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## More families turn to TCB as poverty deepens

SUKANTA HALDER and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

At 2:12pm, a Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) truck was parked by the roadside under Kazipara Metro Station in Dhaka.

Two long queues stretched beside it, mostly women from fixed- and low-income families waiting patiently to buy essential food items at subsidised prices.

Under the TCB Truck Sales programme, each customer can buy up to two litres of soybean oil at Tk 115 per litre, two kilograms of lentils at Tk 70 per kilogram, one kilogram of sugar at Tk 80, one kilogram of chickpeas at Tk 60, and half a kilogram of dates at Tk 80 – all for Tk 550 – from TCB trucks.

In the kitchen markets, the same items combined would cost around Tk 950. For many, the Tk 400 savings means the difference between coping and going hungry.

Sitting on a rickshaw near the queue was 40-year-old Nasir Khan, crutches leaning against the side of the vehicle and his left leg wrapped in plaster. He once earned his living driving a rickshaw carrying waste. Around four months ago, the van overturned and crushed his leg. He has been unemployed since.

He came with his wife, Mahinur Begum, who works as a domestic helper in three households and earns Tk 9,000 a month. With two school-going daughters and no income from him since the accident, the family has been struggling.

Nasir said, "It's really impossible for us to live like this with two daughters in school. If I get this TCB package, it will be slightly helpful."

Mahinur repeatedly tried to get the attention of TCB officials, asking if her sick husband could receive the package without standing in the long queue. Considering Nasir's physical condition, officials handed them the package after half an hour.

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People jostle for their spots at the front of a queue to buy essential commodities at subsidised rates from a truck of the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh in Dhaka's Fakirapool. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## Govt okays waiver of farm loans of up to Tk 10,000



The prime minister presiding over the cabinet meeting. PHOTO: PID

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In the first formal cabinet meeting yesterday, the government approved a proposal to waive agricultural loans of up to Tk 10,000, including interest, as part of the ruling BNP's election pledge.

The decision was taken at a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman at the Secretariat.

The waiver will apply to loans taken in the grain, crop, fisheries and livestock sectors, in line with the government's election manifesto, Cabinet Secretary Nasimul Ghani told reporters after the meeting.

According to the BNP election manifesto, the government will pay on behalf of farmers a year's instalments of microloans taken from Microcredit Registered Authority registered non-government organisations.

As of February 25, farmers owe approximately Tk 1,550 crore, including interest, to banks, according to data from the Bangladesh Bank.

The main objective of the initiative is to ensure social security for poor

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## New BB chief signals rate cuts to spur growth

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh's newly appointed central bank governor has signalled a potential shift towards monetary easing, marking a sharp departure from his predecessor's hawkish stance, as he seeks to revive sluggish economic growth and support the private sector.

Md Mostaqur Rahman, the first business figure in the country's history to helm the Bangladesh Bank, took office yesterday. He replaces the widely respected economist Ahsan H Mansur, whose tenure was defined by a strict focus on taming inflation over fostering growth.

The prospect of a repo rate cut by the new governor is expected to be warmly received by the business community. Mansur's uncompromising stance on interest rates had made him increasingly unpopular in corporate circles, as he held the benchmark policy rate at 10 percent for more than 16 months.



### NEW GOVERNOR'S FOCUS

Maintain economic stability, accelerate growth, create jobs

Reopen factories closed for 18 months

Control inflation, strengthen BB governance

Despite the prolonged monetary tightening cycle, success in containing consumer prices was limited. Inflation stayed above 8.5 percent in January, largely driven by food prices.

Business groups previously said high interest rates drove up borrowing costs and stifled commercial investment. The impact was evident by December 2025, when private sector credit growth slumped to just 6.10 percent, its lowest level in recent years.

Signalling a clear shift in strategy, Mostaqur indicated his primary focus will be on economic expansion and job creation. Bangladesh's economy expanded by merely 3.49 percent in the 2024-25 fiscal year – the slowest pace since the 2020 pandemic – dragged down by weak performances in the agriculture and services sectors.

"The interim government has steered the

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## Lobbying heats up for reserved seats

SAJJAD HOSSAIN and MAMUNUR RASHID

Preparations have intensified within the ruling BNP and Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami over nominations for the reserved women's seats in the 13th national parliament as both parties step up internal consultations ahead of the final allocation.

Inside the BNP, lobbying has begun for nominations to the reserved women's seats, with Jatiyatabadi Mohila Dal leaders and several former Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal activists emerging as early frontrunners.



In contrast, Jamaat has moved more formally, with its women's wing preparing a preliminary list of 15 to 16 names and forwarding it to the party's central executive council.

Many seekers prepared detailed profiles highlighting their role in past movements and struggles, loyalty to the party and organisational experience. They have begun sending those to the party's policymaking level.

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## Teenager 'abducted', murdered in Narsingdi

Family alleges rape before killing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

Police yesterday recovered the body of a teenage girl from a crop field in Narsingdi's Madhabdi upazila.

The deceased, Amena Akter, 15, was a garment worker and a resident of Bilpar area. She lived with her parents in a rented house in Darikandi.

Narsingdi Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Sujon Chandra Sarker said the body was recovered with a scarf wrapped around her neck.

The victim's parents alleged that she was killed by a group of stalkers who had gang-raped her around two weeks ago.

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A farmer carries potatoes from a field at Boplar Beel in Rajshahi's Mohanpur upazila yesterday. The yield has been exceptionally good in the area this season, resulting in poor prices for growers. They are selling for Tk 7.5 to Tk 8 per kg. Retailers in different parts of the district are charging Tk 12 to Tk 15 for a kg. PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

## India, Israel to boost defence cooperation

Modi says as both nations agree to work on free trade deal

India, Israel agree 'no place for terrorism' in world: Modi

Israel, India are 'bent on innovation': Netanyahu

AGENCIES

India and Israel will pursue joint development, production and transfer of technology in defence, as well as work on a free trade agreement, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said yesterday.

He said that both countries agreed there was "no place for terrorism in the world" as the Indian PM wrapped up a two-day visit aimed at strengthening ties with Israel.

"India and Israel are clear that there is no place for terrorism in the world, in any form... We will oppose it shoulder to shoulder. We will always oppose it in the future," Modi said at a press conference with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem.

"Humanity must never become a victim of conflict," he added. Modi also spoke of future cooperation between

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## 'It's the start of govt-backed mob culture'

Says Jamaat about how BB governor was removed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman yesterday described the circumstances surrounding the ouster of the Bangladesh Bank governor as the "formal beginning of a government-backed mob culture", calling it unfortunate and completely unacceptable.

In a post from his verified Facebook page around 5:45am, he said no one has the right to insult respected individuals such as the central bank's governor and his adviser.

"Such conduct at an institution as important as Bangladesh Bank is unacceptable," he wrote.

Shafiqur alleged that the country's economy is already in a dire state due

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Prime Minister Tarique Rahman poses for a photograph with the recipients of the Ekushey Padak, one of Bangladesh's highest civilian honours, at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

## LPG STATION BLAST Six victims in critical condition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Six of the 15 people injured in a blast at an unauthorised LPG filling station in Cox's Bazar are undergoing treatment in critical condition at Chattogram Medical College Hospital (CMCH), district authorities said yesterday.

Additional District Magistrate Shahidul Islam, who is heading a five-member committee to investigate the incident, said the six patients were in a critical state because they suffered burns to their respiratory tracts.

The patients are Abdur Rahim, 32; Siraj, 30; Abu Taher, 40; Abul Kashem, 27; Sakib, 30; and Mutabber, 40.

Dr Ashfaqul Asif, registrar of the Burn and Plastic Surgery unit at CMCH, said they sustained between 20 percent and 93 percent burns. Taher, Siraj and Rahim were shifted to the ICU after their condition deteriorated.

The explosion occurred around  
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## More families turn to TCB as poverty deepens

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A few steps away stood Md Shakil, a green coconut seller from Mohammadpur Geneva Camp. He joined the queue at 11:00am and received his package at 2:30pm.

"For this package, I had to wait four hours. I had to close my coconut stall, which caused me losses. However, I was lucky to get the package."

Their stories reflect a larger reality.

Food inflation, which affects ordinary Bangladeshis the most, rose to 8.29 percent in January, up nearly 0.6 percentage points from December, according to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.

Prices of essential food items have been rising in recent months. After easing to 7.08 percent in October from 7.64 percent in September, food inflation climbed again over the next three months.

The mounting pressure is pushing more families into poverty. A 2025 World Bank report projected that the national poverty rate would rise to 22.9 percent that year, from 18.7 percent in 2022.

The share of people living in extreme poverty, earning below \$2.15 a day, is expected to nearly double to 9.3 percent, potentially pushing an additional 3 million people into extreme hardship. However, the report forecasts some easing in 2026.

According to findings presented in August last year by the Power and Participation Research Centre, the rise has been even sharper. Nearly 28 percent of the population is now poor, compared to 18.7 percent in 2022.

The share of people living in extreme poverty has increased to 9.35 percent this year from 5.6 percent three years ago, meaning about one in 10 survives in extreme poverty. One in four people lives below the poverty line.

Another 18 percent are classified as vulnerable non-poor, at risk of slipping into poverty.

Now with Ramadan ongoing, TCB launched its nationwide truck sale programme on February 17 to ease the suffering. The initiative will continue

until March 12, excluding Fridays and public holidays.

TCB officials said that in the capital alone, essential commodities are being sold daily at 50 designated locations. Across the country, 450 mobile trucks, each carrying enough supplies for 400 families, operate daily to provide subsidised goods to low-income consumers.

Over the 20-day campaign, TCB aims to distribute 23,000 tonnes of essentials to an estimated 35 lakh consumers nationwide.

According to Public Food Distribution data from the food ministry, from July 1, 2024, to February 20, 2025, the ministry distributed 17.64 lakh tonnes of food. This amount increased to 19.93 lakh tonnes, but the queues in front of the trucks keep getting longer.

The Daily Star tried to contact TCB Chairman Brigadier General Mohammad Foyshol Azad for comment but received no response.

Meanwhile, for 70-year-old consumer Mulkuch Bibi, the TCB truck is not just a government programme but a lifeline.

On Wednesday night, before going to bed, she placed her grocery bag beside her and kept her water container ready to collect water from a WASA ATM booth. That day, her household had run out of cooking oil, sugar, and chickpeas.

"If I cannot buy goods from the TCB truck tomorrow, I will not be able to purchase other essential items," she told this paper that night.

After finishing sehri and resting briefly, she collected water and reached the Kazipara Metro Station spot shortly after 8:00am. By then, 33 people were already ahead of her in the queue.

Weighed down by age, she struggled to stand for hours and eventually sat on the metro station stairs to rest. The truck arrived around 10:00am, and she purchased the goods around noon.

"My husband passed away 27 years ago. Since then, I've been living with my daughter and son-in-law. Both of them are garment workers, and their combined income barely covers household expenses.

"With the money we save from

purchasing essentials here, we can buy other necessary items. Otherwise, it will be very difficult."

Minuara Begum, a resident of Mollapara in Dhaka's Agargaon, arrived at the TCB truck in Sher-e-Bangla Nagar at 9:00am. With no one else to care for her child, she brought her one-year-old along.

At one point during her wait, she was seen breastfeeding her baby standing in the queue. "There's no one at home to look after my child, and it's difficult to manage the household on my husband's income. That's why I had to come to buy goods from the TCB truck and also bring my baby along."

The truck reached the spot around 12:15pm, and she completed her purchases around 2:30pm.

Talking to The Daily Star, Selim Raihan, professor of economics at Dhaka University and executive director of SANEM, said, "People are under significant pressure due to prolonged high inflation over the past three years, especially low-income groups.

"In that context, the current scale of TCB operations is insufficient compared to people's needs. We expect the new government to expand the coverage and find more effective ways to reach a larger number of vulnerable people."

He added, "Many working class people have to spend hours in line, sometimes losing half a day's income. That creates additional financial losses for them. Special arrangements can be made for workers, particularly in factory areas, so that they can access these goods more easily.

"Even informal workers such as rickshaw pullers, small shop employees and others in labour-intensive jobs should be targeted through area-based programmes. If distribution is expanded to places where low-income populations are concentrated, it would reduce their suffering and provide some relief during this difficult time."

The Daily Star tried to reach Khandaker Abdul Mukhtar, minister for commerce, for comment but received no response.

## Lobbying heats up for reserved seats

FROM PAGE 1

On the other hand, Jamaat is assessing potential nominees from its women's central committee to determine who can play an effective role in the parliament and meet public expectations, while professional women, including teachers, physicians and lawyers may also be considered.

No formal decision has yet been taken to prepare the list at the party's highest policymaking level regarding the reserved women's seats. The Daily Star has learnt from people involved with the proceedings.

Nominations are unlikely to be finalised before Eid as the party is still in a preparatory phase, said BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir.

"Most of our responsible leaders are engaged in various professions. While preparing and scrutinising the primary list of candidates, we have taken into account their qualifications, performance, experience and acceptability in their respective areas," said Nurunnisa Siddika, secretary of Jamaat's women's wing.

Jamaat leaders, however, have indicated that internal scrutiny is already underway.

Under the constitutional framework, the parliamentary seats reserved for women are distributed according to the seats won by the parties in the general elections.

The members of parliament elected in the general election cast ballots for the reserved seats.

One reserved women's seat will be allocated for every six general seats won. In some cases, the law also allows a lottery system.

In the 13th parliamentary election held on February 12, the BNP won 209 seats on its own. Based on the seat ratio, the party will get 35 of the 50 reserved women's seats. In addition, Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami will get 11 seats and the National Citizen Party one seat.

The remaining three seats will be distributed among independent candidates and the other parties including Bangladesh Khelafat Majlish, Ganosambhati Andolon, Bangladesh Jatiya Party (BJP), Gono Odhikar Parishad and Khelafat Majlis.

Within the BNP, discussions suggest that this time the reserved women's seats may reflect a mix of senior and younger leaders, with a relatively strong presence of comparatively young faces.

The party has given priority to former reserved-seat lawmakers from 2001 and 2008 in selecting nominees this time, considering their past parliamentary experience and organisational background.

Among senior leaders under discussion are Jatiyatabadi Mohila Dal President Afroza Abbas, the wife of BNP Standing Committee Member Mirza Abbas, and Mohila Dal General Secretary Sultana Ahmed, who was a reserved seat lawmaker in 2001.

Also in consideration are 2001 reserved seat lawmaker Mohila Dal leader Rehana Akter (Ranu); 2001 reserved seat lawmaker and BNP Executive Committee member Bilkis Islam; 2001 reserved seat lawmaker and BNP Training Affairs Secretary Rasheda Begum Hira; 2001 reserved seat lawmaker and BNP Relief and Rehabilitation Affairs Assistant Secretary Nowaz Halima Arly; and 2001 reserved seat lawmaker and BNP Education Affairs Assistant Secretary Helen Zerir Khan.

BNP central committee member Shirin Sultana, who was also a reserved seat lawmaker in 1996, is among the aspirants, as is Dhaka district BNP General Secretary Nipun Roy Chowdhury, the daughter of Cultural Affairs Minister Nitai Roy Chowdhury.

BNP Chairperson's Adviser and singer Baby Naznin is also being discussed, along with Central BNP Self-Reliance Affairs Assistant Secretary Nilufar Chowdhury Moni.

Among those from the 2008 reserved seats are BNP Local Government Affairs Assistant Secretary Shammil Akter and BNP Human Rights Affairs Assistant Secretary Syeda Ashifa Ashrafi Papi.

BNP National Executive Committee members Ayesha Siddiqia and Farida Yasmin are also aspirants.

Sultana Jesmin (Jui), Mahila Dal Dhaka City South Member Secretary Nasima Akter (Keya), senior joint convener and former councillor of Kotwali Thana BNP Suraiya Begum, and Chhatra Dal Central Committee Joint General Secretary Mansura Alam, among others.

The final selection will depend on political balancing, regional representation and internal consensus, according to BNP insiders.

Jamaat's potential nominees similarly include leaders from its central working committee as well as professional women.

Among those being discussed are Nurunnisa Siddika; Mardia Mumtaz; central working committee member Ameena Begum Rahman, who is also the wife of Jamaat's Ameer Shafiqur Rahman; central Majlish e-Shura member Shahana Ara Begum; Habiba Akhter Chowdhury, the wife of Jamaat's Naye-e-Ameer Syed Abdullah Muhammad Taher; and Supreme Court lawyer and assistant secretary of the women's wing Sabikun Nahar Munni.

The other names include Saeeda Rumman, Khandaker Ayesha Khatun, Kazi Maria Islam Baby, Rabeya Khanam, Shirin Akter Runa, Tanha Azmi, Nargis Khan, Kaniz Fatema, Selina Akter and Ayesha Siddika Parveen.

While BNP insiders say the final selection will depend on political balancing, regional representation and internal consensus, Jamaat leaders emphasise consultation and structured review.

The final decision will be taken based on a review of the list submitted by the women's wing to the central executive council, said Ahsanul Mahboob Zubair, assistant secretary general of Jamaat and head of the party's central publicity department.

In this regard, individuals outside the list may also be considered.

Asked about discussions surrounding the names of the wives of Shafiqur and Taher, Zubair said: "First, in our party, two members of the same family have never become MPs. Second, all decisions are taken through consultation and discussion. So the time has not yet come to make any final comments."

## New BB chief signals rate cuts to spur growth

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country from a fragile economy to a low-level equilibrium," Mostaqur said in a central bank statement. "Now our responsibility is to bring an investment driven growth while maintaining macroeconomic stability, so that employment is created."

Arriving at his office at 10:40am, Mostaqur held meetings with deputy governors and executive directors but declined to make detailed remarks, saying only, "First, I will join the office, then I will speak."

Breaking with tradition, he did not meet journalists on his first day. Instead, central bank executive director and spokesperson Arief Hossain Khan briefed reporters at a press conference, conveying the governor's positions and outlining his initial priorities.

Arief said the governor's direct interaction with the media would be limited, though the central bank would remain media-friendly, with communication primarily channelled through the spokesperson.

During the meetings with senior officials, Mostaqur prioritised maintaining macroeconomic stability while accelerating inclusive growth to generate employment.

Underscoring the need to reopen factories that have been shuttered over the past 18 months due to political

instability, dollar shortages and other challenges, he promised central bank support for their revival.

High interest rates were identified as a major obstacle to investment, Arief said, adding that the central bank would explore ways to address the issue while also focusing on steps to ease inflation.

"Controlling inflation and ensuring price stability to protect people's purchasing power will remain a core mandate," said Arief.

Mostaqur pledged to strengthen governance within the central bank by making objective, rule-based decisions and avoiding subjective considerations or discriminatory treatment.

To improve efficiency, he emphasised greater delegation of authority at different levels to enhance accountability and institutional capacity.

The new governor also cautioned that a central bank, as a regulator, must be prudent in public statements, given their potential impact on markets and the broader economy.

According to the spokesperson, the governor praised the efforts of the interim government to stabilise the economy.

"He acknowledged the efforts of the interim government's economic

team in maintaining macroeconomic stability at a time when the economy was on the brink of crisis. Although growth and employment generation did not meet expectations, macroeconomic stability was preserved," Arief said.

Asked about the appointment of a businessman as governor, Arief said performance, not academic background, was the key consideration.

MINISTER DECLINES COMMENT

Around 2:00pm, Mostaqur went to the finance ministry to complete formalities, and later met Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury at the Secretariat.

The governor arrived at about 3:30pm, briefly joining a meeting the minister was holding with officials from the Dhaka office of the Asian Development Bank.

After the ADB meeting ended, the two held an hour-long discussion. Financial Institutions Division Secretary Nazma Mobarek attended part of the talks before leaving them to meet privately.

When approached by journalists after the meeting and asked about the leadership change and the governor's appointment, the finance minister repeatedly declined to comment, saying, "Nothing to say."

## Govt okays waiver of farm loans

FROM PAGE 1

and marginal farmers and strengthen the backbone of the country's agricultural sector, Ghani said.

Around 12 lakh farmers will directly benefit from the decision.

Both the principal amount of up to Tk 10,000 and the full accrued interest on such loans will be waived.

The move will relieve small and marginal farmers of their debt burdens and encourage them to invest more actively in agricultural production.

"The money that farmers would have spent on loan instalments can now be used to purchase quality seeds or adopt modern irrigation technologies," he said, adding that the absence of debt pressure would allow farmers to begin the next

cultivation season with renewed enthusiasm.

The immediate impact of the loan waiver could include reduced rural-to-urban migration and easing rural inflationary pressures, Ghani added.

According to the officials, the waiver is also expected to improve farmers' credit records and creditworthiness, enabling them to access fresh agricultural loans from banks at lower interest rates and reduce reliance on high-interest loans from local moneylenders.

After assuming office, the Prime Minister has focused on initiatives such as the Family Card, Farmers' Card, canal excavation, tree plantation, monthly honorariums and festival allowances for religious leaders.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister reached his office at the Secretariat at 9:04am and joined the cabinet meeting at 9:30am yesterday.

The government employees have been instructed to be in office on time or else strict action will be taken against them as per the existing laws and regulations, Ghani said.

"Everyone concerned has already been officially informed about this," he added.

After wrapping up the meeting, Tarique left the Secretariat around 10:40am through Gate No. 5 and walked to the Osmani Memorial Auditorium, located just across the road, to attend the Ekushey Padak distribution ceremony. His daughter Zaima Rahman accompanied him.

## Teenager 'abducted', murdered

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Speaking to journalists, the victim's mother Fahina Begum said Amana had a relationship with Nurul Islam, 25, of the same area.

"When we came to know about it, we requested Nurul to marry my daughter. But he refused," she said.

The girl's father, Ashraf Hossain, alleged that around 15 days ago, Nurul and four to five of his associates abducted his daughter when she was on her way home from work and raped her.

He told The Daily Star that the family attempted to file a case but was threatened by Nurul. "They intercepted us on our way to the police station. Being intimidated, we returned home," he said.

Ashraf claimed they later informed Ahmed Ullah, a member of Ward-9 of Mahishashura Union, who settled the

matter through an arbitration.

"But Nurul kept stalking my daughter. Feeling insecure, we decided to send her to a safe place," he said.

According to the father, on Wednesday night, he was taking his daughter to a relative's house when Nurul and his associates allegedly intercepted them around 10:00pm in the Boroitola area and abducted her.

Failing to find her despite searching, he said he informed Ahmed Ullah.

"We found my daughter's body on Thursday morning in a mustard field," he said.

"They killed my daughter after raping her again. I want justice."

Ahmed Ullah denied that he had conducted any arbitration and said he was not at home when the family

came to see him that night.

Farida Gulshana Kabir, resident medical officer of Narsingdi Sadar Hospital, said the body has been received and an autopsy will be conducted today (Friday).

ASP Sarker said police are investigating the incident. "Details will be known after the autopsy."

Regarding the earlier rape allegation, Md Kamal Hossain, officer-in-charge of Madhabdi Police Station, said police were unaware of any such incident, as no complaint had been filed.

Nurul went into hiding after the incident, the OC said, adding that police detained one person, Ebadullah, 38, yesterday for his alleged involvement.

"The victim's family is preparing to file a case tonight," he said yesterday.

## India, Israel to boost defence cooperation

FROM PAGE 1

Israel and India in a variety of fields including technology and energy.

"Together, we will move forward towards joint development, joint production, and the transfer of technology," Modi told journalists.

"At the same time, we will also advance our cooperation in areas such as civil nuclear energy and space."

Netanyahu, who described Modi's visit as "amazing" and "extraordinarily productive", also

spoke of joint innovation between the two countries, reports AFP.

"The future belongs to those who innovate, and Israel and India are bent on innovation," Netanyahu said.

"We're proud ancient civilisations, very proud of our past. But absolutely determined to seize the future, and we can do it better together," he added.

At the press conference, a raft of memorandums of understanding were signed between the two countries in fields such as education,

geophysical exploration and artificial intelligence.

On Wednesday, Modi told lawmakers at the Israeli parliament that his country stood "firmly" with Israel following Hamas's attack on October 7, 2023.

"... carry with me the deepest condolences of the people of India for every life lost and for every family whose world was shattered in the barbaric terrorist attack by Hamas on October 7," Modi said in the Knesset.

## Man behind DU assault a murder case accused

Probe committee formed over attack on two women on campus

STAR REPORT

Dhaka University authorities have formed a three-member committee to investigate allegations that two students harassed and assaulted two women early Wednesday near the Raju sculpture at TSC.

The accused are Shahriar Islam Tushar, a 2023-24 student of the Department of Theatre and Performance Studies and a resident of Bijoy Ekattor Hall, and Rakib Ahmed Sohan, a 2023-24 student of the Department of World Religions and Culture and a resident of Zia Hall.

Rakib is also accused in a 2024 murder case filed with Kaliakoir Police Station in Gazipur, said police.

DU Proctor Saifuddin Ahmed told The Daily Star that the committee was formed after two men accompanying the women submitted written complaints to his office yesterday.

A video circulating on social media shows one of the accused holding a bamboo stick and appearing to lunge at a woman.

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A schoolboy looks delighted after buying books on the opening day of the Amar Ekushey Boi Mela at Suhrawardy Udyan in the capital yesterday. Despite delays caused by the 13th national elections, the fair is now in full swing. PHOTO: MEHEDI HASAN

## After disputes and delays, book fair begins

DIPAN NANDY

After weeks of delays, disputes, and shifting schedules, the Amar Ekushey Book Fair 2026 has finally begun – though in a shorter format that breaks from long-standing tradition.

Organised by the Bangla Academy, the country's largest literary gathering is held annually in memory of the Language Movement martyrs.

Traditionally starting on February 1 and continuing throughout the month, this year's fair was disrupted by political and logistical factors, including the national election and the overlap with Ramadan.

Months of uncertainty saw authorities consider shifting the fair to a regular schedule, sparking backlash from writers, publishers, and readers. Although the decision was later reversed, disagreements over timing persisted until just days before the eventual opening.

The impasse was resolved at the last moment, with authorities confirming full participation from publishers.

Reduced stall fees were introduced to ease financial pressure, ensuring a complete arrangement despite earlier tensions.

This year's edition, however, is one of the shortest in the fair's history. Instead of the usual month-long celebration, the event will run for a significantly shorter period.

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## Ready to take to streets if reforms not implemented

Says Nahid Islam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Opposition Chief Whip Nahid Islam yesterday warned that they are prepared to take to the streets if reforms are not implemented in Parliament.

Addressing the founding anniversary programme of Jatiya Chhatra Shakti in the capital, Nahid, also NCP convener, said people had expected structural reforms, justice for the July uprising, and an end to economic inequality.

"We want the fall of the old political system. We want a Bangladesh where dictatorship does not return again and again, and where students and ordinary people do not have to sacrifice their lives," he said.

Nahid alleged that political parties were once again misleading the student community after the July uprising, similar to what followed after the 1990s student movement.

"The government is taking a stand against the people on reform, justice, and economic progress," he claimed.

