



"The peace agreement is 90 percent ready. Ten percent remains. And that is far more than just numbers."
Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy

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Dhaka races to heat up as big guns enter the fray

Chiefs of major parties return to ballot battles in capital after decades

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Dhaka braces for a high-voltage election as top leaders of three major parties – the BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami, and the National Citizen Party – submitted their nominations on Tuesday.

The chiefs of Bangladesh Khelafat Majlis, Nagarik Oikya, the Biplobi Workers Party of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Labour Party, Bangladesh Nationalist Front, and the Nationalist Democratic Movement chief, who left his party several days before nomination submission to join the BNP, have also entered the fray.

Alongside them, senior and influential figures from other parties, an enforced disappearance victim, a former national footballer, and a leading campaigner against enforced disappearances are set to contest.

Adding further intensity, heavyweight

independents are preparing to run in multiple constituencies.

A total of 238 aspirants have submitted nominations for the 20 constituencies in the capital, widely regarded as the epicentre of the country's political activities.

Election Commission data shows that 19 BNP aspirants, including the party's acting chairman Tarique Rahman (Dhaka-17), have submitted their nomination papers. The party has also extended support to Saiful Huq, general secretary of the Biplobi Workers Party of Bangladesh, for Dhaka-12.

Seventeen Jamaat-e-Islami aspirants, including its Ameer Shafiqur Rahman (Dhaka-15), have submitted nominations. Seven aspirants from NCP, including its Convener Nahid Islam (Dhaka-11), have also entered races in the capital.

Bangladesh Khelafat Majlis Ameer

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As the February 12 election nears, affidavits submitted by candidates open a window into their assets, liabilities, and personal histories. The Daily Star is running stories based solely on these filings.



Tarique earns Tk 6.76 lakh a yr from shares, bonds

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman's annual income is Tk 6.76 lakh, all of which comes from shares, bonds and bank deposit schemes, according to his affidavit submitted to the Election Commission.

His wife, Dr Zubaida Rahman, earns Tk 35.6 lakh annually as shown in the latest tax statement, although the affidavit did not mention the source of income.

According to the affidavit, Tarique has Tk 1.23 crore in bank. Of this, Tk 31.6 lakh is held as cash

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Shafiqur earns Tk 3.6 lakh a yr from farming

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Dr Shafiqur Rahman declared an annual income of Tk 3.6 lakh, all from agriculture.

According to his last tax statement, the net worth of his wealth is Tk 1.5 crore, and he holds Tk 60.8 lakh in cash, and has current savings worth Tk 4.9 lakh.

Shafiqur, who holds an MBBS degree, has shares worth Tk 27.2 lakh, and 10 bhoris of gold whose value was shown at Tk 1 lakh. The price of gold today ranges from Tk 1,52,857 to Tk 2,24,182 per bhoir depending on the carat.

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Consultancy brings Nahid Tk 16 lakh a yr

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The annual income of National Citizen Party (NCP) Convener Nahid Islam is higher than that of BNP Acting Chairman Tarique Rahman and Jamaat-e-Islami chief Dr Shafiqur Rahman.

According to the affidavit, Nahid earns Tk 16 lakh annually from consultancy, which is more than twice as much as Tarique and over four times more than Shafiqur.

Nahid, 27-year-old graduate from Dhaka University, also paid Tk 1.13 lakh in taxes last year – nearly Tk 80,000 more than the Jamaat chief

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BNP aims to transform grief into unity

Plans to devise strategy centring Khaleda's legacy

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

The BNP is focusing on carrying the lift in public support it received following the death of Khaleda Zia into the election by strengthening and fully engaging in poll-focused activities.

Senior leaders have said the massive public turnout at the late BNP chairperson's funeral shows renewed voter connection with the party.

In the absence of its chief, who died on Tuesday, the BNP plans to move forward under the leadership of its acting chairman Tarique Rahman by strengthening organisational activities and election-focused programmes across the country.

Party leaders said the poll focused activities will not allow any perception to grow among the public that the party has become weak or directionless following the death of its long-time leader.

They said Khaleda's death just 45 days before the national polls on February 12 made it even more important for the party to project unity and discipline.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said people's outpouring love for Khaleda will make the party stronger.

"Following her passing, people will now fulfil their duty to establish democracy. And by making the next election free, fair and neutral, they will ensure BNP's victory for the sake of the country," he said.

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Supply crunch sends LPG prices soaring

12-kg cylinders selling for as much as Tk 2,000; crisis may continue entire January

ASIFUR RAHMAN

Bottled liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) is now selling for 60 percent more than the government-fixed price on the back of a supply shortage caused by lower imports last month.

As per the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission's (BERC) pricing for December, a 12-kg cylinder was supposed to sell for Tk 1,253 at retail outlets. As the January price has not yet been announced, the December price was supposed to remain in effect.

But consumers are having to pay as much as Tk 2,000 per cylinder.

Take the case of Md Ahaduzzaman, a resident of Agargaon's Taltola area. On Wednesday, he went to at least three shops, but none could provide gas. When he visited the next day, they were asking for Tk 1,800 to Tk 2,000.

"How is it possible that a product's price goes up so much overnight?" he asked.

Several retailers and wholesalers told The Daily Star that the LPG market became volatile in the last two weeks of December.

Prices increased after December 15, said Shahidul Islam, a retailer in the Taltola area, who sold the 12-kg cylinders for Tk 1,800 last week.

"Until then, we used to buy a 12-kg cylinder at Tk 1,300 and sell it for Tk 1,350. But later it spiked," he said.

Shahidul has now suspended LPG sales as he is not getting supplies from wholesalers.

"If we ask for 50 cylinders a day, we are getting only five," he added.

Buying a 12-kg LPG cylinder at the fixed price from wholesalers is not possible now, said Aminur Rashid, a retailer in the Banglamotor area.

The wholesalers are charging up to Tk 200-300 more per bottle, which is affecting the retail price, he said.



Contacted, Mohammed Amirul Haque, president of the LPG Operators Association of Bangladesh (LOAB), the body representing LPG importers, denied increasing the LPG price at the operators' end.

"The hike happened in the market," he said, while urging the law enforcement agencies to take action against those responsible for raising prices.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

'I feel this entire nation is my family'

Tarique expresses gratitude for people's love, compassion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expressing gratitude, BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman yesterday said the nation's love and solidarity made him feel the entire country was his family as he bade farewell to his mother, former prime minister Khaleda Zia.

"Yesterday, with a heart full of sorrow and gratitude, I laid my beloved mother, my first teacher in life, three-time prime minister Begum Khaleda Zia, to her final resting place beside my father, Shaheed president Ziaur Rahman. The weight of her absence is immeasurable, but your presence, the people of Bangladesh, has made this profound moment feel less alone," he said in a Facebook post.

On Wednesday,

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Amir Hossain, 62, a BNP supporter from Kabirhat upazila in Noakhali, arrived in Dhaka on Wednesday to attend the namaze-e-janaza of party chairperson Khaleda Zia. Yesterday, he waited from morning at Zia Uddin for her grave to be opened to the public so he could pay his final respects. Along with BNP leaders and activists, many people from across the country visited her grave, beside that of her husband, former president Ziaur Rahman.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Crowds gather at Khaleda's grave to pay tribute

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Party leaders, activists and ordinary people are flocking to the grave of former prime minister and BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia at Zia Uddin from all over the country to offer prayers and pay their tributes.

Khaleda was laid to rest on Wednesday beside her husband, former president Ziaur Rahman, following a namaz-e-janaza attended by millions.

Security remained tight, with members of the Army, Police, and other law enforcement agencies deployed across Zia Uddin and surrounding areas. Checkpoints were set up at entry points, and crowd movement was closely monitored to prevent any untoward incident.

Visitors began arriving at the mausoleum from early morning yesterday, with many travelling overnight from distant districts.

By around 11:00am, a large crowd had gathered at the entrance, with people waiting patiently to be allowed inside. The entrance was opened shortly after noon.

Once inside, mourners were seen offering prayers, placing flowers and wreaths and standing silently for moments of reflection beside the grave.

Some broke down in tears as they stood near the grave. Among those who travelled from outside Dhaka was Fatema Sharmin, who came from Munshiganj. "I came to feel what it would be like to touch the soil where she is buried," she said.

"We in the BNP have become orphans," said Aminul Islam, who came all the way from Nilphamari.

Visiting Khaleda's grave was emotionally overwhelming, said BNP activist Saiful Alam, a resident of Badda.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

Jamaat, BNP should work together for next 5 yrs: Shafiqur

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Jamaat e Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman yesterday said his party and the BNP should work together over the next five years for the sake of national stability.

“We have said that for the sake of our much-loved country, we worked together in the past and, InshaAllah, we will work together in the future as well. Mr Tarique Rahman and the BNP leadership have expressed the same aspiration,” he told reporters after a meeting with the BNP acting chairman at the BNP Chairperson’s Gulshan office.

Shafiqur said the two parties also discussed the possibility of working together to restore a stable and favourable environment for the nation over the next five years.

He added that the two parties will sit together after the election slated for February 12.

“Immediately after the election and before the formation of the government, we will sit together with an open mind to discuss national interests, think for the nation, and take decisions accordingly,” the Jamaat chief said.



Jamaat Ameer Shafiqur Rahman calls on BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman to express his condolences over Khaleda Zia's death at the BNP chairperson's Gulshan office yesterday.

PHOTO: BNP MEDIA CELL

Supply crunch

FROM PAGE 1

During winter, global LPG prices usually rise and imports decline.

This time, the premium cost has nearly doubled, while the Saudi contract price (CP), which serves as the benchmark for setting local prices, has also increased, he said.

The premium includes freight, insurance, vendor margins, handling charges and other logistical costs involved in bringing LPG from suppliers to the importing country.

The premium cost stood between \$90 and \$120 per tonne in October, which rose to \$180 in November, said Amirul, also the managing director of Delta LP Gas.

However, BERC still considers the premium at \$110 in its pricing, Amirul said, adding that imports have dropped by as much as 60 percent in recent weeks.

January's LPG pricing will be announced on Sunday or the following day after a meeting with stakeholders, according to a BERC official.

The price may increase slightly as the Saudi CP rose last month, he said.

January may see a further LPG supply crisis as most companies import LPG under annual contracts and new deals are due to be signed this month, according to Amirul.

BERC Chairman Jalal Ahmed said the commission is investigating the price hike and has sent a letter to LOAB asking it to look into the matter and take action.

“They initially told us they are facing supply chain problems. They opened letters of credit but could not book shipments, which resulted in the supply shortage.”

He could not specify when the situation would return to normal.

The country requires around 14-15 lakh tonnes of LPG. As much as 98 percent of LPG is imported and marketed by more than 25 private importers.

Tarique earns

FROM PAGE 1

or current savings, while the rest are fixed deposits or savings deposits, largely saved in his daughter Zaima Rahman's name.

His wife Zubaida has Tk 1 crore in bank, of which Tk 66.5 lakh is held as current savings.

The BNP leader mentioned in the affidavit that he will spend Tk 30 lakh in electioneering in Bogura-6 constituency, and the money will come from bank deposits and agriculture.

He is also running from Dhaka-17, but the affidavit for that constituency was not immediately available.

Tarique, 57, has shares worth Tk 68.5 lakh, furniture worth less than Tk 2 lakh and gold worth Tk 2,950.

He owns over 2 acres of land in Bogura, whose worth at the time of purchase was Tk 3.45 lakh. He also inherited 2.9 decimals of land in Gazipur and Cox's Bazaar from his brother Arafat Rahman Koko, who died in 2015.

Zubaida, on the other hand, has shared ownership of 111.25 decimals of land and an 800 square feet duplex house.

The estimated current value of the land properties has not been mentioned.

Tarique, who has a higher secondary degree, is classified by the National Board of Revenue as a “large taxpayer” and paid a little over Tk 1 lakh in taxes last year, while his wife paid Tk 5.6 lakh.

Between 2004 and 2019, he faced 77 cases filed across 38 districts, 50 of which were for defamation or speech-related offences.

About half the cases were disposed of before 2024, while the rest 42 after August 5, 2024.

Dhaka races to heat up as big guns

FROM PAGE 1

Mamunul Haque and Nagarik Oikya President Mahmudur Rahman Manna submitted nominations for Dhaka-13 and Dhaka-18 respectively.

Labour Party President Mustafizur Rahman Iran, Amjantar Dal General Secretary Tarek Rahman, and NDM Secretary General Momintul Amin submitted nominations for Dhaka-12.

“The upcoming election in Dhaka is shaping up to be high-voltage. With top leaders from all major political parties contesting here, heightened intensity is only natural,” said polls expert Abdul Alim.

He said this calls for special attention from the Election Commission, as constituencies with heavyweight candidates demand enhanced monitoring and security.

“During campaigning, ensuring safety will be crucial, as miscreants may attempt to create disturbances. Given the Election Commission's prior experience with various risks, extra caution during this period is essential.”

Alim noted that races in Dhaka carries particular importance as the capital is focal point of national attention. “People from across Bangladesh live in Dhaka, and the outcome resonates far beyond the city, reflecting the sentiments of a diverse population.”

PASTELECTIONS

EC data shows that, except for the 1991 national polls held following the fall of dictator HM Ershad, chiefs of major political parties have rarely contested from Dhaka constituencies.

That year, BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia contested five seats, including Dhaka-5 and Dhaka-9, and won all of them.

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina contested three seats, including Dhaka-7 and Dhaka-10, but lost to BNP candidates in both constituencies.

During the 1996, 2001, 2008, 2014, 2018, and 2024 polls, no chiefs of major parties such as the BNP or the AL contested from Dhaka.

In 2008, Ershad won Dhaka-17, while Workers Party of Bangladesh President Rashed Khan Menon won Dhaka-8. Both were allies of the AL. Menon contested using the AL's electoral symbol, while Ershad used his own party symbol.

Since 1991, it has been observed that the party sweeping Dhaka seats usually goes on to form the government.

In the 1991 polls, the BNP won all 13 Dhaka seats. In the June 1996 election, the AL won eight of 13 seats. In 2001, the BNP again won all 13 seats. In 2008, the AL won 18 of 20 seats, while Ershad and Menon won the remaining two.

In the 2014 polls – boycotted by many parties including the BNP – the

AL won 14 of 20 seats, with 10 elected unopposed. Jatiya Party won three, Menon won one unopposed, and AL rebel Haji Mohammad Selim won one. BNP chief Abul Kalam Azad won Dhaka-17.

In the 2018 polls – controversial for ballot box stuffing – the AL won 17 of 20 seats. Alliance partner Jatiya Party won two, and Menon won one. Jamaat Ameer Shafiqur Rahman contested Dhaka-15 using the BNP's symbol, as Jamaat was banned at the time, but lost amid allegations of “widespread ballot stuffing on the night before voting.”

In the 2024 polls, in which the AL fielded its leaders as independents to make the election appear competitive, AL candidates won 16 of 20 seats in the capital, while the “independents,” won the remaining four.

