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STAFF CORRESPONDENT

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PHOTO: COURTESY OF IOM



Political somersault, thy name is art

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Having won his first election on an Awami League (Malek faction) ticket from Faridpur-1 in 1979, Zafar changed parties seven times in 11 elections during a career that spans 46 years.

The 81-year-old is set to run in the upcoming election under the Nationalist Democratic Front,

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POLICY DIALOGUE

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BNP rolls out plans

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The party leaders presented policy perspectives on the key social sectors before the foreign diplomats and development partners at an event titled "BNP Policy Dissemination on Priority Social Policies" at Sheraton Dhaka.

The event was attended by a total of 30 representatives, including Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Yao Wen, Malaysian High Commissioner Mohd Shuhada Othman and representatives from the US, the UK, India, Pakistan, Russia, the EU, Iran and Bahrain.

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Jamaat lays out its vision

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At an event attended by diplomats, politicians, academics, industrialists, journalists and members of civil society, Jamaat Ameer Shafiqur Rahman laid out his party's vision for a "new and prosperous Bangladesh".

"Bangladesh could be rebuilt on insaf, dignity and shared prosperity," he said at the inauguration of the event themed "Aspiring Bangladesh" held at InterContinental Dhaka.

He argued for a shift in economic thinking, saying employment must be treated as a public priority, informal work gradually formalised, labour rights enforced and welfare viewed as "social infrastructure" and not charity.

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কারিগরি শিক্ষা নিলে দেশ বিদেশে কর্ম মেলে

একটাই লক্ষ্য, হতে হবে দক্ষ কর্মে হবে যুক্ত

বিনামূল্যে কারিগরি প্রশিক্ষণ

সরকার দেশের কর্মক্ষম যুবজনগোষ্ঠীকে স্বল্পমেয়াদি প্রশিক্ষণের মাধ্যমে দক্ষ জনশক্তিতে রূপান্তর এবং মর্যাদাপূর্ণ কর্মজীবনে প্রবেশে সহায়তার লক্ষ্যে শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়ের কারিগরি ও মাদ্রাসা শিক্ষা বিভাগের অধীনে কারিগরি শিক্ষা অধিদপ্তর কর্তৃক বাস্তবায়নধীন ASSET প্রকল্পের আওতায় দেশব্যাপী ১৭৪টি সরকারি-বেসরকারি কারিগরি শিক্ষা ও প্রশিক্ষণ প্রতিষ্ঠানের মাধ্যমে সংক্ষিপ্ত প্রশিক্ষণ প্রদান করছে। বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় যোগ্যতা কাঠামো (BNQF) অনুযায়ী পরিচালিত এই প্রশিক্ষণের মাধ্যমে মোট ২,০৩,০০০ জনকে হাতে-কলমে দক্ষ হিসেবে গড়ে তোলা হবে। ইতোমধ্যে ১,৩৩,৬৩৭ জনকে বিভিন্ন অকুপেশন/বিষয়ে প্রশিক্ষণ প্রদান করা হয়েছে, যাদের বড় অংশ দেশ-বিদেশে মর্যাদাসম্পন্ন কর্মে নিয়োজিত হয়েছেন।

সুবিধাসমূহ:

- সম্পূর্ণ বিনা খরচে ৪৩টি অকুপেশন/বিষয়ে সংক্ষিপ্ত কারিগরি প্রশিক্ষণ প্রদান করা হচ্ছে।
- ১৮-৪৫ বছর বয়সী যে কেউ এ প্রশিক্ষণ নিতে পারবেন।
- সংক্ষিপ্ত এ প্রশিক্ষণের মেয়াদ ৩ মাস বা ৩৬০ ঘণ্টা।
- সাধারণ প্রশিক্ষণার্থীদের প্রত্যেককে কম্পিউট হওয়া সাপেক্ষে প্রতিমাসে ১,৫০০ টাকা এবং নারী, প্রতিবন্ধী ও ক্ষুদ্র নৃগোষ্ঠীর প্রশিক্ষণার্থীদেরকে ২,০০০ টাকা ভাতা দেয়া হয়।
- যাতায়াত ভাতা হিসেবে কম্পিউট হওয়া সাপেক্ষে প্রত্যেককে দৈনিক ১০০ টাকা প্রদান করা হয়।
- ভর্তির ক্ষেত্রে মহিলা ও অনগ্রসর জনগোষ্ঠীকে অগ্রাধিকার দেয়া হয়।
- প্রশিক্ষণ শেষে NSDA-এর মাধ্যমে সরকারি সার্টিফিকেট প্রদান করা হয়।

মংক্ষিত প্রশিক্ষণে ভর্তি চলছে!

ভর্তির তথ্য:

- দেশব্যাপী ৪০টি সরকারি কারিগরি প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্রে ০১/০২/২০২৬ তারিখ থেকে প্রশিক্ষণ শুরু হবে।
- ৩৯টি সরকারি টিএসসি, ১টি নেকটার ও ৬টি বিটাক-এ এই প্রশিক্ষণ শুরু হবে ০৮/০২/২০২৬ তারিখ থেকে।
- ৬৪টি সরকারি কারিগরি প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্রে ১৫/০২/২০২৬ তারিখ থেকে প্রশিক্ষণ শুরু হবে।
- ২৪টি বেসরকারি কারিগরি প্রশিক্ষণ প্রতিষ্ঠানে (এসটিপি) এই প্রশিক্ষণ শুরু হবে ০১/০৪/২০২৬ তারিখ থেকে।

ভিজিট করুন: www.asset-dtc.gov.bd, www.AproMIS.app

ভর্তির জন্য ASSET প্রকল্প কর্তৃক নির্বাচিত নিকটস্থ সরকারি টেকনিক্যাল স্কুল আন্ড কলেজ (টিএসসি), কারিগরি প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্র (টিটিসি) এবং বেসরকারি ফিল্ড ট্রেনিং প্রোভাইডার (এসটিপি) সহ অন্যান্য প্রতিষ্ঠানের সাথে আজই যোগাযোগ করুন।

প্রতিষ্ঠানের তালিকা এবং ভিডিও কোর্সটি খানস ককন

ASSET Project

THE WORLD BANK



'We must choose the liberal path'

Fakhru says

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhruddin Mirza Alamgir yesterday said the upcoming election would decide whether Bangladesh remains on a liberal democratic course or slips into the grip of what he described as extremist and anti-state forces.

"We must choose the liberal path," he said while addressing a discussion at the Institution of Diploma Engineers in the capital.

Calling on Jamaat-e-Islami to practise what he termed "straightforward politics," Fakhruddin urged the party to refrain from using religion to mislead voters.

"If you choose the path of politics, walk it with honesty. To mislead people by claiming that a vote cast for a particular symbol will secure a ticket to heaven raises troubling questions about hypocrisy," he said.

Fakhruddin alleged that the BNP is facing

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IMMORTAL MEMORY WITH DEEPEST LOVE



MAHABUB ALAM MRIDUL
(1997-2021)
Director, Walton Group

Today, 21 January is the fifth death anniversary of Mr. Mahabub Alam Mridul, the Honorable Director of Walton Group. On this day in 2021, at the tender age of only 24, he left us for his heavenly abode. With his sudden demise, we have lost a promising young entrepreneur. It was his dream to work on new innovations in the development of the automobile industry and devote himself to the welfare of the country and the people.

We pray from the bottom of our hearts that his departed soul be granted jannah where it finds eternal peace, ameen.





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বিনামূল্যে কারিগরি প্রশিক্ষণ

সরকার দেশের কর্মক্ষম যুবজনগোষ্ঠীকে স্বল্পমেয়াদি প্রশিক্ষণের মাধ্যমে দক্ষ জনশক্তিতে রূপান্তর এবং মর্যাদাপূর্ণ কর্মজীবনে প্রবেশে সহায়তার লক্ষ্যে শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়ের কারিগরি ও মাদ্রাসা শিক্ষা বিভাগের অধীনে কারিগরি শিক্ষা অধিদপ্তর কর্তৃক বাস্তবায়নধীন ASSET প্রকল্পের আওতায় দেশব্যাপী ১৭৪টি সরকারি-বেসরকারি কারিগরি শিক্ষা ও প্রশিক্ষণ প্রতিষ্ঠানের মাধ্যমে সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রশিক্ষণ প্রদান করছে। বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় যোগ্যতা কাঠামো (BNQF) অনুযায়ী পরিচালিত এই প্রশিক্ষণের মাধ্যমে মোট ২,০৩,০০০ জনকে হাতে-কলমে দক্ষ হিসেবে গড়ে তোলা হবে। ইতোমধ্যে ১,৩৩,৬৩৭ জনকে বিভিন্ন অকুপেশন/বিষয়ে প্রশিক্ষণ প্রদান করা হয়েছে, যাদের বড় অংশ দেশ-বিদেশে মর্যাদাসম্পন্ন কর্মে নিয়োজিত হয়েছেন।

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- ১৮-৪৫ বছর বয়সী যে কেউ এ প্রশিক্ষণ নিতে পারবেন।
- সংশ্লিষ্ট এ প্রশিক্ষণের মেয়াদ ৩ মাস বা ৩৬০ ঘণ্টা।
- সাধারণ প্রশিক্ষণার্থীদের প্রত্যেককে কম্পিউট হওয়া সাপেক্ষে প্রতিমাসে ১,৫০০ টাকা এবং নারী, প্রতিবন্ধী ও ক্ষুদ্র নৃগোষ্ঠীর প্রশিক্ষণার্থীদেরকে ২,০০০ টাকা ভাতা দেয়া হয়।
- যাতায়াত ভাতা হিসেবে কম্পিউট হওয়া সাপেক্ষে প্রত্যেককে দৈনিক ১০০ টাকা প্রদান করা হয়।
- ভর্তির ক্ষেত্রে মহিলা ও অনগ্রসর জনগোষ্ঠীকে অগ্রাধিকার দেয়া হয়।
- প্রশিক্ষণ শেষে NSDA-এর মাধ্যমে সরকারি সার্টিফিকেট প্রদান করা হয়।

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ভর্তির তথ্য:

- দেশব্যাপী ৪০টি সরকারি কারিগরি প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্রে ০১/০২/২০২৬ তারিখ থেকে প্রশিক্ষণ শুরু হবে।
- ৩৯টি সরকারি টিএসসি, ১টি নেকটার ও ৬টি বিটাক-এ এই প্রশিক্ষণ শুরু হবে ০৮/০২/২০২৬ তারিখ থেকে।
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- ২৪টি বেসরকারি কারিগরি প্রশিক্ষণ প্রতিষ্ঠানে (এসটিপি) এই প্রশিক্ষণ শুরু হবে ০১/০৪/২০২৬ তারিখ থেকে।

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NICAR MEETING

Recover looted weapons before polls: Yunus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus yesterday directed authorities to recover weapons looted from the police before the upcoming national elections, stressing that the arms must be retrieved as quickly as possible by any means.

He gave the instruction while presiding over a meeting of the National Implementation Committee for Administrative Reorganisation (NICAR) at the state guest house Jamuna.

After the meeting, Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam briefed journalists at the Foreign Service Academy.

Quoting the chief adviser, Shafiqul said, "The looted weapons must be recovered as soon as possible before the election, no matter what it takes."

At its first NICAR meeting, the interim



PHOTO: STAR

Speakers at a roundtable titled "Just Energy Transition: Implementation on the Political Landscape of Bangladesh", jointly organised by The Daily Star and Coastal Livelihood and Environment Action Network at The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

Ensure access for voters with disabilities

Speakers urge EC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at an event yesterday urged the Election Commission to take immediate steps to ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities in the upcoming national election.

