Chinese bhabi

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It is a simple appeal, delivered without flourish. Yet it draws more attention than rows of black-and-white posters and banners. Her effort to speak the language, however broken, becomes the message.

Among party leaders and activists, Wang Lina is known as the "Chinese bhabi". To most voters, she is simply "Zakir's wife".

Yesterday afternoon, she campaigned in the Kanchanpur–Ratulpara area of Kushtia Sadar upazila. As she walked from house to house, adults paused their work, while children and teenagers followed closely behind. With schools closed for the weekly holiday, groups of children ran ahead to announce her arrival, eager to catch a glimpse of the foreign bride.

Asked how it feels to campaign in rural Bangladesh, Wang Lina smiled. "Village people are very friendly," she told The Daily Star. "They ask my name. They ask what I have eaten and when I arrived."

She was accompanied by Rokhsana Parvin Jonaki, wife of Zakir's cousin, who watched the interactions with a mix of amusement and admiration.

"I am Bangladeshi. This is my union," Jonaki said. "Yet I cannot engage with people the way she does."

"She mingles more than I do. Everyone loves her very much. People try hard to make her sit in their homes and offer her food. And the children just won't leave her alone."

At one point, an elderly woman in her eighties stepped out of her house after hearing the commotion.

"From inside I heard that Zakir's wife had come," she said. "So I came to see her."

In Kushtia-3, Zakir's main opponent is Jamaat-e-Islami-nominated candidate Amir Hamza.

Asked about his wife's role in the campaign, Zakir said her presence has made it easier to reach women voters. "As she is a foreigner, she wants to immerse herself in our country's culture and people," he said. "Together, our campaigning is taking on a new dimension."

Wang Lina has been living in Bangladesh since 2011-12 and is currently overseeing several of her husband's business ventures.

Comparison cannot justify

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judiciary is not independent of the executive and legislature, the institution's standing weakens.

He said during the previous administration, the judiciary failed to play an effective role in preventing serious violations, including enforced disappearances.

Describing enforced disappearance as "more than death", he said while families can mourn a death through religious rites, disappearances leave families in "complete darkness", often leading to social stigma and financial distress.

On the National Human Rights Commission Ordinance 2025, Moyeenul called it a major step forward compared to the 2009 Act, noting that it aligns with most of the 1993 Paris Principles.

He questioned why the previous commission failed to hold state agencies accountable, attributing the failure to a flawed law that lacked enforcement capacity. He said commission members must have the courage to challenge those in power.

A keynote paper presented at the symposium described enforced disappearances over the last 15 years as a "planned and systematic tool" to suppress dissent. The paper, read by retired justice Md Farid Ahmed Shibli on behalf of Moyeenul, said the commission's final report contains "horrifying" information on a "web of disappearances" involving multiple levels of government.

Referring to atrocities committed under the previous regime, BILIA Director M Maroof Zaman said in a statement, "We seek justice, not revenge, and the full restoration of the rule of law."

Rights activist Nur Khan Liton, a former member of the commission, said wrongdoing must be called wrongdoing regardless of the timeframe. He warned that "smaller" abuses today cannot be made acceptable because "bigger" abuses occurred in the past.

Nur Khan said he often hears remarks such as, "You're talking so much now, where were you then?" In response, he said, "I was there then, and I am here now. I will keep speaking."

He said attempts to legitimise today's wrongs by comparing them with the past are a warning sign for the future.

"The situation we have fallen into is an ominous sign. There are cases of custodial deaths and custodial torture. Mobs are being formed to harass people, extort money and grab property. These things are still happening. There is no way to deny them outright," he said.

Nur Khan expressed concern over murder cases filed after August 5, 2024, noting that some include the names of politically influential individuals, businesspeople, journalists and bureaucrats before investigations are completed. He said that while some have secured bail, many remain in jail.

He also raised concerns about women's safety during recent election campaigning, alleging incidents in which women's hijabs or burqas were pulled off alongside verbal and physical harassment.

Odhikar Director Taskin Fahmina said while enforced disappearances have not been reported under the interim government, allegations of custodial torture continue. Citing Odhikar data, she said 14 custodial deaths have been recorded during this period.

