

JCD alleges EC bias over postal ballots

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders and activists of Jatiyatabdhi Chhatra Dal held a sit-in outside the Election Commission headquarters in Agargaon yesterday, protesting the EC's "biased and controversial" role ahead of the upcoming national election slated for February 12.

The protest began around 10:00am, with JCD leaders and activists gathering in front of the EC.

JCD President Rakibul Islam said, "We have seen that a specific political group exerted influence to carry out such activities related to ballot papers, and those sitting inside the Election Commission could not have been unaware of it. These incidents took place with their direct instigation and support," he alleged.

Rakibul further claimed that similar discrimination was being repeated in student union polls, including Shahjalal University of Science and Technology's upcoming central student union and hall elections, as well as recent elections at Jagannath University.

JCD leaders said their protest was based on three demands: an end to what they described as the EC's biased and questionable decisions regarding postal ballots; avoidance of "rash decisions" taken under political pressure; and withdrawal of what they termed controversial directive regarding the SUST student union election.

On January 15, the EC allowed SUST to hold its student and hall union elections as scheduled on January 20.

Mentionable, the EC on January 12 directed all professional bodies and organisations to refrain from holding elections ahead of national polls.



Leaders and activists of Jatiyatabdhi Chhatra Dal hold a sit-in outside the Election Commission headquarters in Agargaon yesterday, protesting the EC's 'biased and controversial' role ahead of the upcoming national election slated for February 12.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Dhaka central univ ordinance finalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ordinance to establish Dhaka Central University has been finalised and sent to the Cabinet Division for approval.

A press release from the Ministry of Education yesterday confirmed that all required procedures under the Secondary and Higher Education Division have been completed.

Before finalisation, the Department of Secondary and Higher Education of the ministry collected opinions from relevant ministries and departments, sought public feedback through its website, and held consultations with teachers, students, civil society, and experts.

The ministry credited patient cooperation and constructive roles from stakeholders for bringing the complex process to its final stage.

In the press release, the ministry cautioned against any disruptive activities that could hinder the initiative, stressing that sustainable and world-class universities require careful reforms and stability. As the ordinance now awaits approval at the highest level of government, the ministry has urged all concerned to refrain from any programmes or activities that may cause public suffering or disrupt normal life.

18 Mros hurt in attack in Bandarban

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

At least 18 members of the Mro community were injured, eight of them critically, in an attack in Alikadam upazila of Bandarban on Saturday, police said.

The incident took place in Janali Para under Union No 3 of Alikadam, following a dispute over an alleged crop theft by community members, according to local and police sources.

Alikadam Police Station Officer in-Charge Alamgir Hossain Shah told The Daily Star that the main suspect, Jafar Alam, 45, had earlier been arrested in a theft case and later released on bail by a court.

The OC said Jafar later carried out the attack on the Mro community in Janali Para after allegedly attempting to steal crops.

Quoting locals, he said a group of Rohingya and other individuals allegedly attacked villagers with locally made weapons, leaving 18 people injured, eight of them in critical condition.

"We are conducting drives to arrest those involved. Legal proceedings are underway," the OC said.

According to local sources, villagers were first attacked in the morning following a dispute over the alleged theft of crops from a community garden. Later the same day, another attack reportedly took place near the Nayapara graveyard while some villagers were returning home after contacting the police.

The injured were taken to nearby health facilities for treatment.

Union Parishad Chairman Kafil Uddin said he had been informed of the incident and advised the victims to seek legal recourse. When contacted for comment, Jafar Alam's mobile phone was found switched off.

ICT accepts charges against Tapash, Nanak, 26 others

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mohammadpur Zone Rawshanul Haque Shaikat.

International Crimes Tribunal 1 yesterday took cognisance of three charges against ex-DSCC mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh, former minister Jahangir Kabir Nanak and 26 others for crimes against humanity over the killing of nine people, including two students, at Mohammadpur during the July uprising.

Chief Prosecutor Tajul Islam placed the charges before the tribunal, which accepted them, issued arrest warrants against the accused and ordered authorities to produce them by January 29.