They stressed the need for clear and uniform rules on providing assistance to voters with disabilities, and ensuring consistent enforcement of these rules across polling stations.

The speakers said election- and referendum-related information, along with voter education materials, must be made accessible and inclusive so that voters with disabilities can participate on an equal footing.

The recommendations were made at the launch of a policy analysis report titled "Policy Gap Analysis of Electoral Inclusion for Persons with Disabilities," organised by B-Scan at Jatiya Press Club.

B-Scan spokesperson and director Iftexhar Mahmud said Bangladesh ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities more than a decade ago, but the commitments have yet to be fully reflected in the

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4



Submit probe report on Hadi murder by Jan 25

Court asks CID

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday asked the Criminal Investigation Department to submit a probe report by January 25 in a case filed over the killing of Inqilab Moncho spokesperson Sharif Osman Hadi.

Dhaka Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Jashita Islam passed the order after the CID failed to submit the report, said a sub-inspector working at the court.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4

Commit to energy sector reforms in manifestos

Speakers urge political parties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday said political parties in Bangladesh must include clear commitments to ensure good governance in the power and energy sector in their election manifestos.

They identified two key priorities: ensuring transparency and accountability in all energy sector dealings and guaranteeing citizen participation in decision-making processes.

The recommendations were made at a roundtable titled "Just Energy Transition: Implementation on the Political Landscape of Bangladesh", jointly organised by The Daily Star and Coastal Livelihood and Environment Action Network (CLEAN) at The Daily Star Centre.

In his opening remarks, Hasan Mehedi, member secretary of BWGED, said the upcoming elections present an opportunity for political parties to ensure climate justice and good

governance in the energy sector, including for women, labour and indigenous communities.

Manower Mostafa, networking adviser at CLEAN, highlighted corruption and mismanagement in the energy sector over the last 16 years and called on political

2 KEY PRIORITIES

Ensuring transparency, accountability in energy sector dealings

Guaranteeing citizen participation in decision-making processes

parties to outline clear plans for energy security in their election manifestos.

Abdullah Al Noman, executive director of Lawyers for Energy, Environment, and Development, said political parties must commit to ensuring community

and stakeholder participation in energy policymaking, including effective parliamentary oversight.

Abul Kalam Azad, project coordinator at ActionAid Bangladesh, said, "We must create a comprehensive energy policy based on our country's realities and communities, not old traditional models."

Munir Uddin Shamim, director at Ethical Trading Initiative Bangladesh, called for transparency and fairness in public procurement, adding that a just energy transition could create jobs and reduce poverty.

He urged political parties to reflect these opportunities in their election pledges.

Zahir Uddin Swapon, a member of the BNP Advisory Committee, said corruption persists despite the presence of technical expertise.

He warned that energy security has become more critical than food security and that political action is essential to resolve the crisis.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 6



Housing, basic services for Korail residents Pledges Tarique

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Chairman Tarique Rahman yesterday said his party wants to build multi-storey buildings and hand over registered flats to long-time residents of Korail slum if it returns to power.

Speaking at a doa and milad mahfil at the Mohakhali T&T Colony field, Tarique said, "We want to construct tall buildings here. We want to register the names of the

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4

MERGER OF HEALTH DIVISIONS

Focus now on mid-, field-level integration

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Following the merger of the health ministry's two divisions yesterday, health authorities will now reorganise services at directorate and field levels to improve coordination and service delivery, officials said.

Under the plan, the entire health system will be divided into three parts -- clinical and hospital services, education and research, and primary and public healthcare -- with reorganisation beginning at the directorate level.

"We have already completed our homework in consultation with stakeholders. Implementation will now begin in phases. It will not be completed within two or three months, but we will initiate as much as possible," said Prof Sayedur Rahman, special assistant to the chief adviser for the health ministry.

Earlier in the day, the National Implementation Committee on Administrative Reorganisation, with Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus in the chair, approved the merger of the two divisions.

On October 29 last year, the pre-Nicar meeting recommended merging the two divisions.

The pre-Nicar, headed by the cabinet secretary, scrutinises proposals for forming new ministries, city corporations, municipalities, divisions, districts and upazilas, as well as approving manpower.

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Manholes remain open at the entrance to the emergency department of Dhaka Medical College Hospital as a drainage cleaning operation by the Public Works Department continues for the third consecutive day. With no safety barriers in place, patients, attendants and pedestrians are at risk of falling in. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

500 shelters gutted in fire at Rohingya camp

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Around 500 shelters at a Rohingya camp in Ukhiya of Cox's Bazar were gutted in a fire yesterday.

The blaze broke out around 3:00am in D-4 block of Camp-16 in Palongkhali union and later spread to nearby shelters and sheds, triggering panic among camp residents, said Dollar Tripura, an official of Ukhiya Fire Service Station.

"Around 500 shelters were gutted in the fire. Many were forced to move to safer places at night, creating chaos within the camp," he said.

On information, two firefighting units rushed to the scene around 3:20am, and brought the fire under control around 7:30am, he also said.

The extent of damage could not be determined immediately, while four to five people suffered minor injuries in the incident, the official added.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 3

IPF Bangladesh

১৮তম বাংলাদেশ আন্তর্জাতিক প্লাস্টিক, প্রিন্টিং ও প্র্যাকজিং শিল্প মেলা

১৮-৩১ জানুয়ারি ২০২৬

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Prioritise CHT Peace

FROM PAGE 4
It called for a clear action plan to implement the accord, along with five specific demands, including preparing a time-bound action plan for rapid and proper implementation of the accord, democratising the CHT Regional Council and the three hill district councils according to the accord, and ensuring

indigenous participation in mainstream economic growth and sustainable development programs. The movement urged political parties to take these recommendations seriously and include them in their election manifestos, emphasising that the upcoming election presents an opportunity to strengthen democracy and inclusivity in the country.

US deports 36 more

FROM PAGE 4
Shariful Hasan, associate director of BRAC's Migration and Youth Platform, said that after arrival at Dhaka airport, returnees received transport and emergency support from BRAC with the help of the expatriates' welfare desk and aviation security.

Shariful added that agencies sending these workers and those involved in the permission process should be held accountable.

In 2025, 1,320 Bangladeshis went to Brazil with BMET approval, including 951 from Noakhali. It is believed that many tried to enter the US through Mexico.

Shariful urged the government to be more careful before allowing workers to go to Brazil.

After Donald Trump began his second term as US president, actions against illegal immigrants intensified, resulting in citizens of Bangladesh and other countries being sent

back multiple times.

US law allows authorities to return people without valid documents to their home countries through court orders or administrative decisions.

When asylum applications are rejected, the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement organises deportation.

Recently, this process has become faster, and chartered or military flights are being used. Some returnees have even been sent back with their hands and feet chained.

SC tightens

FROM PAGE 4
official identity cards at all times while entering different buildings, courtrooms and sections of the SC.

They have also been asked to produce their National Identity Cards, passports or official identifications upon demand by on-duty law enforcement personnel. The notice further said that, in the interest of maintaining security and limiting public gatherings, each lawyer will be allowed to facilitate the entry of a maximum of two case-related persons or litigants per day into the SCBA building, subject to prior approval from the Bar Association.

500 shelters

FROM PAGE 3
Primarily, the fire is suspected to have originated from a cooking stove in a kitchen, he said.

Fire incidents have been recurring in Rohingya camps in recent months, raising concerns over safety and fire prevention there. On December 26 last year, a hospital at Camp-4 was destroyed by fire, while around 10 shelters were gutted in a blaze at the Kutupalong camp the previous night.

Witness recounts

FROM PAGE 4
In his opening statement earlier in the day, Chief Prosecutor Tajul Islam said the brutality of the Rampura killings was comparable to March 25, 1971, adding that state forces opened fire on citizens without provocation using arms bought with taxpayers' money.

Meanwhile, the same tribunal deferred to January 26 the delivery of its verdict in a case over the killing of six people in the capital's Chankharpul area during the 2024 mass uprising.

Several parents of the victims gathered at the ICT-1 premises, hoping to witness justice for their sons. Grieving mothers and fathers arrived early, some supported by relatives. Speaking to The Daily Star, they said they had come to see whether the law would finally acknowledge their loss.

In another development, the verdict is set to be announced any day in a crimes against humanity case linked to the killing of seven people during the July uprising of 2024 in Ashulia, as arguments from both the prosecution and defence concluded yesterday.

Recover looted weapons before polls: Yunus

FROM PAGE 3
government approved 11 proposals, including the creation of four new police stations.

According to a pressing statement from the chief adviser, the government approved the creation of two administrative units under the finance ministry the Revenue Policy Division and the Revenue Management Division -- to make revenue collection more transparent, accountable and efficient.

The meeting also approved merging the Health Services Division and the Health Education and Family Welfare Division into a single Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Satkhira district was upgraded from a "B" category district to an "A"

category district due to its environmental heritage, tourism and economic potential, the press secretary said.

Approval was also given to create four new police stations by splitting existing areas: Purbachal North in Gazipur district, Purbachal South in Narayanganj district, Matarbari in Cox's Bazar district, and Raypur in Narsingdi district.

At the press briefing, Shahiul said the Dhaka Metropolitan Police currently operates a large force with 50 police stations.

He said yesterday's meeting discussed whether the DMP could be divided into separate units such as "DMP North" and "DMP South," but no final decision was taken.

Ensure access

FROM PAGE 3
country's constitutional and electoral framework.

He said, despite the increasingly limited timeframe, necessary steps could still be taken to improve accessibility for persons with disabilities before the February 12 election.

Presenting the policy analysis, disability specialist and lead author Nusrat Jarin said several government laws reflect a lack of recognition of human diversity by portraying persons with disabilities as incapable.

She said the participation of voters with disabilities is often treated as optional and called for legal mechanisms to make such participation mandatory.

The analysis noted that while some formal legal provisions exist, additional reforms are needed to clearly recognise persons with disabilities as rights-holders in political and electoral processes.

The report outlined medium- and long-term reform proposals, including amending the Representation of the

People Order 1972 to align it with the Rights and Protection of Persons with Disabilities Act and Article 29 of the UN Convention.

It recommended incorporating accessibility standards into all electoral rules and regulations and ensuring regular data collection and monitoring to strengthen accountability.

Lucky Akter, executive director of Dhaka DPO-D, said the EC holds the key to organising an inclusive election and that several steps could still be taken before the polls to improve inclusion.

Bappi Sarkar, a young freelancer and associate coordinator of B-Scan, said the government has yet to establish clear procedures regarding assistants for voters with severe disabilities, which could create complications at polling centres.

The report placed particular emphasis on targeted voter information and education materials, improvements to polling-day infrastructure, clear guidelines on assisted voting procedures, and better transport services for voters with disabilities.

Submit probe report

FROM PAGE 3
On January 15, the court directed the CID to further investigate the case after granting a no confidence (naraji) petition. It also asked the investigation agency to submit the report yesterday.

Inqilab Moncho Member Secretary Abdullah Al Jaber filed the petition with the court, rejecting the probe report submitted by the Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

In the no confidence petition, the complainant said the submitted charge sheet skipped the main planners of the killing. Moreover, negligence was found in the collection of witness' testimony and evidence.

On December 12 last year, Hadi, an independent aspirant for the Dhaka-8 constituency, was shot in Dhaka's Paltan area. He died on December 18 while undergoing treatment in Singapore.

On December 14, Abdullah Al Jaber filed an attempted murder case with Paltan Model Police Station against Faisal and several unnamed individuals, which later turned into a murder case.

