

PRIME UNIVERSITY
Anwar Kamal
Pasha trustee
board chair

CITY DESK

Anwar Kamal Pasha was re-elected as the chairman of the board of trustees of Prime University Trust for the next two years (2026, 2027) through election at the annual general meeting held on December 28, 2025, said a press release.

Anwar Kamal Pasha is an educationist, philanthropist, and industrialist.

Four killed in road accidents in 2 districts

STAR REPORT

At least four people were killed in separate road accidents in Natore and Barishal districts yesterday.

In Natore, two people were killed as a vehicle, locally known as trolley, hit a battery-run auto-rickshaw on Gurudaspur-Natore road in Najirpur area under Gurudaspur upazila yesterday noon, reports our Pabna correspondent.

The deceased, both local residents and passengers of the auto-rickshaw, were identified as Md Ashraf Hossain, 70, and Md Haydar Ali, 28.

The accident occurred around 12:00pm, leaving both Ashraf and Haydar dead on the spot, said Md Shafikuzzaman, officer-in-charge of Gurudaspur Police Station.

Police are trying to detain the absconding trolley driver, he added.

In Barishal, two persons were killed as a truck coming from the opposite direction hit their motorcycle and ran them over on Barishal-Jhalakathi regional highway in front of Ukilbari in the city's Rupatali area around midnight yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Md Jewel, 28, a resident of Rupatali, and Md Russell, 25, from Ruiyarpur area, both helpers at an ACI Animal Health store, our Barishal correspondent reports.

Russell died on the spot. Locals rushed critically injured Jewel to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital, where on-duty doctors declared him dead.

The truck was found on the scene but its driver and his assistant managed to flee. The bodies were sent to a hospital morgue for autopsy," said OC Al Mamun UI Islam of Kotwali Model Police Station.



A farmer works in a tobacco field in the Rangpur region, where tobacco cultivation has expanded this season. Many farmers have shifted away from potato farming after suffering losses last year and are encouraged by higher profits from tobacco. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

Tobacco cultivation on the rise in Rangpur

S DILIP ROY, *LaMonirhat*

Tobacco cultivation has continued to expand across the Rangpur region, while potato farming has seen a declining trend in the ongoing season.

Tobacco cultivation is largely concentrated in Lalmonirhat district, alongside Rangpur, Nilphamari and Gaibandha.

According to the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), tobacco has been cultivated on nearly 20,000 hectares of land in the region this year, up from 18,700 hectares last year.

In contrast, potato cultivation declined significantly to 105,719 hectares this year from 119,719 hectares last year.

The Anti-Tobacco Media Alliance (ATMA), however, claimed that the actual area under tobacco cultivation is double the figure shown by the DAE.

Farmers said many had suffered heavy losses in potato cultivation last season, while those engaged in tobacco farming made unexpected profits. As a result, a large number of farmers shifted from potato to tobacco cultivation this year.

Some farmers also said tobacco companies have been systematically encouraging them to grow tobacco by providing free seeds and fertilisers, field-

level advice and interest-free loans.

Mahbubur Rahman, 65, a farmer from Nayapara village under Rangpur Sadar upazila, said he decided not to cultivate potatoes this year after sustaining losses in the previous season and instead opted to grow tobacco on his entire eight bigha of land.

Another farmer from the same village, Nuruzzaman Haque, 60, said, "Almost all cultivable land in Mominpur union is being used for growing tobacco."

"Tobacco production ranges between 360 and 400 kilogrammes per bigha and is sold for Tk 190 to 210 per kg. The cost of cultivation ranges from Tk 20,000 to 25,000 per bigha," he said.

"Tobacco requires the most fertile land and is a labour-intensive crop. As such, all family members have to work in the field. However, it is a profitable crop considering the returns," he added.

Nitesh Chandra Barman, 60, a farmer from Sarpukur village under Aditmari upazila in Lalmonirhat, said, "There are offices of at least seven tobacco companies in this upazila, making it easier for us to sell the crop."

A representative of a foreign tobacco company, who wished to remain anonymous, admitted, "Our job is to encourage farmers to cultivate tobacco. We focus on farmers' problems in every way so that they remain loyal to us."

Khorshed Alam, a member of ATMA, said, "Unless the unrestricted movement of tobacco company representatives at the field level is stopped, its cultivation in this region will remain beyond control."

Aditmari upazila agriculture officer Omar Faruk said, "Despite our anti-tobacco campaigns, farmers are showing greater interest in tobacco cultivation."

