

Christensen takes oath as US envoy to Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Brent Christensen, a career foreign service official, was sworn in as the new US Ambassador to Bangladesh on Friday.



The oath of office was administered to Christensen by Deputy Secretary of State Michael R McFaul at the State Department's Foggy Bottom headquarters.

"A m b a s s a d o r Christensen brings deep experience and expertise in US Bangladesh relations," the US Bureau of South and Central Asia said on X.

"We look forward to his leadership in strengthening our trade partnership and promoting US interests in Bangladesh."

Christensen now heads to Dhaka with over 20 years of experience working on US policy towards Bangladesh across his foreign service career, including a prior tour in Dhaka.

He is expected to join the US Embassy in Dhaka on Monday.

On X, it said the US Embassy in Dhaka is pleased to welcome Christensen as the newly sworn-in Ambassador to Bangladesh.

"I am thrilled to return to Bangladesh, a country I know so well. I am excited to lead a great team at Embassy Dhaka, Americans and locally employed staff alike, to enhance US-Bangladesh relations, advance President Trump's agenda, and work hard every day to make America safer, stronger, and more prosperous," the ambassador said.

Land for Sale
Land for sale in Uttara, Sector:15, Size-16.24 katha, with RAJUK 22 feet road. NoMedia, call:01301320455



Risking accidents, people cross a railway line by ducking under a safety gate lowered for an approaching train at the Bhadra rail crossing in Rajshahi yesterday.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

Roadwork disrupts classes, puts students at risk

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

Road development work in front of Gobardhanpur Government Primary School in Narendrapur village of Moulvibazar's Kamalganj upazila has been disrupting academic activities and posing health risks to students.

The ongoing road project from Kamalganj upazila to Adampur involves daily construction work, including burning fires to melt pitch, directly in front of the school's main gate. Thick black smoke, dust and ash from the work are spreading across the school premises and entering classrooms, corridors and teachers' rooms.

During visits to the area, pitch melting operations were seen being carried out during school hours, with smoke billowing into classrooms.

Teachers said students frequently suffer from coughing, eye irritation, breathing difficulties and dizziness, while excessive noise from construction work is also affecting their concentration.

"Many students fall sick during classes. Even after closing doors and windows, smoke and dust still enter the classrooms. This is extremely harmful for young children," said a teacher.

Headteacher AKM Manjur Moula



Chowdhury said all construction equipment had been placed in front of the school, worsening the situation.

"We have informed the upazila education officer and the engineer, but no effective steps have been taken so far," he said.

Parent Mifta Mia described the situation as "inhumane" and demanded the immediate removal of construction materials from the front of the school, calling for urgent measures to ensure a safe learning environment.

Upazila Primary Assistant Education

Officer Soma Bhattacharjee said the issue had been reported to higher authorities for immediate action.

Upazila Engineer Saiful Azam said the space was being used temporarily due to a lack of open areas along the road. He added that the school was reportedly closed earlier and that the project was now nearing completion, expected to finish within a week.

Kamalganj UNO Md Asaduzzaman said the administration was looking into the matter and taking necessary steps.

Man killed in mob beating over theft suspicion

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

An unidentified young man was beaten to death on suspicion of theft in Kurigram Sadar upazila early yesterday.

Police recovered the body from Farazi Para village under Panchgachhi union in the morning.

Police and local residents said the youth, aged around 25-26, was suspected of entering the Farazi Para area with the intention of committing theft around 2:30am. Sensing his presence, locals caught him.

He was later beaten by an agitated crowd, resulting in his death on the spot. After receiving information, police rushed to the scene and recovered the body.

OC Jahangir Alam of Kurigram Sadar Police Station confirmed the incident and said the identity of the deceased has yet to be established.

He said it has not been confirmed whether the youth had entered any house to commit theft.

Police have detained three people for questioning in connection with the incident.

Sowrav Das's first solo photo exhibit opens in Ctg



STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A photography exhibition titled "Drishtite Srishti" (Creation in Sight), the first solo show by photographer Sowrav Das, opened at the Zila Shilpakala Academy in Chattogram yesterday.

The three-day exhibition features a series of photographs exploring the theme of time through the interaction of nature and humanity.