On January 6 this year, investigation officer Faisal Ahmed, a DB inspector, submitted a charge sheet before the court, naming prime accused Faisal Karim Masud, four of his family members and 12 others.

Housing, basic services

FROM PAGE 3
people who live here and provide each family with a flat in their own name. Those who have lived here for many years will receive those flats so that they have a permanent place to live in Dhaka city..."

The BNP chairman also said he wants to establish two schools and a playground for children in Korail, along with basic healthcare facilities. "If Allah helps us, then Inshallah we will be able to implement every one of these tasks."

The Korail residents arranged the programme seeking divine blessings for the departed soul of Khaleda Zia, BNP's late chairperson and former prime minister.

Tarique said Korail holds a personal connection for him, calling himself "a son

of the area".

He recalled that the house where he grew up after independence was later demolished during the autocratic regime of Awami League. "As long as I live, I will stand by you."

Outlining future plans, the BNP chairman said his party wants to introduce a "Family Card" for women to help households run with dignity, and a "Farmer Card" to support agriculture.

Tarique, who is contesting the 13th parliamentary election from Dhaka-17 with the paddy sheaf symbol, is set to visit the shrines of Hazrat Shahjalal (RA) and Hazrat Shah Paran (RA) in Sylhet on Thursday to formally launch his election campaign after offering fateha there.

BNP, Jamaat clash

FROM PAGE 2
door, asking families to vote for them.

"They have campaigned in this area and this building several times before. We even hung a notice board at the entrance stating 'Political discussions and campaigning are forbidden here', but they ignored it," he said.

Several local BNP leaders alleged that Jamaat activists, while campaigning, were asking for residents' mobile numbers and National Identity cards.

Witnesses said a heated exchange ensued between the two groups. At one point, female Jamaat activists took shelter in the building's garage.

The situation eventually cooled down, and both groups left the spot.

However, a second round of clashes erupted shortly before Maghrib prayers.

Local BNP leaders alleged that Jamaat activists surrounded some BNP members in front of the Mubarak Mosque, accusing them of "confining" Jamaat workers inside the building.

The Jamaat activists reportedly beat and chased the BNP men.

Shariful Islam Milon, former general secretary

of Kafrul Thana Jubo Dal, said, "Jamaat came with 100-150 people in front of the mosque and chased our men. Hearing this, we gathered about 1,000-1,500 people."

Locals said BNP activists gathered in the alleys around the mosque and chanted anti-Jamaat slogans. Many activists from both sides entered the mosque, but witnesses confirmed that no confrontation took place inside the prayer hall.

Shortly after, police and army personnel arrived at the scene and brought the situation inside and outside the mosque under control.

Milon claimed that six BNP activists were injured in the clash, with three receiving hospital treatment.

At a press conference around 10:30pm, Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Shibir Secretary General Sibgatullah claimed that BNP activists had harassed "some women" in Mirpur earlier in the day. He did not specify whether the women were linked to Jamaat.

He also alleged that when some Shibir activists, along with "numerous youths", went to protest the incident,

"BNP terrorists" launched a surprise attack on them.

Sixteen Jamaat and Shibir activists were allegedly injured in the attack.

"When the locals put up resistance, they [BNP men] fled the scene," Sibgatullah said.

Another Shibir leader, Azizur Rahman Azad, claimed that his party activists were attacked with sharp weapons inside the mosque.

Contacted, Mizanur Rahman, assistant commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police's Mirpur Zone, said, "I have learned through the police station that some junior-level Jamaat activists were campaigning in the afternoon. BNP workers went there and obstructed them. This dispute eventually spilled over into the mosque area."

"I heard there was a lot of pushing and shoving between the two groups. I am not yet aware if anyone was injured."

South Pيرerbagh is located inside the Dhaka-15 constituency, where Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman is contesting against BNP candidate Shafiqul Islam Khan Milton.

sustainability."

Readus Salehen Jawad, central council member at Network for People's Action, called for a just energy transition that protects both people and the environment.

Ashrafal Alam, joint secretary general of Islami Andolan Bangladesh, said the government must ensure that energy transition meets people's needs with zero tolerance for corruption, adding that a successful energy policy would lead to a prosperous Bangladesh with fair energy and resource distribution.

Aasha Mehreen Amin, joint editor at The Daily Star, called for a just and inclusive energy transition, saying the current energy system places a heavy financial and environmental burden on the country.

"We are paying billions of

dollars in capacity charges while the Bangladesh Power Development Board continues to incur significant losses," she said, urging political parties to adopt realistic and time-bound energy plans that can be implemented effectively.

The event was moderated by Tanjim Ferdous, in-charge of NGOs and foreign missions at The Daily Star, and featured Manirul Islam, deputy director at BILS; Moushumi Yesmin, advocacy officer at Manusher Jonno Foundation; Mosleh Uddin Shuchok, energy lead at Reglobal; Benozir Ahmed, policy adviser at CLEAN; Bareesh Chowdhury of BELA; Shawkat Ara Begum of Tara Climate Foundation Bangladesh; and Faisal Azim and Ashrafal Islam Raana of the Global Strategy Communication Council.

PRAYER
TIMING

JANUARY 21

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



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

Tender ID	Invitation Reference No.	Tender Description	Quantity	Tender Closing Date & Time
1216026	JB/IT-Proc-71/OTM/Storage/2026	Tender for the Procurement of Hard Disk for Storage for Janata Bank PLC.	As per mentioned in Tender Schedule	01-Feb-2026 03:00 PM

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 (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the national e-GP portal and e-GP Help Desk (Email: helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

GD-154



Mohammad Shahmawt Hossain
Deputy General Manager



খুলনা প্রকৌশল ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
খুলনা-৯২০৩
নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি
অত্র বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের রাজস্বখাতের আওতাভ্যন্তরীণ পদসমূহে বিধি মোতাবেক প্রদেয় বেতন ও অন্যান্য আর্থিক সুবিধাদিসহ সম্পূর্ণ অস্থায়ী ভিত্তিতে নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত ও স্থায়ী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে আবেদনপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।

এমিক নং	পদের নাম	বেতন স্কেল ও গ্রেড (২০১৫ অনুযায়ী)	পদ সংখ্যা
শিক্ষক :			
১।	সহযোগী অধ্যাপক, ইন্টারমিডিয়েট ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং এন্ড ম্যানেজমেন্ট বিভাগ	৫০০০০-৭১২০০/- (গ্রেড-৪)	১ টি
২।	সহকারী অধ্যাপক (রাজস্ব-১, সহযোগী অধ্যাপকের বিপরীতে-১), সিভিল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিভাগ	৩৫৫০০-৬৭০১০/- (গ্রেড-৬)	২ টি
৩।	সহকারী অধ্যাপক, ইলেকট্রিক্যাল এন্ড ইলেকট্রনিক ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিভাগ	৩৫৫০০-৬৭০১০/- (গ্রেড-৬)	১ টি
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৫।	প্রভাষক, মেকানিক্যাল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিভাগ	২২০০০-৫৩০৬০/- (গ্রেড-৯)	১ টি
৬।	প্রভাষক, ইলেকট্রনিক্স এন্ড কমিউনিকেশন ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিভাগ	২২০০০-৫৩০৬০/- (গ্রেড-৯)	২ টি
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৮।	প্রভাষক, বিভিন্ন ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং এন্ড কম্পিউটার ম্যানেজমেন্ট বিভাগ	২২০০০-৫৩০৬০/- (গ্রেড-৯)	১ টি
৯।	প্রভাষক, গণিত বিভাগ	২২০০০-৫৩০৬০/- (গ্রেড-৯)	১ টি
১০।	প্রভাষক (অবকাশ্যবিভাগ), (ইংরেজি), মানবিক ও ব্যবসায় বিভাগ	২২০০০-৫৩০৬০/- (গ্রেড-৯)	১ টি
কর্মচারী :			
১১।	ক্লক	৮৫০০-২০৫৭০/- (গ্রেড-১৯)	১ টি

প্রতিটি পদে আবেদন করার জন্য শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েব সাইট careers.kuet.ac.bd হতে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। আবেদনপত্র জমা দেয়ার সময় ক্রমিক নং- ১ ও ৪-এ উল্লিখিত পদের জন্য ১০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা, ক্রমিক নং- ৫ হতে ১০-এ উল্লিখিত পদের জন্য ৮০০/- (আটশত) টাকা এবং ক্রমিক নং- ১১- এ উল্লিখিত পদের জন্য ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা জনতা ব্যাংক পিএলসি, কয়েট কর্পোরেট শাখা অথবা জনতা ব্যাংক পিএলসি এর অন্য যে কোন শাখা হতে বিবিধ তহবিল-২৫৮৯/২, কয়েট, খুলনা এর অনুকূলে ইস্যুকৃত পে-অর্ডার আবেদন পত্রের সাথে জমা দিতে হবে। আগামী ১০/০২/২০২৬ইং তারিখ বিকাল ৫-০০ টার মধ্যে আবেদন পত্র রেজিস্ট্রার দপ্তরে জমা দেয়া যাবে/পৌছাতে হবে। ডাক বিভাগের বিলয়ের জন্য কর্তৃপক্ষ দায়ী থাকবে না। বিজ্ঞপ্তির তন্য পদের সংখ্যা ত্রাস/বৃদ্ধি হতে পারে, এর ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করে।

প্রকৌশলী মোঃ আনিছুর রহমান ভূঞা

রেজিস্ট্রার

খুলনা প্রকৌশল ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়।

GD-155



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GD-145

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Upazila Engineer
Muktagacha, Mymensingh
www.lged.gov.bd



Memo No. 46.02.00.6165.000.14.001.26.66

Date: 19-01-2026

e-Tender Notice No. 05/2025-2026

e-Tender is invited under in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following works under Muktagacha Upazila, Dist. Mymensingh.

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Package No. and name of scheme	Last selling date & time	Closing & opening date & time	Procurement method
01	1212745 (Re-Tender)	e-Tender/PEDP4/MYM/MUK/2025-26/W15A.02228 1) Construction of Head Teacher's room with attached toilet of Podur Bari under PEDP4, 2) Construction of Head Teacher's room with attached toilet of Roghunathpur under PEDP4.	28-01-2026 12:00pm	28-01-2026 14:00	OTM
02	1215684	e-Tender/PEDP4/MYM/MUK/2025-2026/W14-3804 Construction of Boundary Wall & Gate of Taraty Gouripara GPS under PEDP4.	01-02-2026 12:00pm	01-02-2026 14:00	OTM

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 (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches.
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).



Md. Rabiul Islam
Upazila Engineer
Muktagacha, Mymensingh
ue.muktagacha@lged.gov.bd

GD-141

‘No going back’ on Greenland

Says Trump sharing leaked texts, AI mock-ups; EU vows ‘unflinching’ response

REUTERS, *Davos*

US President Donald Trump said yesterday there was “no going back” on his goal to control Greenland, refusing to rule out taking the Arctic island by force and rounding on allies as European leaders struggled to respond.

Trump’s ambition – spelled out in social media posts and mock-up AI images – to wrest sovereignty over Greenland



from fellow Nato member Denmark has threatened to blow apart the alliance that has underpinned Western security for decades.

It has also threatened to reignite a trade war with Europe that rattled markets and companies for months last year, though Trump’s Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent pushed back against what he called “hysteria” over Greenland.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen yesterday vowed an “unflinching” response to Donald Trump’s threats over Greenland. Europe “must respond” to any trade war, Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen told her parliament.



