

A day on the campaign trail

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"I know you. Your symbol is Shapla Koli [water lily bud] – my daughter told me about you," said Shahnaz Begum, a 40-year-old homemaker.

Tasnid smiled, embraced her and thanked her.

Moments later, a seven-year-old boy began chanting slogans for the water lily bud symbol.

Tasnid moved on, distributing leaflets to villagers of all ages.

Jhilkutia is a traditional village of around 50 families, home to about 250 people, of whom 230 are registered voters. Located in politically important Chauhat union, the village is considered a key area in Dhamrai.

One of 76 female candidates contesting this year's election, Tasnid is running on the NCP ticket, part of the Jamaat-e-Islami-led 10-party alliance.

She is campaigning door to door across villages in the constituency.

Before starting her campaign in Jhilkutia, Tasnid said she wants to help build a new Bangladesh, with a focus on education, health, agriculture and technology, especially for women and youth.

She said winning votes in the village may be challenging, as most residents are from religious minority communities and remain cautious due to past experiences and recent events.

Her campaign, she added, is focused on women and young voters, which is why she is visiting every household and college.

A few steps from Shahnaz's home, Tasnid entered another courtyard where several teenagers were making boroi bhorta (mashed jujube).

She sat with them, shared the food and spoke about reform, urging them to vote for the Shapla Koli symbol and support "yes" in the referendum.

Questions soon followed. Villagers asked whether real reforms were even possible and expressed frustration that candidates often disappear after elections.

Tasnid assured them she

has a clear reform agenda and stressed the importance of voting for change.

Despite not growing up in Jhilkutia, Tasnid is familiar to many as a member of a well-known local family – known to some as Ayub Chairaman's grandniece and to others as Bulbul's niece.

As the campaign continued, she chatted with children, hugged elders and shared meals.

Residents raised long-standing demands for tube wells, housing and business support.

A betel leaf trader grew emotional while recalling broken promises by past candidates. Tasnid listened quietly, acknowledging their struggles.

Narendra, a local resident, told The Daily Star, "Before elections, everyone makes promises. This time, I will vote based on action."

First-time voter Ripon Mia, a mason and farmer, said he hopes for a new Bangladesh after the July uprising. "We need leaders who work, not just promise. Youth matters, but experience also matters," he said.

After concluding the Jhilkutia campaign around 2:00pm, Tasnid headed to Kalampur Bazar, one of Dhamrai's busiest cattle markets. There, she distributed leaflets from shop to shop.

At the weekly market beside Bhalum Ataur Rahman Khan High School and College, fuchsia vendor Arifur said, "I want the old political scenario to change."

Later Tasnid joined a road meeting in the area, where Jamaat's Dhaka district Nayeb-e-Ameer Md Abdur Rauf and other local Jamaat and NCP leaders were present.

After the event, Nabila Tasnid, an engineer by profession, told The Daily Star, "Moving from engineering to politics is not easy, but I want to do something for my country."

She also alleged a lack of coordination within the alliance, saying separate campaigns by some partners were confusing voters.

"Regardless of whom

people vote for, I urge them to support reform and vote 'yes' in the referendum," she said.

At the same time, slogans from supporters of BNP's "Sheaf of Paddy" symbol echoed from a nearby street, while "Shapla Koli" leaflets were being distributed nearby, briefly turning Dhamrai's streets into a contest of competing campaigns.

Six candidates are contesting the Dhaka-20 seat, including BNP's Md Tamij Uddin, considered the most influential candidate in Dhamrai upazila.

Others include Khelafat Majlis's Md Ashraf Ali, Jatiya Party's Ahsan Khan, Amar Bangladesh Party's Helal Uddin Ahmed and Bangladesh Jasad's Md Arzu Mia.

Dhaka-20 comprises 16 unions and one municipality, with 3,76,639 registered voters—1,88,802 women, 1,87,835 men and two hijra voters.

Travel ban

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allocation of shops at Banani kitchen market, construction and allocation of shops in the parking area of Khilgaon Taltola Super Market, the city corporation's van service and allocation of shops on footpaths, among other matters involving the corporation's interests.

