

## A race shaped

FROM PAGE 3  
parties have failed us in 55 years of independence. It's time for change," he said.

The race features BNP Standing Committee member Mirza Abbas, a seasoned politician with deep-rooted influence who has twice been elected MP from this area.

His primary challenger is Nasiruddin Patwary, a leader of the National Citizen Party (NCP) and a leader linked to the July Uprising.

Backed by the II party alliance led by Jamaat-e-Islami, Patwary is campaigning on dismantling what he calls the "old political culture".

Other candidates include Meghna Alam (Gono Odhikar Parishad), Kifayatullah (IAB), Md Golam Sarwar (Janata Dal), AFM Ismail Chowdhury (Bangladesh Jasad), SM Sarwar (Bangladesh Islami Front), Tridip Kumar Saha (CPB), Zuber Alam Khan (Jatiya Party), Russel Kabir (Muktijote), and AHM Rafiquzzaman Akanda (BSD).

The constituency recently became a flashpoint after Patwary alleged he was attacked during campaigning.

He blamed Abbas's supporters, a claim the veteran leader dismissed as a "sympathy stunt".

Focusing on economic disparity, he added, "I don't believe in empty promises of jobs. I want to uproot the cause -- extortion and corruption. If the system is fixed, the youth will create their own employment."

He also criticised the Election Commission, alleging that loan defaulters and criminals

were cleared to contest. "Even EC officials appear helpless and panicked," he said.

Mirza Abbas, meanwhile, alleged that a level playing field is absent.

"My opponents are resorting to personal attacks and derogatory campaigning, which is a clear violation of the code of conduct," he said.

"I am a son of this soil. For 50 years, I have stood by the people here. If they believe I can deliver, I hope they give me their mandate," Abbas added.

His manifesto includes recovering occupied playgrounds and parks, modernising Mugga Hospital, and establishing new schools and graveyards.

He also alleged behind-the-scenes interference. "I believe a section of the government is trying to ensure the victory of a particular group. But I believe the people will deliver the right verdict on February 12," said Mirza Abbas.

Meghna Alam, the only woman in the race for Dhaka-8, called for an end to defamation.

While noting obstacles in some areas, she said she had not faced any attacks.

"I propose a policy-based debate on media, similar to developed nations, where candidates will discuss their manifestos," she told The Daily Star.

"I urge voters to ignore fear and trigger a ballot revolution to change the filthy political culture," she said.

Dhaka-8 has 2,75,471 voters -- 1,52,795 men, 1,22,675 women, and one hijra.

## US does not take sides: envoy

FROM PAGE 3  
Agargaon headquarters. After the meeting, the US diplomat said he had a "very good" discussion with the CEC about the upcoming February 12 polls.

"He [CEC] explained to me a great deal about all the policies, preparations, and procedures that the interim government has been undertaking in preparation for the February 12 elections."

Christensen said he had expressed optimism about the polls during his confirmation hearing before the US Senate. "I am very excited about the upcoming elections. I am very much looking forward to them and to seeing the outcome of those elections."

Referring to an earlier meeting with the chief adviser, the US envoy said he shared the hope that election day would be

peaceful and participatory. "I hope it is a festive election day, that the Bangladeshi people are able to go and express themselves, and that you have a very successful election."

Christensen added that he felt reassured by the information shared by the CEC and said he was looking forward to the results on February 12.

After the meeting, EC Secretary Akhtar said the US delegation inquired about the code of conduct and how complaints are being handled.

"We informed them that we have a complaint management cell. At the constituency level, there are electoral inquiry committees, adjudication committees, and magistrates who coordinate these matters," he said.

Asked whether the delegation raised any

observations about violations of the code of conduct, Akhtar replied, "No, they did not. They mainly wanted to know how we manage such issues."

He added that the EC receives information from electoral inquiry and identification committees, returning officers, and other sources, and takes necessary measures. "We try to resolve these matters promptly."

Regarding the election-time security, Akhtar said the US also sought details of the EC's arrangements. "We informed them that about 9,50,000 security personnel will be deployed at different levels."

"...They were particularly curious about postal ballots -- how they will be managed and counted, where they will be sent, how many types of postal ballots are there, and the timeframe for counting

alongside referendum ballots. We explained these matters to them," he said.