Sowrav Das, a senior photojournalist at the daily Prothom Alo, has presented works created using slow-shutter techniques, capturing movement, light and the flow of urban life. In many of the photographs, human figures appear blurred or abstract, emphasising motion and the passage of time.

The opening ceremony was attended by several cultural figures, including Prothom Alo Editor Matiu Rahman, poet and journalist Abul Momen, and painter and photographer Shueb Faruquee.

Matiur Rahman spoke about Sowrav's professional journey, noting that he joined Prothom Alo 15 years ago after receiving formal training from Pathshala. He said Sowrav had been named the newspaper's best photographer three times and had received multiple international awards.

Abul Momen, speaking at the event, discussed the historical influence of photography on visual art, explaining how the camera's ability to capture reality led painters to focus more on light and emotion than literal representation.

Level playing field

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observe processes such as voter registration and appeal procedures.

On the role of law enforcement agencies, Ijabs said electoral violence is a widespread concern in Bangladesh's political culture. He said the mission's legal analysts are examining the balance between maintaining law and order and political neutrality, an issue that will become increasingly relevant as election day approaches.

Asked about the EU EOM's perspective on the banning of the Awami League and its inability to take part in the polls, Ijabs said issues of transitional justice are painful for many countries.

"We are here to look at how to make the current process participatory, credible, and trusted by citizens, rather than focusing on past legal proceedings," he said.

On recent violent protests and killings that have created fear among the public, he said such violence is extremely worrying, as fear may discourage people from turning out to vote.

"We will pay attention to the opportunities for all groups – including women and ethnic or regional minorities – to participate in the polls," he said.

He suggested that law enforcement agencies maintain law and order but refrain from involvement in the political process on behalf of any particular group.

"This is a crucial

question we will pay a lot of attention to," he added.

On addressing misinformation and disinformation surrounding the elections, Ijabs said the issue has been debated for years in the European Parliament.

"The problem is that policy regulations always lag behind technological progress," he said, suggesting greater engagement with NGOs and fact-checking organisations to counter disinformation.

He also said governments should maintain direct communication with social media platforms to ensure regulation.

On the role of free media, Ijabs said the EU EOM is concerned that political unrest is endangering media freedom, particularly following the attack on The Daily Star and Prothom Alo office buildings.

Asked if he had any message for voters, he said, "Make an informed choice and do not be afraid to participate."

"Democracy is a learning process. You must take previous decisions into account and learn from mistakes to grow and become fit for these turbulent times."

PRAYER TIMING						
JANUARY 11						
Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha		
5:30	12:45	4:00	5:36	7:00		
JAMAAT	6:05	1:15	4:15	5:40	7:30	
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION						

Educating women key to a kinder

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their country and lead their nation. Nine students have come from the Rohingya camps, also a place where a brutal line is drawn between need and deprivation. Seven garment factory workers are receiving degrees today; these students once thought their lives would remain limited only to sewing machines," said A UW Vice-Chancellor Rubana Huq.

A UW conferred honorary doctorates on seven notable figures for their contributions to humanity, education, and peace.

Oxford University Vice-Chancellor Irene Tracey was awarded a Doctor of Science and the Advancement of Humankind; University of Tokyo President Teruo Fujii received a Doctor of Science; Japan's former First Lady Akie Abe was conferred a Doctor of Humane Letters; UK House of Lords member Janet Annie Royall received a Doctor of Arts for Leadership and Educational Equity; Bangladesh's former education minister M Osman Faruk was awarded a Doctor of Science in

Educational Development; Japan's former ambassador to Dhaka Ito Naoki received a Doctor of Arts for the Advancement of Peace; and Prothom Alo Editor and Publisher Matiur Rahman was conferred a Doctor of Creative, Responsible and Courageous Journalism.

Receiving his honorary degree, Matiur Rahman spoke on the indispensability of independent journalism, expressing concern over recent attacks on major media houses like Prothom Alo and The Daily Star, but remained hopeful. "When times are difficult, independent journalism must be indispensable. Without freedom of thought, democracy cannot survive. I do not lose hope because young people have not abandoned their hope for a humane and just society," he said.