He called for Parliament to function as a "reform council", alleging that the ruling party refrained from taking the oath as members of such a council

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## 'I still don't know who killed my daughter or why'

Family of 5-year-old Roza Moni awaits answers 9 months after her murder

EMRUL HASAN BAPPI and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

In the alleyways of Tejkunipara in the capital's Tejgaon, the laughter of five-year-old Roza Moni has been replaced by a haunting silence.

On May 12 last year, Roza – the youngest among seven siblings – went missing while playing with her younger brother and neighbourhood children outside their rented house.

The next morning, her body was found stuffed inside a sack in a manhole near the Bijoy Sarani flyover, about 20 to 30 yards behind their residence. The body was discovered on a plot where a tin-shed structure was being demolished for a new building.

Now, nine months later, the murder remains unsolved.

"More than nine months have passed, yet I still don't know who killed my daughter or why," said her mother, Shilpi Begum.

"I cannot accept that a child can be abducted in broad daylight, murdered, and dumped, and still no one is arrested. The thought alone breaks my heart."

Before she went missing, Roza had come to her mother in the afternoon asking for lunch. The food was not ready, so Shilpi asked her to wait and return to playing.

About half an hour later, when the cooking was done, Shilpi called for her daughter but received no response.

The family searched the

neighbourhood frantically, but Roza could not be found. Around 5:30pm, announcements were made through loudspeakers across the area.

"She came in for a moment and asked if the rice was ready because she was hungry," Shilpi said. "I told her I would call her when it was done. But when I went to call her, she was gone."



**I cannot accept that a child can be abducted in broad daylight, murdered, and dumped, and still no one is arrested. The thought alone breaks my heart.**

SHILPI BEGUM  
Mother of Roza Moni

Shilpi said her young son had been playing with Roza at the time. "When I asked him where his sister was, he said a man had called her away. The incident happened just yards from our home, but no one noticed; no one knows anything..."

On May 13, the day her body was found, Shilpi filed a murder case

with Tejgaon Police Station against unnamed individuals.

Roza's body had been wrapped in three layers of bags. A rope was tightly wound around her neck.

Tejgaon police first investigated the case. Later, detectives took over. It is now being handled by the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI).

So far, the investigation has made no breakthrough.

"The investigators visit the area, talk to people, and ask if we suspect anyone," Shilpi said. "But we ask them who killed my daughter and why. They have no answers."

Investigation Officer Nagendra Kumar Das, an inspector of the Dhaka North unit of PBI, said, "We received the case docket last September. We have interrogated several people."

"We have not yet found any clues regarding the killing. But we are working, considering multiple aspects," he added.

Roza's father, Nure Alam, speaking from Malaysia, believes the killing may be linked to a land dispute in their ancestral village in Raipura, Narsingdi.

He said he purchased land in 2022, which led to conflict with local influential people. Although the dispute was formally settled, tensions remained.

"After the government changed in 2024, the same people vandalised our house in the village. Out of fear, we left and moved to

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

## Key accused held over killing of schoolgirl

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested the prime accused in the killing of a ninth-grader in the capital's Kathalagan area and recovered the knife allegedly used in the murder.

The arrestee was detained around 10:10am during a drive in the Kathalagan area, said Masud Alam, deputy commissioner of Ramna Division, at a press conference at the DMP Media Centre.

The victim is Shahriar Sharmin Binti, 14.

According to police, the incident occurred around 9:30pm on February 25 in the Charakghata Paka Road area of Hazaribagh. The accused allegedly attacked Binti with a sharp weapon, leaving her critically injured.

Binti was declared dead at DMCH around 10:20pm. Following the incident, the victim's father, Md Billal Hossain, filed a murder case with Hazaribagh Police Station.

When asked about the motive, the DC, quoting the accused, said the two studied at the same school and had developed a romantic relationship. Recently, Binti had been avoiding him and expressed her unwillingness to continue the relationship, which allegedly enraged the accused and led him to stab her.

## PM set to reside in Jamuna

PWD to get it ready within days after Yunus leaves

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman is set to move into the state guest house Jamuna, which has been selected as his official residence due to security considerations and its proximity to the Secretariat.

Jamuna is located on Hare Road in the capital. The Government Housing Directorate completed the allocation of residences to newly appointed ministers and state ministers on Wednesday.

Currently, Prof Muhammad Yunus, chief adviser of the recently dissolved interim government, resides at Jamuna. According to the Government Housing Directorate under the Ministry of Housing and Public Works, he is expected to vacate the residence by February 27.

Contacted, Md Khalequezzaman Choudhury, chief engineer of the Public Works Department, said no official letter has yet been received, but preparations will begin once the residence is vacated.

He said minor renovation work will be carried out in line with the prime minister's preferences. "The extent and duration of the renovation will depend on the actual requirements. After inspection, we will prepare it as instructed. At this moment, no major renovation appears necessary," he said.

The PWD will ensure the residence is ready for official programmes. "If the prime minister later instructs us to undertake further work, we will do so," he added.

According to the chief engineer, Jamuna can be made ready within 8-10 days after it is vacated.

During the interim government's tenure, alternative residences were considered near the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban and in Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. However, due to time constraints and other factors, those options were not pursued further, according to sources at the public works ministry.

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## ASK slams police directive on re-arrest after bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rights organisation Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) yesterday expressed concern over a reported police directive instructing field officers to re-arrest leaders and activists of a banned political party in other cases after they secure bail.

In a statement, ASK said media reports indicated that officials at the Rajshahi Range of the Bangladesh Police had issued a written instruction allowing individuals released on bail to be "shown arrested" in separate cases, depending on the circumstances, including their perceived capacity to reorganise the party.

The rights body said such measures, if implemented, would contravene the rule of law and fundamental rights.

According to the reports cited by ASK, the directive stated that individuals freed on bail could be shown arrested again based on their "capacity to strengthen or reorganise the party".

The rights group questioned the legal basis and accountability framework under which such instructions were issued, saying this remained unclear.

However, re-arresting individuals in a planned manner based on presumption or with the intent to harass would be contrary to legal and democratic norms, it added.

ASK said citizens are entitled to liberty, justice, and equal protection of the law. While legal action is warranted where allegations exist, no authority may use the law to harass individuals for ulterior motives, it added.

ASK demanded disclosure of the legal basis of the directive, a review of related orders and procedures, and steps to ensure compliance with constitutional and international human rights standards.



A permanent structure named 'Uttar Begunbari Barir Malik Society' and several makeshift encroachments have completely blocked a pedestrian walkway in Dhaka's Begunbari area. As a result, pedestrians are forced to walk on the road amid traffic. The photo was taken recently. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Bangladesh sees messages from Myanmar positively

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh's newly appointed Foreign Minister Dr Khalilur Rahman was recently congratulated by Myanmar's Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Than Swe and Chairman of the United League of Arakan (ULA, also known as Arakan Army) Twan Mrat Naing.

The congratulatory message has been seen positively by Dhaka with one senior official at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs telling UNB that the messages from Myanmar and ULA authorities are an extraordinary event and have come in the wake of continued engagement.

This is also the first time the head of the Arakan Army has sent a congratulatory letter to a Bangladesh foreign minister.

"They [Myanmar and Arakan officials] reflect their confidence in the new Bangladesh government in promoting a peaceful resolution of the Rohingya issue through continued dialogue," according to an official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Myanmar Foreign Minister expressed firm commitment to enhancing bilateral relations and strengthening cooperation between

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## Referendum vote count revised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a new recount by the Election Commission, 10.74 lakh votes cast in the referendum on February 12 have been revised, leading to a correction in the total number of votes.

Yesterday, the Election Commission issued a gazette notification with the updated figures. The total number of "yes" votes has been reduced by 9.75 lakh, while "no" votes decreased by 1.11 lakh. The number of invalid votes has also dropped by 12,559.

Despite the adjustments, "yes" votes remain the clear majority. The initial gazette, issued on February 13, recorded 4,82,00,660 "yes" votes (62.74 percent) and 2,20,71,726 "no" votes (28.66 percent), with 74,22,637 invalid ballots (9.61 percent), resulting in a 60.26 percent turnout.

The revised gazette corrected these figures to 4,72,25,980 "yes" votes (61.63 percent) and 2,19,60,231 "no" votes (28.66 percent), while the number of invalid ballots increased slightly to 74,35,196 (9.70 percent). As a result, the final turnout rate was adjusted downward to 60.19 percent.

Election Commission Senior Secretary Akhtar Ahmed explained that the discrepancies were due to "clerical mistakes and the transposition of digits." He clarified that these errors occurred because the process is handled manually but assured that they have now been corrected.

The previous total number of votes cast was 7,76,95,023, which has now been updated to 7,66,21,407 votes.

Ahmed emphasised that while the figures have been adjusted, the outcome remains unchanged, with the "yes" votes still the majority.



Women farmers showcase indigenous seed varieties at the Rural Seed Fair in Khulna, highlighting the importance of preserving traditional crops for local communities.

PHOTO: STAR

## Man shot dead in broad daylight

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A man was shot dead by miscreants in the Afilgate area of Khulna yesterday afternoon.

The victim was identified as Sheikh Sohel, 48.

The incident occurred around 3:05pm near a garage adjacent to a refuelling station under the jurisdiction of Khan Jahan Ali Police Station.

Confirming the incident, OC Howladar Shanower Hossain Masum said witnesses reported that several miscreants suddenly opened fire on Sohel before fleeing. "He died on the spot," the OC added.

Police said Sohel was a businessman and also a member of the Purba Banglar Communist Party, with multiple cases filed against him, including two over murder.

Investigators recovered four bullet casings from the scene.

## Local seeds for local needs

Rural women showcase indigenous seeds

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

Karuna Mondal, a 55-year-old homemaker from Shukdara village in Batiaghata upazila of Khulna, has spent over 40 years involved in farming. For nearly all of that time, she has dedicated herself to collecting and preserving indigenous seeds, many of which have disappeared from mainstream agriculture.

Over the years, Karuna's daily work in the fields has evolved into a deep commitment to preserving traditional seeds, which she carefully dries in the sun and stores in small containers.

"I collect new seeds throughout the year. After drying them properly in sunlight, I store them in containers so that air cannot enter," she explains.

Farmers from her village and nearby areas often visit Karuna for seeds, which she shares or sells.

At a seed fair held yesterday at the Batiaghata Upazila Auditorium, Karuna exhibited 316 varieties of indigenous seeds, showcasing the results of decades of patient work.

"I grow crops using these seeds, exchange them with others, and

sometimes sell them. I try to understand which seeds produce better quality crops," she adds, explaining how the practice has provided for her household and given her a sense of independence.

The seed fair, organised by LoCOS and Maitree Krishok Federation, served as a platform for farmers – particularly women – to exchange seeds and knowledge. The event aimed to raise awareness of the disappearing indigenous seed varieties and the need to preserve them for future generations.

Karuna was among over 100 women farmers from 17 villages who participated in the fair, showcasing hundreds of rare and endangered varieties of rice, vegetables, pulses, and oilseeds.

The stalls displayed traditional rice varieties, such as Morichshail, Ranisyalot, Hijji, Digha, Morgoshail, and Kalamoniik, along with several rare vegetable seeds.

Dipali Mondal, a homemaker from Shukdara village, brought around 50 varieties of leafy vegetables, including red amaranth and Indian spinach.

"By attending this seed fair, we learn

SEE PAGE 11 COL. 4

## Ex-UP member found injured on riverbank dies

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

A former union parishad member died after being rescued in critical condition from a riverbank in Brahmanbaria.

The deceased – Amir Hossain, 40 – a former member of Ward No-3 under Banshgari Union Parishad in Raipura upazila of Narsingdi.

Police said he was found lying on the bank of the Meghna River around 9:00am in the MP Tila area under Salimganj union in Nabinagar upazila, a border area between Brahmanbaria and Narsingdi.

"He was in critical condition, with several injury marks on his head and body," said Sunil Chandra Sutradhar, in-charge of Salimganj River Police Outpost under Nabinagar Police Station.

He was taken to Nabinagar Upazila Health Complex, where doctors declared him dead. The body was later sent to the 250-bed Brahmanbaria General Hospital for autopsy.

Dr Habibur Rahman, Nabinagar Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer, said the victim was brought dead and had multiple injuries.

"Primarily, it appears he was murdered. Police are investigating," said the police officer Sunil Chandra.

Amir was accused in five cases filed with Raipura Police Station, he added.

According to locals and police, Amir was elected a UP member in 2021 and was involved in local Jubo League politics. He went to Malaysia after the political changeover on August 5, 2024, and returned about four months ago.

Police said he was attacked by miscreants on Wednesday night while travelling by boat to his father-in-law's house.



## Man gets life term for raping college girl

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chattogram court yesterday sentenced a man to life imprisonment and fined him for abducting and raping a college girl in 2017.

Judge SM Zillur Rahman of the Chattogram Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-5 passed the verdict in the presence of the convict, Manzur Elahi Kazemi.

Public Prosecutor Md Akbar Ali said the court sentenced the man to 14 years' imprisonment and fined him Tk 3 lakh for the abduction charge; in default, he will have to serve one more year in jail.

For the rape charge, the court sentenced him to life imprisonment and fined him Tk 3 lakh; in default, he will have to serve another year in jail.

Both punishments will run concurrently.

According to the case, a second-year honours student was abducted from the port city's Chawkbazar area on her way to college and raped in the Patenga Sea Beach area on January 2, 2017.

Later, the girl was kept confined in Dampara, where police rescued her after receiving a complaint. The victim's mother subsequently filed a case with Chawkbazar Police Station.

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Memo No. 35.01.6152.448.15.288.25-984 Dated: 26/02/2026

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This is to notify all concern that the following tender have published through e-GP Portal.

Sl. No.	Tender ID, Package No. & date of publishing	Name of work	Last selling and closing date & time
01	Tender ID: 1235471 Package No. e-Gp/Rev-59/EE/MRD/2025-2026 & APP ID: 215127, Publishing: 26-Feb-2026 12:35	Supplying Skilled Labour, Semi-skilled Labour & Unskilled Labour for maintenance of road under the wage programme of departmental labour at 7th(P), 8th(P), 10th(P) km of Mymensingh(Raghurampur)-Phulpur-Nakla-Sherpur Road (R-371) under Mymensingh Road Division during the year 2025-2026.	15-Mar-2026; 15:30 16-Mar-2026; 12:30

The interested persons/firms may visit the website [www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) to get the details of the tender.

This is an 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 Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

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**K.B.M. Saddam Hossain**  
ID No. 602201  
Executive Engineer, RHD  
Road Division, Mymensingh

GD-418

## Ready to take to

FROM PAGE 3

and consolidated power through constitutional amendments.

"The current government's conduct reflects the same trend," he said.

Nahid alleged that the government had shown "shamelessness" in taking over Bangladesh Bank to sabotage proceedings.

He pointed to discrepancies between pre-election and post-election statements and demanded the removal of the current governor, calling for the appointment of an "honest and competent" individual.

He claimed a similar pattern was seen during the 2008 Awami League government, where they deprived the opposition

## Bangladesh sees

FROM PAGE 3

to the Rohingya crisis.

On May 6 last year, referring to engagement with the ULA, the then National Security Adviser Dr Khalilur Rahman said Bangladesh, as a sovereign state, would maintain communication with whomever it wants taking its own interest into consideration.

"We will speak to whoever we want for our own interests. It doesn't matter who said what," he had said while responding to a question about the Myanmar military government's opinion on Bangladesh's contact with the ULA.

"One thing must be kept in mind. The Arakan Army controls the other side of the Bangladesh border. Bangladesh has to manage, protect, and keep this border peaceful," Rahman said at that time, stressing that they will keep in touch with whoever is on the other side.

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**বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

বিষয়ঃ বিনা অনুমতিতে কর্মস্থলে অনুপস্থিতির জন্য কারণ দর্শানো নোটিশ।

যেহেতু, আপনি জনাব মোঃ আমিনুল ইসলাম জুয়েল, নিরাপত্তা প্রহরী (সাময়িক বরখাস্তকৃত), কারিগরি প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্র, মুন্সিগঞ্জ। আপনি জনশক্তি কর্মসংস্থান ও প্রশিক্ষণ ব্যুরো কর্তৃক বাস্তবায়নধীন "৪০টি উপজেলায় ৪০টি কারিগরি প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্র ও চট্রগ্রামে ০১টি ইন্সটিটিউট অব মেরিন টেকনোলজি স্থাপন" শীর্ষক প্রকল্পের আওতায় নির্মাণধীন কারিগরি প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্র, মুন্সিগঞ্জ সদর, মুন্সিগঞ্জ এ সংযুক্তিতে পদায়নকৃত নিরাপত্তা প্রহরী জনাব মোঃ আমিনুল ইসলাম জুয়েল গত ২৩/০৮/২০২২খ্রিঃ তারিখ যোগদান করেন। আপনি গত ১৯/০৭/২০২৩খ্রিঃ তারিখ হতে অদ্যাবধি অননুমোদিতভাবে কর্মস্থলে অনুপস্থিত এবং উর্ধ্বতন কর্তৃপক্ষ কারণ দর্শালেও আপনি কোন জবাব দাখিল না করায় বিধিগত ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণের বিষয়ে অভিযোগ পাওয়া যায়:

০২। যেহেতু, আপনি জনাব মোঃ আমিনুল ইসলাম জুয়েল গত ১৯/০৭/২০২৩খ্রিঃ তারিখ ডিউটি রোস্টার অনুযায়ী ভোর ০৬:০০ ঘটিকা থেকে দুপুর ০২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত কেন্দ্রের অভ্যন্তরে নিরাপত্তা প্রহরীর দায়িত্ব পালনের নির্দেশনা থাকলেও আপনার সন্তানের অসুস্থতার কথা জানিয়ে কর্মস্থল ত্যাগের দরখাস্ত জমা দিয়ে কর্মস্থল ত্যাগ করেন এবং অদ্যাবধি কর্মস্থলে যোগদান করেননি; যা কেন্দ্রের সার্বিক নিরাপত্তার জন্য চরম হুমকিস্বরূপ। কর্মস্থলে অনুপস্থিতির কারণ জানতে চেয়ে আপনার নিকট ০৩ (তিন)টি কারণ দর্শানোর নোটিশ প্রেরণ করা হলেও লিখিত জবাব প্রদান করেননি, যা আপনার অসদাচরণের শামিল;

০৩। যেহেতু, আপনি মুন্সিগঞ্জ কারিগরি প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্রের নিরাপত্তা প্রহরী জনাব মোঃ আমিনুল ইসলাম জুয়েল গত ১৯/০৭/২০২৩খ্রিঃ তারিখ হতে অদ্যাবধি অননুমোদিতভাবে কর্মস্থলে অনুপস্থিত রয়েছেন, যা সরকারি কর্মচারী (শৃঙ্খলা ও আপিল) বিধিমালা ২০১৮ এর ২(৮) মোতাবেক "পলায়ন" এবং আপনাকে ০৩ (তিন)টি কারণ দর্শানো নোটিশ প্রদান করা হলেও আপনি কোন লিখিত জবাব প্রদান না করায় বিধিমালা ২০১৮ এর ৩ (খ) ও (গ) মোতাবেক অসদাচরণের শামিল;

০৪। যেহেতু, আপনার এহেন কার্যকলাপ সরকারি কর্মচারী (শৃঙ্খলা ও আপিল) বিধিমালা ২০১৮ এর ২(৮) মোতাবেক "পলায়ন" এবং ৩(খ) ও (গ) ধারা মোতাবেক অসদাচরণের শামিল, যা শাস্তিযোগ্য অপরাধ;

০৫। সেহেতু, এক্ষণে মোঃ আমিনুল ইসলাম জুয়েল, নিরাপত্তা প্রহরী (সাময়িক বরখাস্তকৃত), কারিগরি প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্র, মুন্সিগঞ্জ সরকারি কর্মচারী (শৃঙ্খলা ও আপিল) বিধিমালা ২০১৮ এর ২(৮) এবং ৩ (খ) ও (গ) ধারায় কেন আপনার বিরুদ্ধে উক্ত আচরণের কারণে একই বিধিমালায় বিধি ৪ (৩) মোতাবেক উপযুক্ত দস্ত প্রদান করা হবে না, বিধি ৭ (১) (খ) মোতাবেক আপনাকে এই বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের ১০ (দশ) কার্যদিবসের মধ্যে তার উপযুক্ত কারণ দর্শানোর জন্য নির্দেশ প্রদান করা হলো।

প্রতি  
জনাব মোঃ আমিনুল ইসলাম জুয়েল  
পিতা-মোঃ খোরশেদ আলম  
গ্রামঃ ব্রাজেরহাট, পোঃ টোল বাসাইল  
পানাঃ পিরাজদিখান, জেলাঃ মুন্সিগঞ্জ

মোঃ আবুল হাছানাত হুমায়ুন কবীর  
মহাপরিচালক  
ফোনঃ ০২-৪৯৩৪৯৯২৫  
Email: [dg@bmet.gov.bd](mailto:dg@bmet.gov.bd)  
জিডি-৪১৪

## PARIS AGREEMENT UN approves first carbon credits

AFP, Paris

The United Nations yesterday announced the approval of the first carbon credits under a global market aimed at reducing emissions, a mechanism that has faced scrutiny over greenwashing concerns.

The UN-run market, established under the Paris climate accord, allows companies and countries to offset their excess emissions by financing projects that cut greenhouse gases in other nations.

Critics fear that if set up poorly, such schemes can undermine the world's efforts to curb global warming by allowing countries or companies to greenwash -- or overstate -- their emissions reductions.

The first credits issued under new carbon market involve a project in Myanmar that distributes efficient wood-burning cookstoves that reduce harmful household air pollution and ease pressure on forests, UN agency said.



The US Navy aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford departs Souda Bay on the Greek island of Crete yesterday. The United States is assembling its largest force of warships and aircraft in the Middle East in decades, as President Donald Trump warns of possible military action against Iran. PHOTO: AFP

## US, China at 'strategic stability'

Says Rubio ahead  
of Trump trip

AFP, Basseterre

The US and China have reached "stability" in their long-fractious relationship, Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Wednesday ahead of President Donald Trump's visit to the Asian power.

"I think we've reached a point at least of a sort of strategic stability in the relationship," Rubio told reporters. "I think both countries concluded that having an all-out global trade war between the United States and China would be deeply damaging to both sides and to the world," Rubio said on a visit to the tiny Caribbean nation of Saint Kitts and Nevis.

Rubio has long been known as a hawk on China. Rubio said that the United States would keep raising concerns including seeking to diversify from China's dominance in supply chains.

He also vowed to keep pushing China to negotiate a three-way nuclear deal with the United States and Russia. A senior US official met with Russia and China in Geneva this week after the expiration of New START, the last remaining treaty between Russia and the United States that limited nuclear warheads.

"They have publicly said they're not willing to do it," Rubio said of China.

## 'No deadlines' to end Ukraine war

Russian FM says as missile, drone barrage hits  
Ukrainian cities; 23 injured

AFP, Kyiv

Moscow is in no hurry to reach a deal to end the war in Ukraine, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov suggested in comments to state media yesterday.

Negotiators from both countries were in Geneva yesterday for separate talks with US officials, part of a fraught negotiation process being pushed by President Donald Trump in a bid to end the fighting.

Several rounds of discussions have failed to clinch a deal, with Moscow insisting on headline territorial and political demands that Kyiv has ruled out as

- » US, Ukraine to discuss post-war reconstruction at Geneva talks
- » The overnight strikes prompted Poland to scramble fighter jets

tantamount to capitulation.

Top officials in Russia again pushed back on the idea a deal was close. "Have you heard anything from us about deadlines? We have no deadlines, we have tasks. We are getting them done," state news agencies quoted Lavrov as saying.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov also said it was too early to make "forecasts" or say at what stage the peace process was at.

Meanwhile, Russian strikes in multiple Ukrainian cities wounded



at least 23 people, including a child, officials said yesterday.

The Ukrainian air force reported high-speed targets heading toward the capital shortly before Tymur Tkachenko, head of Kyiv's military administration, said Russia was striking the city with drones and ballistic missiles.

"Air defence is operating. Stay in shelters until the alert is cleared!" he wrote on Telegram, early yesterday. Kyiv police said debris sparked fires and damage in three districts, including a blaze in non-residential buildings, a smashed balcony window in a high-rise and a fire at a two-storey house.

No casualties were reported, and emergency crews and investigators worked through the morning to secure the sites and document the damage.

The bombardment extended well beyond the capital. In the northeast

city of Kharkiv and a nearby village, 14 people were wounded, among them a seven-year-old boy, regional chief Oleg Syneghubov said.

Towards the south, Zaporizhzhia also came under heavy fire. Regional head Ivan Fedorov said seven people were wounded, after strikes damaged 19 apartment blocks, four houses and other buildings.

In Kryvyi Rig in the Dnipropetrovsk region, two people were wounded. The overnight strikes prompted Poland to scramble fighter jets, it said on X.

The latest barrage came as Ukrainian negotiators were due to meet US officials yesterday in Geneva for talks on post-war reconstruction, including a "prosperity package" of funding to rebuild Ukraine's economy, despite a deadlock in peace negotiations with Russia.

## 7,667 died or vanished on migrant routes in 2025: IOM

AFP, Berlin

At least 7,667 people died or went missing last year on migration routes around the world, but the true death toll is likely higher, the UN's migration agency reported yesterday.

The figure was down on 2024 when almost 9,200 deaths were recorded, but the International Organization for Migration (IOM) said numbers nonetheless reflected the "global scale" of the crisis faced by migrants.

"The continued loss of life on migration routes is a global failure we cannot accept as normal," said IOM Director General Amy Pope. She argued for safer legal routes, adding: "These deaths are not inevitable."

Funding cuts for aid groups, crackdowns on humanitarian NGOs and limited access to data are making it more difficult to accurately track deaths, the UN agency said.

Sea crossings such as the perilous journey across the Mediterranean Sea from Africa to Europe remain among the deadliest routes for migrants, the report said.

At least 2,108 people went missing while trying to cross the Mediterranean in 2025, and another 1,047 died or vanished while trying to cross to Spain's Canary Islands, according to IOM.

## Afghan military attacks Pak forces

Several soldiers killed, others  
captured at border; Islamabad  
vows 'immediate' action

AFP, Kabul

Afghanistan attacked Pakistani forces at the border last night in response to deadly air strikes, and claimed it had captured 15 Pakistani outposts, military and government officials said.

"Several soldiers have been killed, and a number of them have been caught alive," Taliban government spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid said on X.

A military spokesman said Afghan forces in the eastern provinces of Nangarhar and Kunar had started "heavy attacks on Pakistani outposts".

"So far, there are no casualties on Afghan side," said Wahidullah Mohammadi, spokesman for the military in eastern Afghanistan. The governor's office and residents in Kunar province also told AFP that military action was underway.

Hamdullah Fitrat, the Taliban government's deputy spokesman, said "15 outposts have been captured" by Afghan forces.

Pakistan said it had taken "immediate" action against Afghanistan after its neighbour launched "unprovoked" strikes.

The military operation follows Pakistani strikes on Nangarhar and Paktika provinces overnight into Sunday, which the UN mission in Afghanistan said killed at least 13 civilians.

The Taliban government said at least 18 people were killed and denied Pakistan's announcement that the military operation left more than 80 militants dead.

