

Political leaders start getting

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requested action to strengthen security, including gunmen, for three political figures: Syed Muhammad Rezaul Karim, emir of Islami Andolon Bangladesh (IAB); BNP's Meherpur-1 candidate Masud Arun; and Zonayed Saki, the chief coordinator of Ganosambhati Andolon.

The move to provide security to political leaders and July protagonists comes amid concerns over candidates' safety following the shooting of Sharif Osman Bin Hadi, an MP aspirant for Dhaka-8, a day after the election schedule was announced on December 11.

So far, eight political killings have taken place since the announcement of the election schedule, according to media reports and Ain o Salish Kendra.

After the incident sparked widespread discussion and criticism at home and abroad, the government decided to provide adequate security to political party leaders, according to home ministry officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity as they are not authorised to speak with the media.

The government directed that a list be prepared of leaders facing security risks. In line with that instruction, police units carried out detailed inquiries and prepared a report containing such a list.

The list includes names of 127 leaders from almost all parties, including the BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami and the National Citizen Party. The list was compiled with key leaders from Dhaka and different districts.

In another major development on December 14, the government issued policy guidelines on granting firearm licences and appointing retainers (persons to carry firearms) for individuals who are politically important and candidates contesting the national election.

Under the policy, the government will grant a licence or retainer after scrutiny by the district magistrate and intelligence agencies. The guideline says an approved firearms licence issued under this framework will remain valid until 15 days after the election results are published, after which it will be treated as automatically cancelled.

Police are also providing a gunman to the returning officer of the Dhaka 13 and Dhaka 15 constituencies, according to DMP officials.

They are also providing security to Bangladesh Jatiya Party Chairman Andaleebe Rahman Partho; Gono Odhikar Parishad General Secretary Rashed Khan; BNP's Dhaka-13 candidate Bobby Hajjaj; and Biplobi Workers Party General Secretary Saiful Huq.

Besides these two,

the DMP also provided a gunman and a house guard to the editors of two national daily newspapers.

M o h a m m a d Moniruzzaman, special superintendent (protocol) of the SB, declined to disclose the exact number of people receiving police protection citing security reasons.

"We are providing security, and gunmen based on threats and risks, and the number is updated every day," he told The Daily Star.

Besides this, different police units across the country are providing security to vulnerable candidates based on security assessment, according to home ministry officials.

Without disclosing the exact figure, Hasib Aziz, commissioner of the Chattogram Metropolitan Police, said that they have already provided security to some individuals and the list is constantly updated.

Meanwhile, at least 153 election candidates now possess licensed firearms. BNP has the highest number of candidates with firearms (92), followed by Jatiya Party (12), IAB (five), Jamaat-e-Islami (four), Bangladesh Khelafat Andolon and Gono Odhikar Parishad (two). Around 28 independent candidates reported licensed firearms.

The remaining eight candidates with licensed firearms belong to other parties.

Yunus seeks UN support

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the two also discussed the upcoming referendum, the need for institutional reforms, the work of the Enforced Disappearance Commission, the formation of the National Human Rights Commission, and the global geopolitical situation.

Türk stressed the importance of establishing "a truly independent" National Human Rights Commission to carry forward the work related to

enforced disappearances.

In response, Yunus said the NHRC ordinance has already been promulgated and the commission would be reconstituted ahead of the February 12 elections, adding, "We will do it before we leave."

He further said he had shared the final report of the Enforced Disappearance Commission with the UN high commissioner for human rights, describing it as a crucial document that would go a long way toward

ensuring accountability and justice for the victims of enforced disappearances during the authoritarian regime from 2009 to 2024.

Türk praised the chief adviser's efforts over the past year and a half, and said his office had supported the work of the Enforced Disappearance Commission and would continue to do so.

SDG Coordinator and Senior Secretary Lamiya Morshed was present during the conversation.

Topsoil extraction threatens agriculture in Magura

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Topsoil, rich in organic matter and nutrients, is vital for agriculture. Yet large volumes of this valuable layer are being excavated from farmlands and diverted to brick kilns, particularly in Magura's Mohammadpur upazila.

According to local sources, farmers from all eight unions of the upazila are selling topsoil to meet the growing demand of brickfields, with little obstruction.

The extraction intensifies every year from December, coinciding with the peak brick production season.

