

## US cotton-made RMG to get duty-free access

FROM PAGE 12  
"After nine months of structured discussions led by the Ministry of Commerce, supported by the National Board of Revenue, other ministries, and the Bangladesh Embassy in Washington, Dhaka successfully bargained the mutual tariff down to 19 percent," the statement said.

The agreement covers a wide range of areas, including goods, services, customs procedures, trade facilitation, rules of origin, SPS measures, technical barriers, investment, e-commerce, government procurement, labour, environment, competition, and transparency.

The statement noted that Bangladesh's prior

commitments under WTO and ILO conventions meant no new conditions were imposed.

Special provisions were included for the textile and apparel sector, under which garments produced in Bangladesh using US cotton and synthetic fibres will enjoy duty-free entry into the US market.

The deal also grants Bangladesh duty-free access for roughly 2,500 products, including medicines, agricultural goods, plastics, and wood products.

In return, the US will receive duty-free access to 7,132 tariff lines in Bangladesh, phased in over five to ten years.

Bangladesh has a total of 7,458 tariff lines, and all but 326 U.S. products

will receive duty-free treatment.

Of the 7,132 products, 4,922 tariff lines became duty-free immediately upon signing, including 441 items that already enjoyed zero tariffs.

For another 1,538 products, tariffs will be reduced to zero within five years, with half slashed in the first year and the remainder proportionately over the following four years.

A further 672 products will see tariffs phased out over ten years, beginning with a 50 percent cut in the first year and the rest gradually removed over the next nine years.

The statement highlights that unlike agreements with Malaysia

and Cambodia, the Bangladesh-US pact does not impose restrictions on digital trade negotiations.

It also mentions a phased tariff reduction schedule, absent in other US trade deals.

The agreement further addresses paperless trade, IPR enforcement, e-commerce, SPS recognition, conformity assessment, anti-corruption measures, environmental safeguards, labour law updates, and investment liberalisation in sectors such as energy and telecom.

Bangladesh also secured a withdrawal clause, allowing exit from the agreement -- a feature not present in other US bilateral trade pacts.

## 5 killed, 12 hurt in road accidents

## STAR REPORT

Five people were killed and 12 others injured in road accidents across three districts over the last two days, according to reports from our correspondents.

In Cumilla, two people were killed and seven others injured after a passenger bus plunged into a ditch beside the Dhaka-Chattogram highway in Daudkandi area yesterday.

The accident occurred around 3:50pm in Jingtali area when a Chattogram-bound Econo Paribahan bus lost control, collided with an auto-rickshaw, and skidded off the road, said Daudkandi Highway Police Station Officer-in-Charge Iqbal Bahar Majumder.

The deceased were identified as auto-rickshaw driver Faruk, 42, of Bahadurkholia village in Daudkandi, and bus passenger Mizanur Rahman, 48, of Chudanga Sadar upazila.

Dr Habibur Rahman, upazila health officer at Daudkandi Upazila Health Complex, said five injured passengers were referred to Dhaka, while two others received primary care.

The bus driver and his assistant fled the scene, police said.

In Tangail, two people were killed in a head-on collision between a private car and a battery-run rickshaw-van on the Dhaka-Tangail-Jamuna Bridge highway in Kalihati upazila yesterday.

Sharif Uddin, 41, was declared dead

at Tangail General Hospital, while rickshaw-van driver Mohammad Amir Ali, 40, died on the way to Dhaka, said Shariful Islam, sub-inspector of Jamuna Bridge East Police Station.

In Kishoreganj, constable Nazrul Islam, 52, was killed and five others, including three policemen, were injured after a CNG-run auto-rickshaw carrying police personnel collided head-on with a bus in Padargati area of Hossainpur upazila on Saturday, said Hossainpur Police Station OC Muhammad Rashedul Islam.

Nazrul was returning to the police station with an accused when the crash occurred. The accused and the auto-rickshaw driver were among the injured.