## THAI BORDER DISPUTE Cambodia wants 'de-escalation': PM

AFP, Brussels

Cambodia's Prime Minister Hun Manet said on Wednesday Phnom Penh wanted de-escalation and a peaceful resolution to its border conflict with Thailand, after Bangkok this week accused its neighbour of violating a December truce.

The Southeast Asian nations' decades-long border dispute erupted into several rounds of clashes last year, killing dozens of people and displacing more than a million in July and December.

"We are not escalating. We want de-escalation. We want peaceful coexistence," Hun Manet told AFP in Brussels, in a rare international media interview.

Thailand's military accused Cambodian forces of firing a grenade round near a Thai patrol Tuesday, prompting return fire -- something Phnom Penh has denied.

Cambodia says Thai forces captured several areas in border provinces and has demanded their withdrawal, while Bangkok insists it has merely reclaimed land that was part of Thailand and had been occupied by Cambodians for years.

Hun Manet declined to say how much land Thai forces had captured, but said they had ventured "well over beyond" what even Bangkok says is the frontier between the two countries.

Asked whether Cambodian forces would fight to regain lost territory, he said: "We always stick to the de-escalation, peaceful solutions."

The two countries' century-old border conflict stems from a dispute over the French colonial-era demarcation of their 800-kilometre (500-mile) frontier.

Phnom Penh has asked France for assistance and access to historical documents and maps in a bid to resolve the issue, and called for a joint border commission to resume work on it.



GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER  
PWD DIVISION, NOAKHALI  
Phone: & Fax: 02334491026  
Email: ee\_noakh@pwd.gov.bd

Memo No. 25.36.7500.440.14/ 551 Dated : 25/02/2026

### e-Tender Notice

An e-Tender has been invited for the following work through e-GP Portal and that will be visible from 25.02.2026 Only the Person/Organization registered by e-GP portal can visit ([http:// www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd)) for clear observation.

Tender ID No	Package No	Name of works	Last Selling date & Time	Closing / Opening date & Time
1234634	Nkhali.MCH/WD-01	Construction of 500 Bedded Hospital Building of Noakhali Medical College (10 storied Bldg. with 10 storied foundation in/c single Basement) Under the project of Establishment of 500 Bedded Hospital and Ancillary Building in Jeshore, Cox's Bazar, Pabna & Noakhali (1st Revised)	29.03.2026 17:00	30.03.2026 17:00

This is an online Tender only where e-Tenders 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](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd)) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd))

(Md Asraf Uddin)  
Executive Engineer  
Noakhali P.W.D. Division.

## CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS

### FBI fires agents linked to Trump probe: reports

AFP, Washington

The FBI has fired at least half a dozen agents linked to a 2022 probe into President Donald Trump retaining documents at his Mar-a-Lago residence, US media reported on Wednesday, drawing anger from the association representing bureau personnel.

The FBI raided Trump's residence in Florida in 2022, when he was out of office, as part of a now-dropped investigation into the mishandling of classified documents after his first White House term.

FBI director Kash Patel ordered the firing of at least six agents over their work on the case, multiple US media outlets reported. The FBI declined to comment.

Trump allegedly kept classified documents -- which included records from the Pentagon and CIA -- unsecured at his Mar-a-Lago home and thwarted efforts to retrieve them.

The materials included secret nuclear and defense documents, according to prosecutors.

US District Judge Aileen Cannon, a Trump appointee, dismissed the documents case against Trump in July 2024, ruling that former special counsel Jack Smith was unlawfully appointed.

পরিবেশ বিজ্ঞান ইনস্টিটিউট  
রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়  
বিজ্ঞান নং ১/২০২৬

২০২৬-২০২৭ শিক্ষাবর্ষে এম. ফিল. ও পিএইচ.ডি. প্রোগ্রামে ভর্তির বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পরিবেশ বিজ্ঞান ইনস্টিটিউট, রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় ২০২৬-২০২৭ শিক্ষাবর্ষে ২(দুই) বছর মেয়াদী এম.ফিল. ও ৩ (তিন) বছর মেয়াদী পিএইচ.ডি. প্রোগ্রামে গবেষণা ভর্তি করা হবে। আসন সংখ্যা সীমিত।

আগামী ০১-০৩-২০২৬ থেকে ৩০-০৪-২০২৬ তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন ইনস্টিটিউটের অফিস থেকে আবেদন ফরম সংগ্রহ ও জমাদান করতে পারবেন। আগামী ১৪-০৫-২০২৬ তারিখ বৃহস্পতিবার সকাল ১০:০০ টায় পরিবেশ বিজ্ঞান ইনস্টিটিউটে ভর্তি পরীক্ষা অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। চূড়ান্তভাবে নির্বাচিত প্রার্থীকে ইনস্টিটিউট কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত তারিখের মধ্যে ভর্তি হতে হবে। পরিচালক, পরিবেশ বিজ্ঞান ইনস্টিটিউট, রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়-এর অনুকূলে টাঃ ১৫০০/- (এক হাজার পাঁচশত) (অফেরতযোগ্য) ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডারসহ ভর্তির আবেদন ফরম ইনস্টিটিউট কার্যালয়ে জমা অথবা ডাকযোগে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারী বরাবর প্রেরণ করা যাবে। প্রার্থী অনলাইনে তার আবেদনপত্র পূরণ ও ব্যাংক ড্রাফটের স্ক্যান কপি নিম্নোক্ত ই-মেইলে প্রেরণ করবেন (শর্ত থাকে যে প্রার্থীকে মূল ব্যাংক ড্রাফট কপিটি ডাকযোগে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারী বরাবর প্রেরণ করতে হবে)। Referee Form ২ (দুই)টি কপি নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারী বরাবর আলাদা প্রেরণ করতে হবে।

আবেদন ফরম ও আবেদনের শর্তাবলী ইনস্টিটিউটের কার্যালয়ে পাওয়া যাবে বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় অথবা ইনস্টিটিউটের ([www.ru.ac.bd/ies](http://www.ru.ac.bd/ies)) ওয়েবসাইট থেকে ডাউনলোড করা যাবে।

প্রফেসর ড. মোঃ গোলাম মোস্তফা  
পরিচালক  
পরিবেশ বিজ্ঞান ইনস্টিটিউট  
রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়  
E-mail: [ies\\_office@ru.ac.bd](mailto:ies_office@ru.ac.bd) জিডি-৪১৩

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Prime Minister's Office  
Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority  
Mongla Export Processing Zone  
Mongla, Bagerhat-9351  
[www.bepza.gov.bd](http://www.bepza.gov.bd)

Reference No. 03.06.0158.308.07.903.25-101 Date: 24 February 2026

**Invitation for Tender**  
**e-Tender Notice No. 01/2025-2026**

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following supply, detail are given below:

SI No.	Package No.	Description of good	Publication date and time	Last selling date and time	Closing date and time	Opening date and time	Tender ID No.
01	MEPZ-AG-A003	Supply of Uniform and Liveries of 17-20th Grade Employees at Mongla EPZ at Bagerhat.	03 March 2026 at 09:00	15 March 2026 at 15.30	16 March 2026 at 12.00	16 March 2026 at 12.00	1235223

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 document from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches, up to 15 March 2026, 15.30.  
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

Kausar  
24.02.2026  
**Md. Kawsar Hossain**  
Director (Administration)  
Phone No. 02-478846151

GD-419

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Local Government Engineering Department  
Host and FDMN Enhancement of Lives through  
Infrastructure Improvement Project (HELP)  
Workshop Bhaban (Level-3), Agargaon,  
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.  
[www.lged.gov.bd](http://www.lged.gov.bd)

Memo No.: 46.02.0000.560.07.047.25-2033 Date: 25/02/2026.

**Re-Tender Notice (Tender Notice No. 08/2025-2026)**

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

Sl. No.	Tender ID & Name of the Project	Description of works & Package No.	Tender Last Selling (Time & Date)	Tender Closing (Time & Date)
1.	1234861 HELP	Laboratory Facilities Enhancement in Cox's Bazar and Noakhali District [Part-A: Construction of Extension Building at Noakhali District and Part-B: Supply of Laboratory Equipment in Cox's Bazar and Noakhali District]. HELP-COX/LFE-1	15.00 hrs 15-Mar-26	13.00 hrs 16-Mar-26

This is in online Tender, where only e-Tenders 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 mandatory. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from National e-GP System portal have to be deposit online through any registered Banks up to **16-Mar-2026 upto 12.00 hours**. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System portal and from e-GP helpdesk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

Project Director  
Phone: +88-02-55006730  
[pdhelp.lged@gmail.com](mailto:pdhelp.lged@gmail.com)

GD-425

**বিশেষ বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

পবিত্র ঈদ-উল-ফিতর/২০২৬ উপলক্ষে বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে নিম্নোক্ত সময়সূচী অনুযায়ী টিকিট বিক্রয়ের ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হয়েছেঃ

**ঈদ যাত্রার অগ্রিম টিকিট বিক্রয় সূচিঃ**

ক্রমিক নং	টিকিট ইস্যুর তারিখ	যাত্রার তারিখ
১	০৩/০৩/২০২৬	১৩/০৩/২০২৬
২	০৪/০৩/২০২৬	১৪/০৩/২০২৬
৩	০৫/০৩/২০২৬	১৫/০৩/২০২৬
৪	০৬/০৩/২০২৬	১৬/০৩/২০২৬
৫	০৭/০৩/২০২৬	১৭/০৩/২০২৬
৬	০৮/০৩/২০২৬	১৮/০৩/২০২৬
৭	০৯/০৩/২০২৬	১৯/০৩/২০২৬

**ঈদ ফেরত যাত্রার অগ্রিম টিকিট বিক্রয় সূচিঃ**

ক্রমিক নং	টিকিট ইস্যুর তারিখ	যাত্রার তারিখ
১	১৩/০৩/২০২৬	২৩/০৩/২০২৬
২	১৪/০৩/২০২৬	২৪/০৩/২০২৬
৩	১৫/০৩/২০২৬	২৫/০৩/২০২৬
৪	১৬/০৩/২০২৬	২৬/০৩/২০২৬
৫	১৭/০৩/২০২৬	২৭/০৩/২০২৬
৬	১৮/০৩/২০২৬	২৮/০৩/২০২৬
৭	১৯/০৩/২০২৬	২৯/০৩/২০২৬

**বিশেষ লক্ষ্যনীয়ঃ**

(ক) যাত্রী সাধারণের টিকিট ক্রয় সহজলভ্য করার লক্ষ্যে পশ্চিমাঞ্চলে চলাচলরত সকল আন্তঃনগর ট্রেনের টিকিট সকাল ০৮:০০ ঘটিকা হতে এবং পূর্বাঞ্চলে চলাচলরত সকল আন্তঃনগর ট্রেনের টিকিট দুপুর ১৪:০০ ঘটিকা হতে ইস্যু করা হবে।  
(খ) উল্লিখিত সূচি অনুযায়ী অগ্রিম ও ফেরত যাত্রার টিকিট শতভাগ অনলাইনের মাধ্যমে বিক্রয় করা হবে।  
(গ) একজন যাত্রী উল্লিখিত ঈদ অগ্রিম যাত্রা ও ফেরত যাত্রার ক্ষেত্রে সর্বোচ্চ ১ বার করে টিকিট ক্রয় করতে পারবেন এবং প্রতি ক্ষেত্রে সর্বমোট ০৪টি টিকিট ক্রয় করতে পারবেন।  
(ঘ) একজন যাত্রীর সর্বোচ্চ ০৪টি টিকিট ক্রয়ের ক্ষেত্রে সহযাত্রীদের নাম ইনপুট দেওয়ার ব্যবস্থা থাকবে।  
(ঙ) ঈদ অগ্রিম ও ফেরত যাত্রার টিকিট রিফান্ড করা যাবে না।  
(চ) যাত্রী সাধারণের অনুরোধে যাত্রার দিন মোট আসনের ২৫ শতাংশ স্ট্যান্ডিং টিকিট স্টেশন কাউন্টার হতে বিক্রয় করা হবে।  
(ছ) ঈদের চাঁদ দেখার উপর নির্ভর করে ২০, ২১ ও ২২ মার্চ ২০২৬ তারিখের টিকিট বিক্রয় করা হবে।  
(জ) ঈদ ফেরত যাত্রার টিকিট উভয় অঞ্চলে একযোগে সকাল ০৮:০০ ঘটিকা হতে ইস্যু করা হবে।

বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে  
আপনার আস্থা আমাদের অনুপ্রেরণা

জিডি-৪১৬

**সতর্কীকরণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি**  
বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে

সম্মানিত যাত্রীগণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, ঈদ-উল-ফিতর ২০২৬ উপলক্ষে আগামী ০৩.০৩.২০২৬ হতে ০৯.০৩.২০২৬ পর্যন্ত ঈদ যাত্রার অগ্রিম টিকিট এবং ১৩.০৩.২০২৬ হতে ১৯.০৩.২০২৬ পর্যন্ত ঈদ যাত্রার ফেরত টিকিট শতভাগ অনলাইনে বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ের অনলাইন ওয়েবসাইট ([www.eticket.railway.gov.bd](http://www.eticket.railway.gov.bd)) ও রেলওয়ের এ্যাপস (Rail Sheba) এর মাধ্যমে বিক্রয় করা হবে।

এক্ষেত্রে অন্য কোন ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠানের আইডি/ফেইসবুক পেইজ হতে টিকিট ক্রয়/বিক্রয় হতে বিরত থাকুন। তাছাড়া ভ্রমণেচ্ছুক সম্মানিত যাত্রীদের বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ের অনলাইন ওয়েবসাইট ও রেলওয়ের এ্যাপস ব্যতীত অন্য কোন ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে টিকিট ক্রয়/বিক্রয়ের ক্ষেত্রে কোন আর্থিক লেন-দেন না করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো। অন্যথায় আপনি প্রতারণিত হবেন।

অনুরোধক্রমে  
রেলওয়ে কর্তৃপক্ষ

জিডি-৪১৫

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Health Service Division  
National Electro-Medical Equipment Maintenance  
Workshop & Training Center (NEMEMW&TC)  
Office of the Chief Technical Manager  
Mohakhali, Dhaka-1213.  
[www.nememw.gov.bd](http://www.nememw.gov.bd)

Memo No- 45.07.0000.004.07.015.16- 962 Date: 25/02/2026

**e-Tender Notice**

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

SI No	Tender ID	Package No. & Description	Last Selling Date & Time	Opening and Closing Date & Time
1.	1233848	e-GP/Repair/EX/2026/Endo Col4 Repairing & Upgradation of 02 Nos Video Processor; Model: EPX-2500; Brand: Fujinon/FujiFilm; S/N: 2V564K128 & 2V564K125; 01 Nos Endoscope/Upper GI Scope; Brand: Fujinon/FujiFilm; Model: EG-201FP; S/N: RG229A466; & 01 Nos Colonoscope/Lower GI Scope; Brand: Fujinon/FujiFilm; Model: EC-201WL; S/N: RC323A184; Country of origin: Japan; including 03(Three) years comprehensive warranty of the whole machine in Muga Medical College Hospital, Dhaka.	10-Mar-2026 13:30	10-Mar-2026 14:30
2.	1233846	e-GP/Repair/EX/2026/Endo2 Repairing & Upgradation of 01 Nos Video Processor; Model: VP-4450HD; Brand: Fujinon/FujiFilm; S/N: 3V5670514; 02 Nos Endoscope/Upper GI Scope; Brand: Fujinon/FujiFilm; Model: EG-450WRS; S/N: 7G201A045 & 3C593A011; ; Country of origin: Japan; including 03(Three) years comprehensive warranty of the whole machine in Kurigram General Hospital, Kurigram.	10-Mar-2026 13:30	10-Mar-2026 14:00
3.	1233845	e-GP/Repair/EX/2026/Endo Col3 Repairing & Upgradation of 03 Nos Video Processor; Model: EPX-2500; Brand: Fujinon/FujiFilm; S/N: 2V564K287, 2V564K931 & 2V564K258; 02 Nos Endoscope/Upper GI Scope; Brand: Fujinon/FujiFilm; Model: EG-201FP; S/N: RG229A405 & RG229A408; 01 Nos Colonoscope/Lower GI Scope; Brand: Fujinon/FujiFilm; Model: EC-201WL; S/N: MC322A007; Country of origin: Japan; including 03(Three) years comprehensive warranty of the whole machine in Dinajpur Medical College Hospital, Dinajpur.	10-Mar-2026 14:20	10-Mar-2026 15:20
4.	1232609	e-GP/Repair/EX/2026/Dialysis 1 Repairing of 08 Nos Hemodialysis Machine; Brand: B. Braun; Model: Dialog+; SN: 509816, 509817, 509890, 509865, 509813, 509884, 509886, 509820; Country of origin: Germany in Sylhet M.A.G. Osmani Medical College Hospital, Sylhet including 03(Three) years comprehensive warranty of the whole machine.	09-Mar-2026 13:00	09-Mar-2026 14:00
5.	1233827	e-GP/Repair/EX/2026/Phaco Repairing of 01 Nos Modern Phaco Machine, Brand: ABBOTT (AMO), Model: White Star Signature; SN: 201260385; Country of origin: USA in Sher-E-Bangla Medical College & Hospital, Barisal including 03 (Three) years comprehensive warranty of the whole machine.	09-Mar-2026 13:00	09-Mar-2026 14:00
6.	1233829	e-GP/Repair/EX/2026/Dialysis2 Repairing of 10 Nos Hemodialysis Machine; Brand: Fresenius Medical Care; Model:4008S; SN: 2SXA3ZRRK, 2SXA4AEY, 2SXA3ZRN, 2SXA3ZRL, 2SXA4AEW, 2SXA4AEZ, 2SXA3ZRM, 2SXA3ZRH, 2SXA3ZRE & 3SXA4C7T; Country of origin: Germany in Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Medical College Hospital, Gazipur including 03(Three) years comprehensive warranty of the whole machine.	09-Mar-2026 13:00	09-Mar-2026 14:00
7.	1233830	e-GP/Repair/EX/2026/Broncho1 Repairing & Upgradation of 02 Nos Video Processor, Model: EPX-2500; Brand: Fujinon/FujiFilm; S/N: 2V564K277 & 2V564K125; 02 Nos Bronchoscope; Brand: Fujinon/FujiFilm; Model: EB-530S; S/N: 1B083K139 & 1B083K113; Country of origin: Japan including 03(Three) years comprehensive warranty of the whole machine in Sher-E-Bangla Medical College Hospital, Barishal.	10-Mar-2026 13:00	10-Mar-2026 14:00
8.	1233834	e-GP/Repair/EX/2026/Endo Col1 Repairing & Upgradation of 02 Nos Video Processor; Model: EPX-2500; Brand: Fujinon/FujiFilm; S/N: 2V564K130 & 2V564K094; 01 Nos Endoscope/Upper GI Scope; Brand: Fujinon/FujiFilm; Model: EG-201FP; S/N: RG229A426; 01 Nos Colonoscope/Lower GI Scope; Brand: Fujinon/FujiFilm; Model: EC-201WL; S/N: RC323A173; Country of origin: Japan & 02 Nos Monitor; Brand: BenQ; Model:GW2780; S/N: ETACL0001301Q & ETACLOOOO901Q; Origin: Taiwan; including 03(Three) years comprehensive warranty of the whole machine in Sher-E-Bangla Medical College Hospital, Barishal.	10-Mar-2026 13:00	10-Mar-2026 14:00
9.	1233840	e-GP/Repair/EX/2026/Endo1 Repairing & Upgradation of 01 Nos Video Processor; Model: EPK -1000; Brand: Pentax; S/N: EC012708; 01 Nos Endoscope/Upper GI Scope; Brand: Pentax; Model: EG-290 Kp; S/N: N/F; Country of origin: Japan including 03 (Three) years comprehensive warranty of the whole machine in Sher-E-Bangla Medical College Hospital, Barishal.	10-Mar-2026 13:00	10-Mar-2026 14:00
10.	1233842	e-GP/Repair/EX/2026/Endo Col2 Repairing & Upgradation of 01 Nos Video Processor; Model: EPK -3000; Brand: Pentax; S/N:B720159; 01 Nos Endoscope/Upper GI Scope; Brand: Pentax; Model: EG-290Kp; S/N: J128602; & 01 Nos Colonoscope/Lower GI Scope; Brand: Pentax; Model: EC-380L.Kp; S/N: J00WVA3387; Country of origin: Japan including 03(Three) years comprehensive warranty of the whole machine in Muga Medical College & Hospital, Dhaka.	10-Mar-2026 13:00	10-Mar-2026 14:00
11.	1233844	e-GP/Repair/EX/2026/Broncho2 Repairing & Upgradation of 02 Nos Video Processor; Model: EPK -1000; Brand: Pentax; S/N: ED014105 & EC012691; 02 Nos Bronchoscope; Brand: Pentax; Model: EB-1970AK & EB-1570K; S/N: G120255 & G120812; Country of origin: Japan including 03(Three) years comprehensive warranty of the whole machine in National Institute of Diseases of the Chest & Hospital, Dhaka.	10-Mar-2026 11:15	10-Mar-2026 14:15

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no office/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal (<https://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 banks, branches.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and also from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

(M N Nashid Rahman)  
Technical Manager (Training)  
Tel: 0258810613

GD-422



বাংলাদেশ পুলিশে ট্রেনিং রিক্রুট কনস্টেবল (টিআরসি) পদে নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে আশ্রয়ী পুরুষ ও নারী প্রার্থীদের অনলাইনে আবেদন করার জন্য আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। ট্রেনিং রিক্রুট কনস্টেবল (টিআরসি) পদে প্রার্থীদের আবেদনের জন্য বিস্তারিত তথ্যাবলি নিম্নরূপ:

**১. জেলাভিত্তিক শূন্য পদের বিবরণ:**

ট্রেনিং রিক্রুট কনস্টেবল (টিআরসি) পদে নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে জেলাভিত্তিক শূন্য পদের বিবরণ বাংলাদেশ পুলিশের ওয়েবসাইটে আপলোড করা হবে।

**২. প্রার্থীর যোগ্যতা:**

২.১ বয়স:

বয়সসীমা	বয়সসীমা নির্ধারণের তারিখ
১৮ হতে ২০ বছর	যে সকল প্রার্থীর বয়স ৩১ মার্চ ২০২৬ তারিখে বর্ণিত বয়সসীমার মধ্যে থাকবে তারা আবেদনের যোগ্য মর্মে বিবেচিত হবে। এ ক্ষেত্রে মুক্তিযোদ্ধা, শহিদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধা ও বীরাদনার সন্তানদের জন্য বিদ্যমান কোটা পদ্ধতি অনুসৃত হবে।

২.২ শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা: এসএসসি অথবা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ (কমপক্ষে জিপিএ ২.৫/সমমান);

২.৩ জাতীয়তা: বাংলাদেশের স্থায়ী নাগরিক;

২.৪ বৈবাহিক অবস্থা: অবিবাহিত (তালাকপ্রাপ্ত/তালাকপ্রাপ্তা নয়);

২.৫ শারীরিক মাপ:

বিবরণ	পুরুষ প্রার্থী	নারী প্রার্থী
উচ্চতা	মেধা কোটার প্রার্থীর ক্ষেত্রে ৫ ফুট ৬ ইঞ্চি; মুক্তিযোদ্ধা, শহিদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধা ও বীরাদনার সন্তানদের এবং ক্ষুদ্র নৃ-গোষ্ঠী কোটার প্রার্থীর ক্ষেত্রে ৫ ফুট ৪ ইঞ্চি; শারীরিক প্রতিবন্ধী ও তৃতীয় লিঙ্গের কোটার প্রার্থীর ক্ষেত্রে বিধি অনুসৃত হবে	মেধা কোটার প্রার্থীর ক্ষেত্রে ৫ ফুট ৪ ইঞ্চি; মুক্তিযোদ্ধা, শহিদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধা ও বীরাদনার সন্তানদের এবং ক্ষুদ্র নৃ-গোষ্ঠী কোটার প্রার্থীর ক্ষেত্রে ৫ ফুট ২ ইঞ্চি; শারীরিক প্রতিবন্ধী ও তৃতীয় লিঙ্গের কোটার প্রার্থীর ক্ষেত্রে বিধি অনুসৃত হবে
সুকের মাপ	মেধা ও ক্ষুদ্র নৃ-গোষ্ঠী কোটার প্রার্থীর ক্ষেত্রে স্বাভাবিক অবস্থায় ৩১ ইঞ্চি এবং সম্প্রসারিত অবস্থায় ৩৩ ইঞ্চি; মুক্তিযোদ্ধা, শহিদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধা ও বীরাদনার সন্তানদের কোটার প্রার্থীর ক্ষেত্রে স্বাভাবিক অবস্থায় ৩০ ইঞ্চি এবং সম্প্রসারিত অবস্থায় ৩১ ইঞ্চি	-
ওজন	বয়স ও উচ্চতার সাথে ওজন অনুমোদিত পরিমাপের হতে হবে	বয়স ও উচ্চতার সাথে ওজন অনুমোদিত পরিমাপের হতে হবে
দৃষ্টিশক্তি	৬/৬	৬/৬

**৩. অনলাইনে আবেদনের নিয়মাবলি:**

৩.১ প্রথম ধাপ:

ক. <http://police.teletalk.com.bd>-এ লগ-ইন করে আবেদন ফরম পূরণ করতে হবে। আবেদন ফরম সঠিকভাবে পূরণের লক্ষ্যে উক্ত লিংকে সহায়ক হিসেবে ভিডিও টিউটোরিয়াল এবং ফরম পূরণের নির্দেশিকা দেওয়া থাকবে। এছাড়া উক্ত লিংকের Help অপশন ব্যবহার করে ফরম পূরণের প্রয়োজনীয় সহায়তা নেয়া যাবে;

খ. আবেদনের সময় ০৫ মার্চ ২০২৬ সন্ধ্যা ১০.০০ ঘটিকা হতে ৩১ মার্চ ২০২৬ রাত ১১.৫৯ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত;

গ. আবেদন ফরম পূরণ করার অব্যবহিত পরে যোগ্য প্রার্থী একটি User ID পাবেন। উক্ত User ID-তে আবেদন ফরম পূরণের ৪৮ ঘণ্টার মধ্যে যে কোনো টেলিটক প্রি-পেইড মোবাইল নম্বর হতে ৪৫/- (পঁয়তাল্লিশ টাকা) সার্ভিস চার্জ (অফেরতযোগ্য) বাবদ জমা করতে হবে;

ঘ. Online আবেদনপত্রে প্রার্থীর স্বাক্ষর (দৈর্ঘ্য ৩০০ x প্রস্থ ৮০ Pixel) ও রঙিন ছবি (দৈর্ঘ্য ৩০০ x প্রস্থ ৩০০ Pixel) স্ক্যান করে নির্ধারিত স্থানে Upload করতে হবে;

ঙ. Online আবেদনপত্রে পূরণকৃত তথ্য পরবর্তী সকল কার্যক্রমে ব্যবহৃত হবে বিধায় Online-এ আবেদনপত্র Submit করার পূর্বে পূরণকৃত সকল তথ্যের সঠিকতা সম্পর্কে প্রার্থীকে শতভাগ নিশ্চিত হতে হবে;

চ. প্রার্থীকে Online-এ পূরণকৃত আবেদনপত্রে একটি রঙিন প্রিন্ট কপি পরীক্ষা সফল হলে যে কোনো প্রয়োজনে সহায়ক হিসেবে সংরক্ষণ করতে হবে;

৩.২ দ্বিতীয় ধাপ:

প্রত্যেক প্রার্থীকে তার User ID ব্যবহার করে কমপক্ষে ৪৫/- (পঁয়তাল্লিশ টাকা) ব্যালেন্স রয়েছে এমন টেলিটক প্রি-পেইড মোবাইল নম্বর হতে ২ টি SMS Send করতে হবে;

প্রথম SMS: TRC<space> User ID লিখে ১৬২২২ নম্বরে Send করতে হবে;  
Example: TRC ABCDEF  
Reply: Applicant's Name, Forty-five taka (45/-) will be charged as service charge for the application of TRC Recruitment Exam February 2026. Your PIN is.....(10 digit). To pay service charge type TRC<space>Yes<space>PIN and send to 16222.

