

SAUDI ARABIA

One-way airfare for workers now Tk 20,000

BSS, Dhaka

The government has taken an initiative to ensure affordable travel facilities for Bangladeshi workers in Saudi Arabia.

Under the initiative, the one-way airfare on the Saudi Arabia-Bangladesh route has been set at only Tk 20,000, making it easier and more economical for migrant workers to visit their families, the Chief Adviser's Press Wing said yesterday morning.

About the initiative, Civil Aviation and Tourism Adviser Sk Bashir Uddin said under this special arrangement, a target has been set to sell 80,000 tickets in Saudi Arabia and Bangladesh.

"Through this initiative, expatriate workers will benefit directly, while the state-owned airline, Biman Bangladesh Airlines, is also expected to gain significant financial benefits," he said.

The adviser said particularly in the operation of Hajj flights, the long-standing practice of operating empty one-way flights will be effectively utilised through this initiative.

"As a result, for the first time in the history of Biman, there is a realistic possibility of earning more than Tk 100 crore in additional revenue," he added.

Bashir said under this special arrangement, the minimum one-way fare on the Madinah Dhaka and Jeddah-Dhaka routes has been fixed at Tk 20,500, while the minimum return fare on the Madinah-Dhaka-Madinah and Jeddah-Dhaka Jeddah routes has been set at Tk 42,000.

This special fare will be applicable for arrivals in Bangladesh from April 18, 2026 to May 25, 2026, and for departures from Bangladesh from May 30, 2026 to June 30, 2026, he said.

Describing the initiative as an important milestone in the implementation of a pro-expatriate Bangladeshi policy, Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus said such practical decisions in the future would further ease the lives of expatriate Bangladeshis and make a positive contribution to the national economy.

Bandarban voters

FROM PAGE 3
Meanwhile, candidates are campaigning in full swing to reach voters across the constituency.

BNP candidate Sachingpru Jery said people in the hill districts have long suffered from neglect, land disputes and disparities in education and healthcare access. "Ensuring the constitutional rights of Indigenous communities is my core objective," he said.

NCP candidate Stujauddin, who is not a local resident and hails from Moheshkhali upazila in Chattogram, said he aims to introduce a new political culture. "The people of Bandarban no longer want politics

based on promises alone. They want transparency, accountability and equal citizenship," he said.

Abu Jafar Mohammad Waliullah, the candidate of Jatiya Party (GM Quader), has prioritised tourism and infrastructural development, while Abul Kalam Azad of Islami Andolon Bangladesh (IAB) has emphasised ethical and corruption-free politics.

Voting in Bandarban presents a range of logistical challenges. Election officials must traverse steep hills, rivers and remote terrain to reach polling centres. Of the constituency's 186 polling centres, 11 have been identified as high-risk.

Election officials said ballot papers, ballot boxes and other election materials will be transported to those centres by helicopter. Additional security measures are also being put in place to maintain law and order, said Shamim Ara Rini, deputy commissioner and returning officer in Bandarban.



PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Sidewalks on several major roads and busy areas of Khulna city have been illegally occupied by permanent and mobile stalls, forcing pedestrians to walk on the roadway and increasing accident risks. Despite periodic eviction drives, the encroachment quickly returns. The photo was taken on Clay Road in Dakbangla yesterday.

Old partisan continuity

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While campaigning, Tasnim Jara has avoided large showdowns or rallies, instead choosing to engage directly with residents.

"My father and grandfather lived here. I grew up in these alleys and know the problems firsthand," she said.

Her priorities include resolving the gas crisis and waterlogging, upgrading Mugda Hospital into a "model service centre," and ensuring women's safety.

"If elected, I will set up a permanent office where residents can report problems, and we will track progress through a public dashboard. No file will be buried," she said.

Habibur Rashid, on the other hand, described himself as a "son of the area".

He said he has long shared the struggles of local residents. "Their pain is my pain," he said, pledging to empower women through technical education, family cards and entrepreneurship.

Calling power a "responsibility to serve," Habib urged voters to judge him by his track record.

Referring to his rivals as "associates," he told The Daily Star that he wanted to set an example of peaceful and harmonious politics, stressing the importance of cooperation even after the election.

He also warned against "conspiracies" and urged voters to cast their ballots on February 12.