The EC secretary added that samples of postal ballots were shown to the US delegation. "They said it is a complex and difficult process, and they wished us good luck."

Akhtar also confirmed that the US would not send formal election observers. However, observers from their mission offices in Dhaka, Sylhet, Chattogram, and Khulna will monitor the voting.

Asked whether government officials can campaign for or against the referendum, and in reference to a Bangladesh Bank circular reportedly urging votes in favour of "yes", the EC secretary said, "The issue has been brought before the court. As it is sub judice, I believe no government official has the jurisdiction to speak on it."

## Fact-checkers debunk two viral claims

FROM PAGE 3  
the newly appointed president was accorded a reception by citizens of his home district, Pabna, at the Government Edward College ground, where he delivered the speech. At that time, Hasina was the prime minister of Bangladesh.

Dismislab found that in his speech, Shahabuddin did not say anything about bringing Hasina back to the country. The claim circulating online falsely attributes such a statement to him.

Therefore, the video claiming "Sheikh Hasina would return to Bangladesh before February this year" is old and pertains to a different incident. The speech did not mention Hasina returning to the country, added the

Dismislab report.

Meanwhile, eggs were thrown at National Citizen Party (NCP) Chief Coordinator and the II-party alliance's Dhaka-8 candidate Nasiruddin Patwary on January 27 during a programme at Habibullah Bahar College in Dhaka. Following the incident, several posts circulated on social media claiming that a person standing beside Patwary at the time was a leader of the banned student organisation Bangladesh Chhatra League.

Rumor Scanner Bangladesh has verified the claim and found it to be false.

WHAT THE CLAIM SAID  
Social media posts alleged that an individual seen standing next to Nasiruddin Patwary during

the egg-throwing incident was a leader of Chhatra League.

WHAT THE FACT-CHECK FOUND

According to Rumor Scanner, the individual in question is Zakir Mahmud, not a Chhatra League leader.

During the verification process, Rumor Scanner traced multiple social media posts to identify Zakir Mahmud's personal Facebook profile. A review of the profile found no evidence linking him to Chhatra League.

On the contrary, Rumor Scanner found that Zakir Mahmud actively participated in the July uprising. On March 20 last year, he shared a banner on his Facebook profile reading, "Ban Awami League or death (Awami

League nishiddhokoron, othoba mrittu)." In the caption, he wrote, "If blood is needed, take blood; bury Awami League."

Rumor Scanner noted that similar claims identifying Zakir Mahmud as a Chhatra League leader had also circulated on social media in July last year. At that time, the fact-checking organisation contacted Zakir Mahmud directly.

He told Rumor Scanner that he is an honours third-year student of Habibullah Bahar College and is not affiliated with Chhatra League.

He further said that he was injured by police gunfire during the July uprising and shared several photographs showing his injuries as supporting evidence.

## Anis Alamgir shown arrested in graft case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



A Dhaka court yesterday showed journalist Anis Alamgir arrested in a case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) over allegations that he acquired assets beyond his known sources of income.

Judge Md Sabbir Faiz of the Dhaka Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court passed the order following an application submitted by the ACC, defence lawyer Taslima Zahan Popy said.

The case was filed on January 15 by ACC Assistant Director Akhtaruzzaman under Section 27(1) of the Anti-Corruption Commission Act with the commission's Integrated District Office-1 in Dhaka.

According to the ACC inquiry, Anis's total wealth stands at Tk 4.25 crore, while his net assets shown in his latest income tax return amount to Tk 57.99 lakh. The commission alleged that he accumulated nearly Tk 3.68 crore beyond known sources of income and concealed the information in his wealth statement.

Anis is currently in jail in connection with a separate case filed under the Anti-Terrorism Act.

## Five student unions

FROM PAGE 3  
rallies, they will call upon people from all walks of life to take a position in favour of "yes" in the referendum in a peaceful, democratic, and inclusive manner.

The five student unions are the Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducus), Jahangirnagar University Central Students' Union (Jucus), Rajshahi University Central Students' Union (Rucus), Chittagong University Central Students' Union (Cucus), and Jagannath University Central Students' Union (JnUcsu).

Organisers said the rallies aim to clarify the importance of the

referendum to the public, end politics of confusion and fear, and build consolidated awareness in favour of state reforms.