দ্বিতীয় SMS: TRC<space> Yes<space>PIN Number লিখে ১৬২২২ নম্বরে Send করতে হবে;  
Example: TRC YES 1234567890  
Reply: Congrats! Applicant's Name, Your payment has been successfully completed for the application of TRC Recruitment Exam February 2026. User ID is (xxxxxxxx) and Password is (xxxxxxxx).

৩.৩ তৃতীয় ধাপ:

উপর টেলিটক প্রি-পেইড মোবাইল নম্বর থেকে নিম্নবর্ণিত SMS পদ্ধতি অনুসরণ করে নিজ নিজ User ID এবং Password পুনরুদ্ধার করা যাবে।  
User ID জানা থাকলে TRC<space>Help<space>User ID<space>PIN<space>PIN No. & Send to 16222  
Example: TRC Help User ABCDEF & Send to 16222  
PIN Number জানা থাকলে TRC<space>Help<space>PIN<space>PIN No. & Send to 16222  
Example: TRC Help PIN 1234567890 & Send to 16222

আবেদন ফরম পূরণের ক্ষেত্রে যে কোনো টেলিটক মোবাইল নম্বর হতে ১২১ এ কল করে প্রথমে ৮, অতপর ১ এ কল করে এজেন্টের সহযোগিতা নেওয়া যাবে।

৪. নির্বাচন পদ্ধতি:

৪.১ প্রিলিমিনারি ট্রিনিং: অনলাইনে আবেদনকারী প্রার্থীদের মধ্যে হতে নির্ধারিত নিয়োগবিধি মোতাবেক প্রিলিমিনারি ট্রিনিং-এর মাধ্যমে নির্দিষ্ট সংখ্যক যোগ্য প্রার্থীদের শারীরিক মাপ ও কাগজপত্র যাচাইকরণসহ শারীরিক সক্ষমতা যাচাই বা Physical Endurance Test (PET)-এর জন্য বাছাই করা হবে। বাছাইকৃত প্রার্থীদের আবেদনপত্রে উল্লিখিত মোবাইল নম্বরে নির্বাচন সফল হওয়া SMS এর মাধ্যমে প্রেরণ করা হবে। এ ক্ষেত্রে আবেদনপত্রে প্রার্থীর প্রদত্ত মোবাইল নম্বরটি সার্বক্ষণিক সচল রাখা ও SMS পড়াসহ গ্রাহ্য নির্দেশনা তাৎক্ষণিকভাবে অনুসরণ করতে হবে। বাছাইকৃত প্রার্থীদের SMS-এ প্রেরিত User ID এবং Password ব্যবহার করে <http://police.teletalk.com.bd> ওয়েবসাইটে প্রবেশকরত সিরিয়াল নম্বর, পদের নাম, ছবি, পরীক্ষার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান/কেন্দ্রের নাম ইত্যাদি তথ্য সংবলিত Admit Card for Physical Endurance Test ডাউনলোড করে ০২ কপি প্রিন্ট করতে হবে;

৪.২ শারীরিক মাপ, কাগজপত্র যাচাই ও Physical Endurance Test: প্রিলিমিনারি ট্রিনিং-এ বাছাইকৃত প্রার্থীদের বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে উল্লিখিত তারিখ, সময় ও স্থানে শারীরিক মাপ, কাগজপত্র যাচাই ও Physical Endurance Test (দৌড়, পুশ-আপ, লং-জাম্প, হাই-জাম্প, ড্র্যাগিং, রোপ ক্লাইমিং)-এ অংশগ্রহণ করতে হবে। YouTube-এ Bangladesh Police-এর Official Channel, Bangladesh Police-এর Verified Facebook Page এবং Bangladesh Police Website <http://www.police.gov.bd>-এ Physical Endurance Test (PET) সফল হওয়া একটি ভিডিও আপলোড করা হয়েছে। আশ্রয়ী প্রার্থীপন ভিডিও দেখে প্রস্তুত গ্রহণ করতে পারবে;

৪.৩ লিখিত পরীক্ষা: শারীরিক মাপ, কাগজপত্র যাচাই ও Physical Endurance Test-এ উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদের বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে উল্লিখিত তারিখে বাংলা, ইংরেজি, সাধারণ গণিত ও সাধারণ বিজ্ঞানের উপর মোট ৪৫ নম্বরের লিখিত পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে হবে। এ ক্ষেত্রে উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদের শারীরিক মাপ, কাগজপত্র যাচাই ও Physical Endurance Test-এর ফলাফল প্রকাশের ৪৮ ঘণ্টার মধ্যে যে কোনো টেলিটক প্রি-পেইড মোবাইল নম্বর হতে নিম্নবর্ণিত ধাপ অনুসরণকরত: লিখিত পরীক্ষার ফি বাবদ ৫৬/- (ছাপ্পান্ন টাকা) জমা করে লিখিত পরীক্ষার প্রবেশপত্র সংগ্রহ করতে হবে। শারীরিক মাপ, কাগজপত্র যাচাই ও Physical Endurance Test-এ উত্তীর্ণ হওয়ার পর কমপক্ষে ৫৬/- (ছাপ্পান্ন টাকা) ব্যালেন্স রয়েছে এমন টেলিটক প্রি-পেইড মোবাইল নম্বর হতে ২টি SMS Send করতে হবে;

প্রথম SMS: TRC<space> User ID লিখে ১৬২২২ নম্বরে Send করতে হবে;  
Example: TRC ABCDEF  
Reply: Applicant's Name, Fifty-six taka (56/-) will be charged as examination fee for Written Test of TRC Recruitment Exam February 2026. Your PIN is.....(10 digit). To pay fee type TRC<space>Yes<space>PIN and send to 16222.

দ্বিতীয় SMS: TRC<space> Yes<space>PIN Number লিখে ১৬২২২ নম্বরে Send করতে হবে;  
Example: TRC YES 1234567890  
Reply: Congrats! Applicant's Name, Your payment has been successfully completed for Written Test of TRC Recruitment Exam February 2026. User ID is (xxxxxxxx) and Password is (xxxxxxxx).

SMS-এ প্রেরিত User ID এবং Password ব্যবহার করে <http://police.teletalk.com.bd> ওয়েবসাইটে প্রবেশকরত: লিখিত পরীক্ষার রোল নম্বর, পদের নাম, ছবি, পরীক্ষার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান/কেন্দ্রের নাম ইত্যাদি তথ্য সংবলিত লিখিত পরীক্ষার প্রবেশপত্র ডাউনলোড করে ০১ কপি প্রিন্ট করতে হবে;

৪.৪ মনজ্ঞাতিক ও মৌখিক পরীক্ষা: লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদের বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে উল্লিখিত তারিখে ১৫ নম্বরের মনজ্ঞাতিক ও মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে হবে;

৪.৫ প্রাথমিক নির্বাচন: প্রতি জেলায় নিয়োগযোগ্য প্রকৃত শূন্য পদে কোটার অনুকূলে সরকার কর্তৃক জারিকৃত বিদ্যমান কোটা পদ্ধতি (মেধা; মুক্তিযোদ্ধা, শহিদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধা ও বীরাদনার সন্তান; ক্ষুদ্র নৃ-গোষ্ঠী এবং শারীরিক প্রতিবন্ধী ও তৃতীয় লিঙ্গের জন্য) অনুসরণ করে লিখিত এবং মনজ্ঞাতিক ও মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় প্রাপ্ত নম্বরের ভিত্তিতে মেধাক্রমে অনুযায়ী প্রার্থীদের প্রাথমিকভাবে নির্বাচন করা হবে;

৪.৬ স্বাস্থ্য পরীক্ষা ও পুলিশ ডেরিকেশন: প্রাথমিকভাবে নির্বাচিত প্রার্থীদের স্বাস্থ্য পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে হবে। এ ক্ষেত্রে নির্বাচিত প্রার্থীদের কেন্দ্রীয় পুলিশ হাসপাতাল, রাজারবাগ, ঢাকায় নির্ধারিত তারিখ ও সময়ে পূরণকৃত চিকিৎসা ইতিবৃত্ত এবং মেডিকেল অফিসার কর্তৃক পরীক্ষিত শারীরিক পরীক্ষা সফলত তথ্যাদিসহ Pathological Investigation-এ অংশগ্রহণ করতে হবে। কেন্দ্রীয় পুলিশ হাসপাতাল, রাজারবাগ ব্যতীত অন্য কোনো প্রতিষ্ঠানের স্বাস্থ্য পরীক্ষার রিপোর্ট মেডিকেল বোর্ডে গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না। স্বাস্থ্য পরীক্ষায় সফল হওয়া মেডিকেল বোর্ড কর্তৃক গৃহীত সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে। স্বাস্থ্য পরীক্ষায় ০১ (এক) বার অযোগ্য ঘোষিত হলে পুনরায় স্বাস্থ্য পরীক্ষার কোনো আবেদন বিবেচিত হবে না। স্বাস্থ্য পরীক্ষায় যোগ্য প্রার্থীরা পুলিশ ডেরিকেশন ফরম পূরণ করবে। পুলিশ ডেরিকেশনে সন্তোষজনক মর্মে বিবেচিত হলে প্রশিক্ষণের জন্য প্রাথমিকভাবে মনোনীত করা হবে। উল্লেখ্য, পুলিশ ডেরিকেশন ফরমে কোনো তথ্য গোপন অথবা মিথ্যা তথ্য প্রদান করা হলে চূড়ান্ত প্রশিক্ষণের জন্য মনোনয়ন প্রদান করা হবে না এবং

৪.৭ চূড়ান্তভাবে প্রশিক্ষণে অন্তর্ভুক্তকরণ: প্রশিক্ষণের জন্য প্রাথমিকভাবে নির্বাচিত প্রার্থীদের প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্রে যোগদানের পর পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টারের প্রতিনিধির সম্মুখে গঠিত চূড়ান্ত বাছাই কমিটি কর্তৃক শারীরিক যোগ্যতাসহ অন্যান্য তথ্যাদি যাচাইয়ের পর চূড়ান্তভাবে প্রশিক্ষণে অন্তর্ভুক্ত করা হবে।

**৫. প্রয়োজনীয় সনদসমূহের বিবরণ:**

প্রিলিমিনারি ট্রিনিং-এর মাধ্যমে বাছাইকৃত যোগ্য প্রার্থীদের শারীরিক মাপ, কাগজপত্র যাচাই ও Physical Endurance Test (PET)-এ অংশগ্রহণের জন্য বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে উল্লিখিত তারিখ ও সময়ে নিজ জেলা পুলিশ লাইন্স (যে জেলার স্থায়ী বাসিন্দা)-এ নিম্নবর্ণিত কাগজপত্রাদিসহ উপস্থিত থাকতে হবে:

৫.১ Admit Card for Physical Endurance Test: Admit Card for Physical Endurance Test-এর ডাউনলোডকৃত প্রিন্টেড কপি (২ কপি);

৫.২ শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সনদপত্র: শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সনদপত্র/সাময়িক সনদপত্রের মূল কপি;

৫.৩ চারিত্রিক সনদপত্র: সর্বশেষ শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্রধান কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত চারিত্রিক সনদপত্রের মূল কপি;

৫.৪ নাগরিকত্ব সনদপত্র: জেলার স্থায়ী বাসিন্দা/জাতীয়তার প্রমাণস্বরূপ ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের চেয়ারম্যান/সিটি কর্পোরেশনের চেয়ারম্যান/মেয়র/ওয়ার্ড কাউন্সিলর (যা প্রযোজ্য)-এর নিকট হতে স্থায়ী নাগরিকত্বের সনদপত্রের মূল কপি;

৫.৫ অভিভাবকের সম্মতিপত্র: আইনানুগ অভিভাবক কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সম্মতিপত্র (পুলিশ ওয়েবসাইটে প্রদত্ত নমুনা অনুযায়ী);

৫.৬ জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র: প্রার্থীর জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের মূল কপি (যদি প্রার্থীর জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র না থাকে তাহলে প্রার্থীর পিতা/মাতার জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের মূল কপি);

৫.৭ ছবি: সরকারি গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত ৩ (তিন) কপি সদ্য তোলা পাসপোর্ট সাইজের রঙিন ছবি;

৫.৮ মুক্তিযোদ্ধা, শহিদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধা ও বীরাদনার সন্তানদের ক্ষেত্রে প্রমাণক: মুক্তিযোদ্ধার নাম লাল মুক্তিবাহারী থাকলে লাল মুক্তিবাহারী সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি/মুক্তিযোদ্ধার নাম ভারতীয় তালিকায় থাকলে ভারতীয় তালিকার সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি/মুক্তিযোদ্ধার নামে জারিকৃত গেজেটের মূল কপি;

৫.৯ ক্ষুদ্র নৃ-গোষ্ঠী কোটা: ক্ষুদ্র নৃ-গোষ্ঠী কোটার প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে প্রমাণকস্বরূপ তাদের রাজা/ক্ষুদ্র নৃ-গোষ্ঠী প্রধান অথবা জেলা প্রশাসক/উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসার কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সনদপত্রের মূল কপি;

৫.১০ শারীরিক প্রতিবন্ধীর ক্ষেত্রে: সুবর্ণ নাগরিক কার্ড (মূলকপি);

৫.১১ তৃতীয় লিঙ্গের প্রার্থীর ক্ষেত্রে: জেলা সিভিল সার্জন কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত প্রত্যয়নপত্র এবং

৫.১২ চাকরিজীবী প্রার্থীদের অনুমতিপত্র: সরকারি/আধা-সরকারি/স্বায়তশাসিত সংস্থায় চাকরিতে প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে আবেদনকালে যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের অনুমতিপত্র।

**৬. প্রশিক্ষণ:**

পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টারের প্রতিনিধির সম্মুখে গঠিত চূড়ান্ত বাছাই কমিটি কর্তৃক চূড়ান্ত বাছাইকালে যোগ্য বিবেচিত প্রার্থীগণকে নির্ধারিত প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্রে ট্রেনিং রিক্রুট কনস্টেবল (টিআরসি) হিসেবে ৬ মাস মেয়াদি মৌলিক প্রশিক্ষণে অংশগ্রহণ করতে হবে।

**৭. প্রশিক্ষণকালীন সুযোগ-সুবিধা:**

৭.১ ট্রেনিং রিক্রুট কনস্টেবল (টিআরসি) হিসেবে প্রশিক্ষণকালীন বিনা মূল্যে পোশাক সামগ্রীসহ থাকা-খাওয়া ও চিকিৎসা সুবিধা প্রাপ্য হবে এবং

৭.২ প্রশিক্ষণকালীন সরকারি বিধি মোতাবেক প্রতি মাসে প্রশিক্ষণ ভাতা প্রাপ্য হবে।

**৮. নিয়োগ ও চাকরির সুবিধা:**

৮.১ সফলতার সাথে প্রশিক্ষণ সম্পন্নকারী প্রশিক্ষার্থীদের ২০১৫ সালের জাতীয় বেতন স্কেলের ১৭তম গ্রেডে ৯,০০০-১১,৮০০/- এবং বিধি মোতাবেক প্রাপ্য অন্যান্য বেতন-ভাতাদিসহ বাংলাদেশ পুলিশের কনস্টেবল পদে নিয়োগ প্রদান করা হবে;

৮.২ নিয়োগপ্রাপ্তদের যে কোনো জেলা/ইউনিটের শূন্য পদের বিপরীতে বদলি করা হলে তারা উক্ত জেলা/ইউনিটে কনস্টেবলের শূন্য পদে যোগদান করতে বাধ্য থাকবে;

৮.৩ ট্রেনিং রিক্রুট কনস্টেবল (টিআরসি) পদে নির্বাচিত প্রার্থীর মৌলিক প্রশিক্ষণ সফলভাবে সমাপন হলে জেলা/ইউনিটে যোগদানের তারিখ হতে সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ জেলা/ইউনিটে প্রধান কর্তৃক তার শিক্ষানবিশকাল ঘোষণা করা হবে। শিক্ষানবিশ ঘোষণার তারিখ হতে দুই বছর সন্তোষজনক চাকরি পূর্ণ হলে সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ জেলা/ইউনিটে প্রধান বা ক্ষমতাপ্রাপ্ত কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক তাকে কনস্টেবল পদে স্থায়ী করা হবে;

৮.৪ চাকরিতে প্রবেশকালীন চাহিত কাগজপত্রাদি (সনদপত্র/প্রত্যয়নপত্র ইত্যাদি) ব্যতীত শারীরিক মাপ, কাগজপত্র যাচাই ও Physical Endurance Test (PET)-এ অংশগ্রহণের কোনো সুযোগ নেই;

৮.৫ ক্রটিপূর্ণ/অসম্পূর্ণ/ভুল তথ্য কিংবা মিথ্যা তথ্য সংবলিত আবেদনপত্র বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে। এ ক্ষেত্রে প্রশিক্ষণের জন্য চূড়ান্তভাবে নির্বাচিত/নিয়োগকৃত/প্রশিক্ষণরত/চাকরিতে অর্থাৎ যে কোনো পর্যায়ে দাখিলকৃত তথ্য মিথ্যা/ভুল অথবা প্রার্থীর কোনো প্রতারণা প্রমাণিত হলে তাকে নিয়োগের অযোগ্য/বহিষ্কার/চাকরিচ্যুত/বরখাস্তকরণসহ তার বিরুদ্ধে প্রয়োজনীয় আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে। উল্লেখ্য, মুক্তিযোদ্ধা, শহিদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধা ও বীরাদনার সন্তানদের জন্য নির্ধারিত কোটার প্রার্থী কর্তৃক দাখিলকৃত মুক্তিযোদ্ধা সনদ মুক্তিযুদ্ধ বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয় হতে একবার জাল প্রমাণিত হলে তা পুনরায় যাচাইয়ের কোনো সুযোগ থাকবে না;

৮.৬ কোনো প্রার্থী পুলিশ বাহিনী/অন্য কোনো নিয়মিত বাহিনী/যে কোনো সরকারি চাকরি হতে বহিষ্কৃত/চাকরিচ্যুত/বরখাস্ত হয়ে থাকলে তাকে আবেদনের অযোগ্য মর্মে বিবেচনা করা হবে;

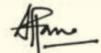
৮.৭ কোনো কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোনো প্রার্থীর নিয়োগ/আবেদনপত্র বাতিলের অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করেন। নিয়োগ সফলত সকল বিষয়ে কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে এবং

৮.৮ নিয়োগ পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য প্রার্থীদের কোনো প্রকার ভাতা প্রদান করা হবে না।

**১০. শারীরিক মাপ, কাগজপত্র যাচাই ও Physical Endurance Test; লিখিত পরীক্ষা এবং মনজ্ঞাতিক ও মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময়সূচি:**

প্রার্থীদের নিম্নবর্ণিত তারিখ ও সময়ে স্ব-স্ব জেলার পুলিশ লাইন্স মাঠে উপস্থিত থাকতে হবে:

জেলার নাম	শারীরিক মাপ, কাগজপত্র যাচাই ও Physical Endurance Test	লিখিত পরীক্ষা	মনজ্ঞাতিক ও মৌখিক পরীক্ষা
মাদারীপুর, কিশোরগঞ্জ, রাঙ্গামাটি, ব্রাহ্মণবাড়িয়া, ঝিনাইদহ, নড়াইল, সিরাজগঞ্জ, চাঁপাইনবাবগঞ্জ, কুষ্টিয়া, সুনামগঞ্জ, জামালপুর, ফরিদপুর, টাঙ্গাইল, কুমিল্লা, খাগড়াছড়ি, খুলনা	১৫, ১৬ ও ১৭ এপ্রিল, ২০২৬ জি. ০৮.০০ ঘটিকা	২৭ এপ্রিল, ২০২৬ জি. ১০.০০ ঘটিকা	০৬ মে, ২০২৬ জি. ১০.০০ ঘটিকা
সাতক্ষীরা, নওগাঁ, জয়পুরহাট, পঞ্চগড়, হবিগঞ্জ, নেত্রকোণা, ঢাকা, রাজবাড়ী, ফেনী, লক্ষ্মীপুর, চুয়াডাঙ্গা, বগুড়া, দিনাজপুর, সিলেট, ঝালকাঠি, পটুয়াখালী	১৮, ১৯ ও ২০ এপ্রিল, ২০২৬ জি. ০৮.০০ ঘটিকা	০৪ মে, ২০২৬ জি. ১০.০০ ঘটিকা	১৩ মে, ২০২৬ জি. ১০.০০ ঘটিকা
নারায়ণগঞ্জ, মুন্সীগঞ্জ, কক্সবাজার, মেহেরপুর, নাটোর, লালমনিরহাট, গাইবান্ধা, শেরপুর, ভোলা, বরগুনা, ময়মনসিংহ গাজীপুর, শরীয়তপুর, মানিকগঞ্জ, গোপালগঞ্জ, বান্দরবান	২১, ২২ ও ২৩ এপ্রিল, ২০২৬ জি. ০৮.০০ ঘটিকা	০৯ মে, ২০২৬ জি. ১০.০০ ঘটিকা	১৮ মে, ২০২৬ জি. ১০.০০ ঘটিকা
নোয়াখালী, বাগেরহাট, যশোর, রাঙ্গামাটি, ঠাকুরগাঁও, নীলফামারী, মৌলভীবাজার, নরসিংদী, চাঁদপুর, চট্টগ্রাম, কুষ্টিয়া, মাগুরা, পাবনা বংপুর, পিরোজপুর, বরিশাল	২৪, ২৫ ও ২৬ এপ্রিল, ২০২৬ জি. ০৮.০০ ঘটিকা	১৬ মে, ২০২৬ জি. ১০.০০ ঘটিকা	২৪ মে, ২০২৬ জি. ১০.০০ ঘটিকা

  
**মোঃ আবু হাসান**, বিপিএম-সেবা  
 বিপি ৭৫০৫১০৯০১  
 আ্যাডিশনাল ডিআইজি (রিক্রুটমেন্ট অ্যান্ড ক্যারিয়ার প্রানিং-১)  
 বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ, পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার, ঢাকা

**ট্রেনিং রিক্রুট কনস্টেবল (টিআরসি) পদে নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে কোনো প্রকার আর্থিক লেনদেনে কোন প্রার্থী জড়িত থাকলে নিয়োগ বাতিলসহ সংশ্লিষ্টদের বিরুদ্ধে কঠোর আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে। আবেদনপত্রে কোনো মিথ্যা বা ভুল তথ্য প্রদান করলে নিয়োগের অযোগ্য বলে বিবেচিত হবে।**

The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

## Mansur's abrupt dismissal is shocking

### Successor appointment raises conflict of interest concerns

We are concerned by the unceremonious manner in which the former governor of Bangladesh Bank (BB), Dr Ahsan H Mansur, was dismissed and replaced by a person with questionable qualifications. The noted economist, whose reformist policies helped stabilise the economy in the aftermath of Sheikh Hasina's ouster in August 2024, left office after learning of his replacement through the media, while a section of his colleagues held a demonstration calling for his resignation. Roughly two hours later, the ministry issued two notices: one cancelling Mansur's four-year contract, due to end in August 2028, and the other appointing the new governor, Mostaqur Rahman, a businessman with an accounting background.

The way this episode unfolded goes against the norms and etiquette of a rules-based democracy and raises troubling questions. Why did the government feel that the governor had to be removed? Mansur took charge when the country faced a volatile currency and severely depleted foreign exchange reserves. The banking sector was in disarray, with several banks on the brink of a run. He stabilised the currency by shifting to a more market-based exchange rate, and his strict monetary policy brought double-digit inflation down to single digits, though still relatively high compared to Bangladesh's neighbours. To the chagrin of many in the business community and among his colleagues, he dismantled weak banks and strengthened the central bank's supervisory role, improving governance and discipline across the sector.

For a government that came to power with a large mandate to boost the economy and strengthen the financial system, Mansur's actions should have been welcomed. A prudent administration would have reinforced such leadership. Instead, the newly formed BNP government allowed "mob" behaviour in one of the country's most vital institutions and stood by as the very person credited with preventing a deeper financial crisis was publicly undermined.

More troubling still is the choice of successor. The government has picked the owner of a company that recently fallen behind on repayment instalments for a Tk 89 crore loan and subsequently received a restructuring facility. This comes at a time when defaulted loans account for 36 percent of total disbursed loans in the country, according to BB data from September 2025. The new governor is also affiliated with several business bodies. How can the finance ministry fail to recognise that there is a potential conflict of interest here?

In Bangladesh's history, this is the first time a businessperson has been appointed governor of the central bank. Such appointments are rare even globally. It remains to be seen how he will handle the responsibility of controlling inflation, ensuring financial stability, and curbing banking sector irregularities. With Mansur at the helm, we had hoped for a more independent central bank operating beyond the finance ministry's direct intervention. After this sudden appointment—involving a figure linked to BNP's election steering committee only recently—the prospect of greater autonomy under proposed amendments to the Bangladesh Bank Order appears uncertain.

## DU deserves an elected VC

### Quality, not affiliation, should guide public university appointments

It is unfortunate that Dhaka University is once again poised to get another unelected vice chancellor for the third consecutive term, bypassing the electoral process required by the DU Order, 1973. With the resignation of Prof Niaz Ahmed Khan, who was appointed under a temporary provision, the government is now likely to invoke Clause II(2) once again to appoint a new VC. What was intended as an emergency measure is now gradually becoming the default method of appointment, which is concerning.

Over the past decade, DU has seen repeated appointments under the temporary clause, often without any genuine emergency. Such practices have fostered a dangerous culture where rules are often bent for political considerations. As one DU professor has noted, this has become a long-standing habit of successive governments. Reportedly, under Clause II(1) of the 1973 Order, the VC is to be appointed by the chancellor from a panel of three persons nominated by the Senate. If such a panel does not exist, the sitting VC is required to call a Senate session to elect one. However, DU has not seen a Senate session for over a year, despite the ordinance mandating at least one annually. Worryingly, five categories of Senate membership, comprising 60 of its 104 members, remain vacant currently, creating an institutional vacuum.