The tribunal also directed that four accused currently in custody be produced before the court.

Other accused include former Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Habibur Rahman, joint commissioner Biplob Kumar Sarkar, former additional deputy inspector general Proloy Kumar Zoarder, and the then additional deputy commissioner of DMP's

ordered and facilitated the use of Chinese rifles, shotguns and live ammunition.

Armed party cadres, including Sheikh Bazlur Rahman, Azizul Haque Rana, MA Sattar, Tofail Siddique, Ismail Hossain, Asif Ahmed, Hasan Nur Islam and Tarequzzaman Rajib, allegedly SEE PAGE 11 COL 3



6 die in bus, auto-rickshaw collision

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Shariatpur

At least six people were killed and 10 others injured in a head on collision between a bus and a battery-operated rickshaw on the Dhaka-Barishal highway in Madaripur's Sadar upazila yesterday afternoon.

Police said two of the deceased were identified as bus helper Pannu Munsi and Ruman.

The accident occurred around 5:25pm in the Millgate area of Ghatachchar union, said Mamun Al Rashid, officer-in-charge of Mostafapur Highway Police Station in Madaripur.

A Dhaka-bound Sarbik Paribahan bus from Madaripur veered into the opposite lane and collided head on with the auto-rickshaw, the OC said.

The auto-rickshaw was completely mangled, and the bus plunged into a roadside ditch, leaving three people dead on the spot and 13 others injured. The injured were taken to Madaripur Sadar Hospital, where three more were declared dead, the OC added.

Following the accident, highway police and fire service personnel jointly carried out the rescue operation.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department

Office of the Upazila Engineer

Upazila: Sarishabari

District: Jamalpur.

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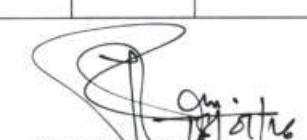


Date: 18/01/2026

e-tender Notice No: ADP-01/2025-2026

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

SI No	Tender ID No	Package No.	Name of Works	Procurement Method	Tender document last selling Date & Time	Tender/Proposal Security Submission Last Date & Time
1	1213998	Package No: ADP/JML/SAR/ SB/ 2025-26/001	i) Maint. work of Upazila Parishad Officers' club old building, Sarishabari, Jamalpur. ii) Supply of Upazila Parishad hall room digital banner, sound system & tiles work under Sarishabari, Jamalpur. iii) Construction of gate & boundary wall on upazila chairman residence & supply of furniture at UNO residence building under Sarishabari, Jamalpur.	LTM	02/02/2026 (17:00)	03/02/2026 (12:50)
2	1213999	Package No: ADP/25- 26/sari/W-010	Improvement of road i) At west side of Rupkotha brick field BC road to Badsha member house road under Mohadan UP ii) At Dopadaha mosque to sajer mor road under Mohadan UP iii) At Bilbilya sabapura pokurpar to cherugali mor road under Mohadan UP iv) At Borosora Ghuturi mor to khaguriya maddhapara jame mosque road under Mohadan UP, Sarishabari, Jamalpur.	LTM	02/02/2026 (17:00)	03/02/2026 (12:50)
3	1214000	Package No: UDF/25- 26/sari/W-007	Improvement of road i) At Krishnopal bazar ending point of pucca road dulal shop to mosque under Bhataria UP ii) At Parpara mor to uperpara shamsul Bsc. house road under Bhataria UP iii) At Barbaria main road to Binjail Govt. primary school road under Kamrabad UP iv) At Khaguriya kalibari mondir to Mostafa member house road under Mohadan UP, Sarishabari, Jamalpur.	LTM	02/02/2026 (17:00)	03/02/2026 (12:50)
4	1214001	Package No: UDF/25- 26/sari/W-001	Improvement work i) HBB road on chuniapotol boubazar HBB road to onward south side earthen road of Satpoa UP ii) HBB road on Adra mirza bari BC road to onward kaincha master Doh bridge of Satpoa UP iii) HBB road on Dharaborsha BC road to Dharaborsha uttarpara mosque of Kamrabad UP under Sarishabari, Jamalpur.	LTM	02/02/2026 (17:00)	03/02/2026 (12:50)