WHO'S RUNNING FROM WHERE

Khandaker Abu Ashfaq (BNP), Mohammad Nazrul Islam (Jamaat), Farhad Hossain (Khalafat Majlis), Nurul Islam (Islami Andolan Bangladesh), Nasir Uddin Molla (Jatiya Party), and Sheikh Md Ali (Labour Party) have submitted their nominations for Dhaka-1.

Antara Selima Huda, daughter of a former BNP leader and founder of Trinamool Congress, also filed her nomination for the same seat as an independent.

Amanullah Aman (BNP), Abdul Haq (Jamaat), and Zahirul Islam (Islami Andolan Bangladesh) submitted nominations for Dhaka-2.

Gayeshwar Chandra Roy (BNP), Shahinur Islam (Jamaat), Bacchu Bhuiyan (Gono Samhati Andolan), and 13 others submitted nominations for Dhaka-3.

For Dhaka-4, eight aspirants, including Tanveer Ahmed (BNP), Syed Joydul Abedin (Jamaat), Mosaddek Billah (IAB), and Mohammad Mizanur Rahman (independent), filed nomination papers.

Sixteen aspirants, including Nabi Ullah (BNP), Kamal Hossain (Jamaat), SM Shahria (NCP), Atiqur Rahman Nannu Munshi (Khalafat Andolan), and Syed Mohammad Ibrahim (Gono Odhikar Parishad), submitted nominations for Dhaka-5.

Ishraq Hossain (BNP), Abdul Mannan (Jamaat), Amir Uddin Ahmed (Jatiya Party), and four others submitted nominations for Dhaka-6.

Fifteen aspirants, including Hamidur Rahman (BNP), Enayet Ullah (Jamaat), and Mohammad Saifuddin Ahmed Milon (Jatiya Party), submitted nominations for Dhaka-7.

Mirza Abbas (BNP), Nasiruddin Patwari (NCP), Kefayet Ullah (IAB), Meghna Alam (Gono Odhikar Parishad), and eight others submitted nominations for Dhaka-8.

Fourteen aspirants, including Habibur Rashid (BNP), Kabir Ahmad (Jamaat), Shah Iftekhar Ahsan (IAB), Kazi Abul Khair (Jatiya Party), Mohammad Javed Mia (NCP), and Tasnim Jara, who recently resigned from NCP, submitted nominations for Dhaka-9.

Rabiul Alam (BNP), Abdul Awal (IAB), Jashim Uddin Sarkar (Jamaat), and 10 others filed nominations for Dhaka-10.

Apart from NCP Convenor Nahid Islam, MA Kaiyum (BNP), Abdul Kader (Gono Forum), Sheikh Md Fazle Bari Masud (IAB), and eight others filed nominations for Dhaka-11.

Dhaka-12 is set to be a key battleground as top leaders from the Biplobi Workers Party, Labour Party, Amjantar Dal, and NDM submitted nominations. Jamaat's Saiful Alam, Taslima Akhter (Gono Samhati Andolan), Mahamudul Hasan (IAB), and others also entered the race for this seat.

Besides Mamunul Haque, Bobby Hajjaj, Murad Hossain (IAB), Mizanur Rahman (Gono Odhikar Parishad), and seven others submitted nominations for Dhaka-13.

Enforced disappearance victim Mir Ahmad Bin Quasem (Jamaat), Mayer Daak Coordinator Sanjida Islam Tuli (BNP), Abu Yusuf (IAB), and others submitted nominations for Dhaka-14.

Nine aspirants, including Jamaat Ameer Shafiqur Rahman, Shafiqul Islam Khan (BNP), Sajedul Huq Rubel (CPB), and Shafiqul Islam (Gono Forum), filed nominations for Dhaka-15.

Former national football team captain Aminul Huq (BNP), Abdul Baten (Jamaat), Mamun Hossain (Gono Odhikar Parishad), and 10 others submitted nominations for Dhaka-16.

Tarique Rahman submitted nominations for Bogura-6 and Dhaka-17, marking the first time he is contesting for public office.

Bangladesh Nationalist Front (BNF) President SM Abul Kalam Azad, SM Khaliduzzaman (Jamaat), Mohammad Ullah (IAB), and others also submitted nominations for Dhaka-17.

Mahmudur Rahman Manna (Nagarik Oikya), SM Jahangir Hossain (BNP), Muhammad Ashrafur Huq (Jamaat), Ariful Islam (NCP), Anwar Hossain (IAB), and 13 others submitted nominations for Dhaka-18.

Afzal Hossain (Jamaat), Dewan Mohammad Salahuddin (BNP), Chowdhury Hasan Sarwardy (LDP), Dilshana Parul (NCP), and seven others submitted nominations for Dhaka-19.

Tamiz Uddin (BNP), Abdur Rouf (Jamaat), Nabila Tasnid (NCP), Ashraf Ali (Khalafat Majlis), and several others submitted nominations for Dhaka-20.

“I used to be on Madam's duty. Today, Madam is no more. The house feels empty. When you go inside, there is a silence you can feel,” he said.

Another security staff member recalled Khaleda's personal care for them, saying she would often ask whether they had eaten properly.

Several security personnel on duty were seen wearing black badges, their faces marked by grief.

Next to Feroza is the plot allotted to Khaleda in 1981 by the government of then acting president Abdus Sattar following her husband's death.

Her son, BNP Acting Chairman Tarique Rahman, moved in here after his return to Bangladesh last week following 17 years in exile in London.

Grieving the loss of his mother, Tarique spent most of yesterday at home saying prayers for his mother's departed soul, said Atikur Rahman Rumon, member of BNP Media Cell.

TK 2,858CR EMBEZZLEMENT

ACC files 4 cases against Salman F Rahman, 33 others

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday filed four cases against ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina's adviser and Beximco Group vice chairman Salman F Rahman and 33 others over allegations of embezzling around Tk 2,858 crore from Janata Bank by abusing Export Development Fund facilities.

ACC Director General Md Akhtar Hossain disclosed the information at a media briefing at the commission's headquarters in Dhaka.

According to the ACC, the accused abused power and, through collusion, took EDF-backed loans in the names of fake and newly formed garment companies. They allegedly created accommodation bills by showing fictitious imports and exports through Bangladesh Bank letters of credit and laundered the embezzled money through transfer, conversion and layering.

A five-member investigation team led by ACC Deputy Director Muhammad Zainal Abedin conducted the probe.

The investigation found that loans were approved and disbursed in favour of a newly formed company, Yellow Apparels Limited. Through internal import-export transactions and around 700 accommodation bills created using BB LCs, USD 48.978 million – equivalent to approximately Tk 416.37 crore – was misappropriated.

BNP aims to transform

FROM PAGE 1

BNP Standing Committee member Iqbal Hasan Mahmud Tuku said, “After the death of Ziaur Rahman, Khaleda Zia led the BNP forward. Now, after the death of Khaleda Zia, the BNP will move ahead under the leadership of Tarique Rahman.”

He said the public participation at Khaleda's namaz-e-janaza carried political significance.

“It proves the love and trust people had for her. That trust has now shifted towards her party, and we are determined to hold on to it.”

Political analysts said turning this sympathy and trust into votes would require a clear plan under Tarique's leadership.

They also said how effectively the party manages this transition under Tarique's leadership will shape not only the election outcome but also the BNP's future direction.

Al Masud Hasanuzzaman, former professor of government and politics at Jahangirnagar University, acknowledged that the huge crowd at Khaleda's funeral was a positive sign for the BNP ahead of the polls.

“The BNP would be naïve if it fails to utilise Khaleda Zia's charisma. The trust and sympathy it got after her death is definitely going to help the party.”

He said Tarique now has to take charge.

“He has to move forward with devising a clear election strategy, keeping Khaleda Zia at the centre of the campaign,” he said.

He said Tarique has already taken strong steps, including expelling rebel candidates, which is a positive sign.

Another analyst, Mohammad Mojibur Rahman, professor at Dhaka University's Institute of Education and Research, also sees the outpouring of love and compassion for the late prime minister as a plus point for the BNP.

He said the signs are clearly positive that many within the party are supporting the transition of leadership from Khaleda to Tarique.

However, he also pointed to potential challenges that Tarique may face.

“He has to deal with the rebel candidates and identify people within the administration who follow certain political ideologies and will be involved in running the election,” he said.

BNP leaders said that even before Khaleda's death, the party was utilising her clean image and political legacy as part of its election strategy.

Now, after her death, the BNP plans to move forward by following Khaleda's

political path under Tarique's leadership.

They believe that even in her absence, her role in restoring democracy and leading the party through years of political struggle will help mobilise voters further.

Party leaders said the message they want to send to voters is that Khaleda's ideals and political direction remain central to the party's agenda.

Besides, party insiders said that as part of campaigning, Tarique is likely to visit the homes of victims of the July uprising and may begin touring different parts of the country after December 20.

MESSAGE FROM GRASSROOTS

Grassroots leaders echoed the central leadership's message, saying the party wants to move forward by turning grief into political strength.

SA Jinnah Kabir, a nominated BNP candidate for Manikganj-1, said local leaders want to approach the election by keeping the late BNP chief's vision in mind.

He said people's trust and confidence in the BNP are now much stronger and must be preserved.

Sylhet district BNP President Abdul Quyum Choudhury said the party wants to move forward under Tarique's leadership and described the upcoming election as critical for both the party and the country's democratic future.

Dhaka North city unit Member Secretary Aminul Haq said, “Madam is no longer with us, but we want to turn our grief into strength and move forward. We have felt that people's trust in us has increased, and we will not let it be wasted in any way.”

STEERING COMMITTEE

BNP yesterday formed a 41-member Central Election Steering Committee to coordinate electoral strategy, candidate management, and organisational activities.

Standing Committee member Nazrul Islam Khan has been appointed chairman of the committee, while Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi will serve as its member secretary. BNP Chairperson's Advisory Council member Ismail Jabiullah has been named chief coordinator.

Among the 38 other members are Standing Committee member Selima Rahman; Vice Chairman Shamsuzzaman Dudu; Joint Secretary General Syed Moazzem Hossain Alal, adviser to the BNP chairperson; Bijon Kanti Sarker; BNP Joint Secretary General Habib-un-Nabi Khan Soheli; Tarique Rahman's adviser Mahdi Amin; and AKM Wahiduzzaman, secretary of the party's ICT affairs, among others.

I feel this entire nation

FROM PAGE 1

Bangladesh bid farewell to Khaleda Zia in a state funeral that drew vast crowds mourning a towering leader whose career defined the country's politics for decades.

Tarique said he was deeply moved by the outpouring of love from friends, neighbours, and well-wishers who came in their millions to honour Khaleda Zia's life and legacy.

“Seeing you all here, standing with our family through these most difficult hours, reminded me of something very precious: that she was not only a mother to me, but in many ways a mother of this nation,” he said.

The BNP leader said he could not help but remember his father, Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman, and his brother Arafat Rahman at that “moment of personal loss.”

“And yet, to be surrounded here by so many who feel like family has been a source of comfort I never expected on a day like this. Today, at a time of greatest sorrow, I feel like this whole nation is my family,” Tarique said.

He also expressed heartfelt gratitude to senior dignitaries from South Asian countries who attended in person, as well as to foreign governments, diplomats, and partners who conveyed their condolences to the family and the party, saying their gestures of respect and sympathy touched his heart deeply.

He said his mother devoted her life to serving others with relentless

dedication.

“I feel the weight of that legacy, and I promise to honour it with humility and commitment. Where her journey paused, I will strive to continue her work to the people whose faith and love sustained her until her last breath.”

He concluded, “May Allah grant her eternal peace, and may we find strength in the devotion she shared with us all.”

In another Facebook post, Tarique expressed his gratitude to the chief adviser and advisers of the interim government, members of the armed forces, law-enforcement agencies, government officials, and media professionals for their role in ensuring a dignified and orderly farewell.

“In yesterday's (Tuesday's) moments of deep personal loss, I want to speak from the heart and thank the many individuals whose care and professionalism helped the country conduct itself through my mother's final farewell,” he said.

He mentioned several ministries, as well as members of the armed forces, intelligence agencies, government staff, and journalists, for their sincere efforts.

“On behalf of my family, I thank each of you, not as institutions, but as people, for the empathy, respect, and sense of duty you showed at a time when we were grieving a great loss. Your efforts made it possible for our family, Alhamdulillah, and for the nation, to honour her memory with dignity,” he said.

Prof Sayedur reappointed as special assistant to CA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prof Sayedur Rahman has been reappointed as special assistant to the chief adviser for the health ministry, just a day after his resignation was accepted.

The Cabinet Division issued a gazette in this regard yesterday, and Sayedur confirmed his reappointment to The Daily Star.

On Tuesday, the cabinet had issued a separate gazette confirming his resignation after it was accepted by the president.

Sources at the health ministry said Sayedur was first appointed as special assistant in November last year on deputation while serving as vice chancellor of Bangladesh Medical University.



A steady stream of customers throngs a flower shop at Shahbagh in Dhaka, as New Year celebrations drive up demand for fresh bouquets -- a timeless symbol of hope and new beginnings. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

268 incidents of rights violations in CHT in 2025 Says PCJSS annual report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The rights situation in the Chattogram Hill Tracts deteriorated last year as the government failed to implement the 1997 CHT Peace Accord, according to the Annual Human Rights Report 2025 released yesterday by the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti.

The report said under the interim government no meaningful progress was made in implementing the accord. Nearly two-thirds of the accord, including its core provisions, remain unimplemented even after 28 years, resulting in increased militarisation, communal violence, land grabbing and widespread abuses against the indigenous Jumma people.

PCJSS urged the government to fully and immediately implement the 1997 CHT Peace Accord, end extrajudicial killings and arbitrary arrests, resolve land disputes and ensure justice for victims of communal and sexual violence.

PCJSS recorded 268 incidents of human rights violations in the CHT during 2025, affecting 606 Jumma people. It said security forces, police, Bangalee settlers, extremist groups, land grabbers and Rohingya armed groups were identified as perpetrators.

The report documented eight extrajudicial killings, 117 arbitrary arrests, 193 search operations in villages and 26 incidents of violence against women and children.

At least 43 homes and two Buddhist temples were searched and vandalised, it said. The report also alleged that more than 300 acres of land were illegally occupied in 2025.

Among the most serious incidents was the killing of three Marma youths in September in Guimara of Khagrachhari, who were shot while protesting the rape of a Marma schoolgirl, the report said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

‘Disappointing and alarming’

Says HRSS report on human rights situation in 2025

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The human rights situation in the country remained “disappointing and alarming” in 2025 due to the inaction of law enforcement agencies, the government’s ineffective response, and the irresponsibility of major political parties, according to the Human Rights Support Society’s (HRSS) annual report.

The report, released yesterday, said despite hopes for improvement following the July uprising and the formation of an interim government led by Nobel laureate Dr Muhammad Yunus, human rights violations not only continued but also escalated last year.

While some reforms were introduced, HRSS described them as insignificant compared to the scale of violations recorded.