The consequences of politically influenced appointments are already evident: erosion of institutional autonomy, compromised recruitment processes, and an atmosphere in which academic priorities are often overshadowed by partisan calculations. Although the interim administration pledged merit-based appointments and cleaner governance, criticisms have persisted. Allegations of irregularities in appointments and promotions have emerged at DU and several other universities. A recent report by Transparency International Bangladesh even claimed that following the uprising, major political actors divided VC and pro-VC appointments among themselves, while recruitment and postings were influenced by public pressure.

This cannot continue. There is no alternative to appointing well-qualified and honest educationists without political affiliations as VCs if the credibility of our universities is to be restored. The new government must move away from the old practice of politically motivated reshuffling of VCs and other educational administrators. Any appointments must strictly follow proper procedures, and these should be part of a wider reform agenda, one that ensures improved academic governance, transparency, and genuine autonomy for universities. Since the appointments are yet to be finalised, it is crucial that the broader goal of merit, integrity and institutional stability remain the primary considerations.

## THIS DAY IN HISTORY

### Mega earthquake strikes Chile

On this day in 2010, a magnitude 8.8 earthquake struck Chile, causing widespread damage and triggering a tsunami that devastated coastal areas. It was the most powerful earthquake to strike the region since 1960.

# A controversial decision

## Can an accountable government take such action without public explanation?



THE THIRD VIEW  
Mahfuz Anam  
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MAHFUZ ANAM

Critical decisions are usually judged by three things: their merit, method, and meaning or significance. The government's decision to remove Dr Ahsan H Mansur from the post of Bangladesh Bank governor has failed in all three aspects. Since the news broke on Wednesday, there has been widespread questioning about its merit; it was crude, undignified, and mobbish in terms of method; and it is quite incomprehensible in terms of meaning, particularly as to its timing.

First, let's look at the merit of the decision. Of course, the new government has every right to make new appointments in key positions so that the best-suited individuals are there to implement its policies. This is especially necessary for pivotal posts such as the governor of our central bank. But what is the merit of Wednesday's decision?

This particular position deals with the most sensitive sector in the economy—banking—which has long been plagued by mismanagement, corruption, cronyism, capital flight, and so on. The depletion of our reserves and syphoning of profit abroad has led to a severe crisis that the central bank has been struggling to deal with. Every word or action of the governor affects the economy. The governor does not just control the central bank; through his leadership, he influences the

**One of the pledges of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has been that every major action of his government will be well-justified and transparent. The justification given by the finance minister refers only to the right of the government to make new appointments. Not a word so far explains why this appointment came so suddenly, dramatically, and insultingly to the incumbent.**

whole banking sector. And the sector has been suffering from structural, institutional and managerial problems. The huge and largely unmanageable non-performing loans (NPLs) have been caused by inefficient, politically compromised, and corrupt leadership from the Bangladesh Bank.

Given the pivotal role that the central bank governor plays in controlling the important aspects of the economy, do the questions of academic qualifications, personal experience, institutional exposure, training and knowledge of how the global economy functions justify the appointment of the person now adorning the post? This is no criticism of him personally, but a focus on the bigger picture—the needs of the country and specifically of this government. How competently will he be able to serve the government's goals, as enshrined in its 31 point programme? The new governor may be very well-suited for many things, but for this?

An awkward fact that may greatly



VISUAL: STAR

impact his credibility is that he had his own loan rescheduled just in December last year. There are two kinds of loan defaulters: wilful and circumstantial. We hope he did not fall into the first category. Loan default is the biggest disease of our banking system and has greatly affected the operations of all banks. How sternly and decisively the new governor will deal with other loan defaulters when he was one himself is an open question. Rescheduling loans does not exonerate the borrowers; it merely gives them a way out of the predicament.

Another question concerns the governor's political affiliation. He was a leading member of the election team that brought such grand success for BNP in the February 12 election. Is this a reward? Has our experience not taught us that such a position should go to a non-political, unbiased professional? Is it not also a lesson from the past regime that the central bank must not become an extension of the finance ministry, and must be given an element of autonomy in its operations? To ensure that, the governor must be a person of stature,

spine and confidence to operate independently. Above all, he must be a non-partisan professional. How are we to interpret that this government has knowingly appointed a direct party activist as the governor of Bangladesh Bank? Then what is the difference from the past?

The finance minister said the government was implementing many changes and making many new appointments, and that the appointment of the new Bangladesh Bank governor was a part of that process. This comment makes it clear that in the finance minister's mind, the central bank is akin to other departments of his ministry. So, again, what is new in the new government's dealings with the Bangladesh Bank?

Then comes the question of "method"—the way the decision to appoint the new governor was implemented. For the argument's sake, let's accept that the government needed to appoint a new governor, that the person chosen was the right one, and that the decision needed to be implemented quickly. Could the process not have been more dignified?

Minimum courtesy demands that the finance minister call Mansur to his office and inform him of the decision, or at least inform him over the phone. Minimum decency demands that he be given some time to vacate his office, say farewell to his staff, and leave with some show of honour. Instead, he heard about his departure from the media and decided to leave office on his own. Around the same time, an adviser to Mansur was allegedly mobbed and forced out of the central bank premises by a group of disgruntled officials.

Such behaviour stands in sharp contrast to the standard set by the head of the government. The prime minister's demeanour of dignity, sobriety and composure in dealing with the processes of decision-making and their implementation contrasts starkly with the indignity that a man holding the position of central bank governor was made to suffer by the finance ministry.

Finally comes the "meaning" of the decision. What does it signify? What message is the government trying to convey through this dramatic and humiliating change at the top of such a critical and sensitive institution—one that has been severely maligned

and weakened in the past and whose rebuilding is so crucial? Why remove the governor at this very moment, when the new government is settling down, learning how the vast machinery of government functions, reorganising the law enforcement agencies, and making new appointments to other key posts?

The removal also comes against a man who succeeded in addressing many of the problems our economy faced following the ouster of Sheikh Hasina. His 18-month tenure can be defined by aggressive macroeconomic stabilisation. Ahsan Mansur successfully transitioned the country to a more market-based exchange rate, which many feared would depress the value of the taka. But the taka actually stabilised against the dollar. During his time, our gross forex reserves increased from \$25 billion to \$35 billion. He followed a strict and tight monetary policy to contain inflation and prioritised economic discipline and price stability over loose credit. He took bold steps to restructure the boards of at least 11 troubled banks. Generally speaking, he accurately diagnosed the financial sector's vulnerabilities and strengthened the central bank's supervision. Most importantly, he was able to create a sense of confidence about the country's economy at the international level. This is one area where the country not only needs to perform well but also needs to convince the global market that it is performing well. Ahsan Mansur was able to do that to a large extent. His removal may trigger uncertainty on the global stage and further jeopardise our recovery.

One of the pledges of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has been that every major action of his government will be well-justified and transparent. The justification given by the finance minister refers only to the right of the government to make new appointments. Not a word so far explains why this appointment came so suddenly, dramatically, and insultingly to the incumbent.

The greatest damage this action may cause stems from the impression that it was done in response to "mob" pressure. There is no indication that this decision followed deep analysis of the situation, careful weighing of the various factors that accompany a change in such a vital position, or serious consideration of its implications. It came amid gathering of some staff with demands that were mostly administrative in nature.

One of the first pledges the new government made was not to allow mob rule. Will what happened at the Bangladesh Bank not trigger similar moves in other institutions? We urge the prime minister to examine this event very carefully and reflect seriously on what it means for his government and what he needs to do to prevent a repeat. Such actions cast a questioning shadow over the government, and some consequences may be long-lasting.

# Education system must be built on proficiency, not pass rates



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ANANTA NEELAM

In Bangladesh, education certificates often promise more than the learning they represent. Many conventionally successful students struggle to read with confidence, mathematics feels too mechanical, and concepts memorised for examinations fade quickly. This is hardly a failure on the children's part, but a predictable outcome of an ineffective system.

Bangladesh achieved remarkable progress in expanding schooling over the past two decades, with more children entering classrooms, more schools built, and increasing participation in public examinations. Yet, the deeper gaps students have in weak foundational skills in subjects like science and mathematics have not been addressed.

The system revolved around measuring what was most convenient, even if superficial, such as enrolment, grade completion rate, pass rate, and syllabus coverage. Thus, stakeholder

behaviour adapted accordingly. Teachers had to focus on completing overloaded curricula, rather than ensuring understanding; examinations emphasised predictable recall; and students progressed even without a proper grasp of the courses they took. Similarly, households responded in predictable ways—those who could afford it, turned to private tutoring and the responsibility for actual learning shifted from the system to families. Social and income inequality widened and trust in institutions eroded.

A government review of secondary and higher secondary education examined these patterns and it reached a direct conclusion: as long as progression, certification, and institutional performance are considered a more reliable measure of success than demonstrated learning, weak outcomes will persist. So, one of the toughest challenges for the new government is to ensure just

educational opportunities for over four crore young people.

The way BNP's election manifesto covered pledges involving education—signalling increased public investment in education, stronger teacher capacity, expanded primary support, credible assessment, digital tracking, and wider access to technical and vocational education—is promising. And for these promises to materialise, incentives that shape everyday behaviour in schools have to be aligned with learning at its centre.

Any new education policies must keep in mind that a system cannot deliver high-quality technical education if students progress without foundational mastery and examination credibility cannot be restored if results are expected to remain stable regardless of actual performance. At the same time, digital tools cannot improve outcomes if teachers lack the time, support, and incentives to respond to learning gaps.

To truly reform Bangladesh's education sector, the curriculum must be realistic and teachable and students' class progressions must reflect their actual learning. Assessment must be credible and institutions must ensure that any students with a comparatively weaker academic standing are receiving timely support. These principles do not conflict with the new government's stated commitments, but makes them

all the more achievable.

Every proposal placed before the BNP administration should therefore be judged by a single question: does it strengthen real learning and the system's ability to respond to gaps in real time? If the answer is yes, it deserves priority. If the answer is no, it must be reconsidered.

For example, the BNP's stance to prioritise digitalisation in the education sector—presenting "One Teacher One Tab" together with "Edu-ID"—reflects a forward-looking approach. These initiatives will advance learning only if they are implemented to help teachers see where students are struggling and adjust their instructions and support accordingly. However, if not tied strictly to actionable practices, these tools will risk being tokenistic, rather than transformative.

Bangladesh is nearing the end of its demographic dividend. The students now in school will soon form the core of the labour force. If they enter adulthood with solid certificates but fragile skills, the cost will be felt in productivity, social mobility, and trust in public institutions. The diagnosis is clear: Bangladesh must realign incentives, restore credibility, and enforce standards that put learning at the forefront. The current government has both the chance and the obligation to bring about this change.

# How Bangladesh can turn canal excavation into an environmental win

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ASHRAF DEWAN and MO HAQUE

For thousands of years, the delta of Bengal has been defined by its intricate relationship with water. This was never a purely natural phenomenon; it was a sophisticated feat of hydraulic engineering. Ancient "overflow irrigation" systems, influenced by Egyptian water engineering techniques, once allowed our ancestors to manage the rhythmic pulse of the delta. These engineered waterways—such as the Mathabanga, often mistaken for a natural river—were designed to manure the fields with nutrient-rich silt while providing a dependable lifeline for rural settlements.

For nearly three millennia, these waterways provided dependable water supplies, boosted agricultural productivity, and supported rural livelihoods. In recent decades, however, rapid population growth, lack of maintenance, and unplanned development have pushed many rivers and canals in Bangladesh into severe decline. As channels silt up, dry out, or become encroached upon, the country's environmental stability falls increasingly at risk. Our own research using satellite-based night-light data shows how the loss of floodplains is directly linked to rising flood vulnerability across the country.

This concern is not new. In the late 1970s, the then President Ziaur Rahman recognised the danger posed by deteriorating waterways and launched a nationwide canal restoration programme. Between 1977 and 1981, nearly 2,000 miles of canals (an estimated 1,500 of them) were excavated or re-excavated, revitalising rural economies and strengthening food security.

Today, the proposal to excavate 20,000 km of canals has brought the issue back to the centre of national debate. The scale is ambitious, and understandably so. The real question, however, is not whether canals

should be restored, but how this can be done in a way that delivers lasting environmental and economic benefits.

Bangladesh has already experienced the consequences of poorly planned water management. The Flood Action Plan relied heavily on embankments and structural interventions that disrupted natural water flow and damaged wetlands. Dhaka once had one of the most effective gravity-based

ecosystems is intensifying over time and space. Canals dug without understanding how water and sediment move across the delta quickly silt up again, causing erosion, worsening floods, and wastage of public resources. Without a scientific framework and long-term maintenance, excavation alone cannot solve a hydrological problem.

Meanwhile, the dry season is becoming longer. Farmers are increasingly dependent

on groundwater for irrigation, even as climate change makes rainfall more erratic. Arable land is shrinking—from nearly 73 percent of the country in 1990 to about 60 percent in 2023—while the population continues to grow. The pressure on water, food, and

makes it part of a national climate resilience strategy, rather than a series of isolated projects.

It also answers a practical question: does every kilometre need to be excavated? The answer is no. A three-tiered approach makes

far more sense, but it must follow the natural flow of the catchment, working upstream to downstream so that newly cleared channels do not silt up again. Some waterways are fully silted and require complete restoration. Others still hold water but need their banks stabilised through the ambitious Green Shield planting pledged by the ruling party in its election manifesto, and protected from encroachment. Many are already functioning and would survive with maintenance, plantation and community monitoring in parallel. Thinking in these tiers turns the 20,000 km target from a large excavation drive into a realistic and cost-effective national water management programme.

Modern technology makes this approach possible. High-resolution digital elevation models created from Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) data can reveal the true shape of the land. With such tools, planners can identify lost canals, understand natural flow paths, and decide where excavation is necessary and where protection is enough. We need to understand local geography as well, including soil type and composition. Without this knowledge, we risk repeating past mistakes.

Bangladesh is not short of water, but rather poor in water management. With proper planning, transparent implementation, and strong scientific guidance, canal restoration could deliver multiple benefits: reduced waterlogging, improved flood management, more reliable surface water for irrigation, enhanced groundwater recharge, stronger fisheries and biodiversity, and renewed inland navigation. Countries such as the Netherlands have shown that long term prosperity in a delta depends on working with water, rather than against it. Bangladesh, with its vast floodplains and dense river network, has even greater natural potential.

A scientifically grounded canal restoration programme can reconnect the country's blue and green landscapes and create a more liveable environment for millions. Done properly, canal excavation is not about digging soil. It is about restoring the hydraulic logic that once made this delta one of the most productive and resilient regions in the world.



The Subhadya Canal in Keraniganj, Dhaka is one of many across Bangladesh that are on the verge of dying and are in desperate need of excavation to restore water flow.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

drainage systems in the world, supported by an intricate network of canals and low-lying retention areas. Much of that system has been lost to unplanned urbanisation and embankments.

Even recent excavation projects have

on groundwater for irrigation, even as climate change makes rainfall more erratic. Arable land is shrinking—from nearly 73 percent of the country in 1990 to about 60 percent in 2023—while the population continues to grow. The pressure on water, food, and

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## MODI'S VISIT TO ISRAEL

# Standing on the wrong side of history



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JANNATUL NAYM PICAL

Yesterday, Narendra Modi finished a two-day state visit to Israel. This was his first visit since 2017, when he became the first Indian prime minister ever to step on Israeli soil.

Framed as a leap towards a special strategic partnership, the trip nonetheless has raised difficult questions about what it signalled—and what it left unsaid—amid the continuing devastation in Gaza caused by Israel, which has killed at least 72,073 people and wounded 171,756 since October 2023. At least 615 of these deaths occurred during the "ceasefire" agreed between Israel and Hamas last October.

The urgent calls for justice and dignity from Palestinians received little to no attention in the official agenda of this visit. Instead, during his address to the Knesset on Wednesday, Modi asserted that "India stands with Israel, firmly, with full conviction," offering solidarity after the October 7, 2023 Hamas attacks and reaffirming India's "zero tolerance for terrorism." He also conveyed India's condolences for Israeli losses and spoke of expanding cooperation in defence, trade and technology. But, to no one's surprise, he made no specific reference whatsoever to the scale of the ongoing suffering in Gaza.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in turn, welcomed Modi warmly and praised the deepening ties between the two nations.

"You are a great friend of Israel and a great leader on the world stage... Narendra, you are more than a friend—you are a brother," Netanyahu said. Modi was also conferred the Speaker of the Knesset Medal, Israel's highest parliamentary honour. Beyond the Knesset, Modi's itinerary included ceremonial receptions, bilateral talks, and interactions with the Indian diaspora in Israel.

Modi and Israeli leadership reviewed progress in the strategic partnership and discussed cooperation across defence, science and technology, innovation, agriculture, water management, trade, and investment. Talks reportedly also touched on advancing negotiations towards a free trade agreement (FTA) and other economic deals. Bilateral merchandise trade between India and Israel was about \$3.62 billion in FY 2024-25, with India as Israel's second-largest Asian trading partner. An FTA is expected to boost trade access for goods and services including high-tech products and agriculture. Defence cooperation remains substantial: Israel's exports to India from 2020 to 2024 were estimated at around \$20.5 billion, covering missile systems, drones, radar and other technologies—figures that illustrate the tangible stakes of the partnership.

Far from making any plea for peace in Gaza, Modi's visit solidified India's alignment

with a state accused internationally of using overwhelming force and enforcing apartheid policies. It can thus be read as not only an economic, but also a political endorsement of Israel's leadership at a moment when it faces accusations of war crimes and genocide from international legal and human rights circles.

India claims to support a two-state solution, but those words appear hollow in light of its deepening ties with Israel, which materially reinforce the mechanisms used to maintain occupation and restrict Palestinian freedom. While trade and technological initiatives with Israel may enhance India's strategic depth, they also entangle the country in systems that perpetuate oppression. This alignment has drawn sharp criticism from voices across India's own political spectrum.

Jairam Ramesh, member of the opposition Indian National Congress, called Modi's trip "moral cowardice," arguing that embracing Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu, someone who "has reduced Gaza to rubble and dust" and "orchestrates the expansion of illegal settlements," amounts to abandoning India's historic support for Palestinian rights. Ramesh noted that India once stood with Palestine during earlier conflicts and said the government's current statements about peace are inconsistent with its actions.

MA Baby, leader of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) criticised Modi's trip sharply, saying the visit "will be an indelible blot on our nation's soul" and accused the prime minister of betraying India's anti-colonial legacy and long-standing support for Palestinian self-determination.

The criticism goes beyond party politics. A parliamentary panel led by Shashi Tharoor, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on external affairs, warned that the timing and symbolism of the visit, especially amid rising tensions with Iran,

could affect India's global image and that foreign policy messaging matters even in complex security situations.

These political criticisms resonate with historical context. India was among the first non-Arab countries to recognise the State of Palestine in 1988 and has long maintained a principled position in support of its sovereignty. Today, however, its stance has shifted towards having closer ties with Israel, while non-Arab and non-Muslim countries like Sweden and Ireland continue to consistently support Palestinian rights.

The geopolitical backdrop amplifies the concerns. West Asia remains volatile, with tensions between the US and Iran simmering, and Israel positioning itself as a key US ally. Netanyahu, in recent times, has openly discussed forming a "hexagon of alliances" with countries including India, Greece, Cyprus, and some Arab states to counter perceived threats in the Middle East, signalling that the relationship is as much about geopolitical alignment as it is about bilateral cooperation.

In this context, Modi's visit strengthens Israel's international position at a moment when many Western and Global South countries are wary of being seen as too close to Jerusalem amid its military campaign in Gaza.

For Israel, Modi's presence—including his address to the Knesset—carries political weight as domestic debates over judicial independence and Netanyahu's leadership continue to dominate. That a prominent leader from a major democracy would visit at this moment lends diplomatic cover to a government facing both domestic and international criticism.

India's strategy is often framed in terms of "strategic autonomy"—that is, balancing relationships with Israel, Arab states, and

Iran. But the material cooperation with Israel complicates India's ability to serve as an honest broker for peace. In recent UN votes, India's positions have oscillated, sometimes abstaining on resolutions critical of Israel while joining others that condemned settlement expansions after many other countries had already articulated opposition, drawing domestic criticism for inconsistency.

Defence cooperation is central to this relationship. Both governments have reiterated their commitment to counterterrorism, intelligence sharing, and joint assessments of emerging security challenges. While there can indeed be some level of concern in India about terrorism threats, linking counter-terrorism so closely with advanced military cooperation obscures how these capabilities are used in the contexts of occupation, border control, and civilian restriction rather than exclusively against combatant threats.

Ultimately, Modi's visit to Israel raises a fundamental question about the moral compass of foreign policy: can strategic interests and technology cooperation justify overlooking profound human suffering? By materially supporting Israel during an ongoing conflict and strengthening ties with its military and intelligence apparatus, India prioritises defence and influence over justice and human dignity. History will evaluate nations not on the basis of ceremonial speeches or bilateral forums, but based on whose suffering they acknowledged and whose rights they chose to defend. In the long run, Modi's visit may be remembered not as a historic moment, but as a point when India, as a country, chose convenience, strategic ties, and defence cooperation over human rights and consistent moral leadership. It would be seen as when India stood, in effect, on the wrong side of history.

CROSSWORD  
BY THOMAS JOSEPH

### ACROSS

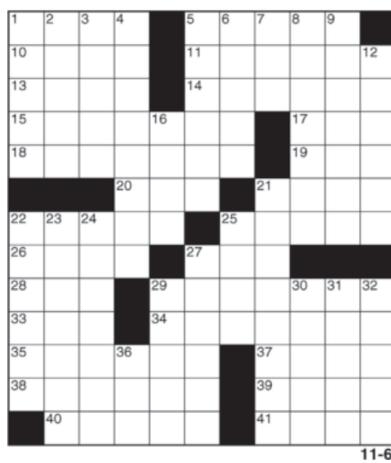
- 1 Make finer, as flour
- 5 European viper
- 10 One of the Great Lakes
- 11 Less tight
- 13 Animal abodes
- 14 Small
- 15 "What happened next?"
- 17 Lend a hand
- 18 Monetary reserve
- 19 Eastern "way"
- 20 Purpose
- 21 Painter Magritte
- 22 Pretentious people
- 25 Nuisances
- 26 Easy gait
- 27 \_\_\_ Angeles

### 28 Poem of praise

- 29 Groom's friend
  - 33 Rifle or revolver
  - 34 Way back when
  - 35 Region of eastern France
  - 37 Color
  - 38 Impulse relay
  - 39 Addition column
  - 40 Forgo frugality
  - 41 Mexican coin
- DOWN
- 1 Car type
  - 2 Adler who bested Sherlock Holmes
  - 3 Locates
  - 4 Lab vessel
  - 5 State without proof

### 6 Carrying out

- 7 Period
- 8 Fancy homes
- 9 Dependent
- 12 Gives a makeover
- 16 Pianist Myra
- 21 Truckers' haven
- 22 Ad catchphrase
- 23 Lumps
- 24 Becomes chatty
- 25 Do some modelling
- 27 Map key
- 29 Strips for breakfast
- 30 Bangor's state
- 31 Dance's de Mille
- 32 "That's a lie!"
- 36 Verb for you



### WEDNESDAY'S ANSWERS



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# Warfaze's EKUSHEY PADAK belongs to the fans: Tipu

RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA

Yesterday marked an exceptionally beautiful moment for Warfaze, the band that shaped the childhood of an entire generation, as it received the Ekushey Padak, the country's second-highest civilian honour, for its contribution to music.



The recognition also marked a historic first for Bangladeshi band music. Adding to the significance of the occasion, the award was received by the band's founding member, Sheikh Monirul Alam Tipu, who has remained associated with Warfaze since its inception, guiding it through multiple phases and line-up changes.



Speaking about the moment, Tipu recalled that the nomination had been announced earlier this month, with the award ceremony initially scheduled for the 20th. "It was postponed and finally held yesterday. All of us in the band were eagerly waiting for this moment. When we finally went together and received it, the feeling was truly extraordinary. It's hard to put into words. It felt surreal and deeply fulfilling," he said.

The drummer also shared a light-hearted moment from the ceremony, recalling his interaction with Tarique Rahman, who handed over the award. "It was quite surreal to realise that he already knew me as a musician. He greeted me warmly, congratulated me, and said he was looking forward to hearing more songs from us. I told

him we would be bringing new music very soon," Tipu said with a laugh.

Reflecting on how the band members reacted to the recognition, Tipu said emotions ran high. "Everyone was completely overwhelmed. At first, it was hard to believe. After making music for so many years, receiving an official recognition from the state is a massive achievement for us. But this honour is not ours alone—it belongs to every band in the music industry. More importantly, it belongs to our listeners, fans, and families who have supported us throughout this journey."

Recently, social media has been flooded with photos of Warfaze members celebrating a small reunion. Tipu shared that as the ceremony scheduled for the 20th was postponed, the band decided not to cancel their pre-arranged plans. "We came together for prayers and an iftar gathering. Later, we played some light acoustic Ekushey-style songs. Former members, current members, family, friends, and well-wishers were all present. It was a beautiful evening filled with memories and shared stories after so many years," he said.

**This achievement belongs to our audience, listeners, and fans. Their love, trust, belief, and commitment have kept us going all these years.**

A lighter moment from the day also caught public attention when band members shared photos of their rickshaw ride after the ceremony. Tipu explained that due to security arrangements, their vehicles were parked near the High Court shrine. "Calling the cars would have taken over 45 minutes because of traffic. So, we walked a bit, took rickshaws, and then got into our cars. That ended up being the fun part of the day," he said.

Looking ahead, Tipu revealed that Warfaze has new music on the way. "A new song will be released during this Ramadan. Another track from *Pothchola 2* is also coming. We are working on two releases and have already begun organising and planning for a full-fledged album," he shared.

Addressing the band's fans, Tipu emphasised that the Ekushey Padak is as much theirs as it is the band's. "This achievement belongs to our audience, listeners, and fans. Their love, trust, belief, and commitment have kept us going all these years. We have survived and grown because of their prayers and support. We hope their love and trust remain with us always, and we ask everyone to keep us in their prayers."

## Peya Jannatul criticises animal distress as 'content'

Model, lawyer and actor Peya Jannatul has criticised brands for using the suffering of a motherless baby monkey as promotional "content". A video of the orphaned monkey from Ichikawa



City Zoo in Japan recently went viral, showing the baby clinging to a soft toy for comfort.

In a Facebook post, Peya said the footage was heartbreaking but expressed disappointment that some brands began tagging the monkey and linking its story to their products. Calling the practice "selfish", she wrote, "Even a baby animal's suffering is now content," adding that using an animal's distress for profit is wrong.

Referring to Ramadan, she urged followers to reflect on hunger and extend compassion by helping vulnerable animals during the holy month.

AND THEN THERE WERE NONE

WHAT'S THE HAPS?

