

Don't pay visa

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Starting January 21, Bangladeshi citizens approved for a B1/B2 (business or tourist) US visa will be required to pay a bond of up to \$15,000. The requirement will not apply to those holding a valid B1/B2 visa issued before that date. Earlier this month, the administration of US President Donald Trump added 25 more countries, including Bangladesh, to a list of nations whose citizens may be required to post bonds of up to \$15,000 to enter the United States, Reuters reported on January 6, citing the US State Department website.

According to the website, citizens or nationals travelling on passports issued by any of the listed countries, if otherwise eligible for a B1/B2 visa, must post a bond of \$5,000, \$10,000, or \$15,000. The amount will be determined at the time of the visa interview. Applicants must agree to the bond terms and make payments through the US Treasury Department's official online platform, Pay.gov, the state department said.

The bond requirement is intended to deter visitors from overstaying visas issued for tourism or business purposes.

2018 NAT'L POLLS  
ACC to sue Ranga over 'Tk 1.7cr bribe'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission has found evidence that former state minister and Jatiya Party's former secretary general Mashiur Rahman Ranga accepted a bribe of Tk 1.7 crore in exchange for facilitating a candidacy in the 2018 national election.

The anti-graft watchdog has decided to file a case against Ranga and former Kurigram-2 MP Panir Uddin Ahmed over the bribery allegation. The money was allegedly received from Panir to create an opportunity for him to contest the election.

ACC Director General Md Akhtar Hossain yesterday said the decision to file the case was taken at the commission's headquarters.

According to sources familiar with the investigation report, Ranga accepted Tk 1.7 crore as a bribe from Panir despite having no business relationship with him.

The investigation further revealed that Panir is the proprietor of M/s Jalil Biri Factory and Haque Special, a transport business. On October 30, 2018, Tk 20 lakh was transferred from his special account at Islami Bank Bangladesh's Kurigram branch to Ranga's account at the bank's Rangpur branch.



Leaders and activists of Jatiyatatabadi Chhatra Dal continued their sit-in outside the Election Commission headquarters in Agargaon yesterday, protesting the EC's "biased and controversial" role ahead of the national election slated for February 12. They eventually postponed the agitation in the evening after meeting the EC, which assured them it would look into their demands.

PHOTO: STAR

Politics must

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beside the people is the highest form of politics," he said while virtually addressing a programme in Jashore where BNP provided financial assistance to a three-year-old girl, Afia, who was born with albinism.

Tarique said true politics is about serving people and easing their suffering, not just criticising rival parties from public platforms.

He said political work should also mean standing by people during natural disasters like floods, storms and cyclones, as well as during personal and social crises.

"Going to people and standing beside them in their hardship is the real politics," he said.

Tarique said there are many Afias in Bangladesh and many helpless mothers like her mother, and that people must think about them.

"As we stand beside Afia today, we want to stand beside every helpless person in the country," he said.

He said BNP plans to introduce Family Card and Farmers' Card to support poor families and farmers.

Dreams of intellectual Empower urban govt to tackle

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He pointed to growing intolerance, citing attacks on Bauls, Ahmadiyyas, and shrines, as well as the persecution of minorities.

"We are in a civilisational crisis. There is no one to show us the path," he said, calling for fearless figures like Begum Rokeya and Abul Hussain to rise again and stand against injustice.

Journalist and researcher Kazal Rashid Shahin identified "social elitism" as a major obstacle to the movement's success.

He criticised contemporary intellectuals for practising culture in "ivory towers" rather than engaging with the masses.

"You cannot free the intellect from a high tower," he said.

He, however, described the movement as a distinct "Bangladesh Renaissance" that shaped Bengali Muslim identity and eventually led to the Liberation War.

Researcher Morshed Shafiul Hasan highlighted the moral integrity of the movement's leaders, which he said is largely absent today.