## Record complaint over alleged rape

FROM PAGE 12  
"You [police] are instructed to immediately record the victim's complaint and take necessary legal action in accordance with the law."

The Daily Star has seen the copy of the letter, which mentioned a report run by the daily Jugantor.

Contacted by this correspondent, the station's Officer-in-Charge Saiful Alam said the NHRC had communicated with him. "There were some queries, and I complied with those."

He added that he visited the alleged victim's area yesterday and found evidence of attack and assault.

As of early today, no complaint was filed.

Speaking to the media while under treatment at the Noakhali 250-bed General Hospital, the woman said three men broke into her house around 11:00pm on Friday. They assaulted her before one of them raped her after detaining her husband in a room.

She alleged the attackers were activists of local BNP and its youth wing, including Jubo Dal leader Rahman Hossain, 30, along with another individual. She added that while Hossain raped her, others stood guard at the door.

Rahman denied the allegation.

The woman further told reporters that around 6:00am on Saturday, another five men entered her home, dragged her and her husband outside, beat them severely, and attempted to rape her again.

She claimed she was raped and tortured for supporting National Citizen Party candidate Abdul Hannan Masud in the just concluded national election.

The woman was admitted to hospital on Saturday afternoon and is currently receiving treatment at the gynaecology ward.

The hospital's Deputy Director Dr Farid Uddin Chowdhury said a medical board has been formed

regarding the incident. "However, we are awaiting a formal requisition letter from the police or the court to conduct the official forensic rape examination."

Mohsina Akter Simu, legal officer of the hospital's One-Stop Crisis Centre, said the hospital authorities have collected and preserved the woman's samples. "If a police requisition is received, they will conduct a forensic examination ... In such cases, police themselves can file a case, in which Hatia Police Station would be the complainant."

Abu Tayyab, additional superintendent of police (admin and finance) of Noakhali, said three female police officers and one male officer have been deployed at the hospital for the woman's security.

Hannan Masud, newly elected MP for Noakhali-6 from NCP, visited the victim at the hospital on Saturday night and demanded exemplary punishment for the perpetrators.

## 10 killed, 2,503 hurt since Oct

FROM PAGE 3  
58 injured, three BNP-Awami League clashes injured three, two NCP-Jatiya Party clashes injured 23, 14 BNP-other party clashes injured 46, and three other incidents injured 10.

Of the five killed in this phase, three were BNP supporters, one was a Jamaat supporter, and one was affiliated with Inqilab Moncho, HRSS said.

After the results were declared, violence spread to at least 30 districts, HRSS said. It recorded more than 200 clashes involving supporters of BNP, Jamaat and independent candidates, leaving over 300 injured and at least 350 offices, businesses and homes vandalised or set on fire.

HRSS said no one was killed on polling day, February 12. It deployed 565 observers to monitor voting in 1,733 centres across 100 constituencies. Of them, 347 remained present during vote counting, but 1,419 alleged that at least 48 were denied entry to counting rooms or obstructed.

HRSS said it found irregularities in at least 21 centres, including centre occupation allegations, obstruction of observers, ballot-related irregularities, advance signing and sealing of ballot counterfoils, and failure to display results.

HRSS Programme Officer Saiful Islam said 393 incidents of irregularities and clashes were recorded on polling day, leaving 145 injured.

These included disorder at 149 centres, 105 clashes between supporters, 59 allegations of ballot stuffing, 19 expulsions of polling agents, 13 cases of negligence by officials, 18

instances of obstruction to voters, six assaults on candidates, three ballot box snatching incidents, two arson cases, and 31 other irregularities.

HRSS also reported 50 arrests, withdrawal of 13 presiding and polling officers, and 55 cases resulting in imprisonment or fines. Five journalists were injured, voting was cancelled in three centres, and 64 incidents involved misinformation spread using artificial intelligence tools.