Based on reports from 15 national newspapers, the report documented 914 incidents of political violence last year, leaving at least 133 people dead and 7,511 injured.

Clashes stemmed from struggles over political dominance, revenge, disputes over committee formation, election-related conflicts, extortion, and property attacks.

Intra-party clashes within the BNP accounted for 486 incidents, resulting in 82 deaths and 4,716 injuries. Clashes between BNP and other parties, including the Awami

League, Jamaat, and NCP, caused hundreds more casualties.

Extremists and criminal groups carried out at least 169 attacks on political leaders and activists, killing 108 and injuring 189. Over 250 people were shot, and thousands of homes, offices, businesses, and vehicles were vandalised, looted, or set on fire.

AT A GLANCE

- 914 incidents of political violence leave 133 dead
- 292 incidents of mob violence kill 168 people
- 318 attacks on journalists
- 2,047 women and girls face violence
- 1,371 child abuse cases recorded, including 288 deaths
- 40 killed in police actions; 92 detainees die in custody

Rising political tensions ahead of the upcoming election triggered numerous clashes, attacks, vandalism, and arson targeting potential candidates and aggrieved party supporters. Protests, road blockades, strikes, and attacks on homes and offices intensified concerns.

Between October and December, 54 election-related incidents left

three people dead and 494 injured.

Notably, on December 18, Sharif Osman Hadi, a July frontliner and potential candidate for Dhaka-8, died from injuries sustained when he was shot in broad daylight on December 12.

Earlier, BNP activist Sarwar Hossain was killed during a campaign rally in Chattogram on November 5, while three others, including BNP candidate Ershad Ullah, were injured. In Mymensingh-3, student wing activist Tanzeen Ahmed was killed in intra-party clashes.

The report recorded 292 incidents of mob violence and public lynching, leaving 168 dead and more than 248 injured. Many victims were humiliated, beaten, or burned over suspicion, rumours, or allegations of theft or sacrilege across the country.

Journalists faced 318 attacks affecting at least 539 individuals. Three journalists were killed, 273 were injured, 57 extorted, 83 threatened, and 17 arrested, while 107 journalists faced legal cases across 34 incidents.

Following Hadi’s death, mobs attacked the offices of Prothom Alo and The Daily Star in Dhaka, vandalising, looting, and setting the buildings on fire. New Age Editor Nurul Kabir was also harassed during the incident.

Several journalists, including

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

BNP moves to finalise candidates for Khaleda’s seats

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Standing Committee member Salahuddin Ahmed yesterday said alternative candidates nominated by the party for the three constituencies allocated to chairperson Khaleda Zia would become the official BNP candidates if their nominations pass scrutiny.

He also said there is no legal scope to suspend or defer the election following her death.

“Since our party has nominated alternative candidates for the seats allocated to her, they will become the BNP candidates if their nominations pass scrutiny,” he told reporters at the party chairperson’s Gulshan office.

Khaleda was nominated by BNP for three constituencies -- Dinajpur-3, Feni-1 and Bogura-7 -- in the upcoming 13th parliamentary election.

The party also fielded alternative candidates due to her critical health condition.

For Feni-1, Dhaka city south unit convener Rafiqul Alam Majnu; for Bogura-7, local BNP leader Morshed Alam; and for Dinajpur-3, BNP leader Sayed Jahangir Alam submitted nomination papers.

Explaining the legal position, Salahuddin said if the BNP chief had died after scrutiny of nominations or allocation of election symbols, legal complications could have arisen and the question of postponement might have come up.

“But that is not the situation now. She passed away before the scrutiny process. Legally, she no longer exists as a legal entity, so her nomination paper will not be valid during scrutiny,” he said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

3 killed in Dhaka road crashes

Four die as truck overturns in Rajshahi



A sand-laden truck overturned in Rajshahi’s Puthia amid dense fog yesterday morning, killing at least four people.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three people, including a police officer, were killed in two road accidents on Malibagh-Mouchak and Khilgaon flyovers in Dhaka on Wednesday night and early yesterday.

Two people died in a head-on collision between a CNG-run auto-rickshaw and a motorcycle on the Malibagh-Mouchak flyover around 4:45am yesterday, police said.

The deceased are auto-rickshaw driver Noyon Talukdar, 60, and motorcyclist Yasin Arafat Ashik, 21, a college student.

Ramna Police Station Sub-Inspector Sushanta Kumar said the collision occurred near the Fortune Market crossing on the flyover, leaving both vehicles severely damaged.

Police rescued the two victims in a critical condition and took them to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared them dead. The bodies were sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

In another incident, a police official was killed after a covered van hit his motorcycle on Khilgaon flyover around 11:45pm on Wednesday.

Rubel Haque, 32, a nayek of the Bangladesh Police who was posted at Rajarbagh Police Lines, died on the spot, said Khilgaon Police Station OC Md Shafiqul Islam.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8



Braving dense fog and a biting winter chill, daily wage workers crowd onto a human haulier called nosimon as they head towards Khulna city in search of work. Travelling from surrounding villages, they take up various day-labour jobs to earn between Tk 500 and Tk 700 a day. The photo was taken at the Khulna City Bypass Road intersection yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Fuel prices cut by Tk 2 per litre for January

New rates for diesel, petrol, octane and kerosene take effect from January 1



STAR REPORT

The government has announced a Tk 2 per litre reduction in the prices of diesel, octane, petrol and kerosene for January 2026.

According to the revised rates, diesel will now sell at Tk 102 per litre, down from Tk 104, octane at Tk 122 from Tk 124, petrol at Tk 118 from Tk 120, and kerosene at Tk 114 from Tk 116. A government gazette issued by the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources said the new prices will come into effect from January 1.



সম্মিলিত ইসলামী ব্যাংক প্লস
SAMMILITE ISLAMIA BANK PLC
সম্মিলিত শরিয়াহ পদ্ধতি অনুযায়ী

দেশের প্রথম
রাষ্ট্র মালিকানাধীন
শরীয়াহভিত্তিক বাণিজ্যিক ব্যাংক

সম্মিলিত ইসলামী ব্যাংক পিএলসি

আমানতের
সুরক্ষা

লেনদেনের
নিশ্চয়তা

বিনিয়োগের
বিরাপত্তা



GAZA STRIP

Israel vows to enforce ban on 37 NGOs

AFP, Jerusalem

Israel said yesterday 37 international NGOs operating in Gaza had not complied with a deadline to meet “security and transparency standards,” in particular disclosing information on their Palestinian staff, and that it “will enforce” a ban on their activities.

The groups will now be required to cease their operations by March 1, which the UN has warned will exacerbate the humanitarian crisis in the war-ravaged Palestinian territory.

“Organisations that have failed to meet required security and transparency standards will have their licenses suspended,” the Ministry of Diaspora Affairs said yesterday.

Several NGOS said the requirements contravene international law or endanger their independence.



Crew members of the “Ocean Viking” rescue ship assist a migrant onto a RHIB (rigid inflatable boat) during an evacuation from the oil tanker “Maridive 703” in the search-and-rescue zone of international waters between Malta and Tunisia, Wednesday.

PHOTO: AFP

128 journalists killed worldwide in 2025: IFJ

AFP, Brussels

A total of 128 journalists were killed around the world in 2025, more than half of them in the Middle East, the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) said yesterday.

The grim toll, up from 2024, “is not just a statistic, it’s a global red alert for our colleagues,” IFJ General Secretary Anthony Bellanger told AFP. The press group voiced particular alarm over the situation in the Palestinian territories, where it recorded 56 media professionals killed in 2025 as Israel’s offensive continued in Gaza.

“We’ve never seen anything like this: so many deaths in such a short time, in such a small area,” Bellanger said. Journalists were also killed in Yemen, Ukraine, Sudan, Peru, India and elsewhere.

Bellanger condemned what he called “impunity” for those behind the attacks. “Without justice, it allows the killers of journalists to thrive,” he warned.

Meanwhile, the IFJ said that across the globe 533 journalists were currently in prison -- a figure that has more than doubled over the past half-decade.

China once again topped the list as the worst jailer of reporters with 143 behind bars, including in Hong Kong, where authorities have been criticised by Western nations for imposing national security laws quashing dissent.

Deal to end Ukraine war ‘10 percent’ away

Says Zelensky; 20 killed in Ukrainian drone attack: Moscow

AGENCIES

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Wednesday his country was “10 percent” away from a deal to end the war with Russia, but cautioned that the most important issues were unresolved and warned against rewarding Moscow.

US-led efforts to end Europe’s deadliest conflict since World War II have gained pace in recent weeks, but both sides remain at odds over the key issue of territory in a post-war settlement.

In his New Year’s Eve address, Zelensky said his country wanted an end to the war but not at “any cost”, and that any agreement needed strong security guarantees to deter Russia from invading again, reports AFP.

“The peace agreement is 90 percent ready. Ten percent remains. And that is far more than just numbers,” Zelensky said in the address, posted on his Telegram account.

“Those are the 10 percent that will determine the fate of peace, the fate of Ukraine and Europe,” he added.

Meanwhile, a Ukrainian drone attack on a Russian-held part of Ukraine’s southern Kherson region has killed at least 20 people, a Moscow-installed governor and Russian authorities said yesterday.

“Three UAVs struck a cafe and hotel on the Black Sea coast in Khorly. According to preliminary reports, more than 50 people were injured, and 24 people were killed,” Vladimir Saldo said on Telegram.

A Russian drone attack damaged power infrastructure in several Ukrainian regions overnight, Ukraine’s energy ministry said yesterday.

Saudi-backed forces to deploy in seized territories

Say Yemen separatists

AFP, Al Mukalla

Separatists from Yemen’s Southern Transitional Council said yesterday that Saudi-aligned government forces would enter territories seized by the UAE-backed group, in a step that appeared unlikely to satisfy Riyadh after it repeatedly demanded their full withdrawal.

A surprise offensive by the STC, in which the separatists took control of resource-rich Hadramawt and Mahra provinces last month, has brought the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, officially allies in Yemen, to a point of unprecedented escalation.

On Tuesday, the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen struck what it said was a shipment of Emirati weapons destined for the separatists, a claim Abu Dhabi has denied, and called for STC forces to withdraw.

In its statement yesterday, the STC said it would continue to operate in the regions but had agreed to the deployment of the Riyadh-backed National Shield government force in the areas.

“Today, we launched an operation to integrate the southern National Shield forces so that they can assume the responsibilities and missions that fall to our armed forces,” they announced.

The statement said a National Shield brigade would be deployed in “areas of the Hadramawt and Mahra governorates, as agreed”.

ECONOMIC WOES

One killed in Iran protests


REUTERS, Dubai

One man was killed in Iran on Wednesday night, state television said, the first death reported after days of demonstrations over high inflation that mark the most significant unrest since nationwide protests three years ago.

State media said yesterday the person killed was a member of the paramilitary Basij militia-- naming him as 21-year-old Amirhossam Khodayari Fard.


The incident in Kuhdasht in Iran’s western Lorestan province marks an escalation in the unrest that has spread across the country since shopkeepers began protests on Sunday.






University of Dhaka
e-GP Tender Notice
e-GP Tender is invited in the National e-GP System (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of medicine mentioned below under University of Dhaka.

| SL No | Tender ID | Package No | Name of Work | e-Tender Last Selling date & Time | e-Tender Closing date & Time |
|-------|-----------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. | 1203834 | DU/MC/Procurement/2025-2026/OTM/G-2 | Procurement of Medicine | 18-Jan-2026 17.00 | 19-Jan-2026 12.30 |




Chief Medical Officer
Shahid Buddijibe Dr Mohammad Mortaza Medical Center
University of Dhaka

GD-9



Office of the Project Director
Economically Lost Lifecycle Rubber Tree Felling,
Reforestation and Rubber Processing Modernization Project
Bangladesh Forest Industries Development Corporation
73, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000
www.bfidec.gov.bd



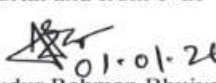
Ref-22.03.0000.022.122.01.003.25-97

Date: 01-01-2026

e-GP Tender Notice (OTM)
e-Tender is invited in the national e-GP system portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of below:

| SL | Description | Tender ID | Last Selling Date & Time | Last Date & Time of Tender Security Submission | Closing & Opening Time & Date |
|----|--|-----------|--------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| 01 | Hiring of 01 (one) double cabin pickup for project office, project site monitoring and supervision work. | 1205749 | 11-01-2026 14:00 | 12-01-2026 13:00 | 12-01-2026 14:00 |

This is an online e-Tender registration in the national e-GP system portal (<https://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 banks branches. Further information and guideline are available in the national e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).



(Md. Masudur Rahman Bhuiyan)
Project Director (Joint Secretary)
Economically Lost Lifecycle Rubber Tree Felling, Reforestation and Rubber Processing Modernization Project
Phone: 02-223382979
E-mail: bfidec.project@gmail.com

GD-05

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Jamalpur Public Works Division
Jamalpur
Phone: 02-997772417
E-mail: ee_jmlpr@pwd.gov.bd

2nd Corrigendum Notice
Memo No. 25.36.3900.164.07.001.26/1092
Date: 01-01-2026
e-Tender is invited in e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Executive Engineer, Jamalpur PWD Division, Jamalpur for the procurement of:

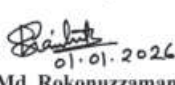
Tender Description

| SL No. | Tender ID No. | Name of work | Tender documents last selling date & time | Tender closing date & time |
|--------|---------------|---|---|----------------------------|
| 1 | 1195341 | "Establishment of Jamalpur Medical College & Hospital and Nursing College, Jamalpur. Sub-Head: Construction of Hospital Building (6-Storied Building with 10-Storied Foundation) with a Basement Floor including Civil, Sanitary and Electrical Work. FY-2025-26" | 11-Jan-2026 17:00:00 | 12-Jan-2026 12:00:00 |

Corrigendum:

| Area of Corrigendum | Old value | New value |
|---------------------|--|--|
| Notice | 2. Minimum Specific Experience as a Contractor shall be Successful Completion of at least 1 (one) number of 5 (Five) Storied RCC Building with a Single Basement (B1+5) that covers Civil, Sanitary and Electrification Works of value Tk 140.00 (One Hundred and Forty) Crore. | 2. Minimum Specific Experience as a Contractor shall be Successful Completion of at least 1 (one) number of 5 (Five) Storied RCC Building with a Single Basement (B1+5) that covers Civil, Sanitary and Electrification Works of value Tk 140.00 (One Hundred and Forty) Crore within the Last 10 (Ten) Years counting backward from the date of publication of the IFT. |
| ITT Clause-13.1(b) | Minimum Specific Experience as a Prime Contractor shall be Successful Completion of at least 1 (one) number of 5 (Five) Storied RCC Building with a Single Basement (B1+5) that covers Civil, Sanitary and Electrification Works of value Tk 140.00 (One Hundred and Forty) Crore in a Single Contract in any Government/Semi-Government/Autonomous Organization of Bangladesh within the Last 5 (Five) Years counting backward from the date of publication of the IFT. | Minimum Specific Experience as a Prime Contractor shall be Successful Completion of at least 1 (one) number of 5 (Five) Storied RCC Building with a Single Basement (B1+5) that covers Civil, Sanitary and Electrification Works of value Tk 140.00 (One Hundred and Forty) Crore in a Single Contract in any Government/Semi-Government/Autonomous Organization of Bangladesh within the Last 10 (Ten) Years counting backward from the date of publication of the IFT. |

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. This Corrigendum is part and parcel of the tender. All other conditions will remain unchanged.