Dr Safinur Rahman, senior scientific officer of the Rangpur Divisional Soil Resource Development Institute, said, "Tobacco cultivation degrades soil fertility. It also requires excessive amounts of chemical fertilisers, which are extremely harmful to the soil."

Sirajul Islam, additional director of the DAE in Rangpur division, said, "Since tobacco cultivation is not legally prohibited, we cannot take strict action against it. To control tobacco cultivation, the government must enact a law. We have sent a letter to the Ministry of Agriculture in this regard."

LaMonirhat Deputy Commissioner HM Rakib Haider said, "We are working to determine how tobacco cultivation can be kept under control."

Prabal, Mujibur gear up for 'Mission Seven Summit' Expedition begins with Aconcagua in Argentina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mountaineers Prabal Barman and AKM Mujibur Rahman are gearing up for scaling the highest peaks on all seven continents under "Mission Seven Summit".

Their expedition will begin with Aconcagua, the tallest peak in South America, located in Argentina, after January 7.

Mission Seven Summit involves climbing Mount Everest (Asia), Aconcagua (South America), Puncak Jaya (Oceania), Mount Elbrus (Europe), Mount Vinson (Antarctica), Mount Kilimanjaro (Africa) and Denali (North America).

Addressing a press conference at Bishwo Shahitto Kendro yesterday, Prabal, who began mountaineering in 2021, said, "This journey is not just about personal achievement. It is meant to inspire the youth of Bangladesh..."

Prabal, a Covid-19 survivor, earlier climbed Mount Kilimanjaro following formal training at the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering in India.

Mujibur, a professional scuba diver and mountaineer trained at the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering, earlier climbed Mount Elbrus, Mount Kilimanjaro and Aconcagua as part of the Mission Seven Summit. "Mountaineering is like a marathon," Mujibur said. "It demands patience, acclimatisation and the right guidance, not just physical strength."

Man killed in wild elephant attack

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Bandarban*

A man was killed in an attack by a wild elephant in Naikhyangchhari upazila of Bandarban yesterday morning.

The victim, Abdus Salam, 35, a tube-well mechanic from ward-6 of Baishari union, was the sole earning member of his family, locals said.

According to residents, a wild elephant was crossing the road in front of Salam's house. Out of curiosity, he moved closer from behind to take photographs. Barking by nearby dogs reportedly agitated the elephant, which suddenly charged at him and trampled him with its trunk and feet, killing him on the spot.

With assistance from the Forest Department, the elephant was later driven away.

Ward member Ubaching Marma said efforts were made to prevent further harm but one life had already been lost.

Inspector Md Anwarul Islam at Baishari Police Investigation Centre said police recovered the body and sent it to Bandarban Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

Forest Department official Nur Hossain said the area lies within a wild elephant corridor, where such incidents occur frequently.



TENDER INVITATION

The Inter Services Selection Board (ISSB) of Bangladesh is inviting sealed tenders from eligible tenderers. Details about these tenders, including submission guidelines and specific requirements, can be found in the enclosures of the Tender Notice published on the ISSB website.

Visit: www.issb-bd.org for more details. Interested parties must submit their tender documents up to 18 January 2026 by 1200 hours duly filled up with all requirements.

Abu Mohammad Hasanul Habib
Brigadier General
President, Inter Services Selection Board

আইএসএসিবির বিবিধ কার্য

DITF to boost exports

FROM PAGE 3
desired growth. Against this backdrop, the Dhaka International Trade Fair stands as an important instrument for advancing these goals," he said in a message.

Commerce Adviser Sk

Plot for Sale
A 6.22 katha residential plot is available for sale in Gulshan-02, very close to Gulshan Society Lake Park. Only interested and genuine buyers are requested to. Contact: 01957-080049

Bashir Uddin formally inaugurated the month-long event at the China-Bangladesh Friendship Exhibition Center (CBFEC) in Purbachal, Rupganj yesterday.

Yunus said he believes that by promoting local products, encouraging diversification and attracting foreign investment, the fair will play an important role in driving overall national development.

He hoped that all

participating countries and institutions would work together in a spirit of mutual cooperation and partnership.

Originally scheduled to open on January 1, the inauguration of the trade fair was deferred to January 3 following the government's declaration of three days of national mourning over the death of former prime minister and BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia.

"If you bring the OC of

Tazumuddin police station in Bholia and make him the OC of Gulshan, he won't be able to cope."