**'AND THEN THERE WERE NONE'**

Open Space Theatre stages a licensed Bangladeshi adaptation of Agatha Christie's psychological classic, where strangers confront guilt on an isolated island. M Arifur Rahman's translation revives golden-age detective theatre for contemporary Dhaka audiences seeking intelligent, immersive drama.

Date: Saturday | February 28, 2026  
Time: 3:30 pm and 7 pm onwards  
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, BSA

## NEWS

### New govt at foreign policy crossroads

FROM PAGE 16

Though the US Supreme Court on February 20 ruled that the Trump administration's sweeping global tariffs are illegal, US President Donald Trump issued an order imposing a fresh 10 percent global tariff.

Humayun said the US president may use laws such as the 1930 Tariff Act and the 1974 Trade Act to negotiate new deals and continue to put pressure on Bangladesh.

According to analysts, even though the US Supreme Court cancelled the tariffs, the conditions embedded in the Bangladesh-US agreement remain in force. For example, the US may take action if Bangladesh enters into a new bilateral free trade agreement or preferential economic agreement with a country that adheres to non-market economy.

The deal also says Bangladesh shall not purchase any nuclear reactors, fuel rods, or enriched uranium from a country that jeopardises essential US interests. The exception, however, applies in cases where there are no alternatives for such supplies and if there are prior agreements.

Humayun said that certain clauses in the deal, particularly the ones relating to "non-market economies", could complicate Bangladesh's relations with other major partners such as China and disrupt economic balance.

He further said some provisions may increase Bangladesh's reliance on US defence equipment, which traditionally comes at higher costs.

Parvez pointed out that the proposed US "Think Twice Act" will complicate things as it seeks to discourage third countries from purchasing Chinese military equipment, potentially through sanctions or trade penalties.

Since Bangladesh has historically relied on affordable Chinese defence equipment, this Act creates a potential policy dilemma, he said.

The government must weigh economic dependencies, defence affordability, and strategic autonomy against possible diplomatic costs, he added.

**NORMALISING DHAKA-DELHI RELATIONS**  
Bangladesh-India relations were strained after the toppling of the Awami League government and ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina's escape to India in August 2024.

Humayun said a strong public narrative emerged around the idea of "Indian domination" and public reactions to certain events demonstrated that this sentiment had deep support. Online misinformation and disinformation campaigns also

intensified negative perceptions.

He said the government must balance domestic political sentiment with diplomatic necessity as the Jamaat-e-Islami and the National Citizen Party (NCP) are likely to have notable influence in parliament.

Delhi may expect continuity in security cooperation frameworks and previous projects taken up during the AI government's tenure. While some of these arrangements may be mutually beneficial, Dhaka must ensure that the engagements align with its declared policy priorities.

"The new government will need to handle these issues cautiously to avoid any instability," he said, adding that Hasina's extradition could become a thorny issue.

Both Dhaka and Delhi should tone down rhetoric and expand engagements both at government and civil society levels.

Parvez said that both sides seem willing to normalise ties. Immediate steps should be taken to address structural issues including border killings, renewal of the Ganges Water Treaty, sharing of the water of the Teesta and other transboundary rivers, transit, trade corridors, and regional connectivity involving Nepal and Bhutan.

**LDC GRADUATION**

Citing challenges in domestic and global trade, Bangladesh has written to the UN, seeking a deferment of its LDC graduation by three years, which was scheduled for November this year.

Humayun said LDC graduation demands structural reforms including improving productivity, enhancing competitiveness, carrying out labour reforms, strengthening governance, and modernising legal frameworks.

"Without rapid progress, the economy could face adjustment shocks," he said.

Parvez said that while the European Union has offered a three-year grace period after LDC graduation, maintaining preferential trade access under GSP+ will require compliance with strict labour, environmental, governance, and intellectual property standards.

"Failure to secure alternative Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), particularly with the EU and the UK, could result in export losses to competitors like Vietnam and India."

**ROHINGYA CRISIS**

There has been no headway in repatriating 1.2 million Rohingyas sheltered in Bangladesh, most of them since 2017. Given the prolonged conflicts in Myanmar, there is no sign of repatriation anytime soon.

Parvez said repatriation efforts have been complicated by Myanmar's internal instability, combined with the involvement of China, Russia, Japan, ASEAN states, and Western powers.

Humayun said it is important for the new government to draw up a comprehensive roadmap to address the Rohingya crisis.

It will require significant diplomatic energy to mobilise funding for Rohingyas and work with international actors that are polarised, he added.

**IMPERATIVES FOR BANGLADESH**  
Analysts say the new government has to carefully navigate its domestic policy if Bangladesh is to assert its role on the global stage. It must boost the economy by creating jobs, attracting investment, enhancing energy security, and accelerating infrastructure development.

Parvez suggested prioritising career diplomats over political appointees, strengthening economic diplomacy, integrating military diplomacy with foreign policy, and establishing centralised strategic coordination under the Prime Minister's Office.

Humayun said that the foreign ministry and other key ministries, including commerce and finance, must have strong coordination. Otherwise, major reforms will be difficult to implement.

### Issue Interpol red notice

FROM PAGE 16

adviser Sardar Mosharrar Hossain after accepting the charge sheet in the case.

The court also set March 8 for submitting a report on the execution of the arrest warrants.

On April 15 last year, the anti-graft body filed the case against Tulip, Mosharrar and Rajuk's former assistant legal adviser Shah Md Khasruzzaman.

Tulip allegedly provided undue benefits to private developer Eastern Housing Limited to illegally acquire the flat in Gulshan-2.

According to the case documents, the accused allegedly, in collusion with each other, abused their power and illegally took possession of the flat without paying any money, and later got it registered.

The ACC on January 13 this year pressed charges against Tulip and Mosharrar.

Between November 27 last year and February 2 this year, Sheikh Hasina was jailed for 36 years in six cases involving the Purbachal plot scam in Dhaka. Her elder niece, Tulip, was also sentenced to six years' imprisonment in three of the six cases.

### Politicised edn not a sign of civilised society

FROM PAGE 16

accomplished people in a state and society, the more enlightened that society becomes in prosperity and moral standards."

Therefore, the state honours learned and distinguished individuals out of necessity, he said, adding that from this realisation, late president Ziaur Rahman introduced the Ekushey Padak in independent Bangladesh.

Noting that this recognition is not merely a medal, Tarique said the award commemorates Bangladesh's historical milestones, from the 1952 Language Movement to the present.

"At the same time, it introduces the general public to those distinguished individuals who have enriched themselves, the state and society through education, literature, arts, research and practice."

The prime minister arrived at the venue around 10:53am on foot from his Cabinet Division office in the Secretariat. The ceremony organised by the Cultural Affairs Ministry began with the national anthem and recitation from religious scriptures.

Cultural Affairs Minister Nitai Roy Chowdhury presided over the function, while Cabinet Secretary Nasimul Ghani conducted the award-giving ceremony and read out the citations of the awardees.

Cabinet members, members of parliament, diplomats, senior civil and military officials and dignitaries were present.

This year, the government conferred the Ekushey Padak on nine individuals and one music band for outstanding contributions in their respective fields.

The recipients are: Farida Akhtar Babita (Film), Professor Md Abdus Sattar (Fine Arts), Marina Tabassum (Architecture), Ayub Bachchu (Music) (Posthumous), Arthy Ahmed (Dance), Islam Uddin Palakar (Palagan), Shafiq Rehman (Journalism), Professor Dr Mahbul Alam Majumdar (Education), Tejosh Haldar Josh (Sculpture), and Warfaze (Music Band).

About International Mother Language Day on February 21, Tarique said, "The importance of the month

of February in our national history is immense. And February 21 is a reminder of our identity... It can be said that February 21 is the lifeblood of our cultural consciousness."

Congratulating the Ekushey Padak winners, he wished them long and fulfilling lives and later joined a photo session with them.

**'CONSIDER MAKING BOOK FAIR INTERNATIONAL'**

Later, Prime Minister Tarique Rahman inaugurated the Amar Ekushey Book Fair at the Bangla Academy premises in the afternoon.

Speaking at the event, he said, "The Amar Ekushey Book Fair is one of the key creative initiatives of Bangla Academy inspired by the aspirations of the language martyrs."

"However, in view of the time, I would like to request all of you to consider whether there is a scope to organise the Amar Ekushey Book Fair as the Amar Ekushey International Book Fair in the coming years."

He added, "In today's global village, it is essential to become acquainted with multiple languages in addition to the mother tongue."

"To survive with prosperity and dignity in a competitive world, there is no alternative to establishing a knowledge- and merit-based state and society. Thus, we need to enrich ourselves with knowledge, science, technology, and talent... Simultaneously, I think, we should start working to secure recognition of Bangla as an official language of the United Nations."

Tarique concluded his speech by declaring the fair open. He, his wife Zubaida Rahman and daughter Zaima Rahman, along with other guests, formally inaugurated it by cutting the ribbon.

Earlier, Cultural Affairs Secretary Md Mofidur Rahman, Bangladesh Book Publishers and Sellers Association President Md Rezaul Karim Badsha and Bangla Academy Director General Professor Mohammad Azam delivered welcome speeches.

Tarique and his family members, cabinet members, members of parliament, foreign diplomats, senior civil and military officials and dignitaries attended the programme.

### Tarique picks

FROM PAGE 16

session, will convene the informal interactive dialogues with the candidates in May 2026.

Bangladesh last held the prestigious position in 1986 (1986-87), when the then foreign minister Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury was elected as president of the 41st General Assembly.

The 81st session of the UNGA will open on September 8, 2026, with the high-level General Debate beginning on September 22, 2026.

Earlier, the interim government had nominated former foreign affairs adviser Md Touhid Hossain as Bangladesh's candidate.

### Can new BB chief

FROM PAGE 16

of the election management committee of the ruling party," he said.

He also pointed out that the appointment is "a clear breach" of the BNP government's election manifesto pledge to ensure good governance and transparency in the financial sector.

TIB questioned whether the new governor will be able to rise above business interests and make independent, impartial decisions to control inflation, maintain financial sector stability, and take punitive action against weak banks that protect personal interests.

The organisation further questioned whether this appointment aligns with the public demand for an independent central bank following the 2024 mass uprising.

In another statement, the Network for People's Action also expressed deep concern over the process of replacing Ahsan H Mansur with a full-fledged businessman and politician, noting that such a highly sensitive position requires specialised technical expertise.

Demanding an end to direct government interference, the platform called for the formation of a search committee to appoint the central bank's board, governor, and deputy governors.

It also urged the government to revoke its power to arbitrarily dismiss the governor, proposing that this authority be transferred to parliament and exercised only based on specific allegations.

The NPA also demanded a mechanism for the governor to provide regular accountability to parliament.

## Man behind DU assault a murder case accused

FROM PAGE 3  
The women are heard accusing the men of assault. One says they were not safe at Dhaka University, as university students hit them. She also alleged that the men called them prostitutes because of their clothing.

Another woman says, "We came to TSC after having sehri at Nazirabazar. They hit my rider. They are calling us prostitutes. How can they raise their hands on women?"

Shahriar denied assaulting any woman. He said he had a scuffle with a man accompanying them but did not hit the women.

He claimed the group appeared to be "indecent and intoxicated" and behaved rudely when asked about their identities, leading to an argument and physical altercation with the man.

He alleged that when

one of the women charged at him, and he tried to push her away, she accused him of slapping her.

Rakib could not be reached for comment. In a separate media statement, he admitted holding a bamboo stick but denied assaulting anyone.

The proctor said CCTV footage has been reviewed, and four DU students were identified at the scene.

He said the footage does not clearly show the women being beaten with sticks, though the men appeared to threaten them and struck the accompanying man on the head with a helmet. "Whether the women were hit requires further review," he added.

The proctor noted that the women did not file complaints; the written complaints came from the two men with them, one identifying himself as a ride-share driver and the

other as a friend.

According to the complaint, the group was standing at TSC for tea after sehri when two to three men questioned, verbally abused and later attacked them with a helmet, also striking the women.

The DU probe committee is expected to submit its findings after reviewing CCTV footage and the written complaints.

Meanwhile confirming the murder case against Rakib, OC Khandkar Nasir Uddin of Kaliakoir Police Station in Gazipur said a charge sheet has been submitted.

Rakib, son of Abdur Rahim of Safipur Bazar, and his twin brother Shakib are accused in the case and have reportedly been absconding.

According to the case statement, on September 9, 2024, a young man named Sabbir Hossain was allegedly hacked and

thrown from the roof of a 10-storey building in Safipur Paschimpara, Kaliakoir.

The complaint alleges Rakib and Shakib were involved.

The complainant, Sabbir's elder brother Md Mohiuddin Abir, later filed a murder case against three accused.

He has alleged in media statements that despite the submission of the charge sheet several months ago, no arrest warrant has yet been issued and the accused have not been arrested.

Police said the case was investigated by Gazipur detective branch, which will take further steps, including arrests once warrants are issued.

Gazipur DB OC Hasmat Ullah said due to "various circumstances", no operation had been conducted earlier, but steps will now be taken to arrest the accused.

## Six victims in critical PM set to reside

FROM PAGE 2  
10:00pm on Wednesday at the LPG station at the entrance to Kolatoli. Locals said the station was inaugurated on Tuesday.

Syed Muhammad Morshed Hossain, deputy assistant director of Fire Service and Civil Defence in Cox's Bazar, said preliminary findings point to errors in gas load and unload operations, though the exact cause will be known after a full investigation. The extent of the damage is still being assessed.

He also said the station lacked a fire safety plan and did not have a fire certificate.

District administration investigation committee chief Shahidul said the team has begun work, spoken to the pump owner, and asked him to produce all relevant documents.

Whether four filling stations within a three-kilometre stretch from Kolatoli to Link Road comply with government policy will also be examined during the investigation, he added.

The owner of the LPG station, N Alam, a businessman from Ramu upazila, told journalists that he has permission for the filling station.

A visit to the site yesterday morning revealed widespread devastation. The station was charred black, surrounding grass and vegetation burnt to ash. A house behind the pump had its furniture destroyed, while another house built by cutting into a small hill was completely gutted. Residents of both homes were seen lamenting outside.

Islam Begum, wife of Md Siraj, who lives in the first house, said a fire broke out at the station earlier in the evening. Firefighters brought it under control but

failed to stop a gas leak. The gas spread, and between 9:30pm and 10:00pm, a massive explosion ripped through the area.

She said the family fled with their son, grandchildren and daughter-in-law. "When I think about how we survived, my heart still trembles," she said, adding that all their money and belongings were reduced to ashes, leaving them homeless.

About 100 yards away, in an open space known as Rahim's Parking, several vehicle repair shops stood with 20 to 25 tourist jeeps parked there and all of them were destroyed in the explosion.

Mohammad Arif, a driver, said gas that had been spreading since evening reached the parking area. Around 10:00pm, when the blast occurred, the caretaker Rahim and another man were severely burnt. Although the area had earlier been evacuated, they had returned to the garage to collect vehicle keys when the explosion struck.

"At the time of the explosion, it felt like the whole area had turned into hell," Arif said.

FROM PAGE 3  
The prime minister is currently residing at his private home in Gulshan and commuting to the Secretariat on Abdul Gani Road and the Prime Minister's Office in Teigaon from there.

Sources said the PM intends to host iftar gatherings during Ramadan and exchange Eid-ul-Fitr greetings at Jamuna. Renovation work is therefore being expedited.

Jamuna, located at 30 Hare Road, spans about 3.25 acres. Adjacent bungalows 24 and 25, currently used by senior security officials assigned to the former chief adviser, will be allocated for officials responsible for the prime minister's security after Jamuna is vacated.

During the rule of the ousted Awami League, the prime minister's official residence was Gono Bhaban.

On August 5, 2024, the government of Sheikh Hasina fell following a mass uprising, and protesters vandalised Gono Bhaban. The interim government later decided to convert it into the "July Mass Uprising Memorial Museum," and construction is ongoing.

In July last year, the housing ministry formed a six-member committee to recommend residences for the PM and ministers. The committee proposed Jamuna and bungalows 24 and 25 under an integrated plan for the prime minister's residence.

The Hare Road, Minto Road, and Bailey Road areas, known as the "Minister's Zone," housed advisers of the interim government.

Officials at the Ministry of Housing and Public Works said ministers and state ministers will require some time before moving into their allocated residences, as minor renovation work is needed. They are expected to move in after Eid-ul-Fitr.

PWD is preparing around 40 residences for ministers and state ministers. "Minor renovation may take two to ten days, or up to a month in some cases," said the chief engineer.

Renovation work is also ongoing at the NAM flats for lawmakers and may take another two to three weeks.

A PWD official said six buildings at NAM Bhaban each have 36 flats, and four buildings are currently vacant and undergoing cleaning and renovation.

## It's the start of govt-backed mob culture

FROM PAGE 2  
to fascist rule, widespread corruption, extortion and syndicate practices. If such activities continue at the highest levels of the state, including Bangladesh Bank, "the remaining foundations of the economy will also be destroyed," he warned.

Protests against these "disorders" should come from all sections of society, regardless of party affiliation, he said, claiming that mobs have been regularly targeting competent and deserving officials at various state institutions.

Addressing the government, Shafiqur said that if it truly wants to build a democratic and discrimination-free Bangladesh, it must immediately stop such activities. He also called

for ensuring appointments to important government positions based on merit rather than party loyalty.

His post came after the government revoked the appointment of Ahsan H Mansur as governor of Bangladesh Bank and replaced him with Md Mostakur Rahman, a businessman and accountant. Some officials of the central bank had been protesting against Mansur for several days.

Meanwhile, Jamaat Secretary General Mia Golam Porwar also questioned the appointment of the new governor, alleging potential conflicts of interest and raising concerns about the central bank's independence.

In a statement posted on the party's official Facebook page at 9:05am, he said the role of a central

bank governor is not ceremonial but one of the most critical positions in any country, responsible for safeguarding monetary stability, regulating banks, maintaining financial discipline and, most importantly, building public and international confidence in the economy.

Referring to the post-July political context, Porwar said that when people demanded systemic change, restoring trust through merit-based leadership should have been the government's highest priority.

"The quota movement was never only about quotas; it was fundamentally about meritocracy and competent governance," he said.

He alleged that, for the first time in the country's history, an industrialist has been appointed governor

of the central bank. According to him, shortly before the appointment, the individual's company had Tk 89 crore in loans rescheduled under special policy provisions.

Porwar also claimed that the new governor had been a member of the ruling party's election steering committee.

Senior banking professionals have already expressed concerns about conflicts of interest and institutional independence, he said, adding that placing someone who benefited from loan restructuring in charge of regulating the entire banking sector inevitably raises questions.

Bangladesh cannot move forward without strong, independent institutions led by qualified and experienced professionals, he added.

## I still don't know

FROM PAGE 3  
Dhaka. But their hostility did not end," he said.

He suspects the murder may have been an act of revenge related to the land dispute.

The family said they informed investigators about the previous conflict several times. "But investigators say they have found no evidence yet. They have not arrested anyone," Shilpi said.

The family had moved to Dhaka from Narsingdi just eight months before Roza's

death, hoping for a better life.

Inside their small home, reminders of Roza remain — her toys, the empty space among her siblings, and the memories her mother struggles to recount.

"She was lively and playful, full of little wishes," Shilpi said. "Even with four daughters and two sons, the emptiness she left feels unbearable."

Nine months after the tragedy, the family continues to wait for answers and justice.

## After disputes

FROM PAGE 3  
compressing what is typically a major cultural festival.

Held at the Bangla Academy premises and Suhrawardy Udyan, the fair has long evolved beyond a marketplace for books into a symbolic space for cultural expression and intellectual exchange.

Visitors flocked to the grounds on opening day, bringing back the familiar energy.

"I come here every year, and honestly, I was worried it might not happen this time," said Rahat Hasan, a

university student. "It feels different because of the timing, but the spirit is still there."

Schoolteacher Nasrin Akter echoed the sentiment. "Even if it's short running, I didn't want to miss it. I wait for this fair all year to buy books and spend time here with my family."

Others noted challenges posed by the revised schedule. "Since it's during Ramadan, the crowd might be lower in the daytime," said office-goer Mahmudul Karim. "But I think evenings will still be lively."

## Local seeds for local

FROM PAGE 4  
who has which types of seeds and which ones produce better yields," she says.

Jaya Roy, a homemaker from Batiaghata Sadar, visited the fair for the first time. "I learned how seeds can be preserved at home and how seedlings are grown from them," she says.

Deb Prosad Sarker, chief executive of LoCOS, noted that while hybrid and foreign seeds are becoming widely available, they cannot be preserved and require excessive chemicals.

"Local seeds do not degrade soil quality, produce tastier crops, and require fewer chemicals," he said.

At the closing ceremony, Batiaghata UNO Thander Kamruzzaman said, "In this age of climate crisis, indigenous seed varieties are our greatest shield."

Prizes were awarded based on the number, diversity, and quality of seeds displayed, with Karuna Mondal winning first place. Namita Sarkar and Shiuli Mondal followed in second and third places, respectively.

All participating women farmers were also recognised.

Karuna smiled as she accepted her award. "This honour is not just mine — it belongs to all women who protect these seeds. As long as I live, I will continue to preserve them," she said.



### সিলেট গ্যাস ফিল্ডস লিমিটেড

(পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানি)

## Sylhet Gas Fields Limited

(A Company of Petrobangla)

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### INTERNATIONAL TENDER NOTICE

Tender No.: SGFL/CRU/25-26/FP-06 Date: 24-02-2026

1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources/Energy & Mineral Resources Division
2. Agency	Sylhet Gas Fields Limited (A company of Petrobangla)
3. Procuring Entity Name	Sylhet Gas Fields Limited (SGFL)
4. Procuring Entity District	Sylhet
5. Invitation for	Procurement of Catalytic Converter with Catalyst Including Supply, Installation, Hook-up, Testing, Commissioning and Carbon molecular sieve with Spare Parts for Nitrogen Generation Package.
6. Invitation Ref No	SGFL/CRU/25-26/FP-06 dated: 24-02-2026

**KEY INFORMATION**

7. Procurement method: One Stage & Two envelope Tendering Method. Tenderer are to submit simultaneously two (2) sealed envelopes, one containing the Technical Tender and the other one containing the Price Tender. The Technical Tender will be opened on the date and time mentioned at Sl. no.13 of this tender notice and the Price Tender of the technically responsive Tenderer(s) will be opened later on.

**FUNDING INFORMATION**

8. Budget and Source of Funds: SGFL's Own Fund.

**PARTICULAR INFORMATION**

9. Project Name	N/A
10. Tender Publication Date	24-02-2026.
11. Tender Last Selling Dat	15-04-2026.
12. Tender Closing Date & Time	16-04-2026, and 12:00 hrs (BST)
13. Tender Opening Date & Time	16-04-2026, and 12:15 hrs (BST)
14. Name and Address of Office for selling Tender	Sylhet Gas Fields Limited, Dhaka Liaison Office, Petrocentre, 13 <sup>th</sup> Floor, 3 Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh.
15. Name and Address of Office for Receiving & Opening of Tender	Sylhet Gas Fields Limited, Head Office, P.O. Chiknagool, Sylhet-3152 Bangladesh.
16. Date & Time of Selling of Tender Document.	The tender document will be available for sale from 02-03-2026 to 15-04-2026 during office hours on all working days.

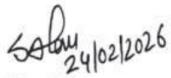
**INFORMATION FOR TENDERER**

17. Eligibility of Tenderer	Bonafide manufacturers/suppliers or their authorized agents of all countries except the country/countries having no diplomatic relation with Bangladesh.
18. Brief Description of Goods	Catalytic Converter with Catalyst and Spare Parts for Nitrogen Generator Package.
19. Brief Description of Related Services	N/A
20. Price of Tender document	Taka 12,000.00 or USD 98.00 (non-refundable)
21. Name of the Official Inviting Tender	Eng. Md. Shah Alam
22. Designation of official inviting tender	Deputy General Manager (Foreign Procurement Section) Phone no.01716551003 E-mail: dgmp@sgfl.gov.bd
23. Address of the official inviting tender	Sylhet Gas Fields Limited P.O. Chiknagool, Sylhet-3152, Bangladesh.
24. Tender Security Amount	BDT 4,60,000.00 or USD 3750.00

**Special Instruction**

- Tender must remain valid for one hundred and fifty (150) days from the date of opening of the tender.
- Tenderer shall furnish with the Tender (Technical Tender) an acceptable Tender Security in the form of Bank Guarantee as per format provided in the tender document or Pay Order from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh.
- The Tender security must remain valid for one hundred and seventy-eight (178) days from the date of opening of the tender.
- The scope of supply, terms of supply and information require to be furnished by the Tenderer, etc. are given in the tender document.
- Tender(s) submitted after the deadline for receiving of tenders will be rejected and returned unopened to the Tenderer.
- The Tender must not be submitted by Fax or email.
- If it is not possible to receive/open the tender on the scheduled date for any unavoidable circumstance (Strike, Public Holiday, etc.) the same will be received/opened on the next working day at the same time and Venue
- This tender notice will also be available at SGFL Website: www.sgfl.gov.bd, Petrobangla Website: www.petrobangla.org.bd and BPPA Website: www.bppa.gov.bd

26. Sylhet Gas Fields Limited reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders or annul the tender proceedings at any stage prior to award of contract without assigning any reason whatsoever and without incurring any liability to the affected Tenderer(s).

  
Deputy General Manager  
Foreign Procurement Section

GD-411

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
office of the Director  
**Shaheed M. Monsur Ali Medical College Hospital**  
Sirajganj

Memo No: SMMAMCH/SIRAJ/MSR-EGP.TENDER NOTICE/2025-2026/322

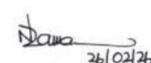
Date: 26/02/2026

### e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is in the e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procuring of following goods.