Md. Rokonzaman
Executive Engineer
Jamalpur PWD Division
Jamalpur

GD-02

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD
Munshiganj Road Division
Dashkani, Panchasar (Mukterpur), Munshiganj.
Phone # 02-998847019
E-mail: eemunrhd@gmail.com

Memo No.35.01.5900.447.04.008.25-01

Date: 01/01/2026

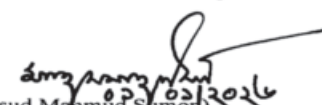
e-Tender Notice
e-Tender is invited in The National e-Gp system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by the Executive Engineer, RHD, Munshiganj Road Division, Munshiganj for the procurement of

| SL No | Tender ID & Package No | e-Tender Description | Last Selling Date & Time | Closing Date & Time | Opening Date & Time |
|-------|---|---|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | 1205590 02-Dev/e-GP/Mundiv/2025-2026 | Construction of 151.90m (1x25.90m+1x99.00m+1x25.90m) Span Steel BUG Truss / I-Girder Bridge (Kunderbazar Bridge) at 6th Km (Ch.5+570m) and Construction Of 25.90m (1x25.00m) Span Steel Composite I-Girder Bridge (Baroipara Bridge) at 6th Km (Ch.5+804m) on Munshiganj (Hatimara) - Kunderbazar - Sreenagar (Sonabari) Road (Z-8004) under Munshiganj Road Division, Munshiganj (WP-34) | 01-02-2026 17:00 | 02-02-2026 12:00 | 02-02-2026 12:00 |

1. The above tender is online Tender. Where only e-Tender will be accepted in e-Gp portal and no Offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-Gp system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

2. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National E-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks Branch.

3. Further information and guidelines are available in the National E-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).



(Masud Mahmud Sumon)
ID No-602165
Executive Engineer,RHD
Munshiganj Road Division.

GD-6

Star BUSINESS

Merging banks start repaying depositors

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The five troubled banks under the process of being merged into the country's largest state-run Islamic lender began repaying depositors yesterday, with no visible rush at their branches.

Most branches of the five lenders reported normal banking activity, hinting at growing depositor confidence in the newly formed Sammilito Islami Bank PLC.

The five banks are the Export Import Bank of Bangladesh (EXIM Bank), First Security Islami Bank, Global Islami Bank, Social Islami Bank and Union Bank.

Signboards bearing the name Sammilito Islami Bank have been installed at the branches and head offices of the merging lenders, while their original signboards have also been kept in place.

Under instructions from the Bangladesh Bank (BB), customers are currently allowed to withdraw up to Tk 200,000 from their savings and current accounts.

Visits to several branches in Dhaka's Motijheel area yesterday found no unusual crowds, with customers seen carrying out regular banking transactions.

At the corporate branch of Social Islami Bank in Motijheel, only five to six customers were seen conducting transactions.

M u h a m m a d Asaduzzaman Miah, manager of the branch, told The Daily Star that clients are permitted to withdraw funds as per their demand, but many are choosing not to do so.

"I think customers are trusting the bank, as it is being merged into a state-run institution," he said.

He added that the branch holds deposits of around Tk 300 crore, the majority of which belong to individual customers.

Remittances hit record \$32b in 2025, shoring up reserves

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladeshis abroad sent home a record \$32.8 billion in 2025, according to central bank data, as economists say more expatriates are now using formal banking channels, with informal routes siphoning off less since the August political changeover.

The historic-high inflows offered a much-needed tonic to the country's fragile external balance.

The amount is 22 percent higher than the \$26.88 billion recorded in the previous year, according to Bangladesh Bank (BB) data released yesterday.

In December alone, remittances reached \$3.22 billion, the highest monthly inflow in nine months, up 22 percent from the same month last year.

Foreign currency streaming in helped lift gross reserves to \$33.18 billion on December 30, up from \$25 billion a year earlier.

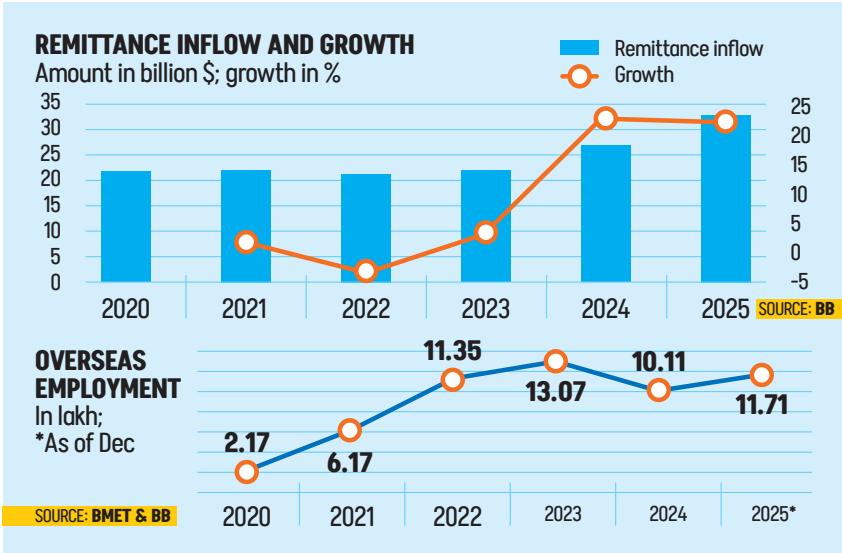
After the fall of the previous government, remittance inflows started to rise every month. Previously, demand for hundi was growing amid large sums of money reportedly being siphoned abroad

"Remittances have been a key driver for the recent increase in reserves, indicating improved performance of the external sector," said Mohammed Nurul Amin, former chairman of the Association of Bankers Bangladesh (ABB).

"Forex reserve figures are now closely watched, as a rise strengthens confidence and attracts foreign interest," he said.

He hoped that the trend could ease pressure on the external sector in the months ahead.

During the July-December period last year, expatriates sent home \$16.26 billion, an 18.1 percent increase on the same period in 2024, according to the BB data.



Industry insiders said government incentives, banks' efforts to attract foreign funds, and the decline of the hundi system -- an illegal yet popular cross-border transfer mechanism -- helped push inflows higher after the political changeover in August 2024.

After the fall of the previous government, remittance inflows started to rise every month. Previously, demand for hundi was growing amid large sums of money reportedly being siphoned abroad. That stopped under the interim government.

Mohammed Nurul Amin, former independent director and chairman of Global Islami Bank, said incentives have played a major role in boosting the inflow. "As a result, people are sending more money through formal channels," he added.

Remittance senders currently get a 2.5 percent government incentive.

He also pointed to a psychological change after the fall of the previous government. "People believe that corruption is no longer as prevalent as before," he said, adding that overseas employment has risen, with more skilled workers leaving home for jobs abroad.

Between January and December 28 last year, as many as 1,116,725 men and women went overseas. In 2023, 1,303,453 workers went abroad, while

1,011,969 left the country for overseas jobs in 2024, according to official data.

According to the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training, Saudi Arabia welcomed 744,619 Bangladeshi workers, Qatar 106,805, and Singapore 69,491 during the first 11 months and 28 days of the year.

Zahid Hussain, former lead economist at the World Bank's Dhaka office, said more expatriates are using official channels because less money is now being siphoned abroad, reducing demand for hundi transfers.

"Higher reserves boost confidence in the exchange rate, thereby limiting depreciation," said the economist. "Although investment may rise after the election, the strong reserve position should prevent pressure on the exchange rate."

In December, Islami Bank Bangladesh received the highest inflow at \$671 million, followed by Bangladesh Krishi Bank with \$353 million, Janata Bank \$281 million, and BRAC Bank \$261 million, showed BB data.

With rising remittances easing demand for US dollars, the central bank purchased over \$3 billion in the current fiscal year, a reflection of ongoing efforts to shore up foreign exchange reserves.

Govt sharply cuts taxes on handset imports, manufacturing

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government has sharply cut taxes on mobile phone imports and local manufacturing, responding to a long-standing demand from traders and aiming to curb the use of unofficial and smuggled handsets while stabilising prices.

The overall import duty on mobile phones has been reduced to 43.43 percent from 61.8 percent, Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam announced yesterday at a press briefing at the Foreign Service Academy following an Advisory Council meeting.

Besides, customs duty on imported handsets has been slashed to 10 percent from 25 percent, while that on locally manufactured phones has been lowered to 5 percent from 10 percent.

Alam said the tax incidence on locally manufactured phones would also decline significantly.

The government expects the measures to boost local manufacturing, attract investment, lower prices, and curb the inflow of used and refurbished phones, he added.

The move coincided with the launch of the National Equipment Identity Register (NEIR) yesterday, a system designed to identify and block unauthorised mobile phones.

According to data from the Mobile Phone Industry Owners' Association and the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC), grey-market smartphones now account for 40 percent to 50 percent of the market.

Estimates show that 93 percent of premium phones of one brand in use in Bangladesh last year entered through the grey market, while the figure for mid-range models stood at around 69 percent, The Daily Star reported last month.

BTRC OFFICE VANDALISED AMID NEIR LAUNCH

Amid the NEIR launch, a group vandalised the BTRC office in Agargaon, Dhaka, around 4:25pm yesterday, breaking the glass wall at the front of the building.

DMP's Tejgaon Division Deputy Commissioner Ibne Mizan said a few people were detained from the scene for questioning and that they initially appeared to be mobile phone traders. Besides, the Bangladesh Army arrested 28 people on the spot.



A BTRC official said mobile phone traders had gathered outside the office around 3pm to protest the NEIR launch, and some leaders were invited inside for discussions. Shortly afterwards, however, several individuals were seen throwing bricks and vandalising the premises.

Shamim Mollah, senior vice-president of the Mobile Business Community, denied any involvement of mobile phone traders in the vandalism, suggesting that a group of curious individuals or customers might have been responsible.

Faiz Ahmad Taiyeb, special assistant to the chief adviser with executive authority over telecom and ICT, said customs duties on legally imported phones had been reduced significantly.

"Despite this, those who attacked and vandalised the BTRC office are in no way above the law," he said, adding that all those involved would be brought to justice.

He also said strict operations would begin at land ports and airports to curb illegal handset imports and stressed that NEIR is vital for digital security.

BTRC Chairman Major General Md Emdad ul Bari said some traders wanted to illegally import refurbished or used phones.

Any decision on the matter rests with the commerce ministry and is beyond the regulator's jurisdiction, he also noted.

Govt lowers interest rates on savings certificates

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government has reduced interest rates on all major national savings certificates (NSCs) for the next six months, aligning them with prevailing market interest rates.

Under the revised structure, the highest return on savings instruments will now be 10.59 percent, while the lowest will be 8.74 percent, according to an announcement by the Internal Resources Division on December 30.

The new rates came into effect yesterday. However, the revised rates will apply only to new investments made after January 1, 2026. Investors who purchased savings certificates earlier will continue to receive returns at the rates applicable at the time of issuance.

This is the second reduction in interest rates within six months. Under the current policy, NSC interest rates are reviewed every six months.

Under the new structure, investors with smaller investments - up to Tk 7.5 lakh - will receive comparatively higher returns than those investing above that threshold.

Previously, the most popular instrument, the Family Savings Certificate, offered investors a return of 11.93 percent on investments of up to Tk 7.5 lakh upon maturity after five years. This rate has now been reduced to 10.54 percent.

For the same amount of investment, the Pensioner Savings Certificate offers an interest rate of 10.59 percent, down from 11.98 percent. Five-year Bangladesh Savings Certificate offers 10.44 percent, down from 11.83 percent.

The five-year Bangladesh Savings Certificate now offers 10.44 percent, down from 11.83 percent for up to Tk 7.50 lakh.

For all three above-mentioned savings instruments, investments exceeding Tk 7.5 lakh will provide a return of 10.41 percent, down from 11.80 percent.

Returns on the quarterly interest-based savings certificates have also been cut. Investors with up to Tk 7.5 lakh will now receive 10.48 percent, while those above the limit will earn 10.43 percent.

Interest rates on Wage Earner Development Bonds have also been reduced across all investment slabs, with returns now ranging from 11.20 percent for lower tiers to 8.40 percent for the highest investment bracket.

Chilly spell raises disease risk for winter crops

SUKANTA HALDER

As a cold wave continues to grip the country, agricultural experts are warning that certain crops could face serious risks from the unusual weather, while others may benefit and thrive under these conditions.

According to a press release issued yesterday by the Bangladesh Agro-Meteorological Information Service under the Department of Agricultural Extension, the cold weather is expected to affect multiple crops.

Potatoes are particularly vulnerable to late blight, while rice seedlings in seedbeds may be affected by scorch disease. Onions and garlic face tipburn, and onions can also develop purple blotch. Pulses are at risk of leaf spot, rust, and Stemphylium diseases. Mustard crops may develop white mould and leaf spot before flowering.

Limu Akter, senior scientific officer of the vegetable division at the Horticultural Research Center of the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute, said, "The current cold and damp weather is highly unfavourable for some winter vegetables, as it encourages the spread of serious diseases such as late blight and powdery mildew.

"Crops like potatoes, tomatoes, capsicum, and eggplant are particularly vulnerable, while cucurbit crops face an increased risk from powdery mildew. Prolonged adverse weather can stunt plant growth and greatly increase disease risks," she added.

Mahbuba Begum, principal scientific officer of the Tuber Crop Research Center in Gazipur, said, "The prevailing weather conditions are ideal for the initiation and rapid spread of late blight in potatoes.

"High humidity and cool conditions significantly increase the risk of infection, making potatoes the most vulnerable crop at this time. Other crops, such as sweet potatoes and mustard, are not facing major threats under the current conditions."

Begum advised, "To effectively control late blight, farmers should follow recommended management practices, including the regular application of fungicides at seven-day intervals.

"Timely preventive action is essential, as the



Farmers shield Boro seedlings with polythene as the cold wave threatens crops like potatoes, tomatoes, and onions, risking disease and stunted growth while some crops may thrive. The photo was taken in Manda upazila of Naogaon on December 31.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

disease can spread quickly once established, while most other crops remain largely unaffected by the current weather pattern."

Mohammad Khalequzzaman, director general of the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute, said that rice cultivation is extremely sensitive to temperature and sunlight, and growth can completely halt when temperatures fall below 10-13°C.

He added, "During the recent cold wave, a combination of low temperatures and lack of sunlight caused physiological growth stoppage, which can lead to cold injury, disease, and rotting if such conditions persist.