Similar rallies will be organised gradually in all divisional cities.

Alongside elected student representatives, participants are expected to include members of the families of the July martyrs and injured fighters, imams of mosques, priests of temples, presidents of business associations and press clubs, heads of Shilpakala Academy and sports organisations, representatives of the working class, and professionals, including teachers and doctors.

## Govt approves

FROM PAGE 3  
principle and that the price would be known after final approval from the purchase committee.

The move comes amid continued criticism of Rab at home and abroad over allegations of human rights violations.

The interim government's Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances has recommended abolishing Rab and submitted its report to Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus. International rights groups, including Human Rights Watch, have also called for the force to be disbanded.

Against this backdrop, questions have been raised about the procurement as the interim government nears the end of its tenure.

Home Ministry Senior Secretary Nasimul Gani defended the decision and to avoid open tendering, saying, "We are keeping government money within the government."

He said Pragati Industries, Bangladesh's first vehicle-manufacturing company, is state-owned, which is why the ministry opted to procure the vehicles from the company.

According to the home ministry proposal, the vehicles will be procured under the project "Enhancement of Rab Forces' Operational Capability (1st Revised)," implemented by Rab under Bangladesh Police with government funding.

The vehicles are needed in FY2025-26 to address shortages and strengthen Rab's capacity to maintain law and order ahead of the upcoming election, said the proposal.

It noted that the Open Tendering Method would take time and sought approval under Section 68 of the Public Procurement Act (PPA) 2006, citing urgent necessity to proceed through direct procurement.

The document added that the Finance Division has consented to the procurement plan and that the Economic Affairs Committee recommended in principle approval.

The project was initiated in 2018 during the previous Awami League government and approved by Ecnc on November 7 that year. It is scheduled to run from December 1, 2018, to December 31, 2026.

## Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 3  
security cooperation division.

Brig Gen Md Humayun Kabir, director of the Military Training Directorate, was present at the opening and closing ceremonies, according to the ISPR release.

During the discussions, the two sides reviewed areas of military cooperation, professional development, and strategic engagement. They discussed holding multiple joint trainings and exercises, and explored innovative training methods aimed at strengthening military capability.

The delegations also reaffirmed their interest in further strengthening ongoing strategic cooperation between the two armies, the release said. They agreed on taking effective steps to contribute to regional security and on coordinated preparedness to respond to natural and man-made disasters. The talks also placed emphasis on technological support and readiness to address global challenges, ISPR added.

## Take urgent action

FROM PAGE 3  
Family Welfare, highlighted the need for stricter regulation of private hospitals performing C-sections without proper licences.

Md Abu Jafor, director general of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), called for collective measures to address the issue, saying the government cannot do it alone.

Khurshid Talukder, director (Research) at AWCH, said, "Currently, quality antenatal care in our country is only 22 percent. We must improve basic services, with a goal to increase hospital deliveries to 90 percent by 2030."

Prof Ferdousi Begum, head of the Obstetrics and Gynaecology Department at AWCH, said alongside clinical measures, non-clinical interventions and midwives play a crucial role in promoting natural deliveries.

Prof Anjuman Ara, an obstetrician and gynaecologist, said,

"The C-section rate in Bangladesh is alarmingly high, with nearly half of all deliveries being caesareans, particularly in private hospitals."

"To tackle this, we implemented 11 interventions at our hospital to reduce the C-section rate from 65 percent to 42 percent in two years. The interventions include counselling mothers on the benefits of natural delivery, waiting for labour pain to progress naturally, and using the Robson Classification to identify high-risk groups," she added.

Dr Dabir Uddin Ahmed, CEO of AWCH, delivered the welcome address.