She said after the fall of the Sheikh Hasina administration, the effectiveness of the police force collapsed, leading to failures in controlling disorder and a tendency for people to take the law into their own hands.

Fahmina also reported attacks, vandalism and arson targeting media outlets.

She cited an incident on December 18 in which an "interest-seeking group" attacked the offices of The Daily Star and Prothom Alo following reports on the death of Inqilab Moncho spokesperson Sharif Osman Hadi. She said 28 of The Daily Star's journalists and staff were trapped on the rooftop during the attack.

Among others, commission members Justice Farid Ahmed Shibli and Sazzad Hossain, BILIA honorary treasurer Nazrul Islam, and honorary secretary Ekramul Haque spoke at the event.

Two victims of enforced disappearance, Hasinur Rahman and Iqbal Chowdhury, also shared their accounts.

From boats

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Sadar upazila, said more than 100 people live on 28 boats in their fleet, but less than half of them are registered as voters.

Mohammad Ali Jibon, chief coordinator of Chandradwip Development Society, an organisation working with the Manta community, said they operate in five unions of Sadar upazila -- Shayestabad, Char Kaua, Charmonai, Tungibaria and another adjoining area.

"There are more than 1,200 people from 300 Manta families in these five unions, but only around 350 members are registered voters," he said.

Apart from Barishal Sadar, more than 400 Manta families live in Mehendiganj upazila, Mirganj in Babuganj upazila, Dopdopia ferry ghat and several other locations in the district, he said.

"Altogether, more than 3,000 Manta people live in Barishal district, but less than half of them are registered voters," Jibon added.

According to the Barishal Social Services Office, 50 Manta individuals are being brought under government allowance programmes for the first time this year.

Akhtaruzzaman Talukder, deputy director of the office, said, "Although some of them are voting for the first time, we have not been able to determine their exact population and number of voters."

According to the Barishal District Election Office, there are 22,55,601 voters in six constituencies of the district -- 11,36,476 men, 11,19,105 women and 20 hijras. The Manta community has not been listed as a separate category.

A couple organises their pottery items under a shed at Banglar Para of Jagiripur village in Puthia upazila, Rajshahi yesterday. They are among 45 families still upholding the traditional craft of making earthen pots, banks, plates and utensils, despite declining demand due to modernisation. PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

A walk thru Dhaka-9 with Tasnim Jara

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year-old sister passed down a rose from their balcony. Jara bent down to accept the gifts, asking the children about their schools.

A class six student stepped forward confidently. "I know you will win," he said. Jara smiled and gently patted him.

Not all conversations were light. One woman complained about repeated problems at Mugda Hospital -- the constituency's only government hospital -- where X-ray and ultrasound machines often fail.

"You are a doctor. We hope you will do something for people who have no option but government hospitals," she said.

Jara assured her that hospital mismanagement is a top priority and urged her to vote and convince five others.

Another woman promised her vote but added a condition. "I want my vote to mean something. Please work for women's safety so my daughter can go out and return home safely," she said.

Jara responded immediately, citing plans for improved street lighting and safer roads to ensure women's security after dark.

One resident mentioned that her husband and sister-in-law live abroad and had already voted for Jara. The candidate recorded a short thank-you video on the woman's phone, asking her to share it with them.

Volunteer Anila Tabassum Hridi said women voters are especially enthusiastic. "They feel heard because she is genuine in listening to their concerns," she said.

A man praised Jara's campaign style. "No processions, no posters -- just Facebook videos and personal engagement. This is innovative. Traditional methods waste time and energy," he said.

While talking to the media during campaigning, Jara explained her approach. "People appreciate that we reach them directly. Processions often show power, not service. We are proving politics can be done differently -- without posters or loudspeakers -- and people are responding."

She said nearly 15,000 volunteers are active online, with friends and family from across the country and abroad encouraging voters to support her campaign.

If elected, Jara said she would focus on six priority areas, including government services, gas supply, roads, and waterlogging management. "Dhaka-9 is important but long neglected," she said.

On healthcare, she noted that Mugda Hospital is overcrowded and lacks critical emergency services. "Millions depend on this hospital, yet basic systems are missing. We have clear plans to address this."