"However, the impact on rice at the seedling or seedbed stage was minimal, as growth is naturally paused during this period, allowing the plants to withstand short-term cold stress and recover once sunlight returns, and temperatures rise."

Khalequzzaman stressed, "Nighttime temperatures are the most critical factor for assessing potential damage. While prolonged cold spells can delay crop maturity and reduce yields, the recent seven-day cold wave was not

severe enough to cause measurable losses.

"The situation would have been far more damaging if the rice had already been transplanted into open fields. At present, only Boro rice in seedbeds is being managed."

COLD WAVE CONTINUES

According to the Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD), a cold wave is currently sweeping over 17 districts, with moderate to dense fog possible in some areas.

Earlier on December 26, the Met Office reported that a mild cold wave had hit Jashore, Chuadanga, Gopalganj, Rajshahi, Pabna, Sirajganj, and Nilphamari.

Shahnaz Sultana, a meteorologist at BMD, said, "The unusually cold conditions in the country began on December 25. There was a brief period of sunlight on December 27, but persistent fog and overcast skies on December 28 and 29 prevented daytime warming.

"During this period, maximum daytime temperatures dropped significantly, while nighttime temperatures remained largely unchanged. The lack of sunlight made the days feel much colder, intensifying the impact of the cold spell."

MCCI, BCI condole Khaleda Zia's death

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Two major trade bodies have expressed deep condolences over the passing of Khaleda Zia, a three-time prime minister of Bangladesh.

In a press release yesterday, the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka (MCCI), said, "Her demise marks the end of a significant chapter in Bangladesh's political history, leaving behind a legacy of leadership, resilience, and profound national impact."

Khaleda passed away on December 30 while undergoing treatment at Evercare Hospital. She was 80. She was laid to rest beside her husband, former Bangladesh president Ziaur Rahman, the following day at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the capital.

In a separate statement, the Bangladesh Chamber of Industries (BCI) said the nation will remember Khaleda's role in expanding education, particularly women's education, and in creating a social safety net.

BCI President Anwar-Ul Alam Chowdhury (Parvez) said during her tenure, the foundation of industrialisation laid through the introduction of a free-market economy and encouragement of the private sector helped strengthen Bangladesh's economy. "With her death, the country and the nation have lost a dedicated patriotic leader."

Bangladesh stocks were worst in South Asia last year

Shows review by BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Although it offered the highest dividend yield in the region, the Bangladesh stock market recorded the worst performance among South Asian economies last year, dragged down by poor corporate earnings, especially in the banking sector, according to a new review.

The benchmark DSEX index fell 6.7 percent over the year. By contrast, India's BSE Sensex rose 8.52 percent. Pakistan's KSE index jumped 45 percent, while Sri Lanka's CSE All index climbed 41 percent.

Elsewhere in Asia, Vietnam's VNI Index advanced 39 percent, and Indonesia's JCI Index gained 22 percent. Thailand's SET index was the only other major laggard, dropping 10 percent.

A performance review for 2025 by BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage said the Bangladesh market saw persistently weak trading activity throughout the year. Market turnover reflected fragile investor sentiment amid a mix of global and domestic pressures, including new US tariff imposition, international conflicts, stress in the banking sector, and local political developments.

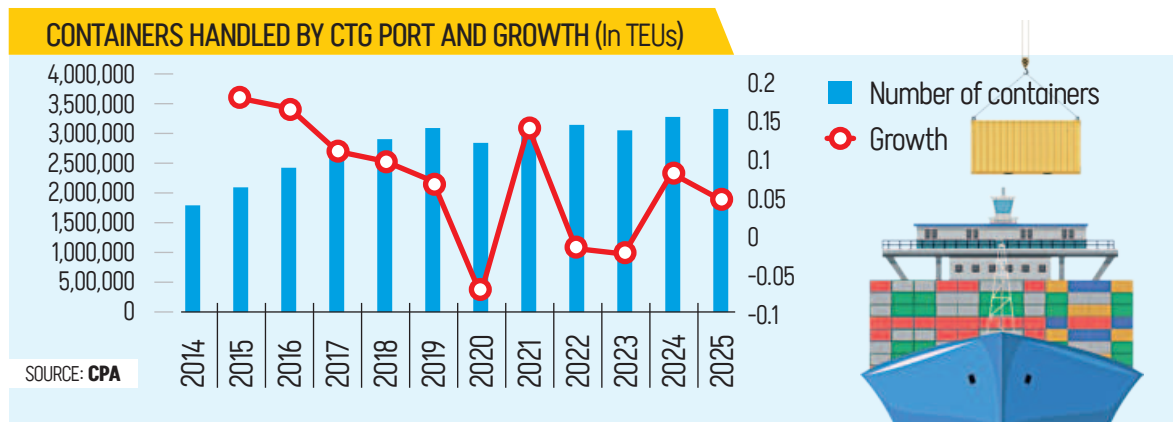
While some macroeconomic indicators showed signs of improvement, including interest rates, inflation, and the foreign exchange market, concerns over banking sector reforms and rapidly rising non-performing loans continued to weigh on confidence, the review said.

Corporate earnings of listed companies deteriorated in the first nine months of the year to September, dropping about 423 percent year-on-year. The slump was driven largely by weak results from several listed banks and non-bank financial institutions.

Investor sentiment towards the banking sector remained highly cautious, reflecting recent reform measures, slower business growth, and elevated levels of non-performing loans, according to BRAC EPL.

The non-bank financial institution sector recorded the steepest price fall, with share prices sliding 27 percent over the year, tracking weaker earnings.

Ctg port hit several records in 2025 despite disruptions



STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chattogram port recorded historic highs in container, cargo and vessel handling in 2025, although the year saw several disruptions to port operations.

In 2025, container handling by the port grew by 4.07 percent, overall cargo by 11.43 percent and vessel calls by 10.5 percent compared with the previous year, according to data provided by the traffic department of the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) yesterday.

The country's largest seaport, which handles around 92 percent of Bangladesh total import and export trade and 98 percent of containerised cargo, handled 34.09 lakh TEUs of export, import and empty containers from January to December 2025.

That was an increase of 133,442 TEUs from 32.76 lakh TEUs a year earlier.

This was the first time annual container throughput crossed 34 lakh TEUs since container operations began at the port in 1977, setting a new record.

Of the total, about 18.57 lakh TEUs were import containers and 15.52 lakh TEUs export containers. Roughly 750,000 TEUs were empty containers.

The port authority compiled the data by counting containers loaded and unloaded at the port's main jetties, the Pangaon Inland Container Terminal in Keraniganj and the Kamalapur Inland Container Depot in Dhaka.

The port managed 13.82 crore tonnes of cargo in 2025, up from 12.40 crore tonnes a year earlier, an increase of 1.42 crore tonnes. Vessel calls rose to 4,273, compared with 3,867 in 2024.

Throughout 2025, port operations faced a series of disruptions. Yard congestion led to

vessel queues and longer waiting times at various points during the year.

Port officials said a series of reforms, including digital upgrades and expanded yard capacity, helped ease pressure. By the final quarter, vessel waiting times fell to almost zero, allowing the port to maintain its growth.

Khairul Alam Suzan, former director of Bangladesh Shipping Agents Association, said container volumes could rise by 10 lakh TEUs within the next five years.

With a deal recently signed with a foreign operator, the Laldia Container Terminal is expected to begin operations by that time, although it would be able to handle at most 8 lakh TEUs annually, he said.

Suzan advocated for starting other expansion projects, including Bay Terminal and Matarbari port, to meet future demand.

Gross forex reserves cross \$33b after three years

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh's gross foreign exchange reserves crossed \$33 billion for the first time in three years since fiscal year 2021-22, a sign of the country's increasing capacity to cover import bills for a longer period.

Readily usable reserves, as per the calculation method of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), stood at \$28.51 billion on December 30, 2025, up from a week earlier, Bangladesh Bank (BB) said yesterday.

It means that Bangladesh can cover import payments for more than five months. The country's monthly import bill is more than \$5.50 billion, according to BB data.

Forex reserves, which had crossed \$48 billion in August 2021, began to fall amid pent-up demand for imports following the removal of Covid restrictions and rising commodity prices in the global market after Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

In May 2024, overall dollar stock holdings stood at \$24 billion, raising concerns about the country's capacity to clear international payment obligations.

The turnaround in forex reserves began after the fall of the Awami League government in August last year, as remittance inflow increased.

The BB, which had earlier sold the greenback to support the value of the taka, began purchasing US dollars from banks at the start of the current fiscal year 2025-26 to curb the depreciation of the greenback.

The BB has bought \$3 billion so far this fiscal year.

During the July-November period, remittance inflow grew 17 percent year-on-year to \$13 billion. Export growth was slightly higher, while imports also gained momentum, according to official data.

Zahid Hussain, former lead economist at the World Bank's Dhaka office, said the foreign exchange reserves are increasing mainly due to higher remittance inflows and subdued imports. As a result, the demand for foreign currency has remained low while supply is relatively high.

Islami Bank holds orientation for trainee officers

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Islami Bank Bangladesh PLC yesterday organised an orientation programme for 1,000 newly recruited trainee assistant officers at the Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh in Dhaka.

According to a press release, Prof M Zubaidur Rahman, chairman of Islami Bank Bangladesh PLC, inaugurated the programme as the chief guest. In his speech, Rahman said the bank had faced numerous challenges in recent years but had turned each challenge into an opportunity, enabling the institution to regain momentum.

Calling on the young officers to play a vital role in accelerating the bank's progress and contributing to the growth and prosperity of the banking sector, he expressed confidence that the youth would be capable of building a "Developed Bangladesh" and a modern Islamic banking system.



Prof M Zubaidur Rahman, chairman of Islami Bank Bangladesh PLC, delivers a speech at the orientation programme at the Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: ISLAMI BANK BANGLADESH

ন্যাশনাল হোটেল এ্যান্ড টুরিজম ট্রেনিং ইনস্টিটিউট
বাংলাদেশ পর্যটন করপোরেশন
(সরকারী পর্যটন সংস্থা)
৮৩-৮৮, বীর উত্তম এ কে খন্দকার সড়ক, মহাখালী, ঢাকা-১২১৩

ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ন্যাশনাল সার্টিফিকেট কোর্স

দেশে-বিদেশে হোটেল, মোটেল, গেস্ট হাউজ, রেস্তোরাঁ, ফাস্ট ফুড শপ, বেকারী, ট্রাভেল এজেন্সি, ট্যুর অপারেটর, বিমান সংস্থাসহ পর্যটন শিল্প ও অন্যান্য সেবাসমূহে প্রতিষ্ঠানে প্রাসঙ্গিক ক্ষেত্রে কর্মজীবন গড়ে তুলতে আগ্রহী প্রার্থীদের কাছ থেকে নিম্নবর্ণিত বিষয়ে ১৯ সত্তর ম্যোয়াদী ন্যাশনাল সার্টিফিকেট কোর্সে ভর্তি অনলাইন লিকে-এ www.nhti.gov.bd/admission আবেদনের জন্য আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

| প্রশিক্ষণ কোর্সের নাম ও বিরল | ভর্তি পরীক্ষার তারিখ ও সময় |
|---|--|
| ১. ফুড এ্যান্ড বেকারিজ প্রোগ্রাম (শেফ এর কাজ দেখানো হয়) (কোর্স কোড: FRP-174/2026 & 175/2026) তারকা মানের হোটেল, মোটেল ও রেস্তোরাঁর খাবার প্রস্তুতের ক্ষেত্রে আন্তর্জাতিকমান অনুসরণ করে দেশী-বিদেশী খাবার-পানীয় প্রস্তুত, ফুড ডেকোরেশন, সংরক্ষণ পদ্ধতি, খাবারের মূল্য নির্ধারণসহ বাণিজ্যিক ভিত্তিতে পরিচালিত রেস্তোরাঁর খাদ্য সম্পৃক্ত বিষয়াদির উপর প্রশিক্ষণ। কোর্স ফি ৫০,০০০/- টাকা। | লিখিত পরীক্ষা ২৯/০১/২০২৬ সকাল: ১০:০০ট। |
| ২. বেকারী এ্যান্ড পেস্ট্রি প্রোগ্রাম (কোর্স কোড: BPP-129/2026 & 130/2026) হোটেল, মোটেল ও আধুনিক মানসম্পন্ন ফাস্ট ফুড ও বেকারী পরিচালনার ক্ষেত্রে বেকারী সামগ্রী, পেস্ট্রি সামগ্রী, ডেকোরেশন, সংরক্ষণ পদ্ধতি, মূল্য নির্ধারণ প্রক্রিয়াসহ বাণিজ্যিক ভিত্তিতে বেকারী পরিচালনা বিষয়ক প্রশিক্ষণ। কোর্স ফি ৪০,০০০/- টাকা। | লিখিত পরীক্ষা ৩০/০১/২০২৬ সকাল: ১০:০০ট। |
| ৩. ফুড এ্যান্ড বেকারিজ সার্ভিস (কোর্স কোড: FBS-149/2026 & 150/2026) হোটেল, মোটেল ও রেস্তোরাঁ পরিচালনার ক্ষেত্রে আন্তর্জাতিক মান অনুযায়ী রেস্তোরাঁ ব্যবস্থাপনা, টেবিল প্রস্তুতকরণ খাদ্য ও পানীয় পরিবেশনের কলারকৌশল বিষয়ে প্রশিক্ষণ। কোর্স ফি ৩৫,০০০/- টাকা। | লিখিত পরীক্ষা ৩০/০১/২০২৬ সকাল: ১০:০০ট। |
| ৪. হাউজকিপিং এ্যান্ড লন্ড্রি অপারেশন (কোর্স কোড: HKL-125/2026) হোটেল, মোটেল, গেস্ট হাউজ ও সেবামূলক প্রতিষ্ঠান পরিচালনার ক্ষেত্রে আবাসিক কক্ষেব সাব-সজ্জা, বেড তৈরী, পরিষ্কার-পরিচ্ছন্নতা, লন্ড্রি সার্ভিস, হাইজেন এ্যান্ড স্যানিটেশন বিষয়ে প্রশিক্ষণ। কোর্স ফি ৩০,০০০/- টাকা। | লিখিত পরীক্ষা ৩০/০১/২০২৬ সকাল: ১০:০০ট। |
| ৫. ফ্রন্ট অফিস এ্যান্ড সেক্রেটারিয়াল অপারেশন (কোর্স কোড: FO-131/2026) হোটেল, মোটেল, গেস্ট হাউজ ও সেবামূলক প্রতিষ্ঠান পরিচালনার ক্ষেত্রে আত্মর্থনামূলক ফ্রন্ট অফিসের যাবতীয় কার্যকলাপের উপর বিস্তারিত প্রশিক্ষণ। কোর্স ফি ৩০,০০০/- টাকা। | লিখিত পরীক্ষা ৩০/০১/২০২৬ সকাল: ১০:০০ট। |
| ৬. ট্রাভেল এজেন্সি এ্যান্ড ট্যুর অপারেশন (কোর্স কোড: TATO-127/2026) এয়ারলাইন, ট্রাভেল এজেন্সি ও ট্যুর অপারেটর প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহ পরিচালনা এবং এয়ারলাইন টিকেটিং ও এয়ারলাইন ফ্লোর ক্যালকুলেশন বিষয়াদির উপর প্রশিক্ষণ। কোর্স ফি ৩৫,০০০/- টাকা। | লিখিত পরীক্ষা ২৯/০১/২০২৬ সকাল: ১০:০০ট। |