Javed Rasin said his "Water Lily Bud" symbol has gained momentum with backing from the 11-party alliance.

He described the alliance with Jamaat-e-Islami as a "strategic partnership" to sustain the spirit of the July uprising and pursue reforms.

However, he alleged subtle intimidation, including torn banners and pressure on voters. "Despite informing the administration, no effective action has been taken," he said.

Other candidates include Shah Iftekhar Ahsan (Islami Andolon Bangladesh), Kazi Abul Khair (Jatiya Party), Md Moniruzzaman (CPB), Nazma Akter (Gono Forum), Masud Hossain (Bangladesh Muslim League), Nahid Hasan Chowdhury Junaid (Insaniyat Biplob Bangladesh), Khandakar Mizanur Rahman (BSD), Shahin Khan (NPP) and Mohammad Shafiullah Chowdhury (BNF).

Manisha

FROM PAGE 3

to recoup their spending afterwards, undermining the integrity of the electoral system.

"Unless the use of black money is stopped, elections will never be clean. Honest and capable people will be discouraged from entering politics, and the political culture will remain the same," she also said.

Calling on voters to speak out against the influence of black money, she urged them to deliver their verdict against such practices at the ballot box.

BSD Central Committee general secretary Comrade Bazlur Rashid Firoz, among others, was present at the event.

PRAYER TIMING
JANUARY 31

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

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

16 countries sending

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Bhutan (2), the Maldives (2), Sri Lanka (1), the Philippines (2), Jordan (2), Iran (1), Georgia (2), Russia (2), Kyrgyzstan (2), Uzbekistan (1), and South Africa (2).

Notable participants include Mohammad Jalal Sikandar Sultan, chief election commissioner of Pakistan; and Deki Pema, chief election commissioner of Bhutan.

Senior Secretary and SDG Coordinator, Lamiya Morshed, said, "We have received confirmation of close to 400 election observers so far, and we expect a few more countries to confirm the visits of their delegates very soon."

The Commonwealth Observer Group will be led by former president of Ghana Nana Akufo-Addo, joined by figures such as Jeffrey Salim Waheed, former deputy minister

of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Maldives; David John Francis, former foreign minister of Sierra Leone; and Ras Adiba Mohd Radzi, former senator of Malaysia.

The EU Election Observation Mission (EOM) will be led by member of the European Parliament from Latvia, Ivars Ijabs, and will include at least seven other MEPs: Lukas Mandl (Austria), Lorant Vincze (Romania), Tomáš Zdechovský (Czechia), Leire Pajin (Spain), Șerban Dimitrie Sturza (Romania), Michael McNamara (Ireland), and Catarina Vieira (Netherlands).

Nearly 2,000 candidates, representing more than 50 political parties and independents, are contesting 300 parliamentary seats in the elections.

35,000 BGB

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officer of Narayanganj Battalion (62 BGB), said BGB members would perform election duties in 17 upazilas covering Narayanganj, Munshiganj, Shariatpur, and parts of Dhaka district.

He said 11 base camps have been established under the jurisdiction of Narayanganj Battalion.

To strengthen security during the election period, BGB has intensified surveillance in border areas and conducted regular election drills and equipment-based training for its personnel under the Dhaka Sector, Arafat said.

He also said drones would be used to monitor election-related activities in the area.

"Considering the risk level of polling centres, BGB will operate both as mobile and static forces. Depending on the upazila, between two and five platoons will be deployed," he said.

A Quick Response Force will remain on standby to deal with any emergency situation, he added.

Separately, 12 platoons of BGB have been deployed in four upazilas

of Brahmanbaria and Cumilla.

According to a press release issued by BGB Battalion-60 Brahmanbaria yesterday, the deployment began on Thursday and covers Nabinagar and Bancharampur upazilas in Brahmanbaria, and Burichang and Brahmanpara upazilas in Cumilla.

Uphold dignity

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arrangements are needed so that they can express themselves. They are part of us," he said.

Speaking at the programme, Zubaida said, "We believe that children are the future of the nation. These children will be the builders of the country in the days ahead. The plans we have and the politics we practise are politics based on healthy planning." Referring to planning initiatives, she mentioned BNP's programmes "One Tape One Teacher" and "Learning with Happiness", saying, "Through the light of knowledge, coming out of darkness... they will progress further in the future."