However, a separate state-run intelligence report documented unrest in the 48 hours following the polls, with at least three people killed and 98 injured in 45 incidents across 38 constituencies.

On February 13, 42 incidents were recorded across 36 constituencies, leaving 95 injured and one person killed in Munshiganj in a clash between BNP and independent candidate supporters, it said. BNP activists were involved in 41 incidents.

It also recorded at least 13 BNP-Jamaat clashes and four clashes involving the National Citizen Party.

On February 14, three incidents were reported. Two people were killed and three injured in Chapainawabganj in an explosion while they were allegedly making crude bombs.

In Pabna, BNP and Chhatra Dal leaders attacked a Shibir-linked library and vandalised houses of its activists.

Meanwhile, Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) expressed concern over post-election violence and attacks on political opponents, urging restraint and accountability.

In a statement, the rights organisation called

## Grabbers try

FROM PAGE 4  
of the structures on Saturday night after information about the attempted land grabbing surfaced.

Shafayet Munna, former joint secretary of Cox's Bazar town JCD unit, said following instructions from newly elected lawmaker Lutfur Rahman Kajol, they went to the spot and removed the illegal structures.

"The formerly evicted grabbers were trying to misuse BNP's name to reoccupy the land. No illegal structures would be allowed on the riverbank," he added.

## Jamaat, allies seek

FROM PAGE 3  
resulted from counting errors.

"We have formally asked the commission to recount these seats," he said.

Azad added that even after publication of the gazette, the law allows three stages of appeal -- through the commission, a tribunal, and the High Court -- and the alliance plans to pursue legal remedies.

The alliance also announced a protest rally and demonstration at the north gate of Baitul Mukarram Mosque in Dhaka today at 4:30pm, condemning what it described as "electoral violence".

On whether the alliance would take oath, Azad said, "We have decided positively. We will join parliament and play a constructive role. At the same time, the streets will remain open to us."

In a post on his verified Facebook page yesterday, Asif Mahmud Sajeb Bhuiyan, spokesperson of the National Citizen Party (NCP), an alliance partner, said they were preparing to form a "shadow

## Grabbers try

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cabinet".

"The shadow cabinet will work as a watchdog to ensure transparency and accountability and oversee overall activities," he wrote.

In a Facebook post yesterday, Jamaat Ameer Shafiqur Rahman said they would not bow to any "evil force".

He urged party members to build strong protests and resistance with the people wherever attacks occur and to stand by the oppressed.

Later that morning, Shafiqur visited the family of deceased Jamaat supporter Shah Alam -- who died of a heart attack on February 8 while on his way to an election rally -- in the Shimulbak Dakkhinhati area of Itna upazila in Kishoreganj and attended a memorial meeting.

**PRAYER TIMING**  
FEBRUARY 16  
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 5-25 12-45 4-30 5-57 7-15  
JAMAAT 6-00 1-15 4-45 6-01 7-45  
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## People's Republic of Bangladesh

Metropolitan Senior Special Judge Court, Dhaka.

**Present:** Mr. Md. Sabbir Faiz  
Metropolitan Senior Special Judge, Dhaka.

**Permission Petition No.21/2026**

Order No.- 01, Date: 07-01-2026

Investigation officer Mr. Md. Johir Raihan, BP no.9119222775, Sup-inspector of Police, Financial Crime, Bangladesh Police, CID, Dhaka submitted a petition under Motijheel P.S case no.11, Dated-09.10.2023 under sections 4(2)(4) of the Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2012 (ammendment-2015) to freeze assets of accused Md. Yeasin and others and 11 Bank accounts and also related to his interests under section 14(1) of the Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2012.

The petition is taken up for hearing,

Heard learned Additional Public Prosecutor and gone through the petition as well as the records. It is found that an enquiry is undergoing against the aforesaid alleged accused Md. Yeasin and others and 11 Bank accounts and his family members and also related to his interests under section 14(1) of the Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2012.