বৈশিষ্ট্য:

- আধুনিক প্র্যাকটিক্যাল ল্যাব * আন্তর্জাতিকমানের কোর্স কারিকুলাম * দেশে ও বিদেশে প্রশিক্ষণপ্রাপ্ত দক্ষ প্রশিক্ষকবৃন্দ * প্রতিদিন ১ খণ্ড করে বিদ্যার্ভিতিক ইংরেজী রাস * বেসিক কম্পিউটার প্রশিক্ষণ * কুঠি ও সংস্কৃতি বিষয়ে পাঠদান * আন্তর্জাতিক মানসম্পন্ন প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহে (হোটেল/মোটেল/রেস্তোরাঁ/ট্রাভেল এজেন্সি) এট্রাচমেন্ট ও প্রশিক্ষণার্থীদের কর্মসংস্থানের সুযোগ সৃষ্টি। সরকারী তত্ত্বাবধানে বিদেশে কর্মসংস্থানের সুযোগ রয়েছে।

জাতকথা বিধায়:

- ১। সর্বোচ্চ ৩৫ বছর বয়সের প্রার্থীরা আবেদন করতে পারবেন।
- ২। ট্যুর গাইড এ্যান্ড ট্রাভেল এজেন্সি অপারেশন এবং ফ্রন্ট অফিস এ্যান্ড সেক্রেটারিয়াল অপারেশন কোর্সের অন্য যানবাহন শিক্ষাপ্রাপ্ত যোগ্যতা এইচএসসি বা সমমান এবং অন্যান্য কোর্সের জন্য যানবাহন এইচএসসি বা সমমানের।
- ৩। যোগ্যতা: ০২২২২২২২২২২২২, ০২২২২২২২২২২২২, ০১৯৯৯৯-১৩৯০১১

৪। আবেদনপত্র দাখিল করার শেষ তারিখ: ২৭/০১/২০২৬
৫। ভর্তির শেষ সময়: ১৭/০২/২০২৬
৬। কোর্স আরম্ভ হওয়ার তারিখ: ১৯/০২/২০২৬
৭। লিংক: www.nhti.gov.bd/admission

মুহাম্মদ মঈন উদ্দিন হায়াত
অধ্যক্ষ

GD-12

Humayun Kabir becomes president of SAFA

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Mohammed Humayun Kabir, former president of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh, has been appointed president of the South Asian Federation of Accountants (SAFA) for a one-year term (2026).

With over 45 years of professional experience, Kabir worked at a chartered accountancy (CA) firm and at a financial institution.



Humayun Kabir

Sabbir Hossain joins Bank Asia as AMD

STAR BUSINESS DESK



Md Sabbir Hossain

Md Sabbir Hossain, a seasoned banker with extensive experience, has joined Bank Asia PLC as additional managing director (AMD) and chief operating officer, effective from January 1, 2026.

Prior to joining the bank, he was serving as deputy managing director and chief operating officer of BRAC Bank PLC, according to a press release. At BRAC Bank, he demonstrated strong leadership in information technology, operations, sustainable finance, digital transformation, and process re-engineering initiatives.

He began his banking career at ANZ Grindlays Bank in 1994 and later joined Standard Chartered Bank (SCB). He is a graduate in electrical and electronic engineering from the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) and holds an MBA from North South University.

Iftekhar Enam made DMD of AB Bank

STAR BUSINESS DESK

AB Bank PLC has promoted Iftekhar Enam Awal to the post of deputy managing director (DMD).

Prior to this promotion, Awal was serving the bank concurrently as senior executive vice president and chief business officer.

According to a press release, he started his career with AB Bank PLC as a probationary officer in 1994.



Iftekhar Enam Awal

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চট্টগ্রাম মেডিকেল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
বিআইটিআইডিভন, ফৌজদারহাট-৪৩১৬ চট্টগ্রাম-বাংলাদেশ
ফোন: ০১৭১৯-৩৯৩১৫৮

১৭ পৌষ ১৪৩২ বঙ্গাব্দ
তারিখ: ০১ জানুয়ারী ২০২৬ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ

“নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি”

চট্টগ্রাম মেডিকেল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় এর রাজস্ব ব্যতের আওতায় নিম্নোক্ত শূন্য পদের বিপরীতে বিধি মোতাবেক পে ফেল ২০১৫ অনুযায়ী বেতন ও অন্যান্য সুবিধাদিতে জনবল নিয়োগের উদ্দেশ্যে প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশী যোগ্য ন্যাসরিকদের নিকট হইতে নিম্নবর্ণিত ফরমে এবং শর্ত অনুযায়ী দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

| ক্রমিক নং | পদের নাম ও বেতনক্রম | বয়স | পদের সংখ্যা |
|-----------|---|-----------------|-------------|
| ০১ | পরীক্ষা নিয়ন্ত্রক, (৫৬৫০০-৭৪৪০০/-) (প্রোভ-৩য়) | সর্বোচ্চ ৫০ বছর | ০১টি |
| ০২ | প্রশাসনিক কর্মকর্তা, (১৬০০০-৩৮৬৪০/-) (১০ম) | সর্বোচ্চ ৩২ বছর | ০১টি |
| ০৩ | উপ সহকারী প্রকৌশলী (১৬০০০-৩৮৬৪০/-) (১০ম) | সর্বোচ্চ ৩২ বছর | ০১টি |

প্রতিটি পদে আবেদন করার জন্য বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের নিম্নবর্ণিত ফর্ম, শিক্ষাপত্র যোগ্যতা, অভিজ্ঞতা ও নিয়োগ সম্পর্কিত যাবতীয় শর্তাবলী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েব-সাইট হতে (www.cmu.edu.bd) অথবা অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের রেজিস্ট্রার দপ্তরে প্রশাসনিক/সহযোগ শাখা হতে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। আবেদনকারীকে যথেষ্ট নিম্নবর্ণিত আবেদন ফর্ম পূরণ করে নিম্নবর্ণিত কর্মকর্তার বরাবর আবেদন করতে হবে।

উল্লিখিত পদের জন্য রেজিস্ট্রার, চট্টগ্রাম মেডিকেল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়-এর অনুকূলে ২০০/- টাকা মূল্যের পেন-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রফট (অফিসের যোগ্য) আবেদন পত্রের সাথে সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।

২২/০১/২০২৬ ইং তারিখ বিকাল ৩.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে ডাকযোগে অথবা সরাসরি রেজিস্ট্রার দপ্তরে প্রশাসনিক/সহযোগ শাখায় (দশ টাকা মূল্যমানের ডাকটিকেটসহ দুইটি ফেরত খাম পাঠাইতে হবে) পৌঁছেতে হবে।

প্রার্থীদের পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণের জন্য কোন টিএ/ডিএ প্রদান করা হবে না। নিয়োগ সম্পর্কিত কোনো বিষয়ে কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্ত চূড়ান্ত বলে বিবেচিত হবে। ভুল তথ্য সর্জনগত/অসম্পূর্ণ এবং বিলম্বে প্রাপ্ত আবেদন পর বিবেচনা করা হবে না।

(স্বাক্ষর)
ডা. আশীউদ্দিন
সহকারী রেজিস্ট্রার (প্রশাসন)
চট্টগ্রাম মেডিকেল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

GD-13

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Memo No. 35.01.9089.472.99.016.25-4571 Date: 30/12/2025

Amendment/Corrigendum Notice

This is to notify all concern that, the following Amendment/Corrigendum has been made to the Invitation of Tender Ref. No. 35.01.9000.472.07.001.25-4217; Date: 03/12/2025.

| Tender ID & e-GP No. | Field name | Old value | New value | Remarks |
|---|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1183516 02/e-GP/DEV/ SUN/EE/RHD/ 2025-2026 | Tender document last selling/ downloading date & time | 30-Dec-2025 16:00 hours | 05-Jan-2026 16:00 hour | Due to unavoi dable circum stance |
| | Tender security submission last date & time | 31-Dec-2025 14:00 hours | 06-Jan-2026 14:00 hours | |
| | Tender closing & opening date & time | 31-Dec-2025 15:00 hours | 06-Jan-2026 15:00 hours | |
| 1183645 03/e-GP/DEV/ SUN/EE/RHD/ 2025-2026 | Tender document last selling/ downloading date & time | 30-Dec-2025 16:00 hours | 05-Jan-2026 16:00 hour | Due to unavoi dable circum stance |
| | Tender security submission last date & time | 31-Dec-2025 14:00 hours | 06-Jan-2026 14:00 hours | |
| | Tender closing & opening date & time | 31-Dec-2025 15:00 hours | 06-Jan-2026 15:00 hours | |

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd). This will be a part & parcel of the Tender Document. All other terms & conditions stated in the Tender Document remain unchanged.

(স্বাক্ষর)
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Road Division, Sunamganj

GD-08

A year of living dangerously

Govt must restore order in the run-up to the February election

It is disheartening that what began as a year of political transition has ended in a grim tableau of lawlessness. Two rights organisations have described the situation as “unstable and deeply concerning,” a verdict borne out most starkly by a surge in lynchings and mob violence. Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) recorded at least 197 deaths in mob attacks in 2025, up from 128 the previous year. Manabadhikar Shongskriti Foundation (MSF) puts the number of deaths from lynchings at 166. The victims of mob violence cut across society—men and women, members of religious minorities, and even freedom fighters—and the trend seemed to intensify as the year wore on.

On December 18, for instance, a mob in Mymensingh beat a garment worker, Dipu Chandra Das, before burning him to death over unproven allegations of blasphemy. Around the same time in Dhaka, mobs looted and torched the offices of *The Daily Star* and *Prothom Alo*. It feels distant now that, following the bloody uprising in 2024, people expected the interim government to restore order. Instead, targeted repression by the previous regime has been replaced by the chaotic tyranny of the street. Mobs have vandalised statues, harassed women, and attacked cultural institutions. Hindu homes and temples have also been targeted. The streets have grown unruly, while law enforcement was absent in many cases.

Election-related violence has added another dimension. After the election schedule was announced, MSF documented 26 incidents linked to nominations and campaigning, leaving three people dead and 249 injured. In one chilling episode, Sharif Osman Hadi, a leader of Inqilab Moncho and a potential candidate in the Dhaka-8 constituency, was shot dead in a daylight attack. Alongside this breakdown, another disturbing pattern persists. ASK documented 38 extrajudicial killings in 2025, all reportedly occurring during so-called “crossfire” or “gunfights” while suspects were in custody. At least 116 inmates died in prison, with most deaths officially attributed to illness, although cases of suicide, torture, and unexplained fatalities were also reported. Perhaps most chilling is the discovery of 641 unidentified bodies, many found bound with tape and dumped by roadsides or in rivers.

Press freedom—often the first casualty of disorder in Bangladesh—has also been suffocating. Beyond the arson attacks on media offices, three journalists were killed during the year, and nearly 400 others were harassed or abused. MSF cited the continued abuse of laws to intimidate and silence reporters.

As we have said before, the interim administration cannot simply wait out the clock. It must work proactively to ensure that peace in the run-up to the February election is not marred by chaos. If it can hold the line, the post-election period may, we hope, serve as a circuit-breaker to prevent violence from becoming a permanent feature of our national life; a government elected with a genuine mandate could muster the authority needed to rein in mobs and dismantle the culture of impunity. That is perhaps the narrow path out of this morass.

Healthcare sector in disarray

Service breakdowns show why reforms are vital

We are concerned about the persistent chaos in our healthcare sector. The year 2025 was particularly troubling, as per a report by this daily, with prolonged service disruptions, medicine shortages, and policy paralysis. Thousands of people were deprived of essential care as a decades-long operational arrangement was abruptly scrapped without an effective alternative in place. At a time when the country is grappling with rising disease burdens and growing healthcare needs, these disruptions have exposed serious weaknesses in planning, coordination, and governance.

Trouble began with the sudden halt of USAID funding that affected critical programmes including tuberculosis control initiatives. The situation worsened when the interim government scrapped the proposed fifth Health, Population, and Nutrition Sector Programme (HPNSP), ending a framework that had guided health, nutrition, and family planning services since 1998. While the government argued that integrating sectoral programmes into regular ones would improve coordination, the transition was poorly managed. Months passed before alternative projects were approved, leaving gaps that directly harmed service delivery.

Reportedly, hundreds of upazila-level hospitals faced disruptions in the supply of medicines for chronic conditions such as diabetes and hypertension. Around 14,500 community clinics—serving nearly half a million people daily—experienced prolonged shortages of essential drugs after procurement stalled for almost a year. Even when funding was later allocated, bureaucratic complications again halted procurement. Moreover, dengue outbreaks overwhelmed hospitals, influenza infection rates reached a record high, and the total fertility rate rose for the first time in five decades, signalling setbacks in preventive and family planning services.

While the promotion of over 6,000 doctors was a welcome step, placing most of them in supernumerary posts without adequate infrastructure or deployment planning has limited its benefit. This again reflects the absence of efficient leadership and long-term planning, a major weakness of our health sector. Meanwhile, the recommendations of the Health Sector Reform Commission—ranging from making primary healthcare a constitutional obligation to establishing independent and decentralised health authorities—were widely recognised as pragmatic and necessary to make healthcare efficient, accountable, and accessible to all, but little visible effort has been made to translate these proposals into concrete action.

Overall, abrupt policy decisions, weak administrative capacity, and neglect of reform have left the sector in a fragile state, depriving many of much-needed care. We hope the next elected government will take it upon itself to rid the sector of these long-standing challenges, but that doesn’t mean that those in charge now should abdicate their responsibility for stabilising services and laying the groundwork for meaningful reform. Together, they must ensure better budget utilisation, continuity of essential programmes, and the implementation of long-discussed reforms. Otherwise, the vision of a people-oriented healthcare system will remain a distant dream.

The magic of Khaleda Zia

Her last speeches call for a politics of ‘no vengeance’



THE THIRD VIEW

Mahfuz Anam
is editor and publisher of *The Daily Star*.

MAHFUZ ANAM

People’s presence said it all. The millions who poured in last Wednesday at her namaz-e-janaza did so out of a love for her that cannot be measured by the usual standards applied to political leaders. They came spontaneously, driven by an inner urge to show their respect to a person who they felt represented them. The bonding was more subconscious than political, and definitely not partisan, for most of the people who attended the janaza were members of the public in general. It was quite unbelievable how magically she had touched the hearts of so many ordinary people.