PRAYER TIMING	
JANUARY 29	
Fazr	Zohr
5:35	12:45
Asr	Maghrib
4:15	5:46
Esha	7:15
JAMAAT	6:10
1:15	4:30
5:50	7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

জুলাই গণঅভ্যুত্থান স্মৃতি জাদুঘর  
সংস্কৃতি বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়  
শেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা

**নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

আপনি কি জুলাই স্পিরিট হ্রদয়ে ধারণ করেন?  
আপনি কি মনে করেন জুলাই অভ্যুত্থান নতুন বাংলাদেশের সম্ভাবনা তৈরি করেছে?  
আপনি কি ইতিহাস নিয়ে আর্কিহিট কিংবা জাদুঘরের সাথে কাজ করতে আগ্রহী?  
তবে আমরা আপনাকেই খুঁজছি

০৪ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২৬ তারিখের মধ্যে আবেদন করুন

জুলাই গণঅভ্যুত্থান স্মৃতি জাদুঘরের রাজস্বখাতে সৃজিত, ব্যবস্থাপক (গ্রহণকার, মুদ্রণ ও প্রকাশনা) ১টি, উপ-পরিচালক (প্রশাসন ও অর্থ) ১টি, উপ-পরিচালক (প্রশিক্ষণ) ১টি, ডেপুটি কিউরেটর (নিদর্শন সজ্জা, রেজিস্ট্রেশন ও সংরক্ষণ) ১টি, ডেপুটি কিউরেটর (নিদর্শন প্রদর্শন ও প্রদর্শনী) ১টি, উপরতন গবেষণা কর্মকর্তা ১টি, রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ প্রকৌশলী ১টি, ডেপুটি মাল্টিমিডিয়া ব্যবস্থাপক ১টি, হিসাবরক্ষণ কর্মকর্তা ১টি, সহকারী পরিচালক (প্রশাসন) ১টি, সহকারী পরিচালক (প্রশিক্ষণ) ১টি, নিরাপত্তা অফিসার ১টি, সহকারী কিউরেটর (নিদর্শন সজ্জা) ১টি, সহকারী কিউরেটর (রেজিস্ট্রেশন ও সংরক্ষণ) ১টি, সহকারী কিউরেটর (নিদর্শন প্রদর্শন) ১টি, ডিসপ্রে অফিসার ১টি, গ্রাফিক্স ডিজাইনার ১টি, রেজিস্ট্রেশন অফিসার ১টি, গবেষণা কর্মকর্তা ১টি, সহকারী রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ প্রকৌশলী ১টি, ডিজিটালকার ১টি, সহকারী মাল্টিমিডিয়া ব্যবস্থাপক (প্রোগ্রামার) ১টি, সহকারী মাল্টিমিডিয়া ব্যবস্থাপক (সংরক্ষণ) ১টি, অডিওভিজুয়াল প্রোগ্রাম অফিসার ১টি, শিক্সা অফিসার ১টি, জনসংযোগ কর্মকর্তা ১টি, অডিওভিজুয়াল ম্যানেজার ১টি, সাইটব্রিগার ১টি, প্রকাশনা কর্মকর্তা ১টি, প্রশাসনিক কর্মকর্তা (প্রশাসন ও সংস্থাপন) ১টি, সহকারী নিরাপত্তা অফিসার ১টি, সহকারী রেজিস্ট্রেশন অফিসার ১টি, এসিস্ট্যান্ট ডিসপ্রে অফিসার ১টি, রেপ্লিকা ম্যানুফেকচারার ১টি, সহকারী গবেষণা কর্মকর্তা ১টি, ফিল্ম এসিস্ট্যান্ট সাইটব্রিগার ১টি, ফিল্ম এডিটর ১টি, স্টিক ক্যামেরাম্যান ১টি, উপ-সহকারী প্রকৌশলী (পুরকৌশল) ১টি, উপ-সহকারী প্রকৌশলী (বেসুতিক) ১টি, সহকারী জনসংযোগ কর্মকর্তা ১টি, সোশ্যাল মিডিয়া সম্পাদক ১টি, উৎসর্গ প্রদর্শক ১টি, সহকারী হিসাবরক্ষণ কর্মকর্তা ১টি, হিসাবরক্ষক ১টি, নিরাপত্তা পরিদর্শক ২টি, সিসিটিভি পরিদর্শক ২টি, সিসিটিভি ব্যবস্থাপক ১টি, রেজিস্ট্রেশন সহকারী ১টি, সহকারী সজ্জাহক ১টি, গবেষণা সহকারী ১টি, সাউন্ড রেকর্ডিং ১টি, জনসংযোগ সহকারী ১টি, সহকারী সাইটব্রিগার কাম-ক্যাটালগার ১টি, মডেলার ১টি, অফিস সহকারী কাম-কম্পিউটার মুদ্রাক্ষরিক ৮টি, ক্যাশিয়ার ১টি, স্টোর সহকারী ২টি, রেকর্ড কীপার ১টি, বিক্রয় সহকারী ১টি, আইসিটি সহকারী ১টি, অফিস সহায়ক ২টি/সহ মেট ৯৬টি শূন্য পদে জনবল নিয়োগের নিমিত্ত বাংলাদেশের স্থায়ী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আবেদন করা যাচ্ছে। বিশেষায়িত জাদুঘর বিদায় বিশেষ যোগ্যতা সম্পন্ন ব্যক্তিদের ক্ষেত্রে নিয়োগের যে কোন শর্ত শিথিলযোগ্য। আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ: ০৪ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২৬ (বিকাল ০৫.০০টা পর্যন্ত)। আগ্রহী উপযুক্ত প্রার্থীগণকে <https://july36.gov.bd/notice> এ সরাসরি প্রবেশ করে আবেদন করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

