch of the home ministry, Md Anwar Parvez, issued a notification in this regard.

The notification mentioned that on behalf of Tabligh Jamaat Bangladesh, Mohammad Zubair, khatib and principal of Madrasa Ulumiddinia Malwali Mosque and Ahle Shura, had applied to organise Khurujor Jor and Bishwa Jtama at the Tongi Jtama ground.

However, in order to conduct the 13th national parliament election and the 2026 referendum in a fair, peaceful and uninterrupted manner, necessary measures were ordered to be taken not to organise Khurujor Jor, Bishwa Jtama or any other type of gathering or event at the Tongi Bishwa Jtama Maidan during the pre-election period. OC Shahin further said that necessary measures have already been taken in view of the letter from the ministry.



Farmers loading bundles of leftover Aman paddy they bought from the landowner after harvesting and selling the crop to take home and feed their livestock. The photo was taken from a char adjacent to the Arial Khan River in Barishal Sadar yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

A year of deadly dengue outbreak

2025 sees 413 deaths, 1,02,861 cases

HELEMUL ALAM

With 68 new dengue cases reported in the last 24 hours till yesterday, the total number of cases this year reached 1,02,861, the second-highest tally recorded in Bangladesh over the past 25 years.

The country also recorded 413 dengue-related deaths this year, making it the third deadliest on record.

The highest 3,18,749 dengue cases and 1,705 deaths were recorded in 2023.

Among the divisions, Barishal recorded the highest 21,551 dengue cases this year, followed by Dhaka division (outside city corporations) with 17,386 cases, and Chattogram with 15,116 cases.

Within Dhaka city, 17,059 cases were reported in Dhaka North areas and 14,623 in Dhaka South city corporation areas, according to data of the Directorate General

of Health Services (DGHS).

Of the total dengue cases, 62.5 percent were male and 37.5 percent female, while 52.1 percent fatalities were male and 47.9 percent were female.

Month-wise data shows that November recorded the highest 24,535 cases this year, followed by 22,520 in October, 15,862 in September, 10,684 in July, and 10,496 in August.

To prevent a similar situation next year, entomologists and health experts stressed that preventive measures to control Aedes mosquitoes must begin as early as January.

GM Saifur Rahman, an entomologist at National University, stressed the need for full adoption of an Integrated Mosquito Management System, establishment of a dedicated mosquito-control authority, and implementation of coordinated nationwide programmes.

"There must be a consistent surveillance system followed by continuous control mechanisms," he said.

He also noted that dengue prevention efforts lack uniformity. "We cannot have one system in Dhaka North, another in Dhaka South, and a different one in Chattogram. There must be a single top authority issuing unified instructions nationwide," he said.

He also identified late case reporting as a critical issue. "If cases are detected early and information is shared promptly, early control measures can prevent severe outbreaks and epidemics," he explained.

"We always act after widespread transmission begins. This must change," he also said, citing Brazil, where dengue cases rose to 6.5 million by 2024.

"Our situation could worsen even faster due to our high population density," Saifur added.

Sunlight after 7 days brings respite amid cold spell

STAR REPORT

With the sun becoming visible yesterday and bringing much-needed warmth, people across the country – especially in northern districts – finally got some respite after seven days of intense cold and dense fog that had disrupted lives and livelihoods.

Agricultural activities and daily routines regained momentum in both rural and urban areas as the cold eased under sunlight. However, it turned chilly again soon after sunset as cool winds from the Himalayas continued to sweep across the northern region.

Farmers in the north returned to their fields to prepare seedbeds for potato, maize, wheat, Boro paddy, and other crops without delay.

Jatin Chandra Barman, 70, a farmer from the Mahiganj area of Rangpur, said, "With no sunlight for the last seven days, we could not work in the fields amid biting cold and dense fog. This morning [yesterday] we returned to the fields. It is still cold, but tolerable."

Khitish Chandra Barman, 52, of Yakubpur village in Thakurgaon Sadar upazila, expressed similar sentiments.