Mahbub Alam Majumdar given ICTP Spirit of Salam Award

CITY DESK

Prof Mahbub Alam Majumdar, dean of the School of Data and Computational Sciences at BRAC University, has been awarded the Spirit of Salam Award 2026 by the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics, said a press release.

This prestigious international award honours individuals who exemplify the values and legacy of Nobel Laureate Professor Abdus Salam through exceptional contributions to science, education, and capacity-building in the developing world.

The Spirit of Salam Award recognises a lifetime of service to advancing knowledge, mentoring young talent, and strengthening educational ecosystems.

Professor Mahbub Alam Majumdar's selection reflects his unwavering commitment to these ideals and his transformative impact on the education sector of Bangladesh.

Pro-people dev

FROM PAGE 3

deprived of basic civic services, Mizanur emphasised rebuilding community-based governance through reviving neighbourhood culture.

He proposed forming community groups in alleys across the localities, called Goli Samaj, to monitor civic services, solve local problems and ensure accountability of authorities.

He also promised, if elected, to launch an MP hotline and a dedicated website for residents to submit complaints and track responses, making the lawmaker directly accountable to them.

Regarding the area's longstanding issue of waterlogging, he proposed simple, sustainable solutions with regular and affordable drain cleaning instead of raising road elevation.

He also pledged initiating road repairs within three months and publishing a Road Protection Charter with public consent that would require any authority digging roads to complete work within seven days in coordination with local communities and restore roads to their original condition.

The manifesto further outlined plans to identify and resolve local water and gas supply issues, make Wasa and Titas Gas accountable, and introduce fair priced LPG supply directly from providers.

He also promised

OMS and TCB food distribution points in every neighbourhood, ensuring corruption-free and hassle-free access to cards and essential goods.

For waste management, Mizanur proposed proper segregation and disposal.

He also pledged to open school and college playgrounds and most public spaces for sports and recreation in the evenings and on holidays, excluding sensitive government installations, plant trees along rail tracks, and create small urban forests using Miyawaki method wherever space is available, with landowners' consent.

Other commitments include stopping garbage incineration, controlling pollution from factories, reducing dust from construction sites, preventing noise pollution, and strengthening dengue control, ensuring women's safety, free monthly medical camps in every ward, community oversight of clinics and hospitals, repairs to unsafe school buildings, establishment of public libraries, regular cultural programmes, and regulating street vendors and small shops instead of evicting them, among others.

Mizanur further pledged to fight in the parliament against projects that may harm the country, people and environment, oppose secret agreements, and work to ensure full transparency in the national budget.

Bangladesh elected

FROM PAGE 3

Economic and Social Council and the leading troops and financial contributing countries to the United Nations system.

Bangladesh has been a member of the commission since its inception in 2005 and had earlier served the commission as chair in 2012 and 2022 as vice-chair in 2013 and 2023.

Bangladesh assumed charge yesterday as vice-chair during the first PBC meeting of its 20th session after a brief ceremony.

On this occasion,

the President of the UN General Assembly and Chief de Cabinet, on behalf of the secretary-general were present and delivered statements emphasising the rule of the PBC. In a statement, Bangladesh delegation thanked members of the commission for reposing their trust and confidence in Bangladesh for this important responsibility and reiterated its commitment to the UN's peacebuilding efforts and activities as well as its future plan of action.

Research Assistant Positions (4)
Department of CSE, BRAC University is recruiting Research Assistants for ICSETEP (UGC)-funded projects: 1) AI-Powered Contradiction and Conflict Detection in Evolving Documents 2) AI, IoT, and Data Science for Future Farming Systems. For Details and to Apply: <https://tinyurl.com/icsetep-swk> (Deadline: February 5, 2026)