On education, she said her goal is to equip children with modern skills, mental health awareness, and AI literacy so they can compete globally.

"We also aim to establish daycare centres in every ward and provide e-commerce training and market access so women can work from home or in shops with proper support."

Regarding safety concerns, Jara said, "Residents want assurance that their daughters can go out and return safely. These basic needs have been ignored for too long."

"We plan to address these needs and ensure residents can reach us directly via local offices and a digital dashboard."

This year's Dhaka-9 race is competitive. BNP's Habibur Rashid Habib and NCP's Javed Rasin are also contesting.

The seat was previously held by Awami League leader Saber Hossain Chowdhury, who represented Dhaka-9 for four consecutive terms.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Upazila Health & Family Planning Officer
Rajasthali, Rangamati Hill District.
E-mail:rajasthali@uhfpo.dghs.gov.bd

Memo no: UHC/Rajasthali/Ranga/MSR-Ten/2025-26/52 Date:26.01.2026

"e-Tender Notice"

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP system portal (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the Procurement & Supply of following Goods:

Tender ID	Name of Goods	Tender Method	Publication Date & Time	Last Selling Date & Time	Closing & Opening Date & Time
1176618	Procurement of Non-EDCL Medicine (Goods) at UHC Rajasthali, Rangamati for the FY-2025-26.	OTM	01-Feb-2026 10.30 AM	19-Feb-2026 14:00 PM	19-Feb-2026 14:30 PM
1176605	Procurement of Surgical Equipments (Goods) at UHC Rajasthali, Rangamati for the FY-2025-26.	OTM	01-Feb-2026 10.30 AM	19-Feb-2026 14:00 PM	19-Feb-2026 14:30 PM
1176620	Procurement of Linen Product (Goods) UHC, Rajasthali, Rangamati for the FY-2025-26.	OTM	01-Feb-2026 10.30 AM	19-Feb-2026 14:00 PM	19-Feb-2026 14:30 PM
1176619	Procurement of Gauze, Bandage & Cotton (Goods) at UHC Rajasthali, Rangamati for the FY-2025-26.	OTM	01-Feb-2026 10.30 AM	19-Feb-2026 14:00 PM	19-Feb-2026 14:30 PM
1176621	Procurement of Chemical & Re-agent (Goods) at UHC Rajasthali, Rangamati for the FY-2025-26.	OTM	01-Feb-2026 10.30 AM	19-Feb-2026 14:00 PM	19-Feb-2026 14:30 PM
1176622	Procurement of Furniture & kitchen Items (Goods) at UHC Rajasthali, Rangamati for the FY-2025-26.	OTM	01-Feb-2026 10.30 AM	19-Feb-2026 14:00 PM	19-Feb-2026 14:30 PM
1178028	Procurement of Patient Diet Supply (Goods) at UHC Rajasthali, Rangamati for the FY-2025-26.	OTM (Framework agreement)	01-Feb-2026 10.30 AM	19-Feb-2026 14:00 PM	19-Feb-2026 14:30 PM
1178034	Procurement of Linen Washing & Dry (Goods) at UHC Rajasthali, Rangamati for the FY-2025-26.	OTM (Framework agreement)	01-Feb-2026 10.30 AM	19-Feb-2026 14:00 PM	19-Feb-2026 14:30 PM
1178038	Procurement of Office Stationary (Goods) at UHC Rajasthali, Rangamati for the FY-2025-26.	OTM (Framework agreement)	01-Feb-2026 10.30 AM	19-Feb-2026 14:00 PM	19-Feb-2026 14:30 PM

This is an online Tender where only e-Tender will be acceptable in the National e-GP system portal. 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 system portal and form e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender(s) without assigning any reason what so ever.

26.1.26
(Dr. Md. Naoshad Khan)
UH&FPO
Upazila Health Complex Rajasthali
Rangamati Hill District.