Israeli machinery demolishes a structure at the UNRWA headquarters in the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood of Israeli-annexed East Jerusalem yesterday. Israeli forces have ordered dozens of Palestinian families in the southern Gaza Strip to leave their homes in the first forced evacuation since October's ceasefire.

PHOTO: AFP

Asean won’t certify Myanmar election

Says Malaysia FM

REUTERS, *Kuala Lumpur*

The 11-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations will not send observers to army-ruled Myanmar’s ongoing three-stage election and will therefore not endorse the polls, Malaysia’s foreign minister said yesterday. Myanmar has been ravaged by conflict since the military staged a coup against a civilian government in 2021.

The election, which began in December last year, has been criticised by the United Nations, many Western countries and rights groups as a ploy to legitimise military rule through political proxies.

In a low turnout, voters cast their ballots in the second stage of the polls earlier this month, with junta-allied Union Solidarity and Development Party leading after securing 88 percent of the lower house seats contested over the first phase.

Speaking in parliament, Minister Mohamad Hasan said Asean had rejected a request from Myanmar to send polls observers during annual leaders’ summit last year, though some individual member states had decided to do so on their own.

World cannot revert to ‘law of the jungle’

Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng warns at Davos

AFP, *Davos*

Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng warned yesterday that the world must not revert to the “law of the jungle”, speaking at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos as Washington steps up its bid to take Greenland.

“A select few countries should not have privileges based on self-interest, and the world cannot revert to the law of the jungle where the strong prey on the weak,” he said in a speech which came as US President Donald Trump pushes his increasingly assertive America First agenda, and demands Nato ally Denmark to cede Greenland to him.

“All countries have the right to protect their legitimate interests.”

Trump said yesterday he had agreed to a meeting of “various parties” at the

gathering of global elites about his bid to seize Greenland. “I agreed to a meeting of the various parties in Davos, Switzerland,” Trump posted on Truth Social platform.

French President Emmanuel Macron said Tuesday he prefers “respect to bullies” and “rule of law to brutality” during a speech at Davos.

UN chief Antonio Guterres has cancelled his participation in the summit after coming down with a “bad cold”, a spokesman said. Nato is facing the biggest crisis in its history over Trump’s threats, and the time for “flattering” the US leader is over, former alliance chief Anders Fogh Rasmussen told AFP.

“It’s not only a crisis for Nato, it’s a crisis for the transatlantic community at large...,” he said in the interview from the WEF.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Power Division

Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka

Admin-3 Section

www.powerdivision.gov.bd

No. 27.00.0000.043.07.042.25-56

Date: 20.01.2026

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited through the National e-GP Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of:

SI No.	Tender ID	Description	Tender publish date	Tender closing date
1	1199081 GR-07	Procurement of Computer and accessories	20.01.2026	02-Feb-2026 16:10

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted through National e-GP Portal. No hard copy will be accepted. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP Portal have to be deposited through any registered branch of enlisted banks. Further information and guidelines are available on the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Size: DG-1315/7025(5x3)

Md. Abubakker Siddique
Senior Assistant Secretary
Power Division
Ph: 02223390024
E-mail: admin-3@pd.gov.bd

GD-146

Make long-term plan

FROM PAGE 12

The experts also emphasised strengthening services abroad and upon return.

Prof Tasneem Siddiqui, executive director (acting) of the Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU), told The Daily Star that the government spends only 0.08 percent of the national budget on migration, while the sector brings in nearly 30 billion dollars annually.

“We demand that at least 1 percent of the national budget be allocated for the protection and welfare of migrant workers,” she said, stressing the need for a 10-year national migration vision to address problems systematically.

“Without a long-term commitment, solving migration problems in a piecemeal way will not work.”

Prof Siddiqui also proposed forming a separate directorate with three wings for welfare, immigration, and skills, and upgrading the Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET) to a full directorate.

Migration expert Asif Munier highlighted governance and quality migration. Policymakers should not be involved in recruitment businesses to avoid conflicts of interest, he added.

“We always talk about how many people go abroad, but we do not ensure quality migration. Sending skilled workers could increase remittance and reduce migrant suffering.”

Munier also urged political parties to commit to implementing existing reform proposals, including better support for the returnees.

Talking to this correspondent, Shariful Hasan, associate director of BRAC Migration Programme and Youth Platform, stressed the need for good governance and a digital registration system to manage aspiring migrants.

“People from any part of Bangladesh should be able to register digitally at local centres,” he said.

Shariful also stressed the need for strengthening welfare services abroad, including proper staffing and budgets for embassies, and supporting migrants after they return home.

“Migrants should receive real services while staying abroad, not just promises. Returnees need reintegration support and investment opportunities without harassment.”

Contacted, Fakhrul Islam, former joint secretary of Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (Baira), highlighted issues related to labour markets, middlemen, and remittances.

“Many traditional labour markets, such as Malaysia, Dubai, Oman, and Bahrain, are now closed or limited. Political parties must work to reopen these markets and explore new ones in Asia and Europe.”

Regarding the remittance, he stated that legal channels with proper incentives could increase annual earnings up to \$40 billion.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

জনপ্রশাসন মন্ত্রণালয়

জাতীয় পরিকল্পনা ও উন্নয়ন একাডেমি (এনএপিডি)

নীলক্ষেত্র, ঢাকা-১২০৫

www.napd.gov.bd

নং-ও.৮৮.০০০০.০০৫.০৪.০২৮.১৬ (অংশ-১)-১২২ তারিখঃ ২০ জানুয়ারি ২০২৬

ই-টেন্ডার নোটিশ

ই-টেন্ডার আইডি: ১১৭২৩০৭

জাতীয় পরিকল্পনা ও উন্নয়ন একাডেমির দাপ্তরিক কাজে ব্যবহারের জন্য অফিস পেশনারী দ্রব্যাদি সরবরাহের লক্ষ্যে e-Tender আহ্বান করা হয়েছে। আগ্রহী প্রকৃত সরবরাহকারী উক্ত উল্লিখিত টেন্ডারে অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারেন। বিস্তারিত তথ্য ও অংশগ্রহণের জন্য www.eprocure.gov.bd ওয়েবসাইটে লগইন ও যোগাযোগ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

পরিচালক (প্রশাসন ও অর্থ)

GD-147

Bangladesh Krishi Bank

Procurement Department

Head Office,

83-84 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000

Phone (Office) : +88-02-223383535
e-mail: dgmsd@krishibank.org.bd
web: www.krishibank.org.bd

HO/Procure-9(2)/Part-4/2025-2026/764

Dated: 15-01-2026

“e-Tender Notice (OTM)”

This is to notify all concern that the following tender has been published through National e-Government Procurement Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

SL	Tender ID, Tender Package No. & Reference No	Name of the Tenderer	Tender documents Last Selling Date & Time	Tender Closing & Opening Date and time	Tender Method
01	Tender ID:1213709 Tender Package No. Pro 16/2025-2026 Reference No. HO/Procure-9(2)/Part-4/2025-2026/774	Supply of 3000 Reams A4 Offset Paper (80gsm), 400 Reams Legal Offset Paper (80gsm) and 35 Reams A3 Offset Paper (80gsm) for BKB, Head Office, Motijheel, Dhaka.	01-Feb-2026 16.00	02-Feb-2026 15.30	OTM (NCT)

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-Government Procurement Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender registraion in the National e-Government Procurement Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-Government Procurement Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) and you can also ask help from e-gp help desk (helpdesk@procure.gov.bd).

(Md. Shah Alam)
Deputy General Manager

GD-153

খুলনা কৃষি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

অস্থায়ী অফিসঃ ৩২৭, যাশোর রোড, উত্তর মুজিবুগ, খালিশপুর, খুলনা-৯০০০

Memo No. 37.01.4703.057.44.025.26.63

Date: 19/01/2026

e-Tender Notice

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

SL No.	Tender ID No.	Ref./Package No.	Description	Online tender notice publication date	Online tender closing date
1	1216401	37.01.4703.057.44.025.26.59; Date: 19/01/2026	Supply and Printing of Student Handbook, Slip Pad and Diary	21-Jan-2026	03-Feb-2026

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no online/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 last selling/downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches.

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

Engr. S. M. Moniruzzaman
Chief Engineer
Engineering Division
Khulna Agricultural University
Khulna

GD-148

Strengthening of Poultry Research and Development Project

Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute

Savar, Dhaka-1341.

Memo No: 33.05.2672.109.20.020.25-1836

Date: 19/01/2026

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender will be invited through the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocurement.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following goods. Details are given below.

Tender ID No.	Package No.	Description of goods	Tender Document Last Selling/Downloading Date & Time	Tender Closing/Opening Date & Time
1216001	GD 23	Procurement of office Stationery	01-Feb-2026 12:00	01-Feb-2026 16:00
1215994	GD 15	Procurement of Computer & accessories	01-Feb-2026 12:00	01-Feb-2026 16:00
1191811	G 3	Procurement of Chemicals, Reagent & Standard with Glassware and Apparatus	01-Feb-2026 12:00	01-Feb-2026 16:00

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted through the National e-GP system.

Registered tenderers are requested to deposit the required fees through any scheduled bank to purchase the e-schedule on or before 24 December 2025 at 13:30 for: (1) Procurement of Office Stationery, (2) Procurement of Computer & Accessories, and (3) Procurement of Chemicals, Reagents & Standards with Glassware and Apparatus. Further information and guidelines are available on the National e-GP Portal.

Size: (5" x 3/4")

(Dr. Md. Sazzadul Karim Sarker)
Project Director
Telephone No: 02224491679
e-mail address: sazzadulkarim@yahoo.com

GD-149

Bias allegations risk eroding public trust

EC must enforce the rules decisively and impartially

The allegations of administrative bias and the absence of a level playing field, as raised by three major political parties, are deeply concerning as these cast a shadow over the neutrality of the Election Commission. Such claims risk eroding public confidence in the electoral process as a whole and may discourage voters from turning up at polling centres on February 12. At the same time, it must be acknowledged that these allegations could also be part of the strategies of competing parties, aimed at pre-empting what they fear could be a lenient approach by the commission towards their opponents.

These allegations first surfaced on social media, where videos showed postal ballots being handled in bulk by groups of people in some Middle Eastern countries, despite the ballots being intended for delivery to individual voters. The postal ballots themselves have also sparked controversy for displaying only electoral symbols, without the names of candidates or parties. The Election Commission's decision to take these complaints into cognisance and seek resolution through dialogue with all political parties is a welcome step, though it should have been taken earlier.

Other allegations are even more troubling. Reports of campaign workers collecting voters' personal information, including mobile financial transaction identifiers such as bKash numbers, raise serious concerns. In addition, the conduct of some superintendents of police (SPs) and deputy commissioners (DCs) at the field level has been questioned, with accusations of bias towards certain candidates or parties. Notably, all three major parties—BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami, and NCP—have been trading accusations and counter-accusations, in some cases against the same election officials. Some observers view this as a positive sign, suggesting that when every party claims to be aggrieved, none is receiving undue favour from the officiating “umpire.” Nevertheless, the EC and its functionaries are expected to uphold the highest standards of neutrality and fairness.

It must be said that the recent appointment of a senior election official to the board of directors of Biman Bangladesh Airlines—interpreted by critics as the government rewarding loyalists—did not help EC's image or credibility. It is therefore imperative that the EC doubles down on enforcing the electoral code of conduct strictly and evenly. There have been numerous reports of violations by political parties and individual candidates even before the start of the official campaign period, including the display of posters and festoons, the use of digital boards to convey thinly veiled campaign messages, the holding of rallies and public meetings under the guise of socio-cultural events, the exploitation of religious gatherings to promote individual candidates by seeking prayers and blessings, etc. Many of these actions constitute clear breaches of the commission's guidelines. However, its failure to address them promptly has been notable.