জনজিম ওয়াহাব  
মহাপরিচালক (অতিরিক্ত দায়িত্ব)  
জুলাই গণঅভ্যুত্থান স্মৃতি জাদুঘর  
শেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা

জিডি-২১৭

গণভোট ২০২৬  
সংসদ নির্বাচন  
দেশের চারি  
আপনার হাতে

**নিয়োগ শাখা**

নম্বর: ৩০.৩৪.০০০০.০৭৩.৩৫.০০০.২৬.৬১ তারিখ: ২৮/০১/২০২৬ খ্রি.

**প্রাথমিক বাছাই ও লিখিত পরীক্ষার সংশোধিত বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃ বিমান বাংলাদেশ এয়ারলাইন্স লিমিটেড এর ম্যাটেরিয়াল ম্যানেজমেন্ট অ্যাসিস্ট্যান্ট পদের পূর্ব নির্ধারিত প্রাথমিক বাছাই ও লিখিত পরীক্ষা আগামী ৩১-০১-২০২৬ খ্রি. শনিবার সকাল ১০.০০ টার পরিবর্তে দুপুর ০২.৩০ টায় তেজগাঁও কলেজ, ১৬ ইন্দিরা রোড, ফার্মগেট, ঢাকা-১২১৫ কেন্দ্রে অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। উল্লেখ্য, ইতিপূর্বে ইস্যুকৃত প্রবেশপত্রই এক্ষেত্রে বলবৎ থাকবে।

পদের নাম	কেন্দ্রের নাম	পরীক্ষার তারিখ ও সংশোধিত সময়
ম্যাটেরিয়াল ম্যানেজমেন্ট অ্যাসিস্ট্যান্ট	তেজগাঁও কলেজ, ১৬ ইন্দিরা রোড, ফার্মগেট, ঢাকা।	তারিখ: ৩১-০১-২০২৬ খ্রি. সংশোধিত সময়: দুপুর ০২.৩০ টা

বিস্তারিত তথ্যের জন্য বিমান ওয়েবসাইট [www.biman.gov.bd](http://www.biman.gov.bd) এবং [www.biman-airlines.com](http://www.biman-airlines.com) ভিজিট করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের নির্দেশক্রমে-  
মোঃ শফিকুল ইসলাম  
ব্যবস্থাপক প্রশাসন

**বিমান**  
বাংলাদেশ এয়ারলাইন্স  
আকাশে শান্তির বীড়

GD-215

**BANGLADESH HOUSE BUILDING FINANCE CORPORATION**  
Common Service Department  
Head Office, 22 Purana Paltan, Dhaka-1000  
Website: [www.bhbfc.gov.bd](http://www.bhbfc.gov.bd)

Reference : HB/HO/CS/Store/Stationery-1009/6123

**e-Tender Notice**

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

e-Tender ID No.	Package No.	Name of the Work	Last Date and Time for Tender/Proposal Security Submission	Tender/Proposal Closing & Opening Date and Time
1219892	HB/HO/CS/Store/Stationery-1009	Supply of stationery & crockeries goods for Bangladesh House Building Finance Corporation (BHBFC).	08 February 2026 Time: 13:00	08 February 2026 Time: 14:00

This is online tender where only e-tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>), is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any e-GP 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](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

Sd/-  
(C M Roome)  
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Common Service Department  
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GD-212