Golam Kibria Tomai
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মিস্টিসিং ইউনিট বরিশাল এর তাঁজা তরল দুর্ঘ প্যাকটেজ করার নিমিত্তে ১০ মেট্রিক টন পলিথিলিন ক্রেতের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞতি	
মিলিটারি ফার্ম যশোর	
<p>এতদ্বারা আগ্রহী দরপত্র/নির্মাণ প্রতিষ্ঠান/কোম্পানি দ্বারা কর্তৃত ক্রেতের প্রক্রিয়া কর্মসূচী করা হচ্ছে। এটি প্রক্রিয়া করে দুর্ঘ প্যাকটেজ করার প্রক্রিয়া করা হচ্ছে। এটি প্রক্রিয়া করে দুর্ঘ প্যাকটেজ করার প্রক্রিয়া করা হচ্ছে।</p> <p>আইএসপিআর/সেনা/২০২৬/৪৩ ১৮/০১/২৬ GD-131</p>	

সরকার দ্বারা আর্মি সিলিউটি ইউনিট, ঢাকা সেনানিবাস দরপত্র বিজ্ঞতি	
অর্থ বৎসর ২০২৫-২০২৬	
<p>মিলিটারি ফার্ম যশোর দ্বারা আগ্রহী ক্রেতের প্রক্রিয়া কর্মসূচী করা হচ্ছে। এটি প্রক্রিয়া করে দুর্ঘ প্যাকটেজ করার প্রক্রিয়া করা হচ্ছে।</p> <p>আইএসপিআর/সেনা/২০২৬/৪৩ ১৮/০১/২৬ GD-131</p>	

PURBACHAL PLOT GRAFT CASE Court sets Feb 2 for verdict against Hasina, others

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A special court yesterday set February 2 for delivering the verdict in a corruption case filed against deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and 17 others over alleged irregularities in plot allocation at Dhaka's Purbachal.

The other accused include Hasina's niece, British MP Tulip Siddiq, and nephew Radwan Mujib Siddiq Bobby.

Judge Md Rabiu Alam of Dhaka's Special Judge's Court 4 fixed the date after hearing arguments from both the prosecution and the defence, said Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Public Prosecutor Mir Ahmed Ali Salam.

Earlier, on January 13, the same court also fixed February 2 for delivering the verdict in another corruption case against Hasina and 17 others, including her nieces Tulip and Azmina Siddiq.

Between November 27 and December 1 last year, Hasina, 78, was sentenced to a total of 26 years' rigorous imprisonment in four separate corruption cases. Her daughter Saima Wazed Putul, son Sajeeb Wazed Joy and sister Sheikh Rehana were also convicted in one case each.

The ACC earlier filed six cases between January 12-14 last year with its Dhaka Integrated District Office-1, alleging irregularities in the allocation of plots in the Purbachal New Town project.

Nahid, Patwary show-caused over polls code violations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Citizen Party convener Nahid Islam and chief coordinator Nasiruddin Patwary were served show-cause notices yesterday over alleged violations of the electoral code of conduct.

Both Nahid and Patwary, who are contesting from Dhaka-11 and Dhaka-9 respectively, were asked to remove their posters and billboards by 9:30am today and to appear before the returning officer, in person or through representatives, with written explanations.

Dhaka Divisional Commissioner Shar Uddin Ahmed Choudhury issued the letters.

In Dhaka-8 and Dhaka-11, the returning officer said several large colour photos of the aspirants and billboards bearing the slogan "Support Yes in the Referendum for Reform" had come to their attention, which constituted a breach of the code of conduct.

Meanwhile, the returning officer served a show-cause notice on Bangladesh Labour Party Chairman Mostafizur Rahman Iran, saying that on January 17, posters featuring his image were seen on walls and pillars along various streets in Dhaka-12, which constituted a clear violation of the code of conduct.

Mahabub Alam, chief of the election media sub committee of NCP, said in a statement yesterday that the referendum banners did not promote voting for Nahid or Patwary. He claimed the campaign fully complied with referendum regulations and the code of conduct.