He cited Abul Hussain, a guiding figure of the movement, who once resigned from Dhaka University in protest against a "Muslim quota" in recruitment, despite

being a beneficiary of it.

"He believed the quota insulted true merit," Shafiul Hasan said.

"He resigned the very next day after apologising to Dhaka's Nawab family under social pressure. We will not find such an example of intellectual honesty in today's politics," he added.

Joining virtually from the US, historian Dipesh Chakrabarty spoke about the ethical stance of Kazi Abdul Odud, another key figure of the movement.

He said Odud believed that "the strongest man is he who stands most alone, in the minority of one."

Dipesh Chakrabarty noted that these thinkers avoided extremism, preferred balanced criticism of religion, and prioritised "prem" (love) as the everyday welfare of ordinary people.

Earlier, The Daily Star journalist Shamsuddoza Sajen delivered the welcome address, drawing parallels between the 1920s and Bangladesh's post-August 5 reality.

"The tension that the Sahitya Samaj sought to resolve -- between progressive thought and reactionary forces -- exists in a much larger form today," he said.

The event was moderated by The Daily Star journalist Emran Mahfuz.

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collected in the DNCC area amount to around Tk 19 to 22 crore every month.

"Not a single taka of this fine goes to the city corporation; the entire amount goes directly to the central treasury. Yet, the city corporation has to spend hundreds of crores of taka on traffic signals and infrastructure development," he said.

BNP Chairperson's Adviser Abdus Salam said there is currently no effective coordination among Rajuk, city corporations and other

service-providing agencies.

"Over the past 17 years, state institutions have been destroyed. To recover from this situation, a strong and elected government is necessary," Abdus said.

Jamaat-e-Islami candidate for Dhaka-17, Dr SM Khaleduzzaman, said Dhaka has become nearly unliveable due to mismanagement and wrong political decisions.

"We will give the highest priority to restoring Dhaka's environment and seek the support of city

dwellers," he said.

Senior Joint Convener of the National Citizen Party, Ariful Islam Adib, said multiple agencies including city corporations, Rajuk, Wasa and Desco operate in the city, but there is a severe lack of coordination among them.

"An integrated government system is necessary to address this matter," Ariful said.

The keynote paper was presented by Sadat Omar, president of Gulshan Society.

Teesta Mega Plan

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Rizwana said two key studies are currently underway, one technical to assess whether the feasibility study is fully accurate and effective, and the other financial to determine whether the large investment will be sustainable for the Chinese government.

Rizwana and the Chinese ambassador inspected erosion-affected areas adjacent to the Kaunia Bridge. Senior officials of the Bangladesh Water Development Board and the local administration were

also present.

During the visit, they toured both banks of the Teesta River by boat and spoke with erosion-affected residents along the riverbanks.

Yao Wen said the visit would help shape future plans and expressed hope that implementation of the Teesta Mega Plan would begin very soon. He also said there was no geopolitical pressure regarding the project and reaffirmed China's commitment to completing the ongoing technical evaluation quickly.

Dhaka candidates already on

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His supporters have also been carrying out organisational activities to maintain a presence in the area.

"Since formal campaigning has not started, we are organising party programmes without violating the code of conduct," Abdul Kader Babu, convener of Badda Thana BNP, told The Daily Star.

He added that the candidate is maintaining personal contact with locals through social events.

Jamaat-e-Islami candidates are also maintaining a busy schedule through religious, organisational, and social

outreach.

Saiful Alam Khan Milon, contesting from Dhaka-12, addressed a student-youth rally in Moghbazar on January 17.

Meanwhile, Jamaat candidate for Dhaka-10, Advocate Jasim Uddin Sarkar, has been focusing on mosque-based outreach in Dhanmondi, Kalabagan, and Green Road areas.

National Citizen Party (NCP) candidate for Dhaka-8, Nasiruddin Patwary, has adopted a "dawn-to-dusk" approach, starting his day with Fajr prayers at different mosques in Shajahanpur, Arambagh, and Malibagh to meet local residents.

