

KALAPARA OF PATUAKHALI
8,000 fisher's registration cards to be cancelled

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

The authorities are set to cancel the registration cards of at least 8,000 listed fishermen in Patuakhali's Kalapara upazila after identifying them as ineligible during a verification process.

According to Kalapara upazila senior fisheries officer Apu Saha, the move comes as part of updating the fishermen database. Of the existing 18,305 registered fishermen, around 8,000 have been marked as defective entries and are now in the final stage of cancellation. These include individuals who have changed their profession, passed away, relocated, or are not genuine fishermen.

Meanwhile, nearly 11,000 fresh applications for fishermen cards are currently under scrutiny, he added.

Apu Saha said ensuring that genuine fishermen get the ID cards is the main objective of the initiative.



However, the official could not confirm when the updating process would be completed.

For years, thousands of fishermen have been deprived of the government's special VGF food assistance during fishing ban periods for not having registration cards. This has sparked widespread resentment, leading to human chains, protests and other forms of demonstrations by affected fishermen time and again.

Against this backdrop, the upazila verification committee initiated the process to prepare an accurate list of fishermen engaged in river and sea fishing in Kalapara.

Harif Majhi, a fisherman from Kukal, said a draft list should be displayed in front of every union parishad and municipality before finalisation so that local fishermen can point out any discrepancies.

Kalapara upazila nirbahi officer Kawser Hamid said an updated and accurate list is being prepared to ensure that government's food assistance during fishing ban periods reaches only genuine fishermen.



Nearly 3,000 children and more than 1,500 elderly people received treatment at Rangpur Medical College Hospital for cold-related ailments over the past week. Inset, tea workers huddle around a fire for warmth in Sreemangal. The minimum temperature in the region was recorded at 9.5 degrees Celsius yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

RANGPUR MEDICAL COLLEGE HOSPITAL 16 die of cold-related ailments in past 7 days

Biting cold continues to disrupt lives across country

STAR REPORT

At least 16 people, including nine children and seven elderly persons, have died of cold-related ailments at Rangpur Medical College Hospital in the past week as an ongoing cold spell continues to disrupt lives and livelihoods across the country, particularly in the northern districts.

Brigadier General Ashikur Rahman, director of the hospital, confirmed the deaths.

With no sunshine and bone-chilling northern winds, daily life has largely come to a standstill across the Rangpur region.

The deaths were caused by respiratory complications, pneumonia, diarrhoea and asthma. The children who died were aged five or below, while the elderly victims were over 70 years old, Ashikur Rahman said.

"People in these two age groups are

more vulnerable to cold-related illnesses and face higher risks."

During a visit to the hospital yesterday, it was seen that wards were overwhelmed with patients, while anxious relatives crowded around them.



Ashikur Rahman said nearly 3,000 children and more than 1,500 elderly people received treatment for cold-related ailments at the hospital over the past week.

"The number of patients is increasing

daily," he added.

Mahfuzar Rahman, a physician at the hospital's paediatric department, said cases of pneumonia, diarrhoea, respiratory distress and fever were rising alarmingly, mostly among children and elderly people.

He advised keeping children and elderly persons warm, particularly at night, and said they should be hospitalised immediately if they appear seriously ill.

District and upazila hospitals across the five districts of Rangpur division -- Rangpur, Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Gaibandha and Nilphamari -- have also been overwhelmed by an influx of hundreds of patients suffering from cold-related illnesses every day. The cold spell has severely affected the lives of working-class and low-income people.

Mahidul Islam, 50, a day labourer from Kaunia upazila of Rangpur, said, "There

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273 including 10 'traffickers' detained in Bay

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

The Bangladesh Navy detained 273 people, including 10 members of a human trafficking syndicate, while they were attempting to travel illegally to Malaysia by sea.

The detainees were intercepted on Saturday night during a special operation conducted by the navy ship BNS Swadhinata in the Bay of Bengal near St Martin's Island, the navy said in a press release yesterday.

