

Dr AR Mallick's death anniversary observed

CITY DESK

The 29th death anniversary of Dr AR Mallick, an educationist and the country's first technocrat finance minister, was observed yesterday, said a press release.

On the occasion, food was distributed at orphanages.

Dr Mallick was a professor at the University of Pennsylvania, USA, in the early 1960s and the founding vice-chancellor of Chittagong University.

He was president of the Liberation Council of Intelligentsia in 1971, the first education secretary, and the first high commissioner to India.



Woman 'gang-raped' in Barguna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pataakhali

A woman was allegedly gang-raped in Barguna's Taltali upazila on Tuesday night after being lured with a promise of marriage, police said.

She was later found near a mosque in Barpara early yesterday, where she had taken shelter after escaping, said Taltali Police Station Officer-in-Charge Asadur Rahman.

The victim, who works at a fish processing facility in Mahipur of Kalapara upazila, became acquainted about 20-25 days ago with one Hirun, son of Manik Hawladar of Pachakoralia union.

Police said Hirun proposed marriage and assured her it would be formalised after consulting his family. Trusting him, she travelled with him from Mahipur to Barpara on Tuesday afternoon.

Hirun first took her to his house, claiming he would introduce her to relatives. Later that night, Hirun and three others allegedly threatened and raped her multiple times, said the OC.

She escaped when they left the spot. Police rescued her and said legal proceedings are underway following her complaint.



A farmer harvests cauliflower as winter draws to a close across the country. Benefiting from favourable weather, the season's good yield is being harvested, sorted, and sold to local depots and wholesalers at Tk 20-22 per kg. The photo was taken from Boratia village in Khulna yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

One-third of Ctg polling centres flagged as 'high-risk'

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN, Ctg

About one-third of the 1,965 polling centres in Chattogram have been identified as highly risky ahead of the national election scheduled for February 12, according to security forces and intelligence assessments.

Police have classified 655 polling centres – both in city and district areas – as highly important after assessing previous records and overall security risks.

Additional police forces and enhanced security measures will be deployed at these centres to ensure a free and fair election, officials said.

Polling centres have been categorised into three groups – general, important, and highly important. Police officials said the term "highly important" is used instead of "high-risk" for technical reasons.

According to a list prepared by the Chattogram Metropolitan Police (CMP), there are 607

polling centres under four city constituencies and parts of Hathazari, spread across 16 police stations. Of these, 310 centres have been marked as "highly important".

The list shows that Khulshi has the highest number of high-risk centres in the port city, with 44 of its 47 polling centres classified as highly important.

No centres under the Port Police Station have been marked high-risk. All 23 centres under Akbar Shah Police Station fall into the highly important category.

Other areas with high risk centres include Kotwali (38 of 52), Sadarghat (15 of 23), Chawkbazar (4 of 16), Bakalia (13 of 39), Changgaon (27 of 56), Panchlaish (19 of 32), Bayezid Bostami (18 of 56), Double Mooring (18 of 48), Halishahar (32 of 42), Pahartali

(20 of 28), EPZ (13 of 31), Patenga (7 of 25), and Karnaphuli (19 of 47).

Meanwhile, under Chattogram district police, 345 of the 1,358 polling centres have been marked as high-risk.

These include three centres in Bhujpur, 24 in Sandwip, 48 in Sitakunda, 30 in Hathazari, 21 in Raozan, six in South Rangunia, 25 in Boalkhali, 24 in Patiya, 13 in Anwara, 42 in Chandanai, 68 in Satkania-Lohagara, and 41 in Banshkhali.

A circular issued by the home ministry on January 6 stated that each highly important polling centre will be guarded by four armed police personnel and one armed Ansar member under an armed section commander.

Additionally, one armed Ansar member will be assigned to protect the presiding officer, along with

one armed assistant section commander, four female Ansar members with batons, and six male Ansar members with batons.

Members of the Armed Forces, BGB, Coast Guard (in coastal areas), Rab, police, Armed Police Battalion, and Ansar Battalion will also be deployed to maintain law and order.

The circular said the police commissioner, in consultation with the returning officer, may adjust the number of deployed personnel depending on the situation.

Law enforcement agencies will remain deployed from February 8 to February 14, while the Armed Forces will also stay in the field for six days.