Tender ID	Name of Goods	Tender/Proposal Publication Date and Time :	Tender/Proposal last selling Date and Time :	Tender/Proposal Closing / Opening Date and Time :
1230528	Supplying outsourcing service workers for the Shaheed M Monsur Ali Medical College Hospital, Sirajganj for 2025-2026 financial years.	26-Feb-2026 12:00	15-Mar-2026 15:30	16-Mar-2026 13:00

- 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 (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.
- Details about the Tender have shown in e-Tender notice and e-Tender document further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP help Desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

  
(Dr. A. T. M Nuruzzaman)  
Director  
Shaheed M. Monsur Ali Medical College Hospital  
Sirajganj

GD-417



## পাওয়ার গ্রিড বাংলাদেশ পিএলসি

### POWER GRID BANGLADESH PLC

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### ২৩০ কেভি বিদ্যুৎ সঞ্চালন লাইন চালুর সতর্কীকরণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারণের অবগিতের জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, পাওয়ার গ্রিড বাংলাদেশ পিএলসি কর্তৃক বাস্তবায়নধীন "পাওয়ার গ্রিড নেটওয়ার্ক স্ট্রেন্থেনিং প্রজেক্ট আন্ডার পিজিসিবি" শীর্ষক প্রকল্পের আওতায় বরিশাল (উত্তর) ২৩০/৩০ কেভি গ্রিড উপকেন্দ্র হতে পটুয়াখালী ১৩২/৩০ কেভি গ্রিড উপকেন্দ্র পর্যন্ত নবনির্মিত বরিশাল (উত্তর)-পটুয়াখালী ২৩০ কেভি ৫৫ কিঃমিঃ সঞ্চালন লাইন নির্মাণ কাজ সম্পন্ন হয়েছে।

উক্ত সঞ্চালন লাইনটি বরিশাল জেলার সদর উপজেলাধীন রায়পাশা, কড়াপুর, জাগুয়া ইউনিয়ন সমূহের শোলনা, উত্তর কড়াপুর, দক্ষিণ কড়াপুর, কলাডেমা চহাটা, হোগলা, বীরপাশা, কঠুরাকাটা, শিবপাশা, ধর্মাদী, কুলাকানা, মঞ্জলহাটা, আন্তাকাটা, বামকাটা, খয়েরদিয়া মৌজা সমূহ এবং বাবুগঞ্জ উপজেলাধীন মাধবপাশা ইউনিয়নের ফুলতলা, লাকাদী মৌজা ছাড়াও বরিশাল বাকেরগঞ্জ উপজেলাধীন রক্তাশ্রী, প্রাদিশিবপুর, নিয়ামতি ইউনিয়নের বিহারিপুর, শ্যামপুর, লাইনগল, দাউদকাটি, বড়িয়া, আড়াইবেকী, ভবানীপুর, বড়পুইয়াউটা, পূর্ব মহেশপুর, পশ্চিম দুর্গাপুর, শাখবুনিয়া, রঘুনাথপুর মৌজাসমূহ ও তৎসংলগ্ন এলাকার উপর দিয়ে এবং

**বালকাঠি জেলার** নলছিটি উপজেলাধীন নলছিটি পৌরসভা, মগর, দপদপিয়া, সিদ্ধকাটি, কুসংগল ইউনিয়নসমূহের গৌরীপাশা, অনুরাগ, কাণ্ডপাশা, শংকরপাশা, আমিরাবাদ, দুবিল, পূর্বসুজাবাদ, পশ্চিম সুজাবাদ, গোহালকাটি, ভরতকাটি, উত্তর জুরকাটি, দুধরিয়া, চৌদ্দবুড়িয়া, রাজনগর, মালায়াল, জোয়ার আওরাবুনিয়া, ভাটিয়া, দেওপাশা, রাজপাশা, জয়কলস, গোচারা, সেওতা-ভাউমহল মৌজাসমূহ ও তৎসংলগ্ন এলাকার উপর দিয়ে অতিক্রম করছে।

**পটুয়াখালী জেলার** পৌরসভা, সদর উপজেলাধীন ইটবাড়ীয়া ও বদরপুর ইউনিয়নের টাউন কালিকাপুর, দক্ষিণ চান্দখালী, পূর্ব চান্দখালী, ডাকুরবুনিয়া, যোপখালী, কিসমত পুকুরজানা, আরজি-রাজগঞ্জ, কচাবুনিয়া, শারিকখালী, গলাচিপা, মিঠাপুর, টেংরাখালী, দুর্গাপুর মৌজাসমূহ এবং মির্জাগঞ্জ উপজেলাধীন মির্জাগঞ্জ পৌরসভা, মাধবখালী ইউনিয়নের ভিকখালী, আদুয়া কালিকাপুর, সমাদারকাটা, রামপুর, সন্তোষপুর, কাঠালতলী, মাধবখালী, কিসমত রামপুর, ভিকখালী, উত্তর চেতা ও তার পার্শ্ববর্তী এলাকার উপর দিয়ে অতিক্রম করছে।

**উক্ত সঞ্চালন লাইনটি আগামী ২৮ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২৬ তারিখ, শনিবার, আনুমানিক দুপুর ১২:০০টায় ২,৩০,০০০ ভোল্টেজ দ্বারা পরীক্ষামূলকভাবে চালু করা হবে** এবং উক্ত সময় হতে বর্ণিত নবনির্মিত লাইনটি সার্বক্ষণিক চালু থাকবে।

অতএব, উক্ত নবনির্মিত বরিশাল (উত্তর)-পটুয়াখালী ২৩০ কেভি ৫৫ কিঃমিঃ সঞ্চালন লাইনের টাওয়ারসমূহে আরোহণ, গবাদিপশু বাঁধা, টাওয়ারে রশি বেঁধে কাপড় শূকানো, লাইনের নীচে ও পাশে বাঁধা বাঁধা ও দুই বর্ধশীল গাছ-পালা রোপন করা বা কেটে লাইনের উপর ফেলা, ঘুড়ি বা ড্রোন ওড়ানো প্রভৃতি ঝুঁকিপূর্ণ কাজ হতে বিরত থাকার জন্য বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

উক্ত ভোল্টেজ বিদ্যুতায়িত নবনির্মিত সঞ্চালন লাইন বা টাওয়ারের সংস্পর্শে এসে কেউ দুর্ঘটনার শিকার হলে পাওয়ার গ্রিড কর্তৃপক্ষ দায়ী থাকবে না।

মোঃ আলমগীর হোসেন  
প্রকল্প পরিচালক (প্রধান প্রকৌশলী)  
পাওয়ার গ্রিড নেটওয়ার্ক স্ট্রেন্থেনিং প্রজেক্ট আন্ডার পিজিসিবি

ESSAY

# Romance, radical hope, and the modern happily ever after



ILLUSTRATION: MAHMUDA EMDAD

SHABABA IQBAL

Few genres are as unapologetically optimistic as romance. At its core lies the Happily Ever After (HEA), a convention so fundamental that it often stands in for the genre itself. Romance promises more than love: it offers emotional resolution, stability, and a future worth believing in. In an era marked by political upheaval, social inequity, and relentless crisis headlines, the HEA functions as a cultural battleground, revealing who society permits to claim happiness, security, and belonging. Far from mere escapism, romance's insistence on joy provides a powerful lens through which to examine whose lives are valued and whose are overlooked.

This optimistic tradition has deep historical roots. The HEA traces its origins from medieval courtly love tales to its crystallisation in the nineteenth century, exemplified by Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* (Thomas Egerton, 1813). In that novel, Elizabeth Bennet and Mr Darcy's union transcends mere romantic closure; it affirms personal growth, mutual respect, and intimacy earned through self-reflection and change. By the mid-twentieth century, mass-market paperbacks had transformed romance into one of publishing's most reliable and profitable genres. Organisations such as the

Romance Writers of America codified its essential requirement—a central love story concluding in emotional satisfaction and commitment—while publishers like Harlequin and Mills & Boon globalised the formula, cultivating loyal readerships that turned to romance for reassurance amid periods of uncertainty. What began as entertainment thus evolved into an emotionally dependable refuge.

However, this promise of resolution was never universal. For much of its modern history, the HEA remained largely reserved for white, heterosexual, cisgender protagonists. Mainstream romance sidelined BIPOC and LGBTQ+ narratives, reinforcing cultural hierarchies through absence as much as through representation. Black authors such as Beverly Jenkins have spoken candidly about publishers dismissing Black heroines as “unrelatable,” while queer characters were frequently consigned to tragedy via the damaging “bury your gays” trope. These exclusions were not incidental; they reflected a literary culture that treated whiteness and heterosexuality as defaults, quietly rationing happiness along lines of identity.

Building on this history, adult romance in the late 2010s and 2020s has increasingly anchored hope in lived realities rather than idealised tropes. Jasmine Guillory's *The Wedding Date*

Henry has cultivated a loyal readership by grounding romance in relatable modern struggles such as creative burnout, grief, and stalled ambition. In novels like *People We Meet on Vacation* (Berkley, 2021) and *Book Lovers* (Berkley, 2022), she positions vulnerability as the foundation of desire. Her success has helped usher romance into critical spaces that long hesitated to take the genre seriously, though her predominantly white, able-bodied protagonists underscore the unevenness of structural progress within the field.

This push towards greater inclusivity extends with particular consequence to young adult romance, where stories of first love shape readers' conceptions of identity, belonging, and self-worth. Jenny Han's *To All the Boys I've Loved Before* (Simon & Schuster, 2014) trilogy, centres Lara Jean Covey's Korean American identity within a widely resonant narrative, without framing her heritage as an obstacle or exception. By contrast, Han's earlier *The Summer I Turned Pretty* (Simon & Schuster, 2009) series reflected industry norms that often positioned protagonists of colour as ‘niche,’ resulting in Belly Conklin being coded and marketed as white. The Amazon Prime adaptation's reimagining of Belly as half-Korean aligns with shifting cultural expectations,

into its run, has brought colour-conscious casting to Regency romance. It envisions a world where race does not delimit romantic possibility. This approach flattens historical racism in order to allow characters of colour to exist without apology—as objects of desire, agents of power, and emotional protagonists—unburdened by narratives of exception or endurance. The result is less a revisionist history than a liberation of the genre itself. By treating inclusion as a baseline rather than a disruption, *Bridgerton* reframes period romance as a space of shared fantasy, capable of reaching global audiences long excluded from its pleasures. What it offers is not strict historical accuracy, but access—and in romance, that distinction is profoundly meaningful.

Despite these advances, romance has long been dismissed as frivolous, a judgement rooted in a literary tradition that equates seriousness with suffering. From *Madame Bovary* (Penguin Classics, 2002) to *Anna Karenina* (Penguin Classics, 2002), love stories have often been granted narrative weight only when they end in ruin. Romance resists this hierarchy. Its commitment to affirmative endings refuses to let hardship claim the final word. Talia Hibbert's *Brown Sisters* series (2019-2021) exemplifies this ethos, centring neurodiverse and chronically ill heroines while affirming desires historically excluded from the romantic imagination. These stories do not deny pain; they simply refuse to treat it as destiny. In doing so, they expand the genre's emotional horizon, compelling readers to reconsider whose futures have been deemed imaginable—and why.

As someone who has turned to these stories amid post-pandemic fatigue and ongoing global instability, I have found their optimism not naïve but galvanising. To insist on joy in a world that so often withholds it is a political act. Romance does not promise that love will erase suffering, but it asserts that suffering need not define the limits of possibility.

Ultimately, the evolution of the Happily Ever After has transformed it from a once-gated ideal into an open cultural battleground where joy is actively claimed. For those historically relegated to loss, silence, or endurance, this expanding HEA offers both recognition and hope. By insisting that happiness need not be earned through pain—and that love can conclude not in sacrifice but in light—romance models a form of radical optimism that the present moment urgently requires.

Shababa Iqbal is a journalist with a background in entertainment, fashion, lifestyle, literature, and youth-focused storytelling. Reach her at [shababa@icloud.com](mailto:shababa@icloud.com).

**The result is less a revisionist history than a liberation of the genre itself. By treating inclusion as a baseline rather than a disruption, *Bridgerton* reframes period romance as a space of shared fantasy, capable of reaching global audiences long excluded from its pleasures. What it offers is not strict historical accuracy, but access—and in romance, that distinction is profoundly meaningful.**

series, which debuted in 2018, expanded the genre's representational scope by earning acclaim for its progressive depiction of interracial relationships and its elevation of Black protagonists in mainstream contemporary romance. Guillory explores love, ambition, and subtle dynamics of race and privilege without allowing difference to eclipse joy or authenticity. Similarly, Casey McQuiston's *Red, White & Royal Blue* (St. Martin's Griffin, 2019) delivers a globally resonant queer love story with an unapologetically joyful ending. Its 2023 film adaptation became one of Prime Video's most-watched romantic comedies and fuelled widespread BookTok virality. These works illustrate how inclusive storytelling can push boundaries, attract devoted audiences, and achieve dominance in the marketplace. Meanwhile, Emily

broadening representation while preserving the story's emotional core of longing, jealousy, and self-discovery. Likewise, Alice Oseman's *Heartstopper* (Hachette, 2018)—first published as a graphic novel in 2018 and later adapted for Netflix in 2022—has redefined queer YA romance by rejecting tragedy as inevitable and portraying adolescence as tender, hopeful, and emotionally open. Its global popularity demonstrates that centring LGBTQ+ joy can resonate far beyond traditionally marginalised audiences. By treating joy as both credible and inclusive, these works affirm first love not as escapism, but as a formative claim to visibility, dignity, and belonging.

Such literary shifts have paved the way for mainstream adaptations to test the scalability of inclusivity. Netflix's *Bridgerton* (2020), now several seasons

TALESPEOPLE SPIELS

## Dancing in the dark

Reflecting on 10 years of Sehri Tales

SABRINA FATMA AHMAD

The 10th anniversary of anything is a momentous milestone. Strapped in as we are on a rollercoaster through some very strange times, though, the journey of this humble little Ramadan ritual feels particularly fateful.

In 2016, the year I started the Sehri Tales, Ramadan ended on a very turbulent note, with the Holy Artisan attack. Looking back at my final entries for that year, I can see a sharp departure from whimsical experimentation in forms into a sort of mood journal. As more people began to hop on board over the years, the tales became a sort of barometer for the general mood. And us, Talers, have weathered a lot together—moving out of the Litosphere group into our own platform Talespeople in 2020, we immediately found ourselves recording life in lockdown. We came out of that and fell straight into a world torn up by conflict. Through it all, we've held on, as a community, scribbling our truths, cheering each other on, and I couldn't be more grateful for the gift of art that makes everything more bearable.

2025 was an illuminating experience for us. Among the immense positives—our global reach expanded with BFM Radio, Malaysia's largest business radio station featuring Sehri Tales, and a collaboration with students from Lahore, Pakistan, who read out their tales at our live Sehri Tales x Sister Library event. But last year was also the year when the toll of running this not-for-profit challenge made us consider



ILLUSTRATION: MAISHA SYEDA

switching off moderation and letting people post their tales publicly on their own pages. While we did reach new audiences, our analytics showed us a marked decline in the number of female participants. The feedback was overwhelmingly that women

didn't feel safe sharing their stories publicly, even if those stories were perfectly harmless pieces of fiction.

As I wrote this, a new government has just been voted into parliament after a heated electoral race that saw the rampant use of AI

and disinformation to create an atmosphere of panic. We are also seeing a Cabinet with only three women in it, a historic low. The PM's own daughter is currently facing online attacks. All of these things leave me deeply rattled as a woman and as a creative.

At this point in our political narrative, it's a waiting game for the masses to see if our newly elected leaders will deliver on the bright and shiny promises they have made.

I am aware that there's not much we can do as individuals. However, I am a firm believer in the power of community, of the Arts. We've seen, time and time again, how creative media, whether it's revolutionary songs, or the visual impact of graffiti can challenge the status quo, bring courage and hope, and the reminder that we are not alone. So, for our tenth anniversary, tired as we are, we're going back to the classic format. We're bringing the Tales back to the Talespeople platform, where our wonderful female voices can express themselves creatively in a safe and welcoming environment. I would like to take a beat to convey my deepest gratitude to our new volunteer moderators who stepped up and offered to help us run the show. We're also making a renewed stance against generative AI in order to nurture the beautiful human creativity of our extremely talented Talers.

The challenges are many, but I want to leave my beautiful Talers and our wonderful readers and patrons with a few words of solace: if the past ten years have shown us anything, it's that if you keep the faith, keep writing, keep transcribing your emotions into art, and keep holding on to your community, you will prevail. Ramadan Mubarak to all those that observe. Sehri Tales 2026 is officially on!

Sabrina Fatma Ahmad is a writer, journalist, and the founder of Sehri Tales.

**বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড**  
Bangladesh Power Development Board  
Directorate of Purchase  
Biddut Bhaban (12th Floor)  
1, Abdul Goni Road, Dhaka-1000

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

SI No.	Tender ID No.	Package No.	Reference No.	Description of goods/works	Tender document last selling date and time	Closing date and time	Opening date and time
1	1235916	PG-28 Fy-25/26	27.11.0000. 304.26.132.26 Date: 25/02/2026	Design, Supply, & Installation, Testing, Commissioning of 230 kWp Grid Tied Rooftop Solar PV Net Metering System at Cox's Bazar Training Centre, BPDB, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh on turn key basis.	15-Mar-2026 13.00	15-Mar-2026 13.30	15-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](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).  
For more details please contact to the PE's Support Desk (01768595879).

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

GD-426

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Office of the Project Director  
TVET Teachers for the Future (TTF) Program  
Directorate of Technical Education  
F-4/B, Agargaon A/A, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207  
<https://tff-dte.portal.gov.bd/>

Memo No: 57.03.0000.912.001.07.0012.25-52 Date: 22/02/2026

**e-Tender Notice**

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Proposal/Tender ID No.	Description	Closing Date & Time
1233823	Selection of Consulting firm for Development of the blended teaching and training system integrating digital content with other learning modalities, and the teacher's database	16-Mar-2026 16:30:00
1233118	Selection of TVET Specialist	12-Mar-2026 15:30:00
1232259	Selection of Equipment Expert	12-Mar-2026 15:00:00
1232164	Supply, installation and testing of Equipment for e-Learning Center	09-Mar-2026 16:00:00

This is an 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 last selling/downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches.  
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd), 16575, +8809677016575)

*Shoaib Ahmad Khan*  
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GD-412

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RHD  
NAOGAON ROAD DIVISION, NAOGAON.  
☎ +88-02588881693, E-mail: [rhdnaogaon@gmail.com](mailto:rhdnaogaon@gmail.com)/[eenao@rhd.gov.bd](mailto:eenao@rhd.gov.bd)

Memo No. NRD. 35.01.6400.449.07.001.25.611 Dated: 26-02-2026

**e-Tender Notice**

e-Tenders is invited in the National e-GP System portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the below works.

Tender Name & ID No.	Name of Work	Last Selling Date & Time	Tender/Proposal security submission date & Amount	Opening Date & Time	Remarks
ID No: 1236475 16/eGP/EE/NRD/REV/LTM/2025-2026	Construction of Rigid Pavement with Approach Road at Ch: 09+413 to 09+520 (Shihara Bazar Portion) of Shapahar-Agradigun-Dhamoirhat (7-5468) Road under RHD Road Division, Naogaon during the year 2025-2026	15-Mar-2026 17:00	16-Mar-2026 11:30 & Tk. 165000.00	16-Mar-2026 12:00	Please follow the TDS and PCC.

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration required in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).  
The fees for downloading the e-Tender Document from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank Branches up to above Mentioned date & time.  
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd))

*(M. d. Rashedul Haque)*  
(M. d. Rashedul Haque)  
ID No. 602322  
Executive Engineer(C.C), RHD  
Road Division, Naogaon.

GD-427

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Principal's Office  
Manikganj Govt. Technical School and College  
Manikganj  
E-mail: [tscmanikganj@gmail.com](mailto:tscmanikganj@gmail.com)

Memo No. 57.03.5600.501.07.001.25-140 Date: 26/02/2026

**e-Tender Notice**

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

SI No.	Tender ID	Name of goods item	Tender document last selling/ downloading date and time	Tender closing date and time	Opening date and time
1	1225860	Supply of Environment and Climate Change Equipment.	15-Mar-2026 15:00	16-Mar-2026 11:00	16-Mar-2026 11:00
2	1225828	Supply and Installation of office Equipment	15-Mar-2026 15:00	16-Mar-2026 11:00	16-Mar-2026 11:00
3	1223069	Supply and Installation of Chemistry and Physics Laboratory Equipment	15-Mar-2026 15:00	16-Mar-2026 11:00	16-Mar-2026 11:00
4	1222756	Supply of Camera and Accessories	15-Mar-2026 15:00	16-Mar-2026 11:00	16-Mar-2026 11:00

Note:  
1. There is online tender, where only e Tenders will not be accepted through the National e GP System Portal and offline/hard copy will be accepted.  
2. To submit e-Tenders, registration required in the National e-GP System Portal ([www.eprocurement.gov.bd](http://www.eprocurement.gov.bd)).  
3. The fees for downloading the e-Tender document from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks.  
4. Further information and guidance are available in the National e-GP System Portal from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

*Zahidul Haque*  
Zahidul Haque  
Principal  
Manikganj Govt. Technical School and College  
Manikganj

GD-424

Common Services Department-1  
**Bangladesh Bank**  
Head Office  
Dhaka  
Web: <https://www.bb.org.bd>

**Invitation for Tender**

1	Procuring entity name	Bangladesh Bank
2	Procuring entity district	Dhaka
3	Invitation for	Procurement of Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Indoor LED Video Wall Display for Bangladesh Bank Training Academy (BBTA), Mirpur-2, Dhaka
4	Invitation Ref No.	CSD-1(EQ)/69(3)/LEDdisplay/2026-70
5	Date	26/02/2026
6	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>		
7	Tender publication date	27/02/2026
8	Tender closing date and time	09/03/2026 02:00pm
9	Tender opening date and time	09/03/2026 02:15pm
10	Name & address of the office(s)	Address
11	- Receiving tender document	e-Tender at BB website ( <a href="https://etender.bb.org.bd">https://etender.bb.org.bd</a> ) and only Hard Copy of Original Tender Security at CSD-1.
12	-Opening tender document	Common Services Department-1, 6th Floor, Annex-2 Building, Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka.
13	Pre-tender meeting	N/A
<b>INFORMATION FOR TENDERER</b>		
14	Brief eligibility of tenderer	Tenderers having 5 years overall business experience and minimum specific experience as Supplier in supply of similar Goods of at least Two (2) contract(s) of similar nature successfully completed within the last Three (3) years.
15	Brief description of goods or works	Procurement of Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Indoor LED Video Wall Display for BBTA, Bangladesh Bank, Head Office.
16	Brief description of related services	N/A
17	Lot No.	Identification of lot
17	1	Indoor LED Video Wall Display
17		Location
17		CSD-1
17		Tender security amount (Tk)
17		1,25,000/- (Pay Order Only)
17		Completion time in weeks/months from the date of contract signing
17		08 weeks
<b>PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS</b>		
18	Name of official inviting tender	Swapan Kumar Goswami
19	Designation of official inviting tender	Director (CSD-1)
20	Address of official inviting tender	Common Services Department-1, Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.
21	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel: 9530148 Fax: 9564117 E-mail: <a href="mailto:swapan.goswami@bb.org.bd">swapan.goswami@bb.org.bd</a>
22	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all Tenders or annul the Tender proceedings.	

DCP: 48/2026-567  
Date: 26-02-2026

*Swapan Kumar Goswami*  
Swapan Kumar Goswami  
Director (CSD-1)  
Phone: 9530148  
E-mail: [swapan.goswami@bb.org.bd](mailto:swapan.goswami@bb.org.bd)

ব্যক্তিগত ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে, হয়রানির শিকার হলে কিংবা কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

GD-421

ঢাকা উত্তর সিটি কর্পোরেশন  
সম্পত্তি বিভাগ  
প্লট নং-২৩-২৬, রোড-৪৬, গুলশান-২, ঢাকা।  
[www.dncc.gov.bd](http://www.dncc.gov.bd)

নং- ৪৬.১০.০০০০.০২০.৫১.০২৫.২৬-১৫৯ তারিখঃ ২৬/০২/২০২৬ খ্রিঃ।

**দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

০১.	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগঃ	স্থানীয় সরকার, পল্লী উন্নয়ন ও সমবায় মন্ত্রণালয়, স্থানীয় সরকার বিভাগ
০২.	সংস্থার নামঃ	ঢাকা উত্তর সিটি কর্পোরেশন
০৩.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী বিভাগঃ	সম্পত্তি বিভাগ, ঢাকা উত্তর সিটি কর্পোরেশন।
০৪.	সিডিউলঃ	ইজারায় অংশ গ্রহণে ইচ্ছুক ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানকে দরপত্র সিডিউল ক্রয় করতে হবে এবং সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র দাখিলের সময় খামের উপর ইজারা মহাল এর নাম উল্লেখ করতে হবে।
০৫.	ইজারার মেয়াদ কালঃ	০১ বৈশাখ/১৪৩৩ তারিখ হতে ৩০ চৈত্র/১৪৩৩ পর্যন্ত ০১ (এক) বছর মেয়াদে।
০৬.	জামানতসহ দরপত্রের সাথে যে সকল দলিল জমা দিতে হবেঃ	(১) ব্যক্তির ক্ষেত্রে গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ০২ (দুই) কপি ছবি। (২) গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা/কাউন্সিলর/ম্যেয়র/ম্যাজিস্ট্রেট কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত জাতীয় সনদপত্র বা জাতীয় পরিচয় পত্রের ফটোকপি। (৩) হালনাগাদ আয়কর সনদের সত্যায়িত কপি (৪) কোম্পানীর ক্ষেত্রে ট্রেড লাইসেন্স এর সত্যায়িত কপি। (৫) উচ্চতর দরের উপর ৩০% (শতকরা ত্রিশ ভাগ) জামানতের অর্থ ঢাকা হতে যে কোন সিডিউল ব্যাংক হতে "প্রশাসক, ঢাকা উত্তর সিটি কর্পোরেশন" এর অনুকূলে ইস্যুকৃত পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট দরপত্রের সাথে জমা দিতে হবে (৬) সিডিউল ক্রয়ের চালান কপি।
০৭.	সিডিউল বিক্রয় ও জমাদানের স্থানঃ	(১) প্রধান সম্পত্তি কর্মকর্তার দপ্তর, নগর ভবন, গুলশান সেন্টার পয়েন্ট, গুলশান-২ (১০ম তলা) এবং ঢাকা উত্তর সিটি কর্পোরেশনের সকল অঞ্চলিক নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, বিভাগীয় কমিশনারের কার্যালয়, ঢাকা বিভাগ, পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, ঢাকা জেলা, জেলা প্রশাসক, ঢাকা এর কার্যালয় হতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে সিডিউল ক্রয় করা যাবে।
০৮.	সিডিউল ক্রয়ের টাকা জমা দেয়ার ঠাঠাঃ	বর্ণিত হাটের জন্য সিডিউল মূল্য বাবদ নির্ধারিত অর্থ ব্যাংক চালানের মাধ্যমে চলতি হিসাব নং ৩৩০০৪১৮, সোনালী ব্যাংক পিএলসি, গুলশান নিউ নর্থ সার্কেল শাখায় টাকা জমাদান পূর্বক উপর্যুক্ত কার্যালয় সমূহ হতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত সিডিউল ক্রয় করা যাবে।
০৯.	দরপত্র খোলার স্থানঃ	প্রধান সম্পত্তি কর্মকর্তার দপ্তর, নগর ভবন, গুলশান-২ (১০ম তলা), ঢাকা উত্তর সিটি কর্পোরেশন।
১০.	সিডিউল ক্রয়, দরপত্র দাখিল ও খোলার সময় নিয়ন্ত্রণঃ	
দরপত্রের পর্যায়	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়
১ম পর্যায়	১৫/০৩/২০২৬ খ্রিঃ রবিবার	১৬/০৩/২০২৬ খ্রিঃ সোমবার সকাল-০৯ ঘটিকা হতে বেলা ১২:৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত
২য় পর্যায়	২৪/০৩/২০২৬ খ্রিঃ মঙ্গলবার	২৫/০৩/২০২৬ খ্রিঃ বুধবার সকাল-০৯ ঘটিকা হতে বেলা ১২:৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত
৩য় পর্যায়	০৬/০৪/২০২৬ খ্রিঃ সোমবার	০৭/০৪/২০২৬ খ্রিঃ মঙ্গলবার সকাল ০৯ ঘটিকা হতে বেলা ১:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত
১১.	গৃহীত দরপত্রের ক্ষেত্রে দরপত্রে উল্লেখিত অর্থ জমা দেয়া ও কার্যদেপ্ত গ্রহণঃ	দরপত্র গৃহীত হওয়ার ০৭ (সাত) দিনের মধ্যে (১) দরমূল্যঃ জামানত বাস্তব অর্থ (২) অনুমোদিত দরের উপর ১৫% (শতকরা পনেরো ভাগ) মূল্য সংযোজন কর (৩) ১০% (শতকরা দশ ভাগ) আয়কর (৪) ৫% হারে জামানতসহ সমুদয় অর্থ "প্রশাসক, ঢাকা উত্তর সিটি কর্পোরেশন" এর অনুকূলে ঢাকা হতে যে কোন সিডিউল ব্যাংক হতে ইস্যুকৃত পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট জমাদান পূর্বক কার্যদেপ্ত গ্রহণ করতে হবে। কার্যতায় দরপত্রের সহিত দাখিলকৃত জামানতের সমুদয় অর্থ বাজেয়াপ্ত করা হবে।
১২.	বিবিধঃ	(১) এ বিধিতে বিস্তারিত সর্ভাদি ও নিয়মাবলি সম্পত্তি বিভাগ হতে (অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে) জানা যাবে। বিজ্ঞপ্তি ঢাকা উত্তর সিটি কর্পোরেশনের ওয়েব সাইট ( <a href="http://www.dncc.gov.bd">www.dncc.gov.bd</a> ) পাওয়া যাবে। (২) ১ম পর্যায় সরকারি দরের চেয়ে বেশি দর দাখিল করে দরদাতা চূড়ান্ত হলে ২য় পর্যায়ের দরপত্র বিক্রয় ও দাখিল কার্যক্রম পরিচালিত হবে না। উল্লেখ্য এক পর্যায়ের সিডিউল অন্য পর্যায়ের গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না। (৩) শর্তাবলি সিডিউলের অংশ হিসাবে গণ্য হবে। (৪) উপর্যুক্ত বিষয় সমূহে কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।
<b>১৩. ইজারার বিবরণঃ</b>		
ড্রেনসিসির মালিকানাধীন মিরপুর গাবতলী গবাদি পশুর হাট (১৪৩৩ বর্ষাবধি ইজারা প্রদান)	হারের নাম	সরকারি মূল্য
	১৫,৫০,৮০,০১০/-	১৫,৫০,৮০,০১০/-
	পেনেবো কোটি	সিডিউল মূল্য (অফারযোগ্য)
	৩,১০,৮০০/-	৩,১০,৮০০/-
	পঞ্চাশ লক্ষ আটশি হাজার দশ টাকা।	(তিন লক্ষ দশ হাজার আটশি) টাকা মাত্র

*প্রধান সম্পত্তি কর্মকর্তা*  
প্রধান সম্পত্তি কর্মকর্তা  
ঢাকা উত্তর সিটি কর্পোরেশন  
ফোন নং-০২২২২২৮৪১১৬

GD-420



# INTO THE BLUE

Reflection on life in the idyllic Pacific Islands

**Our last journey took us to the South Pacific – Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, and Vanuatu. These islands marked the last unexplored corner of the world for us. And there, at the edge of the map, surrounded by endless ocean, we were reminded once again that life is more than just being there.**

REZAUL BAHAR

In one way or another, we are all addicted to life. Over billions of years, from simple atoms to conscious beings, non-existence slowly turned into existence.