He added, "I am not accepting this honour only for myself; I am accepting it on behalf of the journalists of Bangladesh who work every day in search of truth, often at personal risk."

Former education minister Dr M Osman

Faruk called the passage of the AUW Act, which established it as an independent university free from government intervention, one of his best achievements while in cabinet.

Of the 235 graduates, 152 were from Bangladesh. The class also included students from Afghanistan, India, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Vietnam, and Yemen.

A UW Founder Kamal Ahmad reflected on the university's growth over 18 years, expanding from 127 students to over 2,000 from 22 countries, and emphasised AUW's commitment to educating and professionally placing displaced and refugee women. "Refugee camps are not temporary stations in life. We have students who were born in refugee camps and who go back to visit their parents," he said.

Presiding over the ceremony, AUW Chancellor Cherie Blair reminded graduates that poverty, disease, inequality, and violence will continue to exist in the world, but AUW graduates respond where crises happen.

Cold wave grips north, threatens

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According to the Rangpur Meteorological Office, the minimum temperatures recorded at 9:00am yesterday were 10°C in Rangpur, 10.8°C in Kurigram and Lalmonirhat,

8.3°C in Panchagarh, 11°C in Gaibandha, and 10°C in Thakurgaon and Nilphamari.

Rangpur Weather office in-charge and meteorologist Mostafizur Rahman said such weather

may persist throughout January. "The sun may appear occasionally, but its intensity will be weak," he said, adding that the region experiences harsher winters due to its proximity to the Himalayan mountain range.

Bangladesh Milk Producer's Co-Operative Union Ltd.
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e-Tender Notice

Memo No. 47.67.0000.007.07.206.21-757

Date: 08/01/2026

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 of the e-Tender documents of following package from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through and registered bank's branches.

Sl No.	Name of goods	Tender ID	Tender publish date & time	Tender last submission, opening date & time
1	Tin Container with Lid, EOE & Paper Carton for Packing of 1 kg. Ghee (Framework Agreement)	1208468	18/01/26; 15:00	01/02/26; 16:00
2	Tin Container with Lid, EOE & Paper Carton for Packing 5 kg Ghee (Framework Agreement)	1208495	18/01/26; 15:00	01/02/26; 16:00
3	Tin Container with Lid, EOE & Paper Carton for Packing 450gm Ghee (Framework Agreement)	1208504	19/01/26; 15:00	02/02/26; 16:00
4	Plastic Bottle with Cap for Packing of 200ml Matha (Framework Agreement)	1208562	19/01/26; 15:00	02/02/26; 16:00
5	Plastic Bottle with Cap for Packing 500ml Labang (Framework Agreement)	1185424	20/01/26; 15:00	03/02/26; 16:00
6	Inkjet Date Printing Machine (New & Unused)	1184663	20/01/26; 15:00	03/02/26; 16:00
7	S. S. Checker Plate (New % Unused)	1208578	21/01/26; 15:00	05/02/26; 16:00
8	Plastic Container with Lid for 1/2kg. Sana/Para/Khezur Ghor Sondesh (Framework Agreement)	1208638	21/01/26; 15:00	05/02/26; 16:00
9	Plastic Container with Lid & Foil for Packing 1 kg & 1/2kg Rashmalai (Framework Agreement)	1208647	22/01/26; 15:00	08/02/26; 16:00
10	Plastic Security Seal (Framework Agreement)	1208654	22/01/26; 15:00	08/02/26; 16:00
11	Plastic Container with Lid for Packing 1kg & 1/2kg Rosgolla (Framework Agreement)	1208661	25/01/26; 15:00	09/02/26; 16:00
12	Truck Chassis with Cabin & Engine (10 & 5 ton, New & Unused)	1184591	25/01/26; 15:00	09/02/26; 16:00
13	Tin Container with Lid, EOE & Paper Carton for Packing 200gm Ghee (Framework Agreement)	1209084	26/01/26; 15:00	10/02/26; 16:00
14	Adhesive Sticker(s) for Plastic Container (Framework Agreement).	1209089	26/01/26; 15:00	10/02/26; 16:00
15	Printed Craft Paper Bag (Framework Agreement) (Re-Tender)	1181515	27/01/26; 15:00	11/02/26; 16:00

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

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