According to a report by *Prothom Alo*, 73 incidents across 27 districts have resulted in show-cause notices, cautions, and in some cases, financial penalties for violations of the code of conduct. It is incumbent upon the political parties to cooperate fully with the EC and refrain from both rule-breaking and unfounded allegations of bias. The EC, too, must act decisively and transparently to demonstrate that it remains a credible guarantor of electoral fairness.

Data do not provide safety assurance

Meaningful actions needed to improve law and order situation

Outlining the current state of law and order in the country, the interim government recently assured that the situation is “improving steadily,” pointing to policy engagement, police action, and official data. However, events unfolding across the country suggest a more troubling reality on the ground—criminals appear increasingly emboldened, and people still do not trust the police or security forces to protect them. The recent killing of a Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) officer in Sitakunda is another indicator of this breakdown. When even law enforcement officers are targeted so brazenly, how are citizens supposed to feel safe? Criminals do not act this way unless they believe the state's response will be weak or delayed.

The government's own figures acknowledge that an estimated 3,000 to 3,500 people lose their lives to violent crime each year. In January, there have been several killings cutting across geography, profession, and political affiliation. The statement from the interim has tried to contextualise violence against minorities, demonstrating that most incidents are criminal rather than communal—out of 645 incidents involving members of minority communities from 2025, “only” 71 of those were communal in nature. While this data matters, the distinction offers little comfort to victims. Whether driven by communal hatred, political rivalry, land disputes, or personal enmity, the outcome is the same. Where lives are lost, communities live in fear, which makes it difficult to maintain faith in the justice delivery system.

Besides, many people these days rely less on law enforcement and instead resort to mob “justice.” Meanwhile, several violent crimes have been committed by criminals with little fear of retaliation. Against such a backdrop, selective case numbers or statistics alone cannot assure people that the law and order situation is improving. Rather, they need the assurance to feel safe while walking home at night, running a business, reporting a crime, or resolving disputes without violence. That basic sense of safety feels increasingly out of reach now.

We urge the government to stop minimising the current crisis and to acknowledge that law and order has deteriorated and public confidence has been badly shaken. Restoring law and order must be an emergency priority, rather than a communications challenge to be managed. This requires visible, sustained, and proactive policing; swift and impartial investigations; public accountability for failures; and clear consequences for perpetrators, regardless of who they are or whom they are connected to. Just as importantly, the state must seek partnership with communities by listening to their fears, encouraging reporting, and rebuilding trust. This is particularly crucial ahead of the national election.

Without real acknowledgment and decisive action, the gap between official optimism and reality will continue to widen, leaving space for further violence, vigilantism, and fear. Restoring safety begins with telling the truth, and acting on it.

GLOBAL RISKS IN 2026

What Bangladesh and the Global South face



MACRO MIRROR

Dr Fahmida Khatun is an economist and executive director at the Centre for Policy Dialogue. Views expressed in this article are the author's own.

FAHMIDA KHATUN

The Global Risks Report 2026, published by the World Economic Forum (WEF), presents some of the stark realities of the world today. The report, published ahead of the WEF's Annual Meeting in Davos, Switzerland, assesses the threats countries will face in the immediate, short- and long-term. Based on a Perception Survey of more than 1,300 experts and leaders from government, business, academia, and civil society, and the Executive Opinion Survey of 11,000 business leaders from 116 countries, this report provides multi-stakeholder insights into the likelihood of various global risks and their impacts.

The report suggests the world is facing an “age of competition.” Multilateral frameworks for cooperation are weakening as major powers increasingly prioritise national strategies and leverage economic tools as instruments of power, thereby reducing mutual trust. Experts mentioned uncertainty as a greater threat than any single threat. Half of the respondents feel the outlook over the next two years is turbulent, and 57 percent expect it to remain so over the next decade. In fact, geo-economic confrontation has emerged as the top global risk, most likely to trigger a major crisis in 2026, replacing armed conflict and climate shocks at the top of the risk rankings. Created through the strategic use of economic tools—trade restrictions, tariff impositions, investment controls, currency policies, and supply chain limits—to gain a competitive advantage over other countries, geo-economic confrontation is now being used as a “weapon” in geopolitical rivalry.

This reordering of global priorities reflects a structural shift in which economic policy is no longer driven solely by efficiency and mutual benefits, but by a strategic power equation. Competition for supply chains, critical technologies, access to resources, and industrial leadership is intensifying. Economic statecraft is rapidly replacing traditional security confrontation as a key area for global competition.

In the short-term risk rankings, geoeconomic confrontation is followed by state-based armed conflict, extreme weather events, and then by societal

polarisation and misinformation and disinformation. Rising inequality, erosion of human rights, cyber insecurity and adverse outcomes of artificial intelligence (AI) are other important risks the report mentions.

Over the long term, in the next decade, environmental risks, including extreme weather events, biodiversity loss, and critical shifts in Earth systems, top the ranking. This



VISUAL: ANWAR SOHEL

indicates that while geopolitical and economic confrontation dominate the immediate horizon, the existential threats of climate change and ecological collapse remain unresolved and severe.

The implications of the Global Risks Report 2026 are particularly crucial for Bangladesh and the Global South, because they have typically limited financial, institutional and strategic strengths to absorb systemic shocks. They are disproportionately exposed to climate impacts, more dependent on external trade and investment, and often lack diplomatic leverage to navigate geoeconomic rivalries.

In an era where economic policy is itself a battlefield, countries that are deeply integrated into global trade and investment but lack the scale to influence the rules face heightened

vulnerability. Trade fragmentation, supply chain disruptions, shifting standards, and barriers to investment can all significantly affect growth trajectories.

Climate vulnerability compounds this picture in most Global South regions, experiencing intensifying floods, droughts, cyclones, heatwaves, and sea-level rise. Adaptation costs are high, and access to climate finance remains limited. Failure to address these risks could lock many developing countries into cycles of disaster recovery rather than development.

Among social risks, inequality is one of the most interconnected with implications for social cohesion, political stability and trust in institutions. Misinformation and cyber insecurity can exacerbate divisions and erode governance capacity at a time

chronic exposure to flooding, sea-level rise, heatwaves, and salinity intrusion. Extreme weather events, identified as the top long-term risk in the WEF report, are the lived reality in Bangladesh and will continue to stress infrastructure, agriculture, water systems, and the urban environment.

Bangladesh is also highly sensitive to social and technological risk factors. The rising prominence of misinformation, cyber insecurity, and inequality in global risk rankings mirrors challenges in Bangladesh, where rapid digital adoption, urbanisation, and demographic change coexist with persistent inequity and governance gaps.

Among the top five risks identified by the Executive Opinion Survey, “crime and illicit economic activity” is ranked as the most serious risk for Bangladesh, followed by geoeconomic confrontation, inflation, economic downturn and rising debt. These five risks highlight the growing pressure on the country's economic and institutional foundations. Illicit financial flows, smuggling, cybercrime, and money laundering weaken governance and reduce public revenue. Intensifying global trade and technology rivalries expose Bangladesh to supply chain disruptions and market uncertainty. Persistent inflation erodes purchasing power. Slower growth threatens employment and poverty reduction. Rising public debt further constrains fiscal space and limits the government's ability to respond to future shocks.

To curb illicit economic activity, Bangladesh must strengthen law enforcement, financial intelligence, and regulatory oversight. A credible anti-inflation strategy should be pursued through close coordination between fiscal and monetary policy, so that government spending, borrowing and taxation do not undermine price stability. Prudent budget management, disciplined deficit financing, and effective interest rate policy must work together to anchor inflation expectations, stabilise the exchange rate and protect household purchasing power.

Export diversification, investment-friendly reforms, and proactive trade diplomacy can reduce geoeconomic vulnerabilities by lowering dependence on a few markets and products. A broader export base, easier business regulations, and stronger trade partnerships can help Bangladesh withstand global shocks, maintain market access, and attract stable long-term investment. Prudent debt management, better revenue mobilisation, and stronger institutions are critical to achieve macroeconomic stability and sustain long-term development.

US visa suspension: Green card pending, hope expired



MIND THE GAP

Barrister Noshin Nawal is a columnist for The Daily Star. She can be reached at nawalnoshin1@gmail.com.

NOSHIN NAWAL

The United States has announced that it is suspending immigrant visa processing for Bangladeshis. Not forever, it insists. Just for now. A pause. A reassessment. A temporary inconvenience. Much like when your phone freezes mid update and politely informs you not to turn it off, even though your entire life is currently stuck behind a spinning wheel. This pause applies only to immigrant visas—the permanent kind—involving families, futures, and the radical idea of living in the same country as your spouse. Non-immigrant visas remain unaffected. Students are still welcome. Tourists can still queue for selfies. Temporary workers can still fill labour shortages, provided they remember to leave quietly afterwards. Permanence, however, has been flagged for further thought. This distinctive policy reflects a global shift.

The justification offered—a concern about misuse and welfare dependency—is familiar and carefully vague. These phrases float around immigration policy like incense, creating the impression of seriousness without the burden of evidence. Bangladeshis, it turns out, are suddenly a welfare risk. What is being paused here is not a process. It is a set of assumptions people were encouraged to build their lives around. Immigrant

visas are not impulse purchases. They involve years of paperwork, background checks, interviews, and waiting that require both patience and money. Many of the people affected are not applicants at the beginning of the queue—they have already been approved, and their lives are already halfway packed. Their children already know which country they are moving to, just not when.

This is where the pause stops being administrative and starts being borderline cruel. Legally, the United States can do this. Immigration law gives the executive sweeping discretion. Courts have repeatedly affirmed that no foreign national has a right to a visa, no matter how many conditions they satisfy. Approval does not equal issuance. Expectation does not equal entitlement. The law is clear. And that clarity is precisely the issue here. Because in almost every other area of public administration, inducing reliance matters. If a state sets criteria, approves compliance, and leads individuals to believe an outcome will follow, abruptly withdrawing that outcome demands justification in line with doctrines on legitimate expectation, procedural fairness, and proportionality. Immigration law, however, is the exception that swallows

the rule. It exists in a moral vacuum, and so families are told to wait. Again.

The most revealing aspect of the pause is who it does not affect. Temporary mobility remains welcome. You may come for a few years and study, work, spend, contribute and be useful. What raises concern is permanence, which means roots leading to rights or political presence. And political presence means people who stop being grateful and start being equal.

America, it seems, is comfortable with Bangladeshi labour but not with Bangladeshi families. There is also an uncomfortable racial logic that nobody wants to say out loud. Pauses are rarely framed as discrimination. They are framed as neutral administrative action. But neutrality does not mean evenly distributed harm. When entire categories of people are restricted while others move freely, policy becomes a mirror of fear rather than fact. Bangladeshis are not assessed as individuals in this process. They are assessed as probabilities. Overstayers. Dependants. Risks. Never mind that the same countries eagerly recruit Bangladeshi doctors during health crises and celebrate diversity at conferences. The enthusiasm cools when diversity asks for permanence.

Timing makes this worse. Children risk ageing out of eligibility. Spouses remain separated indefinitely. Parents wait through illnesses and birthdays, and funerals are attended over video calls. A pause with no end date is not neutral when life continues to move forward.

Back in Bangladesh, the American Dream is still being sold aggressively.

Coaching centres advertise pathways. Consultants promise a strategy. Families repeat advice to do things properly, follow the rules, and trust the process. Nobody mentions that immigration systems are not queues. They are gates. And gates open and close based on domestic politics that migrants have no influence over.