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO. 2299 OF 2025
IN THE MATTER OF:
An application under Section 81(2) read with Section 85(3) of the Companies Act, 1994.
-AND-
IN THE MATTER OF:
Zeeba Ahmed Khan alias Zeeba Amina Khan
...Petitioner
-VERSUS-
Capita Building Products Ltd. and others
...Respondents
Notice is hereby given to all concerned that the Petitioner above-named has filed and moved an application under section 81(2) read with section 85(3) Companies Act, 1994 for condonation of delay in holding the Annual General Meeting of the abovementioned Respondent No. 01 Company before the High Court Division of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of Bangladesh. Upon preliminary hearing, His Lordship, Mr. Justice Ahmed Soheli by an order dated 30.12.2025 was pleased to admit the said application.
Any person or persons having interest in the said application may appear either personally or through duly authorized Advocate on the date so fixed.
Copy of the said application may be obtained from the office of the undersigned on payment of the required costs.
Nirban Ahmed
Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh
House No.18/A (Ground Floor), Road No. 44, Gulshan 2, Dhaka 1212.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO. 2298 OF 2025
IN THE MATTER OF:
An application under Section 81(2) read with Section 85(3) of the Companies Act, 1994.
-AND-
IN THE MATTER OF:
Zeeba Ahmed Khan alias Zeeba Amina Khan
...Petitioner
-VERSUS-
Ardent Capita Ltd. and others
...Respondents
Notice is hereby given to all concerned that the Petitioner above-named has filed and moved an application under section 81(2) read with section 85(3) Companies Act, 1994 for condonation of delay in holding the Annual General Meeting of the abovementioned Respondent No. 01 Company before the High Court Division of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of Bangladesh. Upon preliminary hearing, His Lordship, Mr. Justice Ahmed Soheli by an order dated 30.12.2025 was pleased to admit the said application.
Any person or persons having interest in the said application may appear either personally or through duly authorized Advocate on the date so fixed.
Copy of the said application may be obtained from the office of the undersigned on payment of the required costs.
Nirban Ahmed
Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh
House No.18/A (Ground Floor), Road No. 44, Gulshan 2, Dhaka 1212.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO. 2301 OF 2025
IN THE MATTER OF:
An application under Section 81(2) read with Section 85(3) of the Companies Act, 1994.
-AND-
IN THE MATTER OF:
Zeeba Ahmed Khan alias Zeeba Amina Khan
...Petitioner
-VERSUS-
Newton One Capita Ltd. and others
...Respondents
Notice is hereby given to all concerned that the Petitioner above-named has filed and moved an application under section 81(2) read with section 85(3) Companies Act, 1994 for condonation of delay in holding the Annual General Meeting of the abovementioned Respondent No. 01 Company before the High Court Division of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of Bangladesh. Upon preliminary hearing, His Lordship, Mr. Justice Ahmed Soheli by an order dated 30.12.2025 was pleased to admit the said application.
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Nirban Ahmed
Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh
House No.18/A (Ground Floor), Road No. 44, Gulshan 2, Dhaka 1212.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO. 2300 OF 2025
IN THE MATTER OF:
An application under Section 81(2) read with Section 85(3) of the Companies Act, 1994.
-AND-
IN THE MATTER OF:
Zeeba Ahmed Khan alias Zeeba Amina Khan
...Petitioner
-VERSUS-
Capita Innovative Advertising Ltd. and others
...Respondents
Notice is hereby given to all concerned that the Petitioner above-named has filed and moved an application under section 81(2) read with section 85(3) Companies Act, 1994 for condonation of delay in holding the Annual General Meeting of the abovementioned Respondent No. 01 Company before the High Court Division of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of Bangladesh. Upon preliminary hearing, His Lordship, Mr. Justice Ahmed Soheli by an order dated 30.12.2025 was pleased to admit the said application.
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Nirban Ahmed
Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh
House No.18/A (Ground Floor), Road No. 44, Gulshan 2, Dhaka 1212.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS, HEAT-ATF W3(a) PIN: 13186
UNIVERSITY OF RAJSHAHI, RAJSHAHI-6205

Ref No: RU-MATH-ATF-PIN-13186/31-2025 Date: 29/01/2026

e-Tender Notice (Open Tender Method)

E-Tenders are invited in the national e-GP portal for following procurement. Interested tenderers are requested to visit <https://www.eprocure.gov.bd> website for details.

Sl No.	Tender ID	Ref. No & Package No.	Name of works	Last Selling Date and Time	Tender Closing Date and Time
01	1220782	RU-MATH-ATF-PIN-13186/31-2025	Renovation Work for Research Lab, SPM Office at Room No:426(B) Department of Mathematics, University of Rajshahi	16/02/2026	17/02/2026

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will accept in the National e-GP portal and on offline/hard copies will be accepted. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to one hour before tender last selling time. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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GD-234