Agricultural soil is preferred by kiln owners for producing higher-quality bricks. Through intermediaries, soil traders buy topsoil from farmers at low lump-sum rates, often under the pretext of land levelling, and resell it to kiln owners at much higher prices. For nearly four months, from December to March, the practice continues unabated.



Ignoring existing rules, excavators are used to cut soil, which is then transported by trolleys and trucks, damaging rural roads and local infrastructure. An estimated 18 brick kilns are operating in the upazila this season, with fertile cropland serving as their primary

source of raw material.

Agricultural experts warn that the removal of topsoil strips land of essential nutrients such as gypsum and zinc and disrupts beneficial microorganisms, leading to declining soil fertility and crop yields. Many farmers, due to a lack of awareness, are

unknowingly selling away the productive capacity of their land.

Rabiul Islam Russell, a farmer from Raypasha village, said cutting soil from croplands invites long-term losses and urged greater awareness among farmers.

Mezbahul Islam, owner of Arab Bricks, said they purchase soil through contractors and claimed ignorance about how or where the soil is sourced.

Upazila Agriculture Officer Piyush Roy warned, "Topsoil is the nutritional core of farmland. If it is removed, good yields cannot be expected from that land for at least the next 10 years. This could eventually lead to food shortages."

Upazila Nirbahi Officer Shahnur Zaman said action is taken whenever reports of topsoil extraction are received, adding, "Protecting arable land requires not only enforcement of the law but, more importantly, raising awareness among farmers and the general public."

Police block July Oikya march to EC

Activists call for barring JP, 14-party alliance, NDF from polls



PHOTO: COLLECTED

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of activists under the banner of July Oikya was stopped by police yesterday while marching towards the Election Commission with several demands, including the cancellation of the candidacies of nominees from the Jatiya Party, the 14-party alliance and the National Democratic Front (NDF) ahead of the February 12 election.

July Oikya, an organisation that emerged after the July uprising, also demanded the removal from the administration of individuals who participated in the 2018 and 2024 elections.

The group further demanded ensuring security on election day, the recovery of illegal weapons, and the mandatory use of body-worn cameras on polling day.

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JULY KILLINGS SAD files ICT complaint against 25 businessmen

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students Against Discrimination (SAD) yesterday filed a complaint with the International Crimes Tribunal against 25 prominent business figures and around 200 unnamed businessmen, alleging their involvement in facilitating mass killings during the July 2024 uprising.

A delegation of SAD leaders submitted the complaint to the office of the ICT chief prosecutor, seeking a formal investigation and legal action against those named.

Speaking to journalists at the ICT premises after lodging the complaint, SAD President Rifat Rashid said former adviser to deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina, Salman F Rahman, was among

the businessmen accused. He, however, declined to disclose the identities of the other individuals named in the complaint.

According to the complaint, the businessmen attended a meeting with Hasina on July 22, 2024, during the nationwide internet shutdown, under the leadership of Salman. At the meeting, they allegedly assured the then government of their support and pledged assistance in suppressing the student-led movement.

Prosecutor Gazi Monawar Hossain Tamim said, "The complaint names 25 individuals and around 200 unidentified persons. It includes photographs of the July 22 meeting, video statements made during the meeting, and reports published in several newspapers."



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শাখার নাম পরিবর্তন

রূপালী ব্যাংক পিএলসি-এর গাবতলী হাট শাখা ঢাকা এর নাম পরিবর্তিত হয়ে মাজার রোড শাখা ঢাকা নামে ব্যাংকিং কার্যক্রম শুরু করছে।

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গাবতলী, ঢাকা।


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বর্তমান নাম

রূপালী ব্যাংক পিএলসি
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IN MEMORIAM



35th Death Anniversary of
Late Abul Qasem FCA (1919-1991)

Founder President (ICAB),
Former President (DCCI),
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In Fond Remembrance

Shakil, Farzana, Sohel, Jabeen, Sanjida, Mostaq, Sadaat, Sajid,
Navid, Sanjida Khan, Sadaat, Omair, Ahnaf, Afraz, Kayan
&
All Partners, Directors, Staff and Students of A. Qasem & Co.