This pause also exposes a deeper hypocrisy. Bangladesh is routinely advised to improve governance, reduce migration pressure, and build opportunities at home. At the same time, when Bangladeshis attempt to migrate legally, through formal channels, following every rule, the system reminds them that legality does not guarantee welcome. It only guarantees compliance.

So, where does this leave Bangladeshi families, whose loved ones in the US completed all the immigration procedures? They are floating in a space where plans exist, but timelines do not. The pause may lift. Or it may quietly extend. Or it may be replaced by another review with a new name and the same effect. Until then, families will adapt, because adaptation is what we do best. Expectations will be lowered. Timelines will be redrawn. Children will be taught resilience instead of hope.

As America reassesses the application, like it always does, Bangladeshi families will survive. We always have. But let us stop pretending this is a neutral policy or harmless administration. This is power, exercised politely, legally, and without accountability, over people who did exactly what they were told. The real lesson here is not about visas. It is about trust.

After 2026 election, Dhaka must set out clear India, China, and US policies



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ASIF BIN ALI

Bangladesh often seems to treat foreign policy as subject to seasonal political moods. If one government is branded “India-friendly,” another “China-leaning,” then a third is cast as “Washington’s favourite.” In reality, Dhaka engages all three powers every day—on trade, loans, borders, security, climate, migration, the Bay of Bengal, etc. But it does so without a clearly stated hierarchy of interests and without a stable policy framework that survives elections and domestic political manoeuvring. This is a major weakness of Bangladesh’s foreign policy. Moreover, political actors often use foreign policy as a weapon in partisan storytelling for a domestic audience. So India becomes a symbol, not a relationship. China becomes a chequebook, not a strategy. The United States becomes either a saviour or a conspirator, depending on who is speaking and who is under pressure.

After the 2026 election, the future elected government should do something basic but long overdue: set out three clear country policies—towards India, China, and the US—and ensure they enjoy broad political consensus and commitment so that they do not change regardless of the change in power. These policies should not be about ideological alignments or public relations exercises; they should instead serve as enduring principles that signal to the bureaucracy and the public what Bangladesh wants, what it will not trade away, and what it will prioritise when interests collide.

Why do clear country policies matter? Small and mid-sized states survive by being predictable abroad and disciplined at home. Geography already imposes certain permanent facts. India surrounds Bangladesh on three sides and shapes its river system, border economy, and security environment. China is the largest source of global manufacturing power and a major provider of capital for infrastructure. The US and the Western market system remain central to Bangladesh’s exports, finance, and technology ecosystem. You can dislike these facts, but you cannot vote them out.

Yet relationships with these countries were often viewed as if they were personal friendships between leaders, short-term transactions, or exercises in emergency diplomacy, rather than

as long-term statecraft anchored in clearly articulated national interests and institutional continuity. This approach produces negative outcomes, frequently converting routine bargaining into narratives of national prestige. A water-sharing negotiation, a port decision, a visa issue, or a defence procurement discussion becomes a test of patriotism. Such framing undermines, rather than strengthens, a strategic foreign policy approach.

Over the decades, Bangladesh has produced some important diplomatic achievements. The 1996 Ganges water treaty, for instance, showed how tough geography can still be negotiated. The maritime boundary settlements with Myanmar and India expanded our legal certainty in the Bay of Bengal and strengthened Bangladesh’s blue-economy claims. The 2015 land boundary settlement with India improved the lives of people in the enclaves. These are not Awami League or BNP moments; they are Bangladesh’s achievements. But when they are treated as partisan trophies, the country weakens its future negotiating position.

One of the most persistent myths in Dhaka is that closeness to one power requires hostility to another. If you are “with” India, you must be “against” China. If you work with China, you must be suspicious of America. This may sound like common sense, and the geopolitics around them may also seem to suggest it, but it is really a lazy shortcut often favoured by Bangladesh’s political and civil classes. They confuse alignment with engagement. Bangladesh already practises issue-based engagement. It relies on the US and EU markets for export earnings. It relies on Gulf states for labour markets and remittances. China and other Asian partners provide large-scale financing and industrial inputs, while neighbouring India is critical for border security and stability, transit geography, and river politics. This is not a choice between lovers or adversaries. It is a portfolio. The missing piece is strategy.

What should an India policy look like? India is not just another bilateral partner; it is an integral part of the neighbourhood structure. In most areas, India has more leverage. It is a nuclear power and an aspiring global power. But that does not mean Bangladesh cannot negotiate or exercise sovereign autonomy.

A serious India policy, therefore, begins by accepting this reality and managing it with steady discipline rather than chest-thumping. It should remain anchored in the files that never go away. Water sharing requires year-round negotiation capacity and technical preparation, not seasonal outrage. To save lives on the border and ensure security, both countries must work in a manner bound by law and accountability; otherwise, the issue turns

financial transparency, proper procurement where possible, and clear, plain-language debt assessments. When terms are hidden, suspicion grows, and that suspicion becomes a domestic weapon weakening Bangladesh’s bargaining power with Beijing and others. Moreover, Bangladesh’s China policy should treat technology as a security issue, not just a price issue. This will help reduce dependence in sensitive areas that foreign powers can turn

Washington only during crises, it will always negotiate from a defensive position. On security and regional strategy, Bangladesh should maintain a calm posture. As the Bay of Bengal becomes more contested, Dhaka should cooperate on maritime domain awareness, disaster response, and counter-trafficking, but avoid getting pulled into military postures that turn it into a frontline.

How should the next government do this?



VISUAL: STAR

toxic at home. The relationship is also lived through people to people ties—visas, culture, and media narratives. If these spaces are left to suspicion and scandal, policy may always be hostage to anger. Above all, the baseline must be clear: reciprocal respect for sovereignty and a firm commitment to non-intervention in each other’s domestic politics. Ultimately, an India policy should separate real bargaining from performative nationalism.

What should a China policy look like? China is no longer just about roads and bridges for Dhaka. As China increasingly shapes industrial policy, technology standards, defence choices, and strategic infrastructure, a clear China policy has become essential. The first rule should be productivity over ribbon-cutting. Bangladesh should prioritise fewer vanity projects and more reliable energy, efficient ports, rail freight, functioning industrial zones, and skills linked to real jobs. It should also incorporate risk management into Chinese-funded projects, with greater

into leverage. And China should not be treated only as a lender; Dhaka should negotiate for market access, manufacturing relocation, and joint ventures.

What should a US policy look like? Bangladesh needs a clear US policy because Washington affects its economy even when it does not mention Bangladesh. Trade rules, labour standards, brand compliance, technology ecosystems, financial regulations, and sanctions policies can influence Bangladesh’s economy overnight. A serious US policy must begin with the understanding that the export economy depends on reputation. It is about protecting Bangladeshi workers and keeping Bangladeshi factories and products inside the global supply chains.

A serious US policy also requires an engagement strategy that extends beyond a single embassy channel. The US system is fragmented. Congress matters. State-level business networks matter. Brands matter. Diaspora voices matter. If Bangladesh engages

Policy needs structure. The next government should publish a foreign-policy white paper within its first year, to be updated annually, with separate chapters on India, China, and the US. It should be written in plain language and debated in parliament. When policy becomes a public document, it becomes harder to hijack for vested interest groups. Institutional coordination must also be rebuilt. Several ministries—commerce, energy, shipping, home affairs, defence, expatriate welfare and overseas employment, and environment—conduct foreign policy by accident. Bangladesh, therefore, needs a strong inter-ministerial mechanism to set priorities, resolve contradictions, and track implementation.

Finally, our foreign policy should no longer be treated as a partisan identity or instrument, but as a shared national framework grounded in consensus, continuity, and clear interests. It should strengthen our negotiating hand regardless of who holds office.

How Dhaka’s rental housing market marginalises Indigenous tenants



Arnab Chakma is a graduate in public administration from the University of Dhaka.

ARNAB CHAKMA

The first lesson for many young people arriving in Dhaka, after leaving the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), is not learnt in a university lecture hall. It is learnt at the landlord’s doorway. There, they learn quickly that a name, an accent, or a face can decide whether a rental house is “available” or “already taken.” For Indigenous people, Dhaka’s rental market is where their identity quietly turns into economic strain and social marginalisation.

Internal migration has long been a driver of Bangladesh’s urbanisation. Rural households move to cities like Dhaka in search of work, education, and services that are scarce in their home regions. For CHT Indigenous communities, the push factors are even sharper: land dispossession, political insecurity, and decades of marginalisation at home combine with the pull of jobs, universities, hospitals, and other urban facilities in the capital. Housing, besides shelter, is the gatekeeper to everything else in city life. Yet, once they arrive, the first and largest cost they face is rent.

Dhaka’s housing shortage and informality are well known. The city grows by hundreds of thousands of new residents each year, but the formal housing supply lags far behind demand. For low- and middle-income renters, this means crowded apartments, high advance payments, and heavy dependence on informal arrangements. For CHT Indigenous tenants, this difficult landscape is layered with discrimination, both explicit and subtle, that forces them into the most precarious corners of

the market.

Interviews with Indigenous tenants living in areas such as Mirpur, Mohammadpur, and Farmgate reveal a common starting point: finding the first living place depends almost entirely on kinship and co-ethnic networks. Newcomers typically begin by staying with relatives, friends, or other CHT tenants already embedded in the city. These ties reduce search costs and offer a temporary safety net, but they also concentrate migrants into a limited set of neighbourhoods and buildings. From the beginning, their choices are narrower than those of Bangalee newcomers with broader urban networks.

When CHT tenants step outside these networks and approach landlords directly, their identity becomes a filter. Some recount explicit refusals: being told that “tribal people” are not acceptable tenants, that neighbours will object, or that Indigenous customs do not fit the building. In other cases, the message is delivered more politely but no less clearly: the unit has just been rented, the owner “does not rent to bachelors from outside,” or the advance suddenly becomes impossibly high. Even where no openly racist language is used, the pattern of doors closing at first contact is hard to miss.

Alongside outright rejection, many CHT migrants experience what can be called “slippery discrimination,” which is hard to prove. They are shown only the smallest or darkest rooms in a building, told that higher deposits are necessary “for security,” or nudged towards particular floors

and alley-side units that other tenants avoid. Paperwork demands rise too: extra guarantors, employer letters, or scrutiny of identity documents. Each separate request appears reasonable, but together they produce a consistent result: Indigenous renters pay more, accept worse conditions, and enjoy weaker tenure security than comparable Bangalee tenants.

Many tenants describe paying a large share of their modest incomes on rents that still do not buy privacy, safety, or dignity. The promise of urban opportunity sits uneasily with the reality of dark, overheated rooms and leaking roofs.

Economic vulnerability amplifies these disadvantages. Because many CHT migrants work in low-paid jobs, informal employment, or entry-level positions, they have little bargaining power with landlords. Advance deposits and key money can amount to several months of income, locking up savings that might otherwise support education, healthcare, or small investments. When incomes fluctuate or emergencies arise, rent becomes a constant source of anxiety. Households often cut back on food, medicine, or children’s schooling to avoid defaulting and being forced to move suddenly.

Frequent moves are, in fact, a defining feature of many CHT tenants’ urban lives. Unwritten agreements, rising rents, conflicts over utility bills, or tensions with neighbours can quickly end a tenancy. Without formal contracts, tenants have little recourse when asked to leave. Every move means new advance payments, new school commutes, and yet another attempt to convince a landlord that they are “trustworthy people.” The cycle of search, negotiation, and resettlement consumes time, energy, and money, hampering the process of building stable lives in the city.