Sultan Hossain, a tea vendor in Rangpur city, said business had been slow due to the cold but improved yesterday as the sun came out.

According to the Rangpur Met Office and the Tentulia Weather Observatory, minimum temperatures recorded across the division at 6:00am yesterday were 12.5°C in Rangpur; 12.4°C in Panchagarh, Thakurgaon and Tentulia; 12.7°C in Kurigram; 13°C in Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari and Gaibandha; and 12.1°C in Dinajpur.

The country's lowest temperature yesterday – and the lowest of the season so far – was recorded at 7.5°C in Gopalganj.

Mostafizur Rahman, a meteorologist at the Rangpur Met Office, said the sky cleared and sunlight appeared around 9:00am, causing a slight rise in temperature.

Jitendranath Ray, acting officer of the Tentulia observatory, said cold winds from the Himalayan region continued to blow at 10-12 kilometres per hour, with humidity at 89 percent.

Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) officials said Boro seedbeds would remain unaffected if sunny weather continues but advised farmers to take precautionary measures.

Abdullah Al Mamun, deputy director of the DAE in Kurigram, warned that prolonged adverse weather could have severely damaged agriculture.

Meanwhile, district administrations and various organisations have launched warm clothing distribution drives across northern districts.

Farmers in the north returned to their fields to prepare seedbeds for potato, maize, wheat, Boro paddy, and other crops without delay.

KUMARKHALI OF KUSHTIA

No landfill even after 156 years

Garbage being dumped along Kushtia-Rajbari highway

ANIS MONDOL, Kushtia

For years, garbage from Kumarkhali Municipality in Kushtia has been dumped on both sides of the Kushtia-Rajbari regional highway along a 500-metre stretch, due to the absence of a designated landfill site.

The waste emits an unbearable stench, causing serious inconvenience to commuters and local residents.

Even after 156 years since its establishment, the municipality has yet to develop a proper landfill site for waste disposal.

Experts say such open dumping poses significant health risks, pollutes the environment, and degrades cropland.

During a recent visit, this correspondent observed people travelling on foot or in light vehicles covering their noses with masks or handkerchiefs to avoid the foul odour. Md Khokon, a rickshaw-van puller, said, "The stench is so unbearable and stomach-churning that unless I cover my nose, I end up vomiting."

Montu Sheikh, an auto-rickshaw passenger, said, "Earlier, the garbage used to be dumped in different nearby shoal areas. For the past several years, it has been dumped here. The garbage contains raw waste that rots in the open, causing

a foul smell that can be felt from half a kilometre away."

Local farmers said during the monsoon, the waste is washed into adjoining agricultural land, damaging crops and degrading soil fertility.

Residents also complained that children in the neighbourhood often suffer from various diseases.

Asked about the health risks of

cancer."

Contacted, Md Akramuzzaman, assistant engineer of Kumarkhali, said waste is being dumped there as the municipality does not have its own land for disposal.

"The previous upazila nirbahi officer made efforts to establish a landfill on vacant land across the river but was forced to abandon the



open waste dumping, Hossain Imam, resident medical officer at the 250-bed Kushtia General Hospital, said, "Prolonged proximity to such waste dumping sites may allow various toxic substances and pathogens to enter the body. This can lead to a range of health complications, from bronchitis and pneumonia to even

plan following protests by locals. We have sent letters to the ministry concerned seeking allocation in this regard and have received no response," he said.

Farzana Akhtar, UNO and administrator of the municipality, said she would look into the matter and take necessary measures.

Earlier, the garbage used to be dumped in different nearby shoal areas. For the past several years, it has been dumped here. The garbage contains raw waste that rots in the open, causing a foul smell that can be felt from half a kilometre away.

MONTU SHEIKH
An auto-rickshaw passenger

Prof Sayedur Rahman resigns as CA's special assistant

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prof Sayedur Rahman, special assistant to the chief adviser for the health ministry, has resigned from his post.

The president has accepted his resignation, according to a gazette notification issued by the Cabinet Division on Tuesday.

Prof Sayedur's resignation will come into effect immediately, the notification added.