Since the road in front of our office was closed to traffic, I had the privilege of being part of the stream of people heading towards Manik Mia Avenue. As I walked along, I felt a sense of sorrow that sprang from a far deeper feeling than one usually witnesses on such occasions. People maintained a dignified silence as they walked on, showing with every step a deep sense of loss they did not quite know how would be filled. Obviously, there can be no reliable estimate of how many people attended the janaza, but the eye estimates by my colleagues and me converged on millions, as we also put in our headline the next day. Despite the sheer scale of the gathering and the pressures it must have created, the overall discipline was striking. They

In our view, the most meaningful way to pay tribute to the memory of Khaleda Zia is to take her last messages seriously and embark on the path of rebuilding Bangladesh with love, compassion and understanding. The first and foremost step is to unite behind democratic values and norms, the most crucial of which is holding a free, fair and inclusive election. Any attempt to postpone or disrupt it should be exposed for what it really is: an attempt to harm Bangladesh.

came, they mourned, and they left, all with a dignity and composure that represented the most important values Khaleda Zia symbolised. There was a calmness in her persona, which she seemed to have conveyed effectively to her supporters.



People came spontaneously to attend Khaleda Zia’s janaza, driven by an inner urge to show their respect to a person who they felt represented them.

PHOTO: RASHED SUMON

sight—which is what being out of power means—is usually being out of mind. But in Khaleda Zia’s case, the oppression meted out to her only increased her popularity, and public respect grew by leaps and bounds. That sentiment remained hidden until people could finally express it at her janaza.

On August 7, 2024, within two days of Hasina’s fall, Khaleda Zia addressed her first public meeting since her arrest in 2018 via Zoom. Her main message—apart from thanking the students for the movement and her party workers for their support—was that we must build a “knowledge-based, democratic Bangladesh” “free from exploitation,” with “merit and competence” by “strengthening the hands of our youth.” However, the most important message was her call for a politics of “no destruction, no revenge, no retaliation, but one of love, peace, and a knowledge-based society.” In her second address, on February 27, 2025, again on Zoom from London, where she had gone for advanced medical treatment, she recalled her husband Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman’s statement that “the party is bigger than the individual, and the country is bigger than the party.” She also reiterated her earlier message of shunning the politics of revenge and retaliation and replacing it with mutual love and camaraderie to

caretaker/interim governments in 1991, 1996, 2001, and 2006, the institutions of elections—and voters’ freedom to choose their representatives freely—were progressively weakened. Their logic, as we once noted in an article, appeared to be that “an election is only free and fair if I win it...” With every election, mutual hostility became more and more visceral, and politics reduced itself to “revenge and retaliation.”

Since this piece is not an evaluation of her total political legacy, we will write about her successes and failures separately. Today, our purpose is to focus on the significance of her last messages before she embarked on her eternal journey.

What makes her recent statements particularly valuable is that such messages are rare and, as stated earlier, urgently required at this moment. We need to build Bangladesh anew, and we need to start immediately, the urgency of which will be proved by holding a free and fair election. A similar message has also come from Tarique Rahman. He has every reason to be bitter and hateful towards Sheikh Hasina and her government. The exile, the many cases, and the personal humiliation he suffered—including a court order that prevented the media from publishing any statement made by him—could easily have made him vengeful. Yet, so far, in his numerous virtual speeches

The interim government should have gone for an election much earlier. To make up for that error of judgement, it should now tolerate no attempt to disrupt our journey towards the election, which, thankfully, it seems to be doing. The quicker we can transition to a government elected by the people, the faster our development process can restart. The law and order situation is presently at its worst, which has created a sense of uncertainty and fear among the public. This is the first and most fundamental function of any government. Stability in governance requires the early restoration of an elected government. The practice of mobs creating terror by hurting individuals and institutions must be stopped. Whatever public grievances exist should wait until the coming of an elected government.

It could be that the election will have many flaws. In Third World countries, they usually do. The non-inclusion of Awami League in it will obviously generate debate. However, it should be remembered that the AL expressed no regret whatsoever over the deaths of 1,400 ordinary people (UN findings), including many students and children, within the final weeks of its rule. This has further alienated it from the people.

We have had an almost year-long process to agree on reforms. There were numerous discussions on the July National Charter and its final approval. We now have a decision to go for a referendum. Unfortunately, this will complicate election-day proceedings. Most concerning is the fact that the referendum on the July charter remains largely undecipherable for ordinary voters because of the language used.

What concerns us even more is the lack of clarity in party manifestos. We have heard some generalities about post-election plans, but specifics remain elusive. Bangladesh’s economy rests on three pillars: agriculture, expatriate labour earnings, and the RMG sector. Our farmers mostly do not receive their due, with profits pocketed by middlemen. A section of our expatriate workforce remains trapped in the grip of inhuman exploitation. We talk a great deal about RMG, yet real solutions to its fundamental problems remain ignored. These three sectors must receive due importance in political parties’ plans.

We have heard almost nothing from political parties about addressing the challenges related to the climate crisis, despite Bangladesh being on the frontline. It remains a mystery why the Professor Yunus-led government did not place sufficient focus on this existential issue. Another vital area requiring emphasis is employment generation, especially for our youth. Here again, the relative inaction of the present government is inexplicable. There should have been a special effort on these issues to prepare recommendations for immediate implementation by the elected government.

Let us be clear: without adequate preparation to face the climate crisis, and without ensuring sustained economic growth, Bangladesh’s future will remain extremely vulnerable.



ILLUSTRATION: BIPLOB CHAKROBORTY

When considered against the background that she had been out of power since 2006, in jail and under house arrest for seven of her later years, and consistently and cruelly vilified by the Hasina regime for most of the 15 years of Awami League rule, the honour displayed to her memory at the janaza is nothing short of a miracle. It seems the more Hasina vilified her, the more people’s love for Khaleda Zia grew. In our political culture, being out of

build a new Bangladesh.

The reason we refer to the above two speeches is Khaleda Zia’s insistence that we should all—including her own party—shun the politics of revenge and retaliation. It is perhaps the most important message the country needs at this moment: to move away from a mob culture that seems to be engulfing us across various sectors. It is a testimony to her wisdom, tolerance, maturity, and democratic values. When

made from London, and in the speech he delivered at the mammoth welcome gathering upon his return on December 25, his messages have focused more on the future than the past. This indicates political maturity, signalling an essential shift away from the kind of politics that has harmed us in so many ways.

In our view, the most meaningful way to pay tribute to the memory of Khaleda Zia is to take her last

KAZI A S M NURUL HUDA



ABDULLAH SHIBLI

ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন

Dhaka South City Corporation

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স্মারকঃ ৪৬.২০৭.০০০.১২.০০.৯৯০.২০২৫

তারিখঃ ৩০/১২/২০২৫খ্রিঃ

পুনঃ দরপত্র নোটিশ

বর্জ্য ব্যবস্থাপনা কাজের গতিশীলতা ও মানোন্নয়নের লক্ষ্যে প্রাথমিক বর্জ্য সংগ্রহ সেবা প্রাপ্তির লক্ষ্যে নতুন নিবন্ধন কার্যক্রম গ্রহণ করা হয়েছে। ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন এর আওতাধীন এলাকায় নিয়োজিত ১০টি ওয়ার্ডের (ওয়ার্ড নং- ০৭, ০৯, ১০, ২৮, ৩৮, ৪৪, ৬৯, ৭০, ৭২ ও ৭৫) প্রাথমিক বর্জ্য সংগ্রহ সেবা গ্রহণের জন্য আত্মীয় প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহকে নিম্নলিখিত শর্ত অনুসরণপূর্বক আবেদনপত্র জমা ও জমা প্রদানের জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।


ক) প্রযোজ্য শর্তাবলীঃ

১. আবেদনপত্র জমা ও জমা প্রদান কার্যক্রম অনলাইনে সম্পন্ন করতে হবে। ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের নগর ভবন ও আঞ্চলিক কার্যালয় থেকে সরাসরি আবেদনপত্র জমা/বিক্রয় এবং জমা প্রদান করা যাবে না।
২. আবেদনপত্র জমার জন্য ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের চলতি হিসাব নং-২০০০১৭৮৩৯, সোনালী ব্যাংক, নগর ভবন শাখায় ১০,০০০/- (টাকা দশ হাজার মাত্র) টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য) জমা প্রদান করে ব্যাংক রশিদ সংগ্রহ করতে হবে।
৩. ওয়েবসাইট <https://dscc.gov.bd> হতে নিবন্ধন আবেদনপত্র ও প্রযোজ্য শর্তাবলী/ TOR (Terms of Reference) ডাউনলোডপূর্বক উল্লিখিত নির্দেশনা অনুযায়ী আবেদনপত্র যথাযথভাবে পূরণ করতে হবে। এক্ষেত্রে আবেদনপত্রের সাথে চাহিদাকৃত কারিগরি প্রস্তাব ও আর্থিক প্রস্তাবের অনুকূলে প্রযোজ্য সকল ডকুমেন্টস দাখিল করতে হবে।
৪. নিবন্ধনের জন্য আর্থিক প্রস্তাবে উদ্ধৃত মূল্যের সমপরিমাণ অর্থ মেয়র/প্রশাসক, ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের অনুকূলে পে-অর্ডার করে পে-অর্ডারটি হিসাব নং-২০০০১৭৮৩৯, সোনালী ব্যাংক, নগর ভবন শাখায় জমা প্রদান করে ব্যাংক রশিদ সংরক্ষণ করতে হবে।
৫. কারিগরি প্রস্তাব তথা ফরম-ই এর সাথে কারিগরি প্রস্তাব মূল্যায়ন সংক্রান্ত প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্যাদি সংশ্লিষ্ট আকারে আবেদনপত্রের সাথে সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।
৬. স্বাক্ষরিত আর্থিক প্রস্তাব তথা ফরম-ঈ এর সাথে সংশ্লিষ্ট আকারে আবেদনপত্র জমার ব্যাংক রশিদ এবং নিবন্ধন মূল্যের পে-অর্ডার জমা প্রদানের রশিদ জমা প্রদান করতে হবে। অন্যথায় আর্থিক প্রস্তাব গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।
৭. কারিগরি প্রস্তাব ও আর্থিক প্রস্তাব পৃথক ভাবে সংযুক্ত করে ই-মেইলসমূহে cwmo@dscc.gov.bd, administrator@dscc.gov.bd, ceo@dscc.gov.bd প্রেরণ করতে হবে।
৮. ইতিমধ্যে যে সকল প্রতিষ্ঠান আবেদনপত্র জমা মূল্য ও নিবন্ধন মূল্য জমা প্রদান করেছেন, তাদের পুনরায় আবেদনপত্র জমা মূল্য ও নিবন্ধন মূল্য জমা প্রদানের প্রয়োজন নেই। এক্ষেত্রে শুধুমাত্র নিবন্ধন ফরম পূরণসহ চাহিত তথ্যাদি দাখিল করতে হবে।

খ) আবেদনপত্র জমা ও জমা প্রদানের সময় নিম্নে উল্লেখ করা হলোঃ

| আবেদনপত্র জমার তারিখ ও সময় | আবেদনপত্র জমা প্রদানের তারিখ ও সময় |
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| তারিখঃ ০২/০১/২০২৬খ্রিঃ সময়ঃ বিকাল ৪:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত | তারিখঃ ০৮/০১/২০২৬খ্রিঃ সময়ঃ দুপুর ২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত |

বিশেষ দ্রষ্টব্যঃ নোটিশে উল্লেখিত সময়ের পরে কোন আবেদনপত্র জমা ও জমা প্রদান গ্রহণযোগ্য বিবেচিত হবে না।


৩০/১২/২০২৫

মোঃ মাহাবুবুর রহমান তালুকদার
এয়ার কমন্ডার
প্রধান বর্জ্য ব্যবস্থাপনা কর্মকর্তা
বর্জ্য ব্যবস্থাপনা বিভাগ
ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন
ফোনঃ ০২২২৩৩৫০৩৭৫

ডিএসসিসি/পিআরডি/১৪৬/২০২৫-২৬

জিডি-০৪



Shamim gets going after Litton’s show of ‘trust’

SPORTS REPORTER

Shamim Hossain struck a career best 81 off 43 balls not out while playing a lone hand for Dhaka Capitals against Sylhet Titans in the ongoing Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) in Sylhet yesterday, nearly pulling off a win. Dhaka eventually fell short by six runs, but Shamim’s innings underlined his value in the lower middle order and explained why captain Litton Das had backed him and even confronted selectors over his exclusion from the Ireland series in November-December last year.

Bangladesh’s middle-order batters such as Shamim, Tawhid Hridoy, Jaker Ali, and Nurul Hasan Sohan are capable of playing the finisher’s role, but they have struggled for form of late.

Shamim did not get to bat in the final T20I against Ireland despite being included in the squad. His previous six T20I innings saw three ducks and two scores of one. With the T20 World Cup approaching, BPL performances could prove decisive in determining the final squad, and Shamim’s career-best effort must give the team management something to ponder.

His last-over assault highlighted his T20 credentials, with bat speed and a flair for the unconventional proving decisive against Mohammad Amir, a renowned death-over bowler. Chasing 27 off the final over, Shamim flicked the first ball over middle and off to fine leg for four. After two wides, he reverse scooped a delivery well outside off-stump over third man for six. Amir then missed his yorker by a small margin, and Shamim went down to smash it through mid-on. An edge off the penultimate ball flew away for another boundary before Amir finally nailed the yorker, leaving Shamim unable to add to his tally.

The acceleration in Shamim’s innings was telling. With wickets falling around him, he was 37 off 27 balls at one stage. He then plundered 54 runs off his next 17 deliveries.

“Obviously, when you lose a game, there is always regret, but I had faith that as long as I stay there, I will keep believing in myself,” Shamim said in the post-match presser.

On overcoming a difficult period, he credited T20I captain Litton for showing faith in him.

“Regarding the national team, I have to thank Litton da for placing his trust in me because I have played match-winning knocks before. A player can have two or three bad games, but if someone backs you and supports you, you can make a comeback easily,” he said, adding that his focus was on performing well in the BPL to prepare for next month’s T20 World Cup.

While he admitted that Amir’s final delivery was “extraordinary”, Shamim will hope to build on yesterday’s knock to strengthen his case as the kind of middle-order batter Bangladesh have been searching for.

Cummins returns as Australia name provisional T20 WC squad

ICC

Australia have announced a provisional 15-player squad for ICC T20 World Cup 2026 in Sri Lanka and India.

Mitchell Marsh was named captain while Pat Cummins, Cameron Green and Cooper Connolly, who all missed Australia’s T20 series against India, returned to the squad.

Provisional Australia squad: Mitchell Marsh (c), Xavier Bartlett, Cooper Connolly, Pat Cummins, Tim David, Cameron Green, Nathan Ellis, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Matthew Kuhnemann, Glenn Maxwell, Matthew Short, Marcus Stoinis, Adam Zampa

When passion outshone the numbers

ANISUR RAHMAN

The scoreline of the BRAC Bank Oporajeo Alo Women’s Hockey Tournament final suggested a one-sided affair, but the competition itself revealed a much richer story about the state and spirit of women’s hockey in Bangladesh.