These housing realities have deep social consequences. Physical distance and long commutes limit participation in campus life, community activities, or civil society

organisations. Language barriers and memories of discrimination make some hesitant to interact with neighbours beyond co-ethnic circles. Women, in particular, face layered constraints: they must navigate both conservative attitudes towards female tenants and ethnic stereotyping. Curfews, visitor restrictions, and heightened surveillance inside buildings can make even “safer” accommodations feel like another form of control.

However, CHT migrants also display remarkable resilience and creativity in coping with these constraints. Many rely on dense social networks, relatives, and student associations to circulate information about available rooms, negotiate better terms, and provide emergency loans for deposits. Online platforms and messaging groups have become

informal housing markets where Indigenous tenants warn each other about exploitative landlords and recommend more welcoming ones. Shared apartments, rotating savings groups, and collective bargaining by groups of tenants are all strategies that soften, even if they cannot fully remove, the sharp edges of Dhaka’s rental market.

Seeing these experiences only as a “housing problem” is a mistake. Housing is the key mechanism that transforms being Indigenous and being a migrant into a daily experience of economic insecurity and social distance. When a CHT Indigenous student must spend hours commuting from a distant, overcrowded building, or when a young Indigenous worker is repeatedly turned away from better-located apartments, the effects

ripple into education outcomes, job opportunities, mental health, and civic participation. Who lives where, and on what terms, shapes who feels they belong in the city at all.

Policy responses must therefore go beyond building more units or adjusting rent controls. At a minimum, Dhaka needs clearer rules around advance payments and deposits, standard written agreements that are simple enough for ordinary tenants to understand, and mechanisms for addressing discrimination in rental advertisements and first contact. Most importantly, landlords, policymakers, and urban professionals must recognise that rental housing is not an ethnically neutral market driven only by price and location. It is a social institution where prejudice, fear, and ignorance can quietly assign whole communities to the city’s margins.

Ministry of Shipping
Bangladesh Land Port Authority
ACCESS-BLPA Component Project
Plot No. F-19/A, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar,
Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.

Memo No.: 18.15.0000.023.14.022.24-06

Date: January 19, 2026

e-GP Tender Notice (Corrigendum)

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

Sl	Tender ID No.	Name of Package	Last Date and Time for Tender Selling	Last Date and Time for Tender Security Submission	Tender Closing and Opening Date and Time
1	1176832	BLPA-WIA, Construction of Port Building, Parking Facilities for Passengers with ancillary works at Benapole Land Port.	27-Jan-2026, 13:00	27-Jan-2026, 14.30	27-Jan-2026, 16:00

This is online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP System Portal and no offline hardcopy 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 Branch of registered Bank up to date and time mentioned in the notice. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP Help Desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

-Sd-
(Mohammad Shamim Alam)
Project Director (Additional Charge)
Access-BLPA Project
E-mail: pdaccessblpa@gmail.com

GD-143



The 26th Convocation

Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB)



21 January 2026

CHIEF ADVISER
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

07 Magh 1432
21 January 2026



On the momentous occasion of the 26th convocation of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), I extend my warmest congratulations to the graduating students, their proud families, and the dedicated faculty who guided them. This convocation marks not only the culmination of academic effort but also the beginning of a lifelong journey of responsibility and service to society.

The uprising in July 2024 demonstrated how the youth of Bangladesh can unite to uphold justice and integrity, setting up an inspiring example for generations to come. As new graduates, you now carry forward this legacy to lead with honesty, to innovate with purpose, and to serve with compassion.

In an era defined by rapid change, Bangladesh's future will depend on how effectively our youth combine research, innovation, and ethical leadership to build a just and sustainable nation. I trust that your education at IUB has equipped you with the skills, values, and vision to contribute meaningfully to that future.

I wish you success and fulfillment as you begin this new chapter of your lives. May your achievements continue to inspire hope for generations to come.

Professor Muhammad Yunus



উপদেষ্টা
শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়
পশ্চিমবঙ্গ সরকার



I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all graduates of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) on this joyous occasion. This convocation celebrates not only your personal achievement but also your readiness to contribute to the greater good through knowledge and service.

Throughout my academic journey, I have seen how education – anchored in integrity and empathy – can bring about profound social transformation. Universities stand at the centre of this process, shaping minds that question, reason, and lead with a sense of moral purpose. The events of July-August 2024 served as a reminder that conscience must always guide knowledge in building a humane and just society.

As Bangladesh advances towards a fairer and more sustainable future, your generation will be tasked with uniting research, innovation, and ethical leadership to address complex challenges. I am confident that IUB has helped you develop the intellectual strength and social awareness needed to make that contribution.

May your pursuit of learning continue to inspire others and bring lasting value to the nation and to humanity.

Dr. C R Abrar



বাংলাদেশ
বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় সমিতি
Chairman
University Grants Commission of Bangladesh



14 December, 2025

It gives me immense pleasure to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the graduates of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) on the joyous occasion of its 26th Convocation. This milestone not only celebrates your academic achievements but also marks the beginning of your journey as responsible, skilled, and forward-looking contributors to society.

As Chairman of the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh, I have witnessed how higher education—when grounded in quality, accountability, and innovation—plays a transformative role in shaping engaged and ethical citizens. The events of July-August 2024 once again reminded us that our universities are not only centers of teaching and research but also spaces where conscience, civic responsibility, and national values take shape.

In line with our national priorities, the UGC remains committed to enhancing the quality and relevance of higher education through strengthened accreditation, improved research capacity, and increased international and regional collaboration. These efforts aim to ensure that our graduates are equipped with the competencies required to meet the challenges of the 21st century and contribute meaningfully to sustainable national development.

Dear graduates, as you step into a world of expanding opportunities and evolving global challenges, I urge you to apply the knowledge, skills, and values you have gained at IUB to build a just, innovative, and inclusive Bangladesh. The intellectual resilience, confidence, and curiosity developed throughout your academic journey will continue to guide you forward.

I wish the 26th Convocation every success and convey my best wishes to all graduates for a future defined by purpose, integrity, and impactful achievements.

Professor Dr. S. M. A. Faiz

BIOGRAPHY OF THE CONVOCAION SPEAKER

Dr. Shahidul Alam (born 1955, Dhaka) is a Bangladeshi photographer, writer, curator, educator, and human rights activist whose career spans more than four decades. He grew up in Dhaka and had a nomadic early education at Azimpur Kindergarten (now Agrani School and College), St. Francis Xavier's School (both were co-ed in those days), Jhenaidah Cadet College, Shaheen School, Titumir College and Dhaka College where he refused to appear in intermediate exams under the Pakistani regime in 1971. He later moved to the United Kingdom, completing A levels at Liverpool Institute and earning a bachelor's degree in biochemistry and genetics from the University of Liverpool and a PhD in organic chemistry from the University of London. More recently he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the University of Arts London which he returned due to the Zionist position of the Chancellor of the University. During his years in the UK, photography developed from a personal interest into a serious pursuit, eventually becoming his principal vocation.



Dr. Shahidul Alam

Dr. Alam returned to Bangladesh in the mid-1980s and began documenting political life, social inequalities, labor conditions, migration, and human rights violations. At a time when visual documentation of dissent was limited, his work provided an alternative historical record. In 1989, he co-founded the Drik Picture Library to support photographers from the Global South. This institutional work expanded with the founding of the Pathshala South Asian Media Institute in 1998, now widely regarded as one of the leading photography schools in the region, and the Chobi Mela International Photography Festival in 2000, which established Dhaka as a significant hub in the global photography circuit. He also co-founded the photo agency Majority World.

His career has been marked by a close intersection of art and activism. In 2010, his exhibition "Crossfire" on extra judicial killings was closed down by the government, but Alam challenged the government in court and was able to get it reopened. In 2018, he was arrested after giving interviews in international media critical of the government's handling of the student-led road safety movement. His arrest drew widespread condemnation from journalists, artists, and human rights organisations worldwide, and became a defining moment in discussions on freedom of expression in Bangladesh. He was named a Time Magazine Person of the Year in 2018.

He continued to play a visible public role during the July 2024 Mass Movement, documenting events, offering commentary, and situating the protests within a longer struggle for democratic accountability. In 2025, he joined the Freedom Flotilla Coalition mission to Gaza as the first Bangladeshi participant, reaffirming his commitment to international human rights advocacy.

Dr. Alam's achievements have been widely recognised. He has been exhibited in the world's leading galleries such as MOMA, Tate Modern, Centre Georges Pompidou and Tehran Museum of Contemporary Arts. He has served as the first Asian chair of the World Press Photo jury and held advisory roles with international organisations. He is an Explorer Emeritus of the National Geographic Society. His awards include the Mother Jones Award for Documentary Photography, the Lucie Humanitarian Award, Bangladesh's Shilpakala Padak and Ekushey Padak for his contributions to arts and education. His work and institution-building have positioned him as one of the most influential figures in South Asian photography and visual activism.

THE 26TH CONVOCAION AT A GLANCE

Total Number of Graduates: 2496
Undergraduate Level: 2140
Graduate Level: 356

TOP PERFORMERS (Undergraduate Level)

Chancellor's Gold Medal	05
Summa Cum Laude	22
Magna Cum Laude	110
Cum Laude	194

TOP PERFORMERS (Graduate Level)

Top Achievers Awards	06
CGPA: 4.0 (on a scale of 4.0)	

GRADUATING STUDENTS OF THE 26TH CONVOCAION

Name of School	Graduate	Undergraduate
School of Business and Entrepreneurship	194	1077
School of Engineering, Technology and Sciences	25	507
School of Environment and Life Sciences	64	183
School of Law	04	87
School of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences	33	108
School of Pharmacy and Public Health	36	178
Total	356	2140

TOP PERFORMERS



Sajid Bin Mohammad



Tasnuva Mahmood



Asadullah Ibn Masood



Zahra Alam Liya



Nazmoon Nahar



Ahmad Tousif Jami



Sk. Salwa Sharara



Roshni Parvin



Shahrukh Bin Hannan



Md. Tipu Sultan



Maha Murshed



Tasfia Akter Tanjel



Sami Rashid



Rayaan Ahmed



Sidratul Muntaha Ahana



Iqam Hossain Mahboob



Tahmeed Rezwon Shushmoy



Md. Zubair Alam Emon



Farzana Islam



Tasmin Fahima Ahmad



Imran Jahan Digonto



Vincent Dig Gomes



Tamim Talha Redoy

Won't accept any illogical conditions, says Asif Nazrul

SPORTS REPORTER

Youth and Sports Adviser Asif Nazrul on Tuesday said Bangladesh would not agree to any unreasonable conditions should the International Cricket Council (ICC) attempt to exert pressure regarding the country's participation in the upcoming T20 World Cup.

Speaking to reporters at the Secretariat, Asif said Bangladesh could not be compelled to travel to India under external influence. "If the International Cricket Council (ICC) bows to pressure from the Indian Cricket Board and tries to impose any illogical condition on us, we will not accept," he said.

Responding to a report by French news agency AFP claiming that Scotland could replace Bangladesh if the team refuses to tour India, the adviser said the government had not received any official communication to that effect.

"There are precedents in international cricket, when India refused to play in Pakistan, the ICC changed the venue. We have reasonably asked for a venue change," he added.

Bangladesh recently informed the ICC of its decision not to travel to India for the tournament, citing political tensions and security concerns, and formally requested that its matches be relocated to an alternative venue.

A final decision on Bangladesh's participation and travel arrangements is expected by tonight. The ICC has yet to clarify the process for selecting a replacement team should a participating nation withdraw.