The release said that during preliminary interrogation, the detainees admitted they had begun the journey with the help of human traffickers, aiming to reach Malaysia illegally.

The navy said a wooden boat showed suspicious movement about 30 miles southwest of St Martin's Island. When signalled to stop, the vessel attempted to flee by increasing speed. The navy ship immediately pursued the boat and managed to intercept it.

Ten members of the trafficking gang were among those detained, bringing the total number of detainees to 273.

The boat and detainees were handed over to Teknaf Police Station for further legal action. The press release also added that the boat lacked basic life-saving equipment, adequate food, water, and safety arrangements. Under such conditions, a journey in the deep sea could have led to a major humanitarian disaster, the navy said.

Three abducted in Sundarbans rescued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Three people, including a resort owner, who were abducted by armed robbers while visiting the Sundarbans in Bagerhat, were rescued last night following a joint operation by law enforcement agencies, police said.

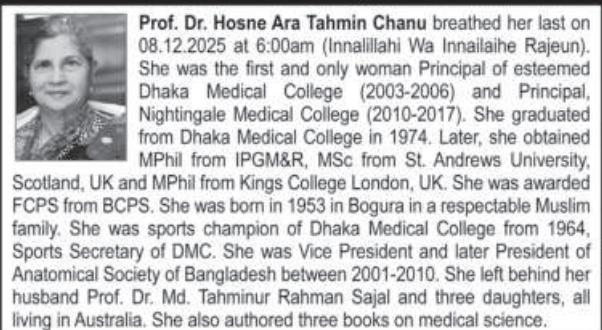
The three were freed around 8:00pm and brought out from deep inside the forest area where they had been held. They were reported to be in good health, said Shukla Saha, additional DIG (supernumerary promoted) of the Tourist Police, Khulna region.

The abduction occurred on Friday afternoon in the Kenur Khal area adjacent to the Sundarbans, under the Dhangmari area of the Chandpuri Range. According to police and local sources, four tourists from Dhaka arrived at the "Gol Kanan" resort around noon for an overnight stay.

Later in the afternoon, resort owner Shripati Bachhar and the tourists boarded a boat to explore a narrow canal inside the forest.

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Obituary



Prof. Dr. Hosne Ara Tahmin Chanu breathed her last on 08.12.2025 at 6:00am (Inshallah Wa Innaillahi Rajaun). She was the first and only woman Principal of esteemed Dhaka Medical College (2003-2006) and Principal, Nightingale Medical College (2010-2017). She graduated from Dhaka Medical College in 1974. Later, she obtained MPhil from IGM&R, MSc from St. Andrews University, Scotland, UK and MPhil from Kings College London, UK. She was awarded FCPS from BCPS. She was born in 1953 in Bogura in a respectable Muslim family. She was sports champion of Dhaka Medical College from 1964, Sports Secretary of DMC. She was Vice President and later President of Anatomical Society of Bangladesh between 2001-2010. She left behind her husband Prof. Dr. Md. Tahminur Rahman Sajal and three daughters, all living in Australia. She also authored three books on medical science.

Overhaul national security

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He also expressed concern over the army's deployment in policing roles, saying it hampers training. "Training is the best welfare of a soldier. If the army cannot train, it cannot fight," he said.

Lt Gen (retd) Mahfuzur

Rahman pointed to the absence of a comprehensive National Security Policy to guide foreign and economic strategies.

He said foreign analysts are now advocating "grey-zone warfare", including disinformation and economic pressure, to "destabilise Bangladesh".

He pointed to the establishment of new Indian cantonments near the border as indicators of shifting regional dynamics. "We need to build credible deterrence -- not only through hard power, but through national unity, a strong economy and a patriotic media."

Former US diplomat Jon Danilowicz said, "Bangladesh needs a separate and competent civilian defence minister to ensure proper oversight and rational use of defence resources."