The ACC said Azaz was served a notice to appear for a hearing and record his statement, but he did not comply.

"Reliable sources indicate that Azaz may leave the country and abscond abroad. In the interest of a proper inquiry into the allegations, it is necessary to prevent his foreign travel," added the ACC petition.

The ACC launched a preliminary probe into the allegations on November 27 last year.

Azaz was appointed DNCC administrator for a one-year term by the interim government on February 12 last year when Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuyain was in charge of local government.

Azmi recoups ordeal during

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crimes by a tribunal during the AL regime.

During Azmi's testimony, three of the 13 accused in the case – Maj Gen Sheikh Md Sarwar Hossain and Brigadier Generals Md Mahub Rahman Siddique and Ahmed Tanvir Majahar Siddique – were present in the dock. Other accused, including deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina, are absconding.

Azmi said some 50-60 plainclothes men forcibly entered his Boro Moghbazar residence around 9:30pm on August 22, 2016, and demanded that he be handcuffed. He said they refused to identify themselves or produce an arrest warrant.

Fearing assault, he complied and was handcuffed, blindfolded and taken away with his head covered. One of them, whom he claimed to have recognised due to loosened blindfold,

was then DGFI personnel Lt Col Makhurul, who verbally abused him.

Despite being blindfolded, Azmi said gaps in the covering allowed him to discern the route and he became certain that he was taken to a secret detention centre near Station Officers' Mess-B of the DGFI complex inside Dhaka Cantonment, where he was confined to Cell No-11, marked "VIP".

He told the tribunal that he was commissioned into the Bangladesh Army in 1981 and lived at Station Officers' Mess-B in 1982-83.

"During my stay at the mess in 1982-83, I occasionally heard cries of agony coming from the JIC," he said.

In his deposition, Azmi described his prolonged, harrowing ordeal.

"The quality of food was extremely poor. For six years and four months, I was never able to eat three

meals a day," he said.

He said medical care was grossly inadequate and that he suffered from persistent eye, ear and dental problems, as well as skin disease and gastric ailments. He also claimed to have lost consciousness four times, developed an acute kidney infection, contracted Covid-19, broken two teeth and struggled to read due to deteriorating eyesight.

Azmi further informed that earlier on June 24, 2009, the then AL government dismissed him from service without charge, investigation or trial, stripped him of all pension benefits, barred him from entering cantonment areas, and kept him under intelligence surveillance and harassment for more than seven years before abducting him.

The tribunal fixed today for recording the remainder of Azmi's deposition.

Include women

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transition must move from dialogue to concrete political commitments.

He stressed that election manifestos should address renewable energy in light of Bangladesh's climate vulnerability.

Fahima Nasrin Munni, assistant secretary for international affairs of the BNP, said women's participation remains limited across sectors and is particularly low in energy.

Decision-making, she said, continues to be dominated by men, while the changing climate context makes women's inclusion increasingly urgent.

She added that her party will examine the crisis faced by women in the energy sector if it comes to power.

Navid Nowroz Shah, joint chief coordinator of the National Citizen Party (NCP), spoke about women's security and rights, saying the party would work to strengthen women's empowerment in the coming days.

Bonni Bepari, vice-

president of the Jatiya Sangskritik Party and Jatiya Party-nominated candidate from the Dhaka-10 constituency, cited biogas as a practical renewable energy option.

She vowed to raise gender-responsive energy issues within party discussions.

Moderating the session, MJF Executive Director Shaheen Anam expressed disappointment over the minimal number of female nominations in the upcoming election.

"Women's participation in the energy sector remains very low. Regardless of which government forms, their role in renewable energy must remain a national priority," she said.

Banasree Mitra Neogi, director of Rights and Governance Programmes at MJF; M Zakir Hossain Khan, executive director of Change Initiative; Tanzina Dilshad of the European Union Delegation to Bangladesh; and Hasan Mehedi, chief executive officer of CLEAN, also spoke, among others.

Civic reforms, bridging urban

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A resident of the Turag area told The Daily Star that waste management is their top concern. "The entire area is dirty and uncleaned, but there is no initiative for proper waste management," she said.

Theft, mugging, and overall security were also cited as major issues.