"I am currently focusing on introducing myself to voters and discussing issues like anti-corruption and resisting foreign (Indian) hegemony," Nasiruddin told The Daily Star.

He said he is also campaigning for the "Yes" vote in the referendum, which will be held alongside the election.

For some candidates, this period is more focused on planning than physical campaigning.

Meghna Alam, Gono Odhikar Parishad candidate for Dhaka-8, said she is concentrating on field strategies. "I grew up in this area, so I do not feel the need for any introduction. I will begin effective campaigning from January 22," she said.

Independent candidate Tasnim Jara, who recently resigned from the NCP, has been visiting different areas of Dhaka-9 to exchange greetings with voters.

Similarly, Taslima Akhter of Ganosamhati Andolon is engaging with voters in Dhaka-12 to collect input for the party's manifesto.

Abdus Sattar Sumon, assistant publicity secretary of Dhaka South Jamaat-e-Islami, said, "Even though official campaigning has yet to begin, candidates in Dhaka are having a busy time. They are conducting door-to-door visits and

participating in various social programmes as part of their preparation for the polls."

Meanwhile, the Election Commission remains strict regarding the code of conduct. Several candidates have already been served show-cause notices for alleged violations.

On Sunday, the EC issued show-cause notices to NCP Convener Nahid Islam (Dhaka-11) and Nasiruddin Patwary.

In response, the NCP claimed that they did not promote their electoral symbol -- "Shapla Koli" (water lily bud) -- but were campaigning only for the "Yes" vote in the referendum, which they argue does not violate election rules.

Regarding the issue, Omar Faruq, coordinator of Nahid Islam's election management committee, told The Daily Star, "That was a campaign for 'Yes' in the referendum."

He said since Nahid is contesting as part of a 10-party alliance, coordination with other parties is currently underway.

"We are holding coordination meetings with Jamaat leaders at the ward and thana levels. A joint committee will be formed soon, and it will decide the roadmap for the campaign," he said.

According to the EC, formal campaigning will run from January 22 until 7:30am on February 10. Candidates are prohibited from using wall posters and must follow specific guidelines for leaflets and banners, which may only include photos of the candidate and their party chief.



**Sonali Bank PLC**  
Establishment and Engineering Division  
Engineering Department  
Head Office, Dhaka  
Phone: +8802-223351050  
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**e-GP Tender Notice (OTM)**

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Additional Chief Engineer, Establishment & Engineering Division, Sonali Bank PLC, Head Office, Dhaka for the procurement of following works:

| Sl. No. | Tender ID | Name of works  | Tender publication date & time | Last selling/ downloading date and time | Tender closing/ opening date & time |
|---------|-----------|--|--------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1.      | 1214426   | Electrical remodeling works, Air-Cooler supply & Installation works at (1) Credit Administration Division, (2) Estate Management Division, (3) Loan Recovery Cell of Head Office at 3rd Floor, Sonali Bank PLC, Wage Earners Corporate Branch Building, Dilkusha, Dhaka (Re-Tender). | 21 Jan, 2026 12:00             | 05 Feb, 2026 12:00                      | 05 Feb, 2026 15:00                  |

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in 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 required. Further information and guideline are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd/HelpDesk.jsp>).

GD-134

Sd/-  
**Md. Abul Bashar**  
Additional Chief Engineer



**বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড**  
**Bangladesh Power Development Board**

Directorate of Purchase  
1 No. Abdul Gani Road  
Biddul Bhuiyan  
(12th Floor), Dhaka  
Phone No. 02-22338081  
E-mail: [dir.purchase@bpdb.gov.bd](mailto:dir.purchase@bpdb.gov.bd)

**e-Tender Notice**

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

| Sl No. | Tender ID | Package No.        | Reference No.                               | Description of goods/works   | Last selling date and time | Closing date and time | Opening date and time |
|--------|-----------|--------------------|---|------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 01.    | 1214431   | EE-GRF-01-Fy-25/26 | 27.11.000 0.304.26.1 24.26 Date: 18/01/2026 | Supply of 33 KV 800 Amps ACR | 15-Mar 2026 16.00          | 16-Mar 2026 14.00     | 16-Mar 2026 14.00     |


This is 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 (<http://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 bank branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)). For more details please contract to the PE's Support Desk (01768595879).

