



**Nawabganj: where heritage meets harmony**

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**Are Bangladesh's multilingual youth being heard?**

WR2



**Emerging pollutants and public health risks**

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**The flower trail behind our celebrations**

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# Govt plans 100-day energy push

ASIFUR RAHMAN

The government is planning a fresh round of bidding for both onshore and offshore gas exploration, with the finalisation of model Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) targeted within its first 100 days in office.

It aims to complete the bidding process this year and sign final agreements by 2027, officials said.

This initiative follows a stalled attempt in March 2024, when the previous Awami League government announced September as the submission deadline for an offshore bidding round for global companies. This was the first major initiative to exploit natural resources from the sea after maritime border disputes were settled with India in 2012 and with Myanmar in 2014.

However, the process failed to attract bids due to the subsequent political transition in August 2024. The interim administration extended the deadline by three months, yet failed to draw participants. Revised documents prepared by Petrobangla were later sent to the ministry, but the matter was deferred to the elected government.



## GOVT'S 100-DAY PLAN

- Finalising onshore-offshore production sharing contracts
- Drilling 16 gas wells
- Adding two drilling rigs
- Moving ahead with land-based LNG terminal, new FSRU
- Initiating Bhola pipelines, expanding LNG transmission capacity
- Developing framework for LPG imports
- Restructuring Titas Gas company

The plan to finalise the PSCs is part of a broader 100-day roadmap for the sector, unveiled by Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Iqbal Hassan Mahmood at an introductory meeting with officials on his first day in office last Wednesday.

Ensuring uninterrupted power supply during Ramadan and the irrigation season is the top priority of the new government, Iqbal Hassan told journalists after the meeting. "We will move ahead with the future plans after that," he said.

Under the roadmap, the new administration plans to submit proposals to the Planning Commission for drilling at least seven exploratory wells, seven development wells and two workover wells. A development well is drilled in

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Prime Minister Tarique Rahman pays homage to the language martyrs with a floral wreath at the Central Shaheed Minar shortly after midnight on International Mother Language Day.

PHOTO: BNP MEDIA CELL

# AMAR EKUSHEY

Today, the legacies of Language Movement martyrs Abdul Jabbar, Abdus Salam, and Shafiur Rahman lie in neglect. This first part of the two-part series looks at the state of their museums, memorials, homes, and families, raising the question whether these heroes are receiving the recognition they deserve.

## Fading memories of language heroes

AHMAD ISTIAK

More than seven decades after the Language Movement of 1952, the memories of several state-recognised martyrs remain poorly preserved.

Abdul Jabbar's family continues to call for a museum in Shimulkuchi, where they still live, as the existing facility in Panchua holds no personal belongings and draws little public interest.

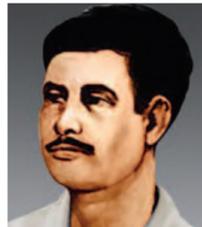
In Feni's Salamnagar, Abdus Salam's memorial library stands largely empty, with his blood-stained shirt and photographs long stolen, leaving only a hand-drawn portrait to represent his sacrifice.

And in Dhaka, Shafiur Rahman remains the most overlooked of all — with no museum or facility in his name, only a road recently approved in his honour and a few photographs preserved at Bangla Academy.

Together, their stories reveal a pattern



Abdul Jabbar



Abdus Salam



Shafiur Rahman

of neglect: libraries without artefacts, memorials in disrepair, families struggling with hardship, and promises of recognition left unfulfilled.

**CALL FOR MUSEUM IN SHIMULKUCHI** Language Movement martyr Abdul Jabbar was born in Panchua village of Gafargaon upazila, Mymensingh. While

serving in the Ansar force in the early 1950s, he relocated most of his family to Shimulkuchi village in Haluaghat upazila. After his death in 1952, the remaining family settled permanently in Shimulkuchi, leaving little connection with Panchua.

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READ OUR 8-PAGE SUPPLEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY

## Nation honours language martyrs

President, PM pay tribute

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As the clock struck midnight and the familiar melody of "Amar Bhaiyer Rokte Bangla" drifted through the air, the nation paid homage to the Language Movement martyrs.

It was a solemn tribute to those who sacrificed their lives for the recognition of Bangla as a state language on this day in 1952 — the language heroes.

The Ekushey observance began with the laying of wreaths at the Central Shaheed Minar in the capital.

President Mohammed Shahabuddin and Prime Minister Tarique Rahman led the nation in paying tribute shortly after midnight, marking Amar Ekushey and International Mother Language Day. Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof Niaz Ahmed Khan received them on arrival.

At 12:01am, the president placed a wreath and stood in solemn silence. The prime minister reached the Shaheed Minar at 12:04am and laid his wreath around 12:07am, observing a moment of silence in honour of the language heroes. A doa was offered in his presence.

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## US Supreme Court strikes down Trump global tariffs

AGENCIES

The US Supreme Court yesterday ruled Donald Trump's sweeping global tariffs illegal — a stunning rebuke of the president's signature economic policy that upended international trade.

➤ Trump says tariff ruling 'deeply disappointing'

➤ Orders temporary 10% global tariff to replace duties struck down

The conservative-majority high court ruled six three in the judgement, saying that a 1977 law known as the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) Trump has relied on "does not authorise the President to impose tariffs."

In response to the ruling, Trump said that he would impose a 10 percent global tariff for 150 days to replace some of his emergency duties that were struck down by the US Supreme Court.

Trump said that his order would be made under Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974 and the duties would be over and above tariffs that are currently in place.

The statute allows the president to

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Farmers wash potatoes after harvesting them in Gobindaganj of Gaibandha. Despite a bumper yield this year, growers say they are selling their produce at prices far below production costs, raising fears of a second straight year of losses amid oversupply and weak export demand.

PHOTO: MOSTAFA SHABUJ

## Potato farmers stare at losses as prices dip

Many struggle to cover costs for second straight year

MOSTAFA SHABUJ, Bogura

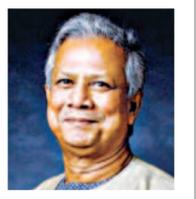
Potato growers across the country are bracing for financial losses for the second consecutive year as prices of one of the nation's largest vegetable crops have plunged further during the peak harvesting season.

Farmers in the north, central and southern regions said they are selling potatoes in the field at Tk 300-350 per maund (37.32kg), depending on the variety. At the same time last year, the price ranged between Tk 500 and Tk 550.

They warned that if prices remain this low, their financial strain will deepen, compounding the heavy losses they suffered last year.

Many frustrated growers were

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## Family, future plans keep Yunus busy

MD ABBAS

After his tenure ended as chief adviser to Bangladesh's interim government, Prof Muhammad Yunus has retreated to a quieter routine, spending more time with family and planning for his next chapter.

The Nobel Peace Prize laureate is still staying at the state guest house Jamuna after handing over power to the newly elected BNP-led government. According to aides, he is expected to return to

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