A teacher, requesting anonymity, expressed scepticism. "With the election approaching, many are giving assurances. But I don't know if we will see them once the polls are over. We want representatives who will actually listen to us and solve our problems."

Saiful Islam Himel, a resident of Uttara Sector-13, said elected representatives must prioritise local needs.

"Extortion is a regular occurrence here. Teen gangs, theft, and mugging are rampant. Administrative action must be increased," he said, adding that the government must ensure communal harmony, control commodity prices, and make civic services more accessible.

Harun-or-Rashid, 45, a "July Warrior" from the Uttarkhan Mazar area, described life in the constituency as increasingly difficult.

Traffic jams, roadside encroachments, extortion, uncontrolled auto-rickshaws, poor drainage, low gas pressure, and contaminated Wasa water, he said, have made daily life unbearable for many residents.

Voters believe the main contest will be between BNP candidate SM Jahangir Hossain and Ariful Islam Adeeb of the National Citizen Party (NCP), a candidate of the Jamaat-led 10-party alliance.

Other prominent contenders include Mahmudur Rahman Manna of Nagorik Oikya and Md Anwar Hossain of Islami Andolan Bangladesh.

Independent candidates

Md Mohiuddin Hawlader and Md Ismail Hossain, along with Zakir Hossain of Jatiya Party, Syed Harun-or-Rashid of BSD, Sabina Javed of NPP, and Md Jashim Uddin of Bangladesh Islami Front, are also in the race.

NCP candidate Ariful Islam Adeeb says he is focusing on grassroots mobilisation.

"Instead of large show-downs, I am holding small ward-level meetings daily to reach people of all classes and ages," he told The Daily Star.

He has pledged to transform Uttara into a "planned, safe, and just city", proposing a government hospital to address disparities in civic services, specialised task forces for business security, and dedicated buses for women.

Adeeb also alleged he was attacked during the campaign. Claiming that the electoral environment is becoming uneven, he said the administration and large businesses are favouring a particular party.

BNP candidate SM Jahangir Hossain said no meaningful development has taken place in Turag, Uttarkhan, and Dakshinkhan over the past 17 years.

"If elected, I will solve waterlogging, traffic congestion, and utility crises," he said, promising modern education for youth, employment opportunities for women, and "Family Cards" for underprivileged households.

He also committed to making Dhaka-18 free from thuggery, extortion, and drugs.

Addressing the alleged attack on the NCP leader, he termed it a "misunderstanding" and said organisational action had already been taken against the BNP activists involved.

"If I win, I will work with Mahmudur Rahman Manna, Ariful Islam Adeeb, and others to build a humanitarian and new

Bangladesh," he added.

Mahmudur Rahman Manna said voters have responded positively to his campaign.

"People in this constituency – known as the gateway to the 2024 uprising – now want qualitative change," he said, describing the area as "neither a city nor a village".

He pledged a radical transformation, identifying extortion as a key challenge, and called on the youth and women to engage in politics to build a discrimination-free Bangladesh.

With 6,13,883 voters – 3,79,906 men, 3,67,151 women, and six hijra voters – Dhaka-18 remains one of the country's largest and most closely watched constituencies.

PRAYER TIMING		FEBRUARY 2	
Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5:30	12:45	4:15	5:52 7:15
JAMAAAT 6:05	1:15	4:30	5:56 7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড

Bangladesh Power Development Board

Directorate of Purchase
Biddut Bhaban (12th Floor)
1, Abdul Goni Road, Dhaka-1000

e-Tender Notice

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

Sl No	Tender ID No.	Package No.	Reference No.	Description of goods/works	Last selling date and time	Closing date and time	Opening date and time
01	1221808	EE-GRL-17 Fy-25/26 LOT-1.	27.11.0000.304.26.126.26 Date: 01/02/2026	Supply of 250 KVA 11/0.4 KV Distribution Transformer (For Tongi Store).	08-Mar 2026 17:00	09-Mar 2026 14:00	09-Mar 2026 14:00
02	1221810	EE-GRL-17 Fy-25/26 Lot-2.	27.11.0000.304.26.127.26 Date: 01/02/2026	Supply of 250 KVA 11/0.4 KV Distribution Transformer (For Fauzderhat Store).	08-Mar 2026 17:00	09-Mar 2026 14:00	09-Mar 2026 14:00
03	1222418	CC-GRL-01 Fy-25/26	27.11.0000.304.26.128.26 Date: 01/02/2026	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Desktop Computers with Monitors, UPS, Laptops, Laser Printers, A4 Size Scanners and Legal Size Scanners for different Offices of BPDB.	08-Mar 2026 17:00	09-Mar 2026 14:00	09-Mar 2026 14:00


This is online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches.