"To avoid complications, officers-in-charge were selected through a lottery from among Dhaka-based officers, excluding a few," he said, adding that challenges

Ensuring law, order

FROM PAGE 3
Metropolitan Police operates differently from district police units and that officers from rural stations often struggle to cope with the complexities of policing in the capital.

"If you bring the OC of Tazumuddin police station in Bholia and make him the OC of Gulshan, he won't be able to cope."

"To avoid complications, officers-in-charge were selected through a lottery from among Dhaka-based officers, excluding a few," he said, adding that challenges

still remain when officers are transferred between police stations with differing demands.

Despite these difficulties, he said police personnel are continuing their duties.

Responding to a question on candidate security, the commissioner said protection is being provided to those who seek it, subject to verification and resource availability.

"We assess how serious the threat to a person's life is through the Special Branch. After verification, when SB confirms that someone has

a security risk, we provide SB personnel or gunmen."

He said several individuals have already been given gunmen and that protection for election commissioners has been increased. "If any candidate informs us of a threat, we are ready to verify and provide security."

However, he acknowledged that police resources are limited.

"If all manpower is deployed for personal security, who will guard the polling centres?" he said, adding that police are trying to balance resources.

Is the Jamaat alliance tearing NCP apart?

FROM PAGE 3
The crisis deepened on December 27 after Senior Joint Member Secretary Tasnim Jara confirmed her resignation to the convener and announced she would contest the election as an independent candidate.

On December 28, several senior leaders followed suit, including Joint Convener Tajnuva Jabeen and Fen-3 nomination aspirant Mohammad Abul Kashem.

Azad Khan Bhasani, chief coordinator of the party's farmers' wing and grandson of Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani, also resigned, calling the alliance a betrayal of the party's founding values. Two other key figures -- Joint Member Secretaries Mushfiqul Salehin and Arif Sohel -- also stepped down.

The crisis has particularly affected female leadership.

Senior Joint Convener Samanta Sharmin said she would not contest the Bholia-1 seat, calling the alliance with Jamaat "morally unacceptable".

Joint Convener Nasrat Tabassum withdrew from

both the election and party activities.

Monira Sharmin pulled out of the Naogaon-5 race, Southern Organiser Monjila Jhuma withdrew from Khagrachhari, and Northern Organiser Dyuti Aranny Chowdhury said she would not campaign, writing that the decision had "shattered the dreams of countless leaders and activists."

Humayra Noor, who withdrew from Naokhali-5, said she accepted the party's decision but was stepping back due to the overall situation, adding that her political journey with the NCP would continue.

Meanwhile, amid the turmoil, on December 29, former adviser Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuyain formally joined the NCP, announcing

that he would not contest the election but would serve as the party's spokesperson and head of its election management committee.

NCP, however, dismissed all the concerns regarding the party's situation.

NCP Joint Convener Javed Rashed said the resignations were based on personal decisions and would not affect either the party or the alliance.

"This alliance was formed through a democratic process based on the majority view within the party," he said.

Meanwhile, speaking on condition of anonymity, a senior NCP leader said more resignations were likely. "There are at least 10 more names on the list. The number will go up."

Star journalist gets CRAB best reporting

FROM PAGE 3
were also present.

In crime investigative reporting (print)

Mahmudul Hasan of

Prothom Alo received the award. The crime investigative reporting (television) category was

jointly won by Mohammad

Shahriar Arif of Channel 24 and Naeem Al Ziko of News 24.

Mohammad Jamil Khan received the award for his two-part series, "Childhood Lost in Rolling Biri" and "Toiling Their Lives Away in Smoke and Shadows."

Higher Education Acceleration and Transformation (HEAT) Project
Office of the Sub-Project Manager (SPM)
UGC HEAT-ATF PIN 11013
Department of Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology
University of Rajshahi

স্মারক নং: জিইবি-রাবি./হিট-এটিএফ/পিএইচ-১১০১৩/২৯

e-Tender Notice

e-Tenders are invited on the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following goods under HEAT Project for Microbiology Laboratory, Department of Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology University of Rajshahi, Bangladesh.

Tender ID No.	Package No.	Name of Works	Online Tender Notice Publication Date and Time	Online Tender Closing Date and Time
1200401	RU/11013/G-1	ICT Equipment's for Microbiology Laboratory	04-01-2026 02:00 PM	15-01-2026 02:00 PM
1200841	RU/11013/G-2L1	Procurement of Machineries and Installation for Microbiology Laboratory. Lot 1	04-01-2026 02:00 PM	22-01-2026 02:00 PM
1205812	RU/11013/G-2L2	Procurement of Machineries and Installation for Micro		