As humans, our fundamental quest began with the search for meaning and purpose. Our emotions, filtered through ego, often chase happiness in familiar forms – wealth, power, fame, and above all, love. We want to be seen. We want our presence to matter. Accepting our own insignificance is hard.

But what is life truly about? Wish there were a clear answer. Each of us arrives at our own version, shaped by experience. Yet along this uncertain path, one truth remains universal – life has a beginning and an end. Between these two points lies the journey. What fills it depends largely on our choices. It can be quiet or eventful. That's it.

We form attachments. We want our voices to be heard. We crave validation at every step. And slowly, complexity grows. Momentary clarity turns opaque, and then again, we find another thread leading to the hope of finding some meaning to it. The cycle goes on till we fade into oblivion.

As conscious beings aware of our mortality, we fear death. We struggle to accept that one day we



managed to back away and escape our very first – and unforgettable – encounter with Tonga's street dogs.

Relief followed us to our next stop: a forest treehouse Airbnb that looked stunning at first glance. Picturesque. Serene. Almost unreal. But beauty can be deceptive. Within an hour, reality set in. Mosquitoes – relentless, invisible, merciless. We were deep inside a hot, humid rainforest. The elegant treehouse, so charming in photographs, offered no defence against one of nature's smallest residents. For perhaps the first time in our long travel life, we found ourselves counting the hours until checkout.

Still, travel always gives something in return.

While driving around the island, we came across something rare – a full-grown coconut tree with three heads. One main trunk, branching into two separate crowns, each bearing coconuts. Nature, quietly experimenting. Was it an imperfection? Or evolution testing a new idea? Over billions of years, such experiments shaped life itself – including us.

The next time you see something unusual, pause and wonder. Not everything unfamiliar needs to be labelled a mystery or credited to supernatural forces. Sometimes, it is simply nature doing what it has always done – trying, adapting, and seeing what survives.

through Samoa was the most pleasant experience of our South Pacific journey – not just because of smooth roads, but because of what they reflected: pride, responsibility, and belonging.

Vanuatu was different – raw and honest. Its beauty came with difficulty. Roads were riddled with potholes, forcing us to zigzag constantly, as if the island itself was asking us to slow down and pay attention. Travel does that. It removes convenience and replaces it with awareness.

As we moved through the South Pacific, comparisons naturally arose with the Caribbean islands we had visited before. Two different regions, shaped by different influences. The Caribbean bears the marks of American and European presence, while the South Pacific reflects ties to Australia and greater China. Economies, infrastructure, and even daily life quietly reveal these connections. Travel teaches these lessons without lectures. You see them, feel them, and understand.

And this is why travel matters. It is not always about comfort or beauty. Often, it is about uncertainty. About stepping away from what is familiar and allowing experiences to shape us in ways we cannot always explain.

We returned home carrying memories of distant islands and familiar human truths. Even on



Sarmin Shahriath and Rezaul Bahar, married since 2005, are avid travellers. So far, they have travelled more than 132 countries across seven continents.



will be gone – just as we were before we were born. No existence. No memory. Only a silent return to the vast unknown.

If you have read this far, you are hearing from two people who are still trying – still learning – to see life and the world through a slightly different pinhole. We are a Bangladeshi couple, married for over 20 years, who found joy and purpose through travel and exploration. On this tiny speck of dust called Earth, floating in an immense ocean of space and darkness, certainty is rare. Beyond this, we simply do not know.

do have is life – conscious minds and a small world to explore.

Over the past 18 years, we have slowly and deliberately turned travel into a way of life. We have visited 132 countries across all seven continents. Along the way, we have seen beauty that felt like heaven, encountered cultures vastly different from our own, met people who reshaped our understanding of humanity, and realised how fortunate we are simply to be alive.

Our most recent journey took us to the South Pacific – Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, and Vanuatu. These islands marked the last unexplored corner of the world for us. And there, at the edge of the map, surrounded by endless ocean, we were reminded once again that life is more than just being there. Exploring, experiencing, and letting go, while moving gently through the space between Point A and Point B, makes it more colourful.

The journey began with a long chain of flights – New York to Dallas, then onward to Nadi, Fiji. Nadi became our hub. We rented a modest Airbnb where the host took care of our airport transfers, a small kindness that mattered after arriving from such a distance. From Fiji, we planned several short trips to neighbouring islands, which are within one to two-and-a-half hours by air. Fiji Airways acts as the main lifeline across

the South Pacific.

Our first destination was Tonga. To be honest, Tonga felt small and underdeveloped. Heavy rain greeted us upon landing. Renting a basic, compact vehicle with no air-conditioning turned into an unexpected challenge. Anyone who has driven in tropical rain knows what comes next: the windshield fogs almost instantly. With rain pounding down and fog spreading across the glass, visibility shrank to little more than arm's length.

This was unfamiliar land. New roads. No reference points. Trusting Google Maps, we followed directions to what we hoped would be a nearby restaurant for a quick meal before heading to our accommodation. Instead, the GPS led us to a desolate patch of land – broken huts, half-standing structures, possibly an abandoned repair yard. Rain fell relentlessly. No people. No lights. No signs of life.

Then we noticed them. A pack of stray dogs slowly surrounded the car. Their barking filled the silence – loud, territorial, unsettling. There were no other buildings nearby, nowhere to turn. The road was muddy, reversing felt risky, and the car suddenly seemed far too small. For a brief moment, fear crept in. We sat still, windows tightly closed, breathing shallowly. Slowly, carefully, we



From Tonga, we returned to Fiji, then continued onward to Samoa and Vanuatu. Each island carried its own rhythm. Endless blue ocean framed the land, and everywhere we went, people moved with an ease that felt unhurried, as if time itself flowed more gently here.

Samoa stayed with us the most. It was remarkably neat, colourful, and alive with care. Along the roads, homes were lovingly maintained. Teenagers swept yards, trimmed plants, and preserved beauty not because someone demanded it, but because it mattered. Driving

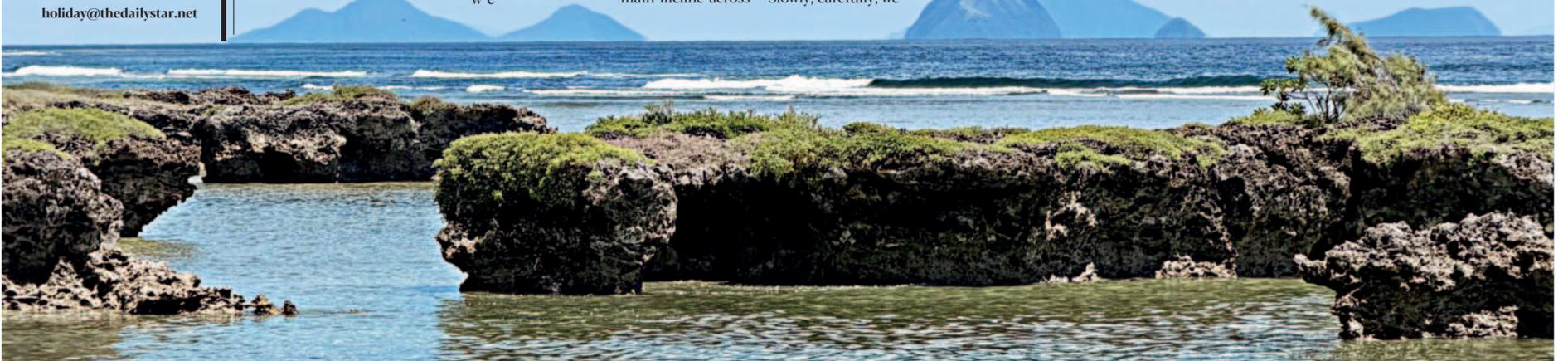
isolated landmasses floating in vast oceans, people hope, care, struggle, love, and endure.

If it is possible, loosen your attachments. You don't need to abandon life – just make space within it. Reduce what weighs you down. Allow yourself to explore something new.

This planet may be the only heaven we ever know – experienced between Point A, our awakening into existence, and Point B, the breathless end. What we do in between is our choice.

We choose to experience.

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## PROTEAS PEAKING with ruthless precision

Already armed with a statement win over hot-favourites India in the Super Eights, South Africa reinforced their status as the team to beat in this T20 World Cup by dismantling the previously unbeaten West Indies by nine wickets in Ahmedabad yesterday. In a week defined by captain's knocks -- Mitchell Santner's punchy intervention for New Zealand and Harry Brook's record century for England -- Aiden Markram delivered one of control and command. Chasing 177, he raced to a 27-ball fifty and remained unbeaten on 82, anchoring a decisive 95-run opening stand with Quinton de Kock (47 off 24). The Proteas powered home with 23 balls to spare, ruthless in execution and peaking at precisely the right moment, their semifinal berth now all but sealed after five wins in five.

PHOTO: AFP

## WI roar in defeat

STAR SPORTS DESK

After yesterday's nine-wicket defeat to South Africa in Ahmedabad, two-time champions West Indies now find themselves staring at a virtual knockout against co-hosts India for a place in the semifinals of the T20 World Cup.

Even in defeat -- their first of this edition -- the men in maroon stayed true to their identity. From 83-7, Jason Holder and Romario Shepherd unleashed a record-breaking counterattack, stitching together an 89-run stand for the eighth wicket -- the highest in T20 International history. Their stand eclipsed the previous record of 80 set by Scotland's Sayaan Sharif and Preston Mommsen in 2015, also in a losing cause.

Their rescue act carried West Indies to 176-8, though it ultimately proved insufficient.

The six count keeps swelling. The 11 maximums struck in that match, with Holder and Shepherd combining to seven sixes, pushed their tournament tally to 66 -- the most by any team in a single T20 World Cup edition, eclipsing their own previous benchmark of 62, set in 2024.

Earlier, in their 254-6 against Zimbabwe, they smashed 19 sixes in an innings, equalling the tournament record. This edition has already become the most six-laden in World Cup history -- and West Indies, win or lose, remain at the heart of the power surge.



## A game with three sides at play

AGENCIES

With England already through to the semifinals, their final Super Eight fixture against New Zealand at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo today carries consequences far beyond the two sides in action. While England have secured safe passage, Pakistan's players and fans will be watching every run and wicket with anxious interest.

With Sri Lanka eliminated, the race for the second semifinal spot in Group 2 of the Super Eights has narrowed to New Zealand and Pakistan. The Black Caps sit in pole position after a commanding 61-run win over Sri Lanka on Wednesday lifted them to three points, bolstered by a formidable Net Run Rate of +3.050. A victory over England will seal qualification, confirm New Zealand as group toppers with five points, and ensure both semifinals are hosted in India.

Head coach Rob Walters believes his side's ability to adapt could prove decisive. "If you look historically at the Black Caps, you would probably say that they're a team that have been great problem solvers," Walters said. "They are street smart, they find a way to understand the conditions quickly. It's certainly something that we pride ourselves on. We can adapt to conditions quickly and find a method."

New Zealand demonstrated that resilience against Sri Lanka, recovering from 84 for 6 before captain Mitchell Santner guided them to 168 for 7 -- a total that proved more than enough.

However, should England prevail, the equation opens up dramatically. England would then top the group with six points, and Pakistan's hopes would flicker back to life.

Yet the path would remain steep. The Salman Ali Agha-led side, currently on one point with a NRR of -0.461, would first need England to beat New Zealand by a significant margin to dent the Black

Caps' superior NRR. Then Pakistan must overcome Sri Lanka in Pallekele tomorrow -- and by a big enough margin to leapfrog New Zealand into the semifinals as runners-up.

England, meanwhile, have already flexed their muscle, booking their semifinal berth after skipper Harry Brook's match-winning century against Pakistan. They will also not want to take this game lightly, as finishing as group champion would see them face the runners-up of the other group.

And New Zealand all-rounder Rachin Ravindra knows the challenge ahead.



"You're always confident going into these fixtures, especially when we know what the surface is going to be like," Ravindra said. "But I think it'd be silly to underestimate England at any point. They're such a quality unit... they've got world-class batters throughout their order."

For New Zealand, it is simple: win and advance. For Pakistan, it is hope wrapped in mathematics. And for England, it is a chance to shape the semifinal landscape with one final statement in Colombo.



## SHORT CORNER

### Ronaldo buys stake in Spanish second-division Almeria

Cristiano Ronaldo announced on Thursday that he had acquired a 25 per cent stake in Saudi-owned Spanish second-division club Almeria. "This strategic investment in UD Almeria reflects Ronaldo's long-term commitment to professional football ownership," said a statement from his new sports holding company CR7 Sports Investments which gave no financial details of the deal.

### FIFA's ticket email error leaves 2026 World Cup fans confused

FIFA has sparked fresh confusion over ticket sales for the 2026 World Cup after sending out emails to thousands of supporters announcing an "exclusive" 48-hour purchase window -- without specifying when it would begin.

### SL's Shanaka says constant criticism affected players' mental health

Sri Lanka captain Dasun Shanaka said the relentless criticism aimed at his players has been damaging to their mental health and undermined their efforts at the Twenty20 World Cup, where they were eliminated from the group stage on Wednesday.

### Pybus 'fine with' working and living in Afghanistan as head coach

Richard Pybus said he had no issues with moving to Afghanistan to take over as head coach of the national cricket team following Jonathan Trott's departure last week at the end of their Twenty20 World Cup campaign.

\*\*Read full stories on The Daily Star's website



National pacer Taskin Ahmed, representing Central Zone in the ongoing Bangladesh Cricket League one-day format, was seen taking selfies with fans during their second match against East Zone in Bogura yesterday. The 30-year-old returned to 50-over cricket after four months, marking his comeback with an impressive 2 for 46 that helped Central Zone to a five-wicket victory and kept their hopes of reaching the final alive. In the day's other fixture in Rajshahi, Nahid Rana and Meherob Hasan produced standout bowling performances as North Zone secured their second straight win, defeating South Zone by six wickets.

PHOTO: BCB

## Vini seals Real-Benfica trilogy

STAR SPORTS DESK

The Champions League delivered in full yesterday with the final four teams, taking their place in the last 16.

Real Madrid recovered from an early scare to beat Benfica 2-1 at the Bernabeu, sealing a 3-1 aggregate win.

Rafa Silva's opener briefly stunned the hosts but Aurelien Tchouameni and Vinicius Jr struck either side of halftime to turn the tie around and complete part three of this season's Madrid-Benfica trilogy. Either Manchester City or Sporting CP await in the draw.

The night carried added weight after Vinicius alleged racist abuse by Benfica's Gianluca Prestianni in the first leg -- a claim the Argentine denied before receiving a one-match ban that ruled him out of the return fixture.

Vinicius once again proved decisive, scoring in both legs of a two-legged UCL knockout tie for the first time in his career. He repeated his corner-flag dance celebration -- the same move that sparked the first-leg controversy -- after his 80th minute strike gave Madrid breathing space. Later, he posted on Instagram: "The dance goes on."

Tchouameni described the win as a "victory for everyone who stands against racism."

Real have reached the UCL last 16 in all 23 seasons since the round was introduced in 2003-04 -- the only club to do so.

Meanwhile, Atalanta staged a stunning comeback to eliminate Dortmund 4-3 on aggregate, ensuring Italy will have at least one side

in the last 16.

Trailing 2-0 from the first leg in Dortmund, Atalanta roared back in Bergamo. Goals from Gianluca Scamacca, Davide Zappacosta and Mario Pasalic put them 3-0 up before Karim Adeyemi's strike threatened extra time.

Deep into added time, Lazar Samardzic converted a penalty with the final kick of the game to seal a 4-1 win on the night. Timed at 97 minutes and 53 seconds, it was the second-latest goal (excluding extra time) in UCL history since 2003-04.

### PLAYOFF WINNERS

Atletico Madrid, Newcastle Utd, Bayer Leverkusen, Bodo/Glimt, Atalanta, Galatasaray, PSG, Real Madrid

\*\*Champions League Last 16 draw today

In Turin, Galatasaray became the first Turkish side in 12 years to reach the last 16 after surviving a chaotic tie against Juventus.

After winning the first leg 5-2 in Istanbul, Gala looked set to cruise but Juventus roared back in Turin, winning 3-0 in normal time -- despite Lloyd Kelly's controversial red card on 48 minutes with the score at 1-0 -- to level the tie at 5-5 on aggregate.

Extra time belonged to the visitors. Victor Osimhen and Baris Alper Yilmaz struck to send Galatasaray through, setting up a last-16 meeting with either Liverpool or Tottenham Hotspur.



PHOTO: FACEBOOK



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## 'Can new BB chief act independently?'

TIB questions his ability to control inflation, ensure discipline

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has expressed concern about whether newly appointed Bangladesh Bank Governor Mostaqur Rahman can discharge his duties independently and be free from conflicts of interest.

In a statement, TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman said, "The newly appointed governor's experience in the banking sector is primarily related to being a borrower, later a loan defaulter, and subsequently benefiting from loan rescheduling under special consideration."

"In addition, he has played significant roles as part of influential business lobbies, including the readymade garment sector, the real estate sector, and the Dhaka Chamber."

TIB questioned how impartial the governor could be in ensuring inflation control, financial stability, and good governance in the banking sector, given that nearly 60 percent of MPs and 62 percent of cabinet members are business professionals, with about 50 percent of MPs being borrowers.

Iftekharuzzaman said that appointing a businessman with such a background risks turning the central bank into a tool of vested interests, similar to practices during the "authoritarian kleptocratic regime."

"The government must also consider how prudent it was to entrust the central bank's leadership to a member

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6



Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, accompanied by his wife and daughter, visits a stall at the Amar Ekushey Boi Mela on the Bangla Academy premises yesterday.

PHOTO: BNP MEDIA CELL

## Politicised edn not a sign of civilised society

Tarique at Ekushey Padak award ceremony; inaugurates Boi Mela

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman yesterday said the current government will work to establish a liberal democratic state system grounded in moral standards and dignity, so the country can advance in education, literature, the arts, science and technology.

"I believe that politicising education, research, arts and literature is never a sign of a civilised society," he said while addressing this year's Ekushey Padak award distribution ceremony at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the capital.

Although politicians are criticised with the responsibility of running the state, he said as a political worker he believes learned and distinguished individuals play a guiding role.

"In this journey, guidance from the country's distinguished individuals is highly expected."

"The greater the number of SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

## Tarique picks Khalilur for UNGA race

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh will compete with Cyprus for the presidency of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) for the 2026-2027 term after Palestine withdrew its candidature, according to a diplomatic source.

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has nominated Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman for the position, the diplomatic source told UNB yesterday.

Bangladesh had floated its candidature ahead of Palestine.

The election of the president of the UNGA for the 81st session will be held on June 2 in the General Assembly Hall, UN Headquarters, in line with Rule 30 of the Rules of Procedure.

In accordance with the established regional rotation, the president of the UNGA session will be elected from the Asia Pacific Group.

Annalena Baerbock, president of the 80th

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

# New govt at foreign policy crossroads

PORIMOL PALMA

The new government has stepped into office at a time when the foreign policy landscape is being shaped by economic uncertainties and competition between global powers.

The coming months will test its ability to balance the US-China rivalry, recalibrate relations with India, handle LDC graduation, and address the protracted Rohingya crisis — challenges that analysts say are closely tied to Bangladesh's internal political dynamics.

"Each of these issues intersects with domestic politics, making foreign policy management even more delicate," said M Humayun Kabir, president of Bangladesh Enterprise Institute and former ambassador to the US.

Immediately after taking charge as the foreign minister, Khalilur Rahman said Bangladesh would maintain a bold foreign policy and good relations with all countries, ensuring that its national interests are fully protected.

While he spelled out a brave approach, the times ahead are likely to be fraught with complexity.

### NAVIGATING US-CHINA RIVALRIES

While the Biden administration focused on human rights and democracy in dealing with

### CHALLENGES AHEAD

- Navigating the US-China rivalry
- Normalising relations with India
- Completing preparations for LDC graduation
- Addressing the protracted Rohingya crisis
- Strengthening inter-ministerial coordination

say Washington's approach to Bangladesh is increasingly shaped by its competition with China — a dynamic that poses a major test for the new government.

Parvez Karim Abbasi, assistant professor of economics at East West University, said the US has formally designated China as its primary strategic competitor in the National Security Strategy.

Due to this US policy, Bangladesh finds itself in a strategically sensitive position.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

## GULSHAN FLAT CASE Issue Interpol red notice for Tulip

Dhaka court orders authorities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered the relevant authorities to have a red notice issued through Interpol for the arrest of British MP Tulip Siddiq, niece of deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina, in a case over alleged corruption in acquiring a flat.

Judge Md Sabbir Faiz of the Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court in Dhaka passed the order following an application filed by Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Assistant Director AKM Motuza Ali Sagar, said court bench assistant Riaz Hossain.

On February 18, the court issued arrest warrants against Tulip, the MP for Hampstead and Highgate in London, and Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha's (Rajuk's) former assistant legal

essential, he noted.

Another sensitive area is Bangladesh's trade relations with the US. As per the Bangladesh-US trade deal signed on February 9, the US has reduced the tariff to 19 percent on exports from Bangladesh.



SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

## Robot unveiled for Fukushima debris removal

AFP, Tokyo

A 22-metre robot arm will help remove a third sample of radioactive debris from inside Japan's stricken Fukushima nuclear plant, its operator said yesterday, as it unveiled the snake-like device.

Dangerously high radiation levels make removing melted fuel and other debris from the plant hit by a huge tsunami in 2011 the most daunting challenge in the decades-long decommissioning project.



Around 880 tonnes of hazardous material remain inside the power station, the site of one of the world's worst nuclear accidents after a tsunami was triggered by a 9.0-magnitude earthquake.

A four-minute video released on Wednesday by plant operator TEPCO showed a snake-like robot arm — measuring 22 metres and weighing about 4.6 tonnes — moving through small tunnel-like passages and inspecting complex structures within a confined space.

## US, Iran open to 'new, creative ideas'

Says mediator Oman

AGENCIES

Oman said yesterday that Iran and the United States expressed openness to new solutions as indirect talks between the two foes began in Geneva.

Omani Foreign Minister Badr Albusaidi said "negotiators demonstrated unprecedented openness to new and creative ideas and solutions", according to a foreign ministry statement released after his meeting with US envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner.

Iran has pledged to show flexibility at the talks, with Tehran under pressure to agree to a deal or face US military strikes.

The third round of talks in Geneva, which began yesterday morning, were due to discuss Iran's nuclear programme against the backdrop of a huge US military buildup in the Middle East ordered by President Donald Trump.

UN's International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) chief Rafael Grossi has joined the new round of indirect talks, a source close to the talks told AFP.

An Iranian state TV reporter also said that Grossi had "joined the talks, effectively serving as a technical observer who can help advance the discussions more precisely and seriously".

The Omani foreign minister said that both US and Iranian negotiators had adjourned for a break and would resume talks later that day. "We hope to make more progress," he said.

Warfaze's Ekushey Padak belongs to the fans

P10

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**PRAYER TIMING**  
FEBRUARY 27

Fajr	Juma	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 5:09	12:30	4:30	6:02	7:30
JAMAAT 5:19	1:15	4:45	6:12	8:00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

### SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING

RAMADAN	FEB	SEHRI	IFTAR
9	27		6:02
10	28	5:05	6:02
11	Mar 1	5:05	6:03



Zimbabwe's Brian Bennett hit a valiant, unbeaten 97 off 59 balls but could not prevent a 72-run defeat as India piled up 256-7 and restricted Zimbabwe to 184-6 in their Super Eights Group 1 match of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup in Chennai yesterday. With the result, South Africa are through to the semifinals from the group with two wins in two matches, while Sunday's tie between India and West Indies has turned into a virtual quarterfinal.

PHOTO: AFP