Contacted, Chattogram Range Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Ahsan Habib Palash said special security measures, including the use of body cameras, have already been arranged at highly important polling centres to prevent any untoward incidents on election day.



JULY MUSEUM Climax of 36 days, Hasina's misrule Says foreign adviser

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Affairs Adviser Md Touhid Hossain on Tuesday said the July Mass Uprising Memorial Museum reflects Bangladesh people's struggle against the misrule of former PM Sheikh Hasina.

"The museum showcases the climax of the 36 days of the July uprising, but it also highlights the elements of years of misrule," he said, adding that the true lesson of history is to ensure it is not repeated.

The foreign adviser made the remarks as foreign diplomats stationed in Dhaka visited the museum on Monday, days before its opening to the public.

Cultural Affairs Adviser Mostofa Sarwar Farooki briefed the diplomats and guided them through the museum's key sections.

Senior Secretary and SDGs Affairs Principal Coordinator Lamiya Morshed, Foreign Secretary Asad Alam Siam, and Cultural Affairs Secretary Md Mofidur Rahman were also present.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs on January 29 wrote to all diplomatic missions, UN agencies and offices of international organisations in Dhaka, inviting ambassadors, high commissioners, CDAs and heads of international organisations and UN agencies to join the museum tour, a senior official at the ministry told the news agency.

Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam and Deputy Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad Majumder joined the programme.

Earlier, on January 20, Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus visited the museum. Gono Bhaban, the former residence of the deposed prime minister, has been converted into the July Museum, which is set for soft opening next week, said the Chief Adviser's press wing.

High hopes, fresh

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representatives are talking to us," he said. "Business is a bit slow now, but we hope things will improve once a new government is formed."

Key contenders in Dhaka-20 include BNP's Md Tamiz Uddin and National Citizen Party (NCP) candidate Nabila Tasnid, who's supported by the Jamaat-e-Islami led alliance.

Other candidates are Md Ashraf Ali of Khelafat Majlish, Ahsan Khan of Jatya Party, Helal Uddin Ahammed of AB Party, and Md Arju Mia of Bangladesh Jasad.

NCP candidate Nabila Tasnid, a young engineer, is campaigning on foot, walking through villages, fields, and narrow rural paths with her supporters. She listens to residents' concerns and outlines her plans. She said local Jamaat activists are fully cooperating with her campaign and have positively accepted her leadership.

"I am getting a very positive response," she told The Daily Star. "People want to see youth and ordinary citizens' represented in parliament, moving beyond traditional politics."

She added that her campaign is not limited to the youth; she is receiving widespread support from the elderly, the educated class, workers, and farming families.

If elected, Tasnid pledged to form a women's cell in every union to provide legal and financial support to victims of violence, reduce school and college dropout rates among girls, introduce modern vocational training, and establish specialised hospitals for mothers and children.

She also promised to ensure the presence of

government doctors at their workplaces. "I have my plans for Dhamrai. Even if I am not elected, I will continue working for this place on a personal level," she said.

BNP candidate Md Tamiz Uddin, president of Dhamrai Upazila BNP, is also running a busy and active campaign, with BNP, Chhatra Dal, and Swachhasebak Dal activists reaching out across the constituency.

Campaigners are highlighting proposals including "Family Cards" and "Farmer Cards".

Shamsul Islam, senior joint general secretary of Dhaka district BNP and general secretary of Dhamrai upazila BNP, said, "Our workers are visiting every household, and the response is unprecedented." "People have not been able to vote freely for a long time. They are eager to cast their ballots now."

He described Tamiz Uddin as a popular and widely accepted figure, noting his three terms as upazila chairman and his current role on the BNP's National Executive Committee. "There are no allegations of corruption or irregularities against him."

He expressed confidence in the victory of the "Sheaf of Paddy" symbol in the constituency.

He further remarked, "The electoral environment has been excellent so far. There are no obstacles to campaigning; we are maintaining a very tolerant and respectful attitude toward all opponents."

"We have struggled for 17 long years to restore people's voting rights, so we will gladly accept whoever the people choose."

Dhaka-20 has 3,76,639 voters – 1,87,835 men, 1,88,802 women, and two hijra voters.