Favourites BKSP thrashed Zone-2 -- a team formed by girls from Dhaka and Mymensingh -- 8-0 at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium on Thursday. Yet the tournament was less about the margin of victory and more about the perseverance of girls from across the country who displayed their love for the sport despite limited opportunities.

Much like the men’s game, women’s hockey in Bangladesh largely depends on BKSP players. However, the participation of more than 350 players from 18 districts was widely viewed as a possible foundation for the future of the women’s game, with teams such as Sylhet showing notable enthusiasm.

The story of the Sylhet girls captured the essence of the tournament. They were first introduced to hockey using the curved handles of umbrellas, holding the shafts to learn how to control the ball. Only later did the Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) provide them with 18 proper hockey sticks.

From training with umbrella handles to seeing two of their players -- Prima Begum and Nuri Akter -- reach the final phase was a testament to their adaptability and eagerness to learn. The tournament began with zonal rounds, where 18 districts were divided into four zones. Each zone sent one team, formed by the best players, to the final phase in Dhaka. BKSP, who train year-round on artificial turf under FIH-certified coaches, entered the final phase directly as the fifth team.

Although the final scoreline was unflattering,

the runners-up were not completely outmatched. Despite the absence of proper facilities and regular competition, they showed encouraging signs by moving the ball well, producing a few neat passes, carrying the ball at pace and even penetrating BKSP’s attacking third. Ultimately, the lack of skill, fitness and experience proved decisive.

Their effort was reflected in the individual awards. Best player of the final Fardiya Akter Ratri, best goalkeeper Mohua and rising star Apurbo Akter all came from outside BKSP. Meanwhile, BKSP’s Arpita Pal and Airin Akter Riya emerged as the tournament’s top scorer and best player, respectively.

“It is really challenging for girls from outside BKSP because we play on grass and it is tough to adjust to artificial turf,” said Ratri, younger sister of national forward Rakibul Hasan Rocky, adding that the final phase would have been more competitive had BKSP players been distributed among the teams.

“I sat idle most of the year and only came into action during the tournament,” said Apurbo. “If we are given training throughout the year, we can improve more. I want to represent the national team.”

Airin also acknowledged that non-BKSP players lag behind in experience as BKSP players regularly play international tournaments.

So far, 25 players have been selected from the event for advanced training starting in mid-January, while the federation is considering launching a national camp in March ahead of the Asian Games qualifiers. With BRAC Bank CEO and MD Tareq Relat Ullah Khan promising continued support for women’s hockey and BHF eager to take initiatives, the tournament that began with umbrella handles may yet prove to be the first step toward a stronger future.



BKSP players celebrate after winning the BRAC Bank Oporajeo Alo Women’s Hockey Tournament final, beating Zone-2 -- comprising girls from Dhaka and Mymensingh -- 8-0 at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium on Thursday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

‘International cricket demands a different temperament’

Middle-order batter **Sobhana Mostary** finally proved her worth at the international level in last year’s ICC Women’s World Cup. The 23-year-old recently finished the Women’s Bangladesh Cricket League (WBCL) T20 as the highest run-getter, scoring 259 runs in five innings at a strike rate of 126.34, and led North Zone to the title. As the women’s team begin their final phase of preparation, starting Saturday in Mirpur, for the ICC Women’s T20 World Cup Qualifiers in Nepal from January 18, Mostary spoke to *The Daily Star’s Samsul Arefin Khan* about her recent evolution and plans for the qualifiers. Excerpts follow:

The Daily Star (DS): You had a remarkable BCL as a batter and a captain. How would you describe it? **Sobhana Mostary (SM):** I have captained in domestic competitions like the Premier League, NCL and BCL for the last four years, but winning a title always remained a dream. Even after losing our first match this season, I didn’t lose belief. Everyone gave their best, and the support from senior players like Supta [Sharmin Akter] Apu and Sammu [Shamima Sultana] Apu helped me a lot as a captain.

DS: You are heading into another ICC event after playing only domestic cricket, no international matches, in the buildup. What sort of a difference does it make?

SM: The difference is significant. In domestic cricket, we play against the same opponents regularly, so there is less pressure. Experience matters the most at the international level. If we could have played against India as preparation for the qualifiers, it would have provided a lot of room for improvement because international cricket demands a different temperament; it can never be compared to domestic cricket.

DS: How do you reflect on your transformation as a player since the last World Cup?

SM: I struggled for three or four years and couldn’t perform the way people expected, which led to a lot of criticism. The 2024 T20 World Cup was a turning point for me. Finishing among the top 10 batters gave me belief. My preparation was different -- I trained harder, stayed mentally focused and tried to understand the game’s momentum, which helped me perform better.

DS: With four teams qualifying, will the upcoming qualifier be less challenging?

SM: I wouldn’t say it would be easy, but we are confident. We have played against most of these teams and done well. Since the top four will qualify, I believe Bangladesh are in a good position. But we still need to perform.

DS: Should the BCB prioritise arranging international matches beyond the FTP?

SM: The board is trying to arrange more international matches before the T20 World Cup. Discussions about the Women’s BPL are also ongoing. Senior players and the captain regularly convey the need for more matches, and the board generally responds positively.

DS: Despite salary and allowance increases, domestic earnings remain an issue in women’s cricket. What’s your take?

SM: The salary increase is a positive step, but domestic match fees are still low, especially for players outside the national pool. Many train all year for only one or two tournaments. Increasing domestic fees would sustain their careers.



An ‘unexplainable’ emotional return for Sabina

SPORTS REPORTER

Former Bangladesh captain Sabina Khatun feels it is like breathing fresh air to be wearing the red and green jersey again following a long silence.

After more than a year away from the national spotlight, the familiar jersey will return to her shoulders, bringing with it emotion, pride, and renewed purpose.

For Sabina, this moment is not just a comeback -- it is a reminder of what it truly means to represent Bangladesh.

She is set to lead the Bangladesh women’s team in the upcoming SAFF Women’s Futsal Championship, to be held in Thailand from January 13-25.

After being overlooked for the women’s football team for nearly a year following her disagreement with head coach Peter Butler in January last year, Sabina was named as captain for the preliminary futsal squad announced in December last year.

“The feeling of representing the nation is really unexplainable,” Sabina said when



she faced the media in a press conference yesterday for the first time after the fallout with Butler.

For her, the red and green symbolise honour, sacrifice, and responsibility, and returning to them after such a long gap has made the moment even more special.

Iranian head coach Saied Khodarahmi announced the men’s and women’s squads after a month-long training camp, and the

teams are leaving for Thailand well ahead of the tournament to adapt to the conditions and futsal facilities.

Sabina welcomes the preparation, knowing the team is still growing into the game.

Transitioning from regular football to futsal has been an exciting challenge for her. Sabina carries valuable experience, having been the first Bangladeshi female footballer to play international futsal tournament abroad.

She feels that experience has given her confidence and a natural comfort on the futsal court. More importantly, she sees this as an opportunity to contribute to the country in a new way.

“Now the girls know about futsal -- how to play it and understand the laws,” she said, expressing optimism. Though the surface and style are different, the team has adapted well and shown promise.

As captain, Sabina is focused not only on results but also on inspiring the next generation.

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Pry students get books on first day of yr

Quarter of secondary textbooks yet to reach schools

ARAFAT RAHAMAN

Primary schoolchildren across the country received full sets of new textbooks yesterday, but about a quarter of secondary-level textbooks did not reach the schools, leaving millions of students without complete sets on the first day of the academic year.

Shortages were most acute for students of classes 7 and 8, Dakhil students from classes 6 to 9, and class 9 humanities students, according to reports of our district correspondents.

Primary and Mass Education Adviser Prof Bidhan Ranjan Roy Podder described the primary-level distribution as a “major success” for the government.

Speaking at the inauguration at Abul Bashar Government Primary School in Agargaon yesterday, he

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



With his hand on the Holy Quran, Zohran Mamdani is sworn in as mayor of New York City. He is flanked by his wife Rama Duwaji and New York Attorney General Letitia James, at Old City Hall Station, New York, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Saarc must be revived: Yunus

Regional leaders meet CA after Khaleda’s funeral

STAR REPORT

Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus has reiterated the need to revive the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, saying the Saarc spirit is “alive and well” following the presence of several regional leaders at the funeral of former prime minister and BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia.

Yunus made the remarks as several regional leaders met him after attending Khaleda’s funeral procession on Wednesday, reports BSS.

Chief Adviser’s Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam disclosed the matter at a briefing at the Foreign Service Academy yesterday afternoon.

Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Foreign Minister of Bhutan DN Dhungyel, External Affairs Minister of India Dr S Jaishankar, Foreign Minister of Nepal Bala Nanda Sharma, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism of Sri Lanka Vijitha Herath, and Minister of Higher Education, Labour and Skills Development of the Republic of Maldives Dr Ali Haidar Ahmed were present at Khaleda’s funeral.

Of them, Ayaz Sadiq and Nanda Sharma met the chief adviser on Wednesday, Shafiqul said. Ali Haidar and Vijitha Herath met Yunus yesterday, he added.

During these interactions, the press secretary said

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Biman chooses Boeing for 14 aircraft deal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Biman Bangladesh Airlines has decided in principle to purchase 14 aircraft from Boeing – to expand its fleet and modernise the national flag carrier.

The decision was taken at Biman’s annual general meeting held on Tuesday, Boshra Islam, general manager (public relations) of Biman, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Aviation and Tourism Adviser Sk Bashir Uddin, who is also chairman of Biman’s board of directors, chaired the meeting.

B i m a n ’ s decision ruled out Boeing’s rival Airbus’s proposal to sell aircraft to the national airline. During the meeting, the board of directors principally approved the purchase of 14 Boeing aircraft, subject to price negotiations and other terms in line with recommendations of Biman’s techno-finance committee, Boshra Islam said.

Biman will buy eight Boeing 787-10 Dreamliners, two Boeing 787-9 Dreamliners and four Boeing 737-8 MAX aircraft.

The interim government had earlier pledged to purchase 25 aircraft from Boeing as part of efforts to reduce the trade deficit with the United States. Following further evaluation and scrutiny, Biman finalised the decision.

Board members said the move was taken considering the need to enhance the country’s aviation capacity, strengthen international connectivity, and meet future passenger and cargo demand. Once the aircraft are



SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

Dozens killed in fire at Swiss ski resort bar

100 injured; officials say victims include several nationalities

REUTERS, LENS

Dozens of people were killed and around 100 injured, most of them seriously, after fire tore through a crowded bar during a New Year’s Eve party in the upscale Swiss ski resort of Crans-Montana, officials said yesterday.

Fire broke out at 1:30 am (0030 GMT) in a bar called “Le Constellation” in the resort in southwestern Switzerland. The cause of the blaze, which was initially reported as an explosion, remains unclear but authorities said it appeared to be an accident rather than an attack.

Swiss police said “tens” of people were presumed dead with around 100 injured, and the Italian foreign ministry said information from Swiss police indicated about 40 deaths. Swiss officials declined to give a specific figure.

Video footage showed lines of ambulances queuing and helicopters landing to take victims of the blast to nearby hospitals and specialist burns units in other Swiss cities.

Two young French women who said they were in the bar told France’s BFM TV that they saw the fire start in the basement section of the club after a bottle containing “birthday candles” was held up too close to the wooden ceiling.

“The fire spread across the ceiling super quickly,” one of the two women, who identified themselves as Emma and Albane, told BFM TV. The pair said they were able to climb a narrow staircase to the ground floor as panic broke and escape the building. Minutes later, the fire had reached the ground floor too, they said.

BFM showed video of a waitress carrying a champagne bottle with a lit ‘fountain candle’ through the bar, in line with the account, but the video did not show the fire taking hold.

Video footage verified by Reuters showed fire spreading from the building, with people outside the club, some of them running and screaming.

Italy’s ambassador to Switzerland, Gian Lorenzo Cornado, told Sky TG24 local authorities had told him the blaze was started by someone letting off a firework inside the bar which set fire to the ceiling. He was in Crans-Montana, where he said a number of Italians had gathered seeking information about missing relatives or friends. He declined to say if there were any Italian victims.

Yesterday morning, hours after the explosion, footage from the street outside showed the area cordoned off, with forensic tents behind white screens set up in front of the bar in

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Lawyer beaten to death in Bashundhara

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 35-year-old lawyer was beaten to death in the capital’s Bashundhara Residential Area on Wednesday night following an altercation over a motorcycle-car collision, police and family members said.

The victim, Naem Kibria, was a trainee lawyer at the Pabna District Judge’s Court. He was from Chakjoyenpur village of Pabna Sadar upazila.

The incident took place around 10:00pm.

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MADRASA EXPLOSION

Fresh blast at site while clearing debris

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three women arrested in connection with the explosion at Ummal Qura International Madrasa in Keraniganj were sent to jail yesterday after the completion of their remand.

Dhaka Senior Judicial Magistrate Tajul Islam Sohag passed the order.

The women – Asiya Begum, 28, wife of prime accused Sheikh Al Amin; Yasmin Akter, 30, wife of his elder brother Harun Or Rashid; and Asmani Khatun, 34 – were each on a three-day remand.

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METRO MISHAP

Flaws in bearing pads, design to blame

Says probe committee, urges regular monitoring, safety measures



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A high-powered probe committee has found defects in the metro rail’s bearing pads and design flaws at the point where a pad fell in Dhaka’s Farmgate in October last year, killing one person and injuring two others.

The committee, led by Bridges Division Secretary Mohammad Abdur Rouf, made several recommendations, including urgent technical measures at the curved alignment sections to ensure that the bearing pads cannot shift.

It also said metro rail operations could continue with regular monitoring of the bearing pads. Metro rail authorities have already started taking measures at the curved alignment sections to prevent the pads from shifting.

The committee chief handed over the probe report to Road Adviser Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan yesterday. The adviser later revealed some findings of the investigation to journalists at his secretariat office.

A pedestrian was killed and two others injured on October 26 last year when a bearing pad from a metro rail pillar fell and struck them in the capital’s Farmgate area.

The incident occurred just 13 months after another bearing pad fell from the metro line near the same location, raising concerns about the safety of this highly technical mode of transport.

The Road Transport and Bridges Ministry formed

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The glass wall at the front of the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission office in Agargaon is shattered during a protest against the launch of the National Equipment Identification Register (NEIR). Several mobile phone traders are alleged to have been involved in the incident. Story on page 6.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

We Deeply Mourn



Mr. Mazharul Haque (1956-2026)

We express our heartfelt condolence on the passing of our visionary leader and sponsor director of Phoenix Insurance PLC **Mr. Mazharul Haque** ("Inna lillahi wa inna ilayhi raji'un"). He breathed his last on 1st January 2026 early morning in Malaysia. The Board of Directors, the Management, and the Employees of Phoenix Family express their deep shock and profound sorrow at the sad demise of Mr. Haque. We pray to the Almighty Allah for the eternal peace of the departed soul and convey our deepest sympathy to his bereaved family members to get strength for bearing the irreparable loss.

We respectfully acknowledge his remarkable contribution to Phoenix Insurance PLC.