বিদ্যুৎ/জন-৬০৮(২)/১৯/০১/২৬



**Md. Nannu Miah**  
ID No. I-01304  
Director  
Directorate of Purchase  
BPDB, Dhaka

GD-135



**বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক**  
(সেন্ট্রাল ব্যাংক অব বাংলাদেশ)  
প্রধান কার্যালয়  
মতিবিল, ঢাকা-১০০০

বাংলাদেশ সিলেকশন কমিটি সচিবালয়  
ইমেইল: [info.bsccs@bb.org.bd](mailto:info.bsccs@bb.org.bd)

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-২৩/২০২৬

তারিখঃ ০১ মাঘ, ১৪৩২  
১৫ জানুয়ারি, ২০২৬

ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটি (BSC)-এর সদস্যভুক্ত ০৩টি ব্যাংক/আর্থিক প্রতিষ্ঠানে ২০২২ সালভিত্তিক 'এসিস্ট্যান্ট ইঞ্জিনিয়ার (আইটি)/সহকারী ইঞ্জিনিয়ার (আইটি)/এসিস্ট্যান্ট মেইনটেন্যান্স ইঞ্জিনিয়ার' (৯ম গ্রেড) (Job ID-10207) এর ৬৫টি শূন্য পদে নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে MCQ ও লিখিত পরীক্ষার সময়সূচি, content, প্রবেশপত্র ডাউনলোড সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটি সচিবালয়ের তত্ত্বাবধানে ০৩টি ব্যাংক/আর্থিক প্রতিষ্ঠানে সমন্বিতভাবে 'এসিস্ট্যান্ট ইঞ্জিনিয়ার (আইটি)/সহকারী ইঞ্জিনিয়ার (আইটি)/এসিস্ট্যান্ট মেইনটেন্যান্স ইঞ্জিনিয়ার' (৯ম গ্রেড) (Job ID- 10207) পদে যোগ্য বিবেচিত প্রার্থীদের এক সেশনে প্রিলিমিনারি (MCQ) ও লিখিত পরীক্ষা আগামী ২৪/০১/২০২৬ তারিখ, শনিবার (দুপুর ০২.০০টা-০৫.০০টা; ৩ ঘণ্টা ব্যাপী) অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। প্রিলিমিনারি (MCQ Test) ও লিখিত পরীক্ষার প্রশ্নপত্রের Content ও নম্বর বিভাজন এবং কেন্দ্র সংক্রান্ত বিস্তারিত তথ্য বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত ওয়েবসাইট (<https://erecruitment.bb.org.bd>) এ আপলোড করা হয়েছে।


ডিসিপিংঃ ৪৮/২০২৬-২০৫  
তারিখঃ ১৮/০১/২০২৬

স্বাক্ষরিত/-  
**মিজানুর রহমান আকন**  
পরিচালক (বিএসসিএস) ও  
সদস্য-সচিব, বিএসসি

ব্যাংকিং ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হয়রানির শিকার হলে কিংবা কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

জিডি-১৩০

**PRAYER  
TIMING**  
JANUARY 20



|             |       |      |         |      |
|-------------|-------|------|---------|------|
| Fazr        | Zohr  | Asr  | Maghrib | Esha |
| AZAN 5:30   | 12:45 | 4:15 | 5:40    | 7:00 |
| JAMAAT 6:05 | 1:15  | 4:30 | 5:44    | 7:30 |

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION