



Chattogram Port at complete standstill

Exporters fear missing deadlines as workers remain steadfast in their strike

DWAIPAYAN BARUA and REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Chattogram Port has ground to a halt in the last two days as workers and employees went on an indefinite work abstention over the government's move to lease the key New Mooring Container Terminal (NCT) to Dubai-based DP World.

If the stalemate continues for long, commodity prices are likely to spike ahead of Ramadan and export deadlines will be missed, said insiders.

"This complete shutdown is absolutely unprecedented," said Fazley Ekram Chowdhury, president of the Berth Operators, Ship Handling Operators and Terminal Operators Owners Association.

The indefinite strike comes after the protesters observed an eight-hour strike

from Saturday to Monday.

The strike took a stricter turn yesterday, leaving the port's jetties and yards deserted, with no movement of people or vehicles and all sheds and offices remaining closed.

The usual long queues of cargo-carrying vehicles in and around all the port gates were absent. Both sides of the gates remained closed.

Container handling at the port's main jetties has remained completely stopped since Tuesday morning, leaving 11 vessels, including eight container ships, stranded.

No vessel could leave the port's main jetties or take berths in the last two days. Only four vessels could leave RSGT Chittagong, KAFCO jetty and two dolphin jetties under special arrangements.

Global leading shipping line Maersk



All operations at Chattogram Port remain suspended as workers continue an indefinite strike over the lease of a key terminal to UAE-based DP World. The photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN



'Just, humane and safe Bangladesh'

Jamaat pledges in its election manifesto, sets 26 priorities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jamaat-e-Islami yesterday outlined 26 priority areas for running the government in its election manifesto, presenting its vision for a "new Bangladesh".

The party's Ameer, Shafiqur Rahman, unveiled the "Manifesto of a Safe and Humane Bangladesh" at a city hotel.

The priorities include pursuing an uncompromising stance on national interest; building a humane state based on justice; empowering the youth; and creating a safe, dignified and participatory environment for women.

Other key goals include improving law and order, establishing a corruption-free state, ensuring merit-based recruitment, bringing perpetrators of extrajudicial killings to justice, and guaranteeing fundamental human rights.

To allow MPs to freely express their views, Jamaat said Article 70 of the



constitution would be amended. Party discipline, it added, would not be used to restrict MPs from acting independently in the interest of the nation and the people.

The party pledged to include a significant number of women in the cabinet if voted to power.

"The cabinet will reflect the diversity of the nation by ensuring representation of religious and ethnic communities

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IAB pledges Islam-guided governance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Islami Andolan Bangladesh (IAB) yesterday unveiled its election manifesto, reaffirming its commitment to implementing the fundamental principles of Islamic governance if it comes to power after the February 12 polls.

Islam offers not only a system of belief and worship but also comprehensive guidance for all aspects of human life, the party said at the unveiling of the manifesto at its office in the capital's Purana Paltan.

The core principles of Islamic governance include an independent judiciary, justice, accountability, sensitivity to citizens' interests, social security and the rule of law, IAB Ameer Multi Syed Rezaul Karim said.

The party also pledged to protect the rights and dignity of followers of all religions and ethnic minorities, stressing equal treatment for all citizens.

"No one will be regarded as a minority or majority based on religion or ethnicity. We are committed to

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'Those once hidden are now oppressors'

Hinting at Jamaat activists, Tarique also alleges they are making fake seals, ballots

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pointing at Jamaat-e-Islami, BNP Chairman Tarique Rahman said members of the gupto (covert group) have now emerged in Bangladesh as "new oppressors".

"Over the past few days, we have seen some newspaper reports. We have seen that those who have appeared as new oppressors, whom the people of Bangladesh know as gupto, have been printing fake seals in different places," he said while addressing an election rally in Barishal yesterday.

"We are also hearing in different ways that at printing presses known to them, they are printing ballot papers. Not only that, they are collecting NID numbers and bKash numbers," he said, calling on people to remain alert so that no one can "hijack people's votes" on February 12.

Around noon, he arrived at Barishal



Stadium by helicopter and then travelled by car to the rally venue at Bell's Park ground in Barishal city.

After over two decades, the Tarique's visit drew leaders and activists from different areas. They started gathering at the venue since early morning.

Hinting at Jamaat, Tarique said, "How can those who start the voting process with unethical acts establish the rule of honest people? They cannot."

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In the run-up to February 12 polls, Shakeel Anwar goes on the road for STAR to hear directly from voters about their hopes, demands and expectations.

Shadow of refugee camps falls on ballot in Ukhia

SHAKEEL ANWAR, from Ukhia, Cox's Bazar

In Cox's Bazar's Ukhia, one issue overshadows all others: the Rohingya refugee crisis. With refugees now outnumbering locals nearly three to one, it has become the defining political concern, shaping daily life, security, livelihoods, and how residents approach the ballot as the country heads towards election day.

Nearly nine years after hundreds of thousands fled Myanmar, the initial sympathy of the host community in Ukhia and neighbouring Teknaf, home to



roughly 1.5 million Rohingyas, has now given way to anger, fear, and a growing sense of resignation.

These sentiments are most palpable in Lambashia village of Rajapalong union, adjacent to Kutupalong, the world's largest and most densely populated refugee camp. Part of the village – half a dozen households – lies within the camp's perimeter. Residents share

roads with refugees; children from the camp play in their courtyards. To outsiders, it is often unclear where the camp ends and the village begins.

Reaching Lambashia requires passing through part of the camp and a security check. On the way in, my vehicle was stopped and checked twice by members of the Armed Police Battalion (APBn), responsible for security inside the camps. The checks, I was told, are routine.

There, Mofiz, an electrician, described what he called the slow collapse of a once-idyllic village.

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ABUL KHAIR GROUP

48th Death Anniversary

In accordance with the will of Almighty Allah the Beneficent, you left this mundane world, leaving us and many of your relations overwhelmed by grief. In our everyday life your bright ideals serve as beacon. You are immortal in your death. We pray to Almighty Allah for the salvation of your departed soul.

May Allah the Beneficent bless you with the eternal bliss of paradise. Ameen.

Your loving
Sons, Daughters and Relatives

The founder of Abul Khair Group
noted industrialist and social worker
Late Janab ABUL KHAIR
(Abul Company Shaheeb)
Death: 4th February, 1978

We Mourn

It is with profound sorrow that we announce the passing of **Jahan Ara Begum (90)**, Chairman of the Khokon Charitable Foundation and the beloved mother of the Honorable Board of Directors of the **M&J Group**. She peacefully departed from this world at 12:30 a.m. on Tuesday, 03 February 2026. (Inna Lillahi wa Inna Ilayhi Raji'un)

She is survived by her family, relatives, many friends and well-wishers. Known for her warmth, integrity and lifelong commitment to social service, she leaves behind a legacy of kindness that will be remembered with gratitude.

We pray that Almighty Allah grants her peace, and offers comfort and strength to her family at this time of loss.

We offer our sincere condolences to the bereaved family.