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সালনা, গাজীপুর ১৭০৬, বাংলাদেশ, টেলিফোন: ০২ ৯৯৬৬৯৫২৩, ফ্যাক্স ০২ ৯৯৬৬৯৫৩১৬
GAZIPUR AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY
SALNA, GAZIPUR 1706, BANGLADESH, TELEPHONE: 02 99669523, FAX: 02 996695316, Web: www.gau.edu.bd

Memo No- GAU/ACA/A-1.21/2024-25/3475 Date: 13.01.2026

Advertisement for Admission in MS & PhD Program

Applications are invited for admission to MS and PhD Program under course credit system in the following subjects for Winter 2025 Term.

MS Program : Agricultural Extension and Rural Development; Agrometeorology; Agronomy; Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering; Crop Botany; Environmental Science; Entomology; Genetics and Plant Breeding; Horticulture; Plant Pathology; Soil Science; Seed Science and Technology; Aquaculture; Fisheries Biology and Aquatic Environment; Fisheries Technology; Fisheries Management; Genetics and Fish Breeding; Animal Breeding and Genetics; Anatomy; Animal Nutrition; Animal Science; Dairy Science; Poultry Science; Theriogenology; Medicine; Microbiology & Public Health; Pathology; Physiology; Pharmacology; Surgery; Agricultural Economics; Agribusiness; Agroforestry and Environment; Food Engineering.

PhD Program : Agricultural Extension and Rural Development; Agronomy; Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering; Crop Botany; Environmental Science; Entomology; Genetics and Plant Breeding; Horticulture; Plant Pathology; Soil Science; Seed Science and Technology; Dairy Science; Poultry Science; Agroforestry and Environment; Food Engineering.


Application form is available from : 13-01-2026
Last date of submission of application form : 05-02-2026

Foreign students may apply for admission at any time. Contact: Director (International Affairs)
E-mail: diria@gau.edu.bd

Detailed information about admission is available at www.gau.edu.bd


(Prof. Dr. Md. Tofazzal Islam)
Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies
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Member Secretary, Admission Committee (Graduate Program)
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GD- 99



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গ্যাস ব্যবহারে সতর্কতা হোন এবং
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বিনা কারসে গ্যাসের চুলা জ্বালিয়ে রাখা
আর বিপদকে ডাকা একই বিষয়

Reference No.: 28.16.9100.034.86.003.26 Dated: 11 January, 2026

e-Tender Notice

This is to notify all concern that the following tender have published through National e-GP portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

Sl. No.	Tender ID, Package No. & Date of Publishing	Name of the Work	Tender last Selling and Closing Date & Time
01.	Tender ID: 1209170 Package No: e-GP-EMM-07 Date of Publishing: 11.01.2026	Supply, installation, testing & commissioning of 218 Kwp on-grid rooftop solar power plant at Head Office Building Jalalabad Gas Transmission and Distribution System Limited (JGTDSL).	Last Selling: 25.01.2026, 14:00 Closing date & time: 25.01.2026, 15:00 Opening date & time: 25.01.2026, 15:00


The interested persons/firms may visit the website <https://www.eprocure.gov.bd> to get the details of the tender.

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 portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal/e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

(ENGR. MD. SARWAR JAHAN MAHMUD)
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GD-95



NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY
Center of Excellence in Higher Education

TENDER NOTICE

Tender No. NSU/25-26-T06

North South University is inviting sealed offers from bona fide/ reputed organisations/ distributors/ business partners/ agent for supplying photocopier, desktop computer for North South University as described in the tender schedule.

Detail of the items mentioned below:

Lot: 1- Core i5 desktop computer
Lot: 2- core i7 desktop computer
Lot: 3- 45 ppm photocopier
Lot: 4- 30 ppm photocopier

Interested bidders may collect schedule of tender from **Southeast Bank Ltd., Bashundhara Branch, Dhaka-1229** within the banking hour on all working days till **January 28, 2026** by paying non-refundable amount of taka 1,000.00 (one thousand) in cash for each schedule.

The bidders must submit **earnest money @ 2.5%** of the quoted price in the form of Pay Order issued from any scheduled bank drawn in favor of "North South University" along with their offer. The sealed offer must be submitted on **January 29, 2026 by 2:15 p.m.** at the office of the undersigned. The offers will be opened at 2:30 p.m. on the same day. Representatives of the participating bidders may remain present at the time of opening the bids. NSU authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without showing any reason.

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