Request for Quotation: Web Application & Advanced API Protection (WAAP)

BRAC Bank PLC. delivers a full array of banking services to individuals and businesses through a network of 194 Branches, 116 Sub-branches, 330 ATMs, 446 SME Unit Offices and 1,120 Agent Banking Outlets across the country. The bank is currently seeking potential vendor(s) to provide Web Application & Advanced API Protection (WAAP).

A Technical Request for Quotation (RFQ) is hereby issued for this purpose. The RFQ, along with details of the bidding process, can be found on the bank's website: <https://www.bracbank.com/en/page/e-tender>

Interested eligible bidders are requested to submit their technical offers as per Instruction to Bidder (ITB) outlined in the bidding process.



Rushed media ordinances

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of the media community of access to protections, accreditation, and safety mechanisms.

The organisation warned that such exclusion risks further weakening an already fragile media landscape.

It said the proposed Broadcasting Commission Ordinance mirrors the same problems, centralising state control rather than safeguarding pluralism, editorial independence, or public interest journalism.

Article 19 also expressed concern that the rushed ordinances come nearly a year after the Bangladesh Media Reform Commission submitted its report on March 22, 2025, which included recommendations for a National Media Commission.

It said the interim government took no meaningful action on those recommendations, while members of the Reform Commission have publicly voiced frustration over the lack of follow-up.

"The government's sudden urgency after months of inaction raises serious questions about

motive and legitimacy," the organisation said.

With Bangladesh set to form a new elected government after the February 12 national election, Article 19 urged the interim government to halt the enactment process and leave such far-reaching decisions to the incoming administration with a fresh democratic mandate.

It also called on the authorities to defer the ordinances, commit to a transparent and inclusive consultation process with

journalists, editors, civil society, and legal experts, and ensure any future media regulator is fully independent and free from executive control.

The organisation further urged recognition of freelance journalists under relevant laws with equal protection, alignment of reforms with international human rights standards, including Article 19 of the ICCPR, and guarantees of safety and free movement for all journalists during the election period.

PRAYER TIMING
FEBRUARY 5

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 5-30	12-45	4-15	5-52	7-15
JAMAAT 6-05	1-15	4-30	5-56	7-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology
141-142, Love Road, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208
Phone: 02 8870422 (Ext.-201) Web: www.aust.edu
Ref. No. AUST/CoE & UE/OTM/Tender-11/2025-26

Tender Invitation

Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology (AUST) is inviting sealed bids from bona fide/reputed organizations/ distributors/ business partners/agents for:

1. Procurement of Answer scripts & additional sheet for CoE Office
2. Procurement of Lighting protection system for UE Office

The bidders must submit earnest money @ 2.5% of the quoted price in the form of Pay Order issued from any scheduled bank drawn in favor of "Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology" along with their offer. Interested bidders may collect schedule of tender from the Procurement Office of AUST on all working days till Feb. 10, 2026 by 4pm. The sealed offer must be submitted on **Feb. 16, 2026 (Monday)** by 2.00pm at the Treasurer Office and the tenders will be opened at 02:30pm on the same day (Feb. 16, 2026). Representatives of the participating bidders may remain present at the time of opening the tenders.

The AUST authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without showing any reason what-so-ever and is not bound to award the work order to the lowest bidder.

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Grid Bhaban, Avenue-3, Jahurul Islam City, Aftabnagar, Badda, Dhaka-1212 Web: www.powergrid.gov.bd
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e-Tender বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পাওয়ার গ্রিডের "Transmission Infrastructure Development Project for Southern Area of Chattogram Division & Hi-Tech City at Kaliakoir" শীর্ষক প্রকল্প দপ্তরের আওতাধীন নিম্নলিখিত দরপত্র e-GP পোর্টালে প্রকাশিত হয়েছে।

ID	Reference	Title of Works
1219626	27.21.2604.461.07.001.24.1612; Date: 22/01/2026	Procurement of Vehicle services, 2 nos 7 seated Microbus for 12 months on monthly rental basis.

আগ্রহী দরদাতাগণকে www.eprocure.gov.bd সাইটের মাধ্যমে দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণের জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

মোঃ মঞ্জুর আলম
প্রকল্প পরিচালক (অস্থায়ী/প্রকৌশলী)
চট্টগ্রাম বিভাগের দক্ষিণাঞ্চল এবং কালিয়াকোরে
হাই-টেক সিটি'র সঞ্চালন অবকাঠামো উন্নয়ন প্রকল্প