Litton paints the sombre picture that prevails

SPORTS REPORTER

It seems as if nothing happening on the pitch is significant enough to overshadow the events unfolding off it.

Yesterday, the Sylhet Titans secured a thrilling three-wicket victory in the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) Eliminator, knocking Rangpur Riders out of the tournament. Chris Woakes, signed specifically for the playoffs, propelled Sylhet into Qualifier 2 by hitting a six off the final delivery of a low-scoring contest in Mirpur.

Normally, such an intense finish would be the primary talking point after the game. Instead, an unpleasant reality emerged during the post-match press conference when Bangladesh T20I and Rangpur skipper Litton Das painted a somber picture of helplessness regarding the national team's participation in the upcoming T20 World Cup, set to be co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka from February 7.

"Are you sure we are going to play in the World Cup?" Litton, visibly displeased with Rangpur's result -- and perhaps the overall uncertainty that prevails -- questioned back when



asked whether the type of pitches used in the BPL is ideal preparation for the T20 World Cup.

Bangladesh's World Cup participation currently hangs by a thread due to an impasse between the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) and the International Cricket Council (ICC). This follows the BCB's request to play their World Cup matches outside of India, citing security concerns.

The tension began over a fortnight ago when Mustafizur Rahman was dropped by the Indian Premier League franchise Kolkata Knight Riders on instruction from the Board of Control for

Cricket in India due to political friction between the two nations. This geopolitical standoff now appears to be weighing heavily on the players' mental preparation.

"There is still a long time before the World Cup. We aren't even sure if we are going yet," Litton remarked. "But I can say this much: this is not an ideal wicket for T20s. I don't know if it's [meant for preparation] for the World Cup or not. I expected a better wicket for a qualifier [eliminator] match."

When asked if the BCB had communicated with him or sought his opinion since their January 4 decision not to send the team to

India, Litton's response was a flat "no." He added, "I don't know, but it [communication] hasn't happened with me," when pressed on whether such a dialogue should have occurred.

The exchange highlights the uncertainty within the BCB, revealing that even the primary stakeholders -- the cricketers -- remain in the dark regarding their World Cup fate.

"Look at the situation; many things in life are not ideal. But when a certain time comes, you have to accept it. We played many T20 matches in the BPL -- the [scheduling] wasn't ideal either. But we have to play. What can I say now?" Litton added.

However, the T20 skipper remained tight-lipped when asked about the players' collective stance on the BCB's refusal to travel to India, offering only a brief "no comment." He did note, however, that the 14-day gap between the BPL final on January 23 and the start of the World Cup provides "a lot of opportunity for our mental thinking."

As Litton exited the room, he requested those present not to "take any offense" at his answers. Yet, the interaction only deepened the impression that has gripped the country's cricket for the last 17 days: one of profound uncertainty and helplessness.

Chattogram romp to BPL final

Captain Mahedi Hasan led from the front, helping Chattogram Royals -- the only franchise managed by the Bangladesh Cricket Board this edition -- become the first team to secure a spot in the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) final with a six-wicket win over Rajshahi Warriors in Qualifier 1 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. Mahedi played a nine-ball 19-run cameo, including a six off pacer Ripon Mondol in the final over, to help Chattogram chase down Rajshahi's target of 134 with three balls to spare. On a day when each of the seven bowlers used by Chattogram took at least one wicket, Mahedi also starred with the ball, claiming two for 20 in his four overs. Rajshahi, however, will look to bounce back when they face Sylhet Titans -- who defeated Rangpur Riders in the Eliminator earlier in the day -- in Qualifier 2 today. They are set to receive a boost as their star foreign signing, Kane Williamson, is scheduled to arrive in Dhaka on Wednesday morning.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED



PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

WOAKES came, played, conquered

Chris Woakes made a dream debut in the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) T20 yesterday, delivering a match-winning all-round performance for Sylhet Titans in the Eliminator at Mirpur's Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium.

The former England all-rounder,

who arrived in Dhaka just days earlier, took two for 15 in four overs to restrict Rangpur Riders to 111, before sealing a dramatic three-wicket victory with a last-ball six.

"It is very exciting. Winning a game of cricket with a six off the last ball is something I have never

done before," said Woakes, who retired from international cricket in September last year after 217 matches.

"I've been in that situation before and failed, so to get one over the line makes it even more special."

SHORNA sets new six-hitting record for Tigresses

STAR SPORTS DESK

Shorna Akter produced a record-breaking performance to lead Bangladesh Women to a 30-run victory over Papua New Guinea in their second match of the Women's T20 World Cup Qualifier in Kirtipur, Nepal, on Tuesday.

She smashed 37 runs off just 14 balls, including one four and four sixes, setting a new record for the Tigresses for the most sixes in a WT20I innings, surpassing Aysha Rahman's previous mark of three. Shorna also contributed with the ball, taking one wicket for six runs, and was named player of the match.

This win followed Bangladesh's 21-run victory over the USA in their Group A opener. Batting first at the Tribhuvan University International Cricket Ground, the Tigresses posted a strong total of 168 for five. Papua New Guinea showed resilience in the chase but were bowled out for 138, with three run-outs proving costly.

They will face Namibia in their next Group A match on Thursday at the TU Cricket Ground, followed by their final group match against Ireland on January 24. The top three teams from Group A will advance to the Super Six stage.



Barcelona eye crucial win in Prague

AGENCIES

Barcelona will be aiming to boost their hopes of securing a top-eight finish in the Champions League when they travel to face Slavia Prague on Wednesday night in a crucial league-stage clash.

The Catalan giants currently sit 15th in the table with 10 points, just two behind eighth-placed Atletico Madrid. With only two matches remaining, Hansi Flick's side knows that victories are essential if they are to avoid the playoff round and qualify directly for the knockout stages.

Slavia Prague, meanwhile, find themselves struggling near the bottom of the standings in 33rd place. The Czech champions have endured a difficult European campaign, failing to win any of their six matches so far, with three draws and three defeats leaving them four points off a playoff position.

Their preparation has also been far from ideal, as they have not played a competitive match since mid-December due to the domestic winter break.

Since that time, Slavia have featured only in friendlies, and their lack of match sharpness could prove costly against a Barcelona side eager to bounce back from a disappointing weekend defeat.

Flick's men suffered a shock 2-1 loss to Real Sociedad in LaLiga, a result that trimmed their lead at the top of the Spanish table to just one.

Despite that setback, Barcelona remain confident. They are unbeaten in their last eight matches against Czech opposition, winning



seven of them.

However, recent away form in Europe has been a concern, with only one win from their last five Champions League trips.

Barcelona will be without teenage star Lamine Yamal due to suspension, while Gavi, Andreas Christensen, and Ferran Torres are sidelined with injuries. The return of Raphinha, however, offers Flick a timely boost in attack.

Slavia Prague, under coach Jindrich Trpisovsky, have scored just twice in the competition so far and will need a far more clinical display.

Flick was clear about his expectations ahead of the match. "The result doesn't reflect our performance," he said after the Sociedad defeat. "We have to keep going in this direction. On Wednesday, it's time to win in Prague."



Jannik Sinner and Madison Keys launched their respective Australian Open singles title defences with contrasting victories yesterday, as Sinner advanced after Hugo Gaston retired injured while trailing 6-2, 6-1, and Keys fought back from 4-0 down in the first set to prevail 7-6(6), 6-1.

PHOTO: AFP/REUTERS





The man ‘behind’ Savar murders

Police say accused Sabuj Sheikh pretended to be mentally ill

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Police have disclosed the “real identity” of the man arrested in connection with six murders in Savar over the past seven months.

Savar Model Police Station's Inspector (Operations) Helal Uddin told The Daily Star yesterday that the suspected “serial killer” is Sabuj Sheikh.

Locals believed that he was mentally unwell, but police said he feigned the condition and used multiple aliases, including Mashiur Rahman Samrat and Tiger Samrat.

During a preliminary interrogation, Sabuj claimed that he killed the victims to prevent other people, whom he described as “mentally unwell”, from staying in the area. “But we are not convinced by this claim,” said Inspector Helal.

Sabuj also confessed to his involvement in the six



Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus inspected the progress of works of the July Mass Uprising Memorial Museum, accompanied by Jamaat Ameer Shafiqur Rahman, BNP Standing Committee member Salahuddin Ahmed and NCP Convener Nahid Islam yesterday. During the visit, Shafiqur was seen listening to recordings of Sheikh Hasina’s orders on enforced disappearances and killings played on red phones on display.

2 UAP teachers terminated amid student protests

Controversy stems from Facebook post; academics slam lack of due process

ARAFAT RAHAMAN

The University of Asia Pacific (UAP), which announced an indefinite closure on Monday, remained shut yesterday amid ongoing student protests over a controversial Facebook post, the subsequent termination of two faculty members, and demands for the vice-chancellor’s removal.

On Sunday, the university administration issued a notice terminating Assistant Professor Layeqa Bashir and Associate Professor ASM Mohsin of the Department of Basic Sciences and Humanities, citing the “prevailing situation resulting from student protests”.

The notice did not cite any allegations, findings or inquiry conclusions.

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UTTARA ABDUCTION

Army man among 3 held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police have arrested three people, including an army personnel, in connection with the abduction of Hasan Sikder Mehedi and assaulting his gunman, Mahbub Alam, who later died at Combined Military Hospital (CMH).

The incident occurred on Friday evening in front of a house on Road-12 of Sector-14 in the capital’s Uttara.

Kazi Rafiqul Islam, officer-in-charge of Uttara West Police Station, yesterday disclosed the development of arresting three people.

Mehedi has not been rescued yet, the

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MANIFESTO EXPECTATIONS

With the national election less than a month away, political parties are finalising their manifestos. The Daily Star spoke to migration experts to identify the pressing issues that should top the agenda for parties.

Make long-term plan for those bringing in billions

MD ABBAS

As political parties prepare to unveil their election manifestos, migration experts have urged them to include clear and strong commitments to reform Bangladesh’s labour migration sector.

They stressed that migration is a major economic driver, contributing billions of dollars to

the country, yet it remains poorly governed and underfunded.

Experts called upon political parties to focus on long-term planning, skill development, good governance, and worker protection in their election pledges.

They outlined several key measures political parties should include in their manifestos.

These include increasing the

budget for migrant worker welfare, creating a long-term national migration vision, reopening old labour markets while exploring new overseas destinations, ensuring proper skill training from school to university, reducing the role of middlemen in recruitment, promoting digital registration for migrants, and improving

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India to recall diplomats’ families from Bangladesh

AGENCIES

India has decided to withdraw all family members and dependents of diplomats and other officials from the High Commission of India and other missions in Bangladesh, PTI reported yesterday, citing official sources.

The move comes ahead of the February 12 elections.

“Given the security

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AR Rahman’s ‘communal’ claim sparks debate

A&E DESK

Oscar-winning composer AR Rahman has found himself in the centre of controversy after a recent BBC interview in which he suggested he may have lost work in Bollywood due to communal bias.

The 59-year-old, often referred to as the “Mozart of Madras”, said, “People who are not creative have the power now to decide things, and this might have

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T9 HUNTER

JAC

READY TO CONQUER

2.0CTI+8AT
DIESEL ENGINE

410Nm
OF TORQUE

170
HORSEPOWER

210mm
GROUND CLEARANCE

LEATHER-COVERED INTERIOR

8-SPEED ZF-AUTO TRANSMISSION

FULLY ELECTRIC SUNROOF

4WD

WARRANTY*
5 YEARS
1,00,000km
*Conditions Apply

46.5 LACs

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AVENUE TEJGAON, DHAKA-1208

RANCON
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