

Bangladesh, EU finalise PCA text
Deal to serve as legal, political foundation of long-term partnership

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and the European Union have finalised the text of the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Partnership and Cooperation (PCA), which will serve as the legal and political foundation for a strategic and long-term Bangladesh-EU relationship.

The agreement was finalised at the fifth round of negotiations held in Dhaka on January 7-8.

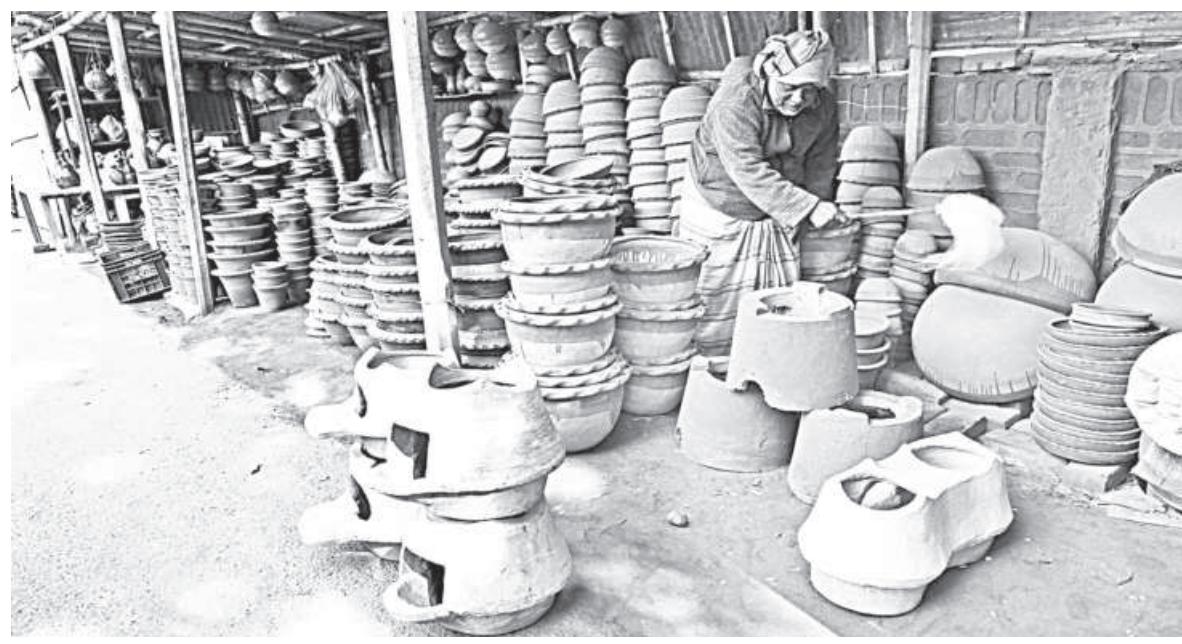
Ministry of Foreign Affairs Secretary (Bilateral) Dr Nazrul Islam led the Bangladesh delegation, while the EU side was headed by Paola Pampaloni, acting managing director for Asia-Pacific at the European External Action Service.

The EU is Bangladesh's largest trading bloc, with total trade in goods between the two sides amounting to €22.2 billion in 2024.

The agreement is expected to deepen cooperation in a wide range of policy areas, including human rights and governance, trade and investment, environmental sustainability and climate change, food security, energy, transport, and science, technology and innovation.

Earlier on Wednesday, the EU delegation paid

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1



A trader cleans items at his shop decorated with clayware, including pots and earthen stoves, beside Bilsimla Railgate in Rajshahi city yesterday, as demand for such stoves surged after LPG traders announced a halt to LPG sales across the country. Each stove sells for Tk 250-350. However, the LP Gas Traders Cooperative Society Limited later withdrew its indefinite strike following a meeting with the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

One missing bridge, thousands left stranded

SAHIDUL ISLAM NIRAB, Jamalpur

The absence of a bridge over the Jamuna river continues to inflict years of hardship on thousands of residents of Jamalpur's Sarishabari upazila and neighbouring Kazipur upazila of Sirajganj.