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

For more details please contract to the PE's Support Desk (01768595879).



Md. Nannu Miah
ID No. 1-01304
Director
Directorate of Purchase
BPDB, Dhaka

বিদ্যুৎ/জন-৬৭৮(২)/০১/০২/২৬

জিডি-২৬৮



Army International Islamic Institute (AII)

Jolshiri, Dhaka
Plot # 20A, Road # 403, Sector # 8, Jolshiri, Dhaka

JOB VACANCY

Qualified candidates are encouraged to apply for the following posts:

Post & Benefits	Qualifications & Experiences
Position: Vice Principal/Coordinator/Section Head Salary: Attractive and Negotiable	Educational Qualification: Masters or 4 years Honours degree in any subject from a recognized university with minimum CGPA-3.00 or equivalent at all levels. Experience: Minimum 07 years teaching experience in an International English medium school. Experience in English medium Islamic School / College is preferable. Other Qualifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fluency in English is a must. Competent to develop English medium curriculum in English Medium School. Hafiz/Hafiza of Al-Quran will be given preference. 'O' & 'A' Level with a good score in IELTS will be preferred. Must possess and depict Islamic values/culture.


Deadline to apply: 10 February 2026

NB:

- Apply through website www.aii.edu.bd
- Contact 01769055487 (if need).
- Date of Exam will be notified later.
- Educational qualifications and age limit are negotiable for experienced candidates.
- No money/Bank Draft is required.**

Principal

আই.ই.এস.পি.আর./সেনা/১০৪
GD-236



বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক

(সেন্ট্রাল ব্যাংক অব বাংলাদেশ)

প্রধান কার্যালয়
মতিঝিল, ঢাকা-১০০০

ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটি সচিবালয়
ইমেইল: info.bsccs@bb.org.bd

তারিখ: ১৪ মার্চ, ১৪৩২
২৮ জানুয়ারি, ২০২৬

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-৩৮/২০২৬

ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটি (BSC)-এর সদস্যভুক্ত ২০২২ সাল ভিত্তিক ০৩টি ব্যাংক এ সহকারী প্রকৌশলী (ইলেকট্রিক্যাল)/এসিস্ট্যান্ট ইঞ্জিনিয়ার (ইলেকট্রিক্যাল) (Job ID-10212) এর ০৩টি শূন্য পদে নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে লিখিত পরীক্ষার সময়সূচি, content, প্রবেশপত্র ডাউনলোড সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটি সচিবালয়ের তত্ত্বাবধানে ০৩টি ব্যাংক এ সহকারী প্রকৌশলী (ইলেকট্রিক্যাল)/এসিস্ট্যান্ট ইঞ্জিনিয়ার (ইলেকট্রিক্যাল) (Job ID-10212) এর ০৩টি শূন্য পদে যোগ্য বিবেচিত প্রার্থীদের এক সেশনে লিখিত পরীক্ষা আগামী ০৬/০২/২০২৬ তারিখ, শুক্রবার (দুপুর ৩টা-বিকাল ৫টা; ০২ ঘণ্টা ব্যাপী) অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। লিখিত পরীক্ষার প্রশ্নপত্রের Content ও নম্বর বিভাজন এবং কেন্দ্র সংক্রান্ত বিস্তারিত তথ্য বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত ওয়েবসাইট (<https://recruitment.bb.org.bd>) এ আপলোড করা হয়েছে।

ডিসিপিঃ ৪৮/২০২৬-৩৫৬
তারিখঃ ০১/০২/২০২৬

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

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জিডি-২০৪