It appears from the record that the alleged offender has acquired huge amount of illegal wealth beyond their known source of income by adopting illegal means and if those assets are not attached and freed those assets will be laundered or transferred and those can not be possible to be forfeited after trial which will frustrate this case. Hence those assets need to be freed and attached.

Considering the facts and circumstances, I am convinced to allow the petition submitted by Investigation officer Mr. Md. Johir Raihan, BP no.9119222775, Sup-inspector of Police, Financial Crime, Bangladesh Police, CID, Dhaka and accordingly the assets as mentioned in the petition are hereby freed and attached until further order as per section 14(1) of the Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2012.

It is hereby further ordered that the copy of this order be issued to the 1) Managing Director, Mercantile Bank PLC, Head Office, 61 Dilkhusa Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000; 2) Managing Director, Mutual Trust Bank PLC, Head Office, MTV Center 26 Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan 01, Dhaka; 3. Managing Director, Bank Asia PLC, Corporate Branch, Rangs Tower, 68 Old Paltan, Dhaka; 4. Managing Director, Islami Bank PLC, Head Office, Islami Bank Tower, 40 Dilkhusa, Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000; 5) Managing Director, NRB Bank PLC, Head Office, Uday Sanj, Block (SE/A), Plot- 2/B, Road- 134, South Avenue, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212; 6. Managing Director, South East Bank PLC, Head Office, Yunus Trade Center, 52-53 Dilkhusa, Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000; 7) Managing Director, East Bank PLC, Head Office, 100 Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka-1212; Manager, Standard Chartered Bank PLC, City Center Branch, 18-20 Aliko Building, C/A Toynbee Road, Dhaka-1000; 9) Managing Director, BRAC Bank PLC, Head Office, Anik Tower, 220/B Tenzgaon Gulshan Link Road, Tenzgaon, Dhaka to the effect that while the freezing order is in effect regarding the said accounts, the account holders will not be allowed to withdraw any money. But they will be at liberty to deposit only.

Let this order be published in the Government Official Gazette along with widely circulated one daily Bengali and one daily English newspaper under section 14(3) of the Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2012 for information of the citizens at large.

Let this order along with the photocopy of the application be sent to Investigation officer Mr. Md. Johir Raihan, BP no.9119222775, Sup-inspector of Police, Financial Crime, Bangladesh Police, CID, Dhaka and Publication department, Tejgaon, Dhaka; 1) Managing Director, Mercantile Bank PLC, Head Office, 61 Dilkhusa Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000; 2) Managing Director, Mutual Trust Bank PLC, Head Office, MTV Center 26 Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan 01, Dhaka; 3. Managing Director, Bank Asia PLC, Corporate Branch, Rangs Tower, 68 Old Paltan, Dhaka; 4. Managing Director, Islami Bank PLC, Head Office, Islami Bank Tower, 40 Dilkhusa, Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000; 5) Managing Director, NRB Bank PLC, Head Office, Uday Sanj, Block (SE/A), Plot- 2/B, Road- 134, South Avenue, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212; 6. Managing Director, South East Bank PLC, Head Office, Yunus Trade Center, 52-53 Dilkhusa, Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000; 7) Managing Director, East Bank PLC, Head Office, 100 Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka-1212; Manager, Standard Chartered Bank PLC, City Center Branch, 18-20 Aliko Building, C/A Toynbee Road, Dhaka-1000; 9) Managing Director, BRAC Bank PLC, Head Office, Anik Tower, 220/B Tenzgaon Gulshan Link Road, Tenzgaon, Dhaka, and other concerned authorities for necessary action.

Inform all concerned Authorities at once.

Directed & Corrected by me.

Sd/-  
Metro. Sessions. Spl Judge, Dhaka.  
Memo Number: ২০৭ (০২)২৬

Sd/-  
(Md. Sabbir Faiz)  
Metro. Senior Special Judge, Dhaka.  
Date: ০৭/০২/২৬