At the Gamataria ferry ghat in Pogladigha Union of Sarishabari, people from at least 25 villages rely on boats to meet their daily needs. Locals estimate that several hundred thousand people are directly affected by the lack of a permanent crossing.

A recent visit found that residents of Kazipur routinely cross the river to reach Sarishabari for work, education, healthcare and business. Despite repeated demands over the years, construction of a bridge has yet to begin.

The suffering intensifies during the monsoon, when ferry services become risky and irregular, leaving the area virtually cut off. Many locals describe the region as an isolated and long neglected pocket even decades after independence.



Important institutions are located on both sides of the river. While Jamuna High School and key connecting roads of Kazipur lie on the western bank, the eastern bank hosts Tarakandi Railway Station, Tarakandi Bus Terminal,

Kandarpa Bazar, Jamuna Fertiliser Company Limited, Pogladigha College, several schools, and various government and private offices. As a result, ferry crossings remain unavoidable.

"Even after 50 years of independence, we still have to wait here every day to cross the river. Our lives seem stuck on this ghat," said Mamunur Rahman, a resident of Guharkhola village.

Student Sohag Mia said delays at the riverbank often cause him to miss important classes, while farmer Nasim Uddin said the absence of a bridge hampers agriculture and emergency healthcare.

Upazila Engineer Golam Kibria said the ferry ghat has already been surveyed. "The bridge project is under consideration, and it will be implemented soon," he added.

One dies, two hurt in crude bomb explosion



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sharaijpur

One person was killed and two others injured in an explosion, allegedly while making crude bombs in Sharaijpur upazila early yesterday.

The deceased is Sohan Bepari, 32, of Bilashpur Union. The injured are Arman Molla, 32, and Md Nabin, 28.

The explosion destroyed a tin shed house, blowing away its roof. Sohan's body was later found in a nearby garlic field, said Saleh Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Zajira Police Station.

Police found a destroyed tin-roofed house built about two months ago by Sagar Bepari. They also found bomb-making materials at the site, said OC.

Locals rescued the two injured men and took them to Zajira Upazila Health Complex. Due to their critical condition, doctors referred them to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Police recovered Sohan's body later in the morning.

Based on initial findings, the explosion likely occurred while bombs were being made.

"How the body ended up in the field is still under investigation," the OC said, adding that legal proceedings are underway. Sohan had several cases against him, including assault.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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Date: 08/01/2026

e-GP Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of goods:

Tender ID	Package No.	Name of package description	Starting date & time	Closing date & time
1203547	BTSC/R-2025-26	Supply and Installation of Furniture	11-Jan-2026, 12:00	25-Jan-2026, 12:00
1203546	BTSC/R-2025-26/GD-8	Supply and Installation of Teaching and Learning Equipment	11-Jan-2026, 12:00	25-Jan-2026, 12:00
1203545	BTSC/R-2025-26/GD-7	Supply and Installation of Office Equipment	11-Jan-2026, 12:00	25-Jan-2026, 12:00
1203544	BTSC/R-2025-26/GD-6	Supply and Installation of Engineering Equipment	11-Jan-2026, 12:00	25-Jan-2026, 12:00
1203542	BTSC/R-2025-26/GD-5	Supply of Stationaries materials	11-Jan-2026, 12:00	25-Jan-2026, 12:00
1203535	BTSC/R-2025-26/GD-4	Supply of Computer Accessories	11-Jan-2026, 12:00	25-Jan-2026, 12:00
1203528	BTSC/R-2025-26/GD-3	Supply of Raw Materials and Spare parts	11-Jan-2026, 12:00	25-Jan-2026, 12:00

These are online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).



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GD-62

Death anniv of Md Velayet Hossain

CITY DESK

Today is the first death anniversary of Md Velayet Hossain, former deputy executive president of Islami Bank Bangladesh PLC, said a press release.