He questioned high spending on advanced fighter jets such as the Eurofighter Typhoon, suggesting greater focus on maritime security and border protection. "All past treaties with India must be made public and reviewed," he said.

International relations researcher Mobasher Hasan said social cohesion and healing national trauma are more critical than military hardware.

He argued that systematic division of society and prolonged

politicisation of agencies such as the DGFI, NSI and police have weakened the country's security foundation.

He urged the government to shift from reactive to proactive measures, including state-backed psychosocial support for victims of enforced disappearances and torture.

"Restoring social cohesion is the key to sustainable security," he said.

Prof Dilara Chowdhury warned of "existential threats" if a truly representative government is not formed through credible elections.

She criticised the interim government for failing to prevent the escape of those accused in the killing of Sharif Osman Hadi.

She also identified upstream water supply as a major future security concern and called for transparency in foreign relations. "All past treaties with India must be made public and reviewed," she said.

Speakers agreed that coordinated action involving state institutions, political parties and civic forces is essential.

The event was moderated by Fahim Mashroor of Voice for Reform and Shafiqur Rahman of BRAIN.

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পাওয়ার গ্রিড বাংলাদেশ পিএলজি POWER GRID BANGLADESH PLC (An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

Grid Bhaban, Avenue-3, Jahurul Islam City, Aftabnagar, Badda, Dhaka-1212 Web: www.powergrid.gov.bd

স্মারক নং- ২৭.১১.০০০০.৮১৩.০৭.০০১.২৬.০৫

তারিখ: ০৮/০১/২০২৫সঞ্চি

e-Tender বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পাওয়ার গ্রিডের সিভিল ওয়ার্কস দপ্তরের আওতাধীন নিম্নলিখিত দরপত্র e-GP পোর্টালে প্রকাশিত হচ্ছে।

ID	Reference	Title of Works
1189220	27.21.0000.413.07.001.25.994; Date: 03/12/2025	Installation of acoustic panels on walls & ceiling, lighting and sound system works of Auditorium cum Multipurpose Hall at Power Grid Head Office, Aftabnagar, Dhaka.
1203181	27.21.0000.413.07.001.25.1046; Date: 24/12/2025	Re-construction of Boundary Wall at Tongi 230/132/33 KV Grid Sub-Station, Power Grid.

আগ্রহী টিকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানকে www.eprocure.gov.bd সাইটের মাধ্যমে দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণের জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

মোঃ আজিজুল ইসলাম সরকার
ত্বরাবধায়ক প্রকোশলী, সিভিল ওয়ার্কস

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department

Office of the Executive Engineer

District: Rangpur

www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.02.8500.000.07.12.25-23

Invitation for Tender (Works)

e-Tender Notice No. 34/2025-2026

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following works, details are given below:

Sl No.	Tender ID No.	Package No.	Description of work	Tender document last selling date & time
1	1200568	PRO/RANG/GANG/VR/25-26/W-689	Improvement of Gangachara Road Arajinamot (Pannur Mill) to Sokan Chaki Pacca Road Ch: 00-755.00m in/c. Const. of 2 Nos. 0.750m x 0.750m U-Drain at Ch: 415m & 600m Road ID: 185275500 under Gangachara Upazila, Dist. Rangpur [Salvage material cost Tk. 22,13,272.00] [OTM]	28/01/2026 16.00pm

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

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<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 guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

2025-2026

Md. Musa

Executive Engineer

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Food stock hits

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We do not see it politically. The market works based on the needs of buyers and sellers, and we buy from wherever we can get products at a lower price," Majumder said.

Regarding the upcoming elections, he said preparations for a free, fair and transparent election were on track and that the administration was taking all necessary steps to ensure it is held on time.

"With better preparation this year, rice prices remain at a tolerable level, and we expect this situation to continue," Majumder said.

The press release also noted that rice prices rose slightly last year due to natural disasters shortly after the new government took office.

Office of the Chief Engineer

University of Dhaka

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