GD-226

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Director
DNCC Dedicated Covid-19 Hospital
Mohakhali, Dhaka

e-GP Tender Notice

Memo No-DNCC DCH/2025-2026/Tender/001 Date: 31/01/2026

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no Offline/Hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP system portal (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd), for more details, please contact support desk contact numbers, e-Tender are invited in e-GP system portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) by Acting Director, DNCC Dedicated Covid-19 Hospital, Mohakhali, Dhaka for the Procurement of:

Tender Id	Name of Goods	Tender/Proposal Publication Date & Time	Tender/Proposal Last Selling Date & Time	Tender/Proposal Closing/Opening Date & Time
1218839	MSR Medicine Non EDCL (Tablet, Capsul Items)-1 for 2025-26 FY	01 Feb 2026 10:00	15 Feb 2026 16:00	16 Feb 2026 12:00
1218948	MSR Medicine Non EDCL (Injection Items)-2 for 2025-26 FY	01 Feb 2026 10:00	15 Feb 2026 16:00	16 Feb 2026 12:00
1218954	MSR Medicine Non EDCL (Syp. Items)-3 for 2025-26 FY	01 Feb 2026 10:00	15 Feb 2026 16:00	16 Feb 2026 12:00
1218956	MSR Medicine Non EDCL (Eye Drop+Suppository+Cream+Gel+Saline Items)-4 for 2025-26 FY	01 Feb 2026 10:00	15 Feb 2026 16:00	16 Feb 2026 12:00
1218957	MSR (Light Instrument)-1 for 2025-26 FY	01 Feb 2026 10:00	15 Feb 2026 16:00	16 Feb 2026 12:00
1218958	MSR (Light Instrument)-2 for 2025-26 FY	01 Feb 2026 10:00	15 Feb 2026 16:00	16 Feb 2026 12:00
1218959	MSR (Light Instrument)-3 for 2025-26 FY	01 Feb 2026 10:00	15 Feb 2026 16:00	16 Feb 2026 12:00
1218964	MSR (Chemical Reagent X-Ray Film With ECG Paper)-1 for 2025-26 FY	01 Feb 2026 10:00	15 Feb 2026 16:00	16 Feb 2026 12:00
1218968	MSR (Chemical Reagent X-Ray Film With ECG Paper)-2 for 2025-26 FY	01 Feb 2026 10:00	15 Feb 2026 16:00	16 Feb 2026 12:00
1218970	MSR (Chemical Reagent X-Ray Film With ECG Paper)-3 for 2025-26 FY	01 Feb 2026 10:00	15 Feb 2026 16:00	16 Feb 2026 12:00
1218971	MSR (Chemical Reagent X-Ray Film With ECG Paper)-4 for 2025-26 FY	01 Feb 2026 10:00	15 Feb 2026 16:00	16 Feb 2026 12:00
1318973	MSR (Chemical Reagent X-Ray Film With ECG Paper)-5 for 2025-26 FY	01 Feb 2026 10:00	15 Feb 2026 16:00	16 Feb 2026 12:00
1218974	MSR (Chemical Reagent X-Ray Film With ECG Paper)-6 for 2025-26 FY	01 Feb 2026 10:00	15 Feb 2026 16:00	16 Feb 2026 12:00
1218961	MSR (Gauge, Bandage Cotton) for 2025-26 FY	01 Feb 2026 10:00	15 Feb 2026 16:00	16 Feb 2026 12:00
1218962	MSR (Linen) for 2025-26 FY	01 Feb 2026 10:00	15 Feb 2026 16:00	16 Feb 2026 12:00
1171658	Procurement of Cleaning Materials for 2025-26 FY	01 Feb 2026 10:00	15 Feb 2026 16:00	16 Feb 2026 12:00
1171873	Stationary for 2025-26 FY	01 Feb 2026 10:00	15 Feb 2026 16:00	16 Feb 2026 12:00
1171874	Computer & Accessory for 2025-26 FY	01 Feb 2026 10:00	15 Feb 2026 16:00	16 Feb 2026 12:00
1171660	Procurement of Diet for 2025-26 FY	01 Feb 2026 10:00	15 Feb 2026 16:00	16 Feb 2026 12:00

e-Tender details can be downloaded on e-GP System portal (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for pursuer, e-Tender will be accepted only as stated in above list; accepted tenders will be opened online on the dates stated above.

Colonel Latifa Rahman
Acting Director
DNCC Dedicated Covid-19 Hospital
Mohakhali, Dhaka
Phone: 0241082277

GD-288