Hossain, former deputy executive president of Islami Bank Bangladesh PLC, said a press release.

On the occasion, a milad and doa mahfil will be held after the Juma prayers for the salvation of the departed soul.

On this day last year, Velayet Hossain passed away at a hospital in Dhaka, aged 79. He served Islami Bank Bangladesh PLC for several decades and played a significant role in strengthening the bank's operations as well as promoting ethical and Islamic banking practices.

Three held over rape in Jamalpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

Three people were arrested on charges of raping a woman after tying up and assaulting her husband in Jamalpur's Sadar upazila.

The arrests were made after the woman filed a case against five people with Jamalpur Sadar Police Station on Tuesday.

The accused are Farhad Mia, 30, and Azam, 24, of Chander Haora village; Rahat Ali Roudro, 24; Suman alias Pacha, 24; and Palash.

Among them, police on Wednesday arrested Farhad, Azam and Rahat and produced them before the local court, which sent them

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4

Sunlight brings some relief from cold Sreemangal records lowest temperature at 7°C

STAR REPORT

Sunlight brought a little respite yesterday for the cold-hit people across the country, especially in the northern region, after several consecutive days of bone-chilling cold.

The mercury rose slightly, with the country's lowest temperature recorded at 7 degrees Celsius in Moulvibazar's Sreemangal upazila.

On Wednesday, the lowest temperature was 6.7 degrees Celsius in Naogaon, according to the Bangladesh Meteorological Department.

"The sunlight was visible and temperature rose as there was less fog yesterday compared to previous days," said a duty officer of the BMD.

On Tuesday, a mild to moderate cold wave was sweeping over 32 districts in the Rangpur, Rajshahi, Barishal, Khulna and Sylhet divisions. The number of affected districts dropped to 17 yesterday, he added.

"Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged and day temperature may rise slightly over the country," said a BMD bulletin released last evening for the next 24 hours.



As the sun appeared, the intensity of the cold eased during the daytime, but the chill intensified again after sunset as cooler winds continued to sweep across the region, said Jitendranath Ray, acting officer of the Tetulia Weather Observatory.

In the Rangpur region, farmers and agricultural labourers were able to work in the fields during the daytime. "We are feeling relief today after getting sunlight from around 10:00am to the afternoon," said Shafiru Rahman, a farmer of Mominpur village in Rangpur sadar upazila.

Day labourer Pulin Chandra Roy of Mostafa village in Lalmonirhat said, "Thursday noon passed quite comfortably as the sun appeared in the sky. Sunlight warmed our bodies."

Attendance of students at various educational institutions also increased as the weather improved.

Anwar Shahadat, principal of Abdur Rashid Degree College in Thakurgaon sadar, said student attendance was better than in the previous few days due to the improved weather.

[Our correspondents from Moulvibazar, Lalmonirhat and Thakurgaon contributed to the report.]

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Project Director

Accelerating and Strengthening Skills for Economic Transformation (ASSET) Project

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www.asset-dte.gov.bd

Date: 08 January, 2026

e-Tender Notice No: 08/2025-26

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following goods:

Tender ID No.	Package No.	Package Description	Tender Document last selling Date and Time	Tender Closing Date and Time
1209467	G73	Supply of Goods & related service for programs/events under framework contract	25-Jan-2026 17:00	26-Jan-2026 15:00

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenders 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 (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is mandatory.

The fees for the e-Tender Document Price have to be deposited online through any registered Bank's Branches up to 5:00 PM of one day before the Closing Date.

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

08/01/2026

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GD-65



Government of the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh

Bangladesh Public Service Commission Secretariat

Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.

www.bpsc.gov.bd

Memo No: 80.00.0000.404.26.008.25-06

Date: 08.01.2026

e-Tender

This is to notify all concerned that the following e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of goods as follows-

Name of Goods	Package No & Tender ID	Publication, Last Selling and Closing Date & Time
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