The reason behind his resignation could not be known yet.

Prof Sayedur, former vice-chancellor of Bangladesh Medical University, was appointed special assistant to the chief adviser with the status of a state minister in November last year.

His resignation came within a week of the resignation of Khuda Baksh Chowdhury, special assistant to the chief adviser for the home ministry.



এডহক আর্মি স্যাটকম ইউনিট
ঢাকা সেনানিবাস, ঢাকা-১২০৬

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১। এডহক আর্মি স্যাটকম ইউনিটের তত্ত্বাবধানে বরাদ্দকৃত অর্থ দ্বারা বিবিধ টেলিযোগাযোগ সরঞ্জামাদি ক্রয় করা হবে। আত্মহী প্রকৃত সরবরাহকারী/মেরামতকারী সংস্থার নিকট হতে নিম্নে বর্ণিত স্থানীয় কর্তৃপক্ষের বরাবরে দেশীয় মুদ্রায় সীলমোহরযুক্ত উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে। ক্রয়তথ্য/মেরামতব্য সরঞ্জামাদির তালিকাসহ বিস্তারিত বিবরণ দরপত্রের সিডিউলে উল্লেখ থাকবে।

২। আগামী ০৭ জানুয়ারি ২০২৬ইং তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে (০৭:৩০ ঘটিকা হতে ১৪:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত) ৭৫০.০০ (সাতশত পঞ্চাশ মাত্র) টাকা (অফেরতমো্য্য) প্রদানপূর্বক প্রয়োজনীয় বিনির্দেশ/শর্তাবলীসহ দরপত্রের সিডিউল এই অফিস হতে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। উক্ত সিডিউলের শর্তাবলী মোতাবেক আগামী ১১ জানুয়ারি ২০২৬ তারিখ সকাল ১১:০০ ঘটিকার সময় এই অফিসে রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাস্তব দরপত্র ফেলাতে হবে এবং ঐদিন ১১:৩০ ঘটিকায় দরপত্রদাতাগণের উপস্থিতিতে দরপত্র বাস্তব খোলা হবে।

আইএসপিআর/সেনা/৮৮২

অধিনায়ক
এডহক আর্মি স্যাটকম ইউনিট
ঢাকা সেনানিবাস

GD-2797

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Bangladesh Police
Office of the Commanding Officer, Rapid Action Battalion-14
Aqua Bypass, Mymensingh

Invitation for e-Tender

For financial year 2025-2026, e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of:

SL	Tender ID No. & Reference No.	Description of goods	Last selling date & time	Closing/opening date & time
1	1204538, RAB14/14232/Q/ Ration/3 Date: 30/12/2025	Procurement of High Quality Soybean Oil for Ration of RAB-14, Mymensingh (3rd quarter) FY 2025-26 (January-2026 to March-2026)	14-Jan-2026 17:00	15-Jan-2026 12:00
2	1204594, RAB14/14232/Q/ Ration/3 Date: 30/12/2025	Procurement of High Quality Lentil for Ration of RAB-14, Mymensingh (3rd Quarter) FY 2025-26 (January-2026 to March-2026)	14-Jan-2026 17:00	15-Jan-2026 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 Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches.

Further information and guidelines are available in National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd). Tenderer having clarity requirements are requested to contact at 01777711403 (Assistant Director, Quarter Master).

Naimul Hassan
Addl DIG
CO, Rab-14, Mymensingh
Phone: 02223376750

GD-2795

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

International Labour Organization (ILO) Dhaka announces a notice for a job opportunity for the following:

Position : National Programme Officer - Private Sector Engagement- 01 position.
Vacancy No. : DC/Dhaka/NO/2025/09
Grade : NO-A
Contract Type : Fixed Term (FT)
Duration : One year (possibility of extension)

For the details description, contract duration and instructions to apply for the position of National Programme Officer, please visit the following link below:
https://jobs.ilo.org/job/National-Programme-Officer-Private-Sector-Engagement/13449-en_GB/

The closing date of application is 7 January 2026 for the above position.

Female candidates are encouraged to apply.