

Govt appoints four new secretaries

UNB, Dhaka

The government has appointed new secretaries to one ministry and three divisions as part of a major reshuffle in the country's administrative structure.

Separate notifications in this regard were issued by the Ministry of Public Administration last night.

As per the orders, Rafiqul I Mohammad has been appointed secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture, Md Kamruzzaman to the Health Services Division, Abdul Khalek to the Secondary and Higher Education Division, and Md Shahidul Hasan to the Local Government Division.

According to the notifications, the appointed officials will serve in their respective posts on a contractual basis for one year from the date of joining.

The notifications stated that their appointments have been made on the condition that they sever all ties with any other profession, business, or employment with government, semi-government, private institutions or organisations before joining their new posts. Other terms and conditions of their appointments will be determined through separate contractual agreements, the notifications added.



PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Customers from different upazilas of Khulna and neighbouring areas crowd the Khulna Railway Market amid the Eid-ul-Fitr shopping rush. They browse through stores, keeping shopkeepers busy while boosting business. The photo was taken yesterday.

Man arrested for raping 7-year-old girl in Jashore

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Police arrested a man in Jashore yesterday on the charge of raping a seven-year-old girl after luring her to a rented house on Monday.

The accused — Hafijur Rahman, 40 — from Shyamnagar upazila in Satkhira — is one of the victim's relatives, said Faruk Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Jashore Kotwali Model Police Station.

The child was staying at her maternal grandmother's house in Nazir Shankarpur area of Jashore town. The accused, her grandmother's brother, visited his sister's house on the day of the incident. Later that night, Hafijur took the victim to a rented residence near Jashore Medical College and raped her.

Yesterday morning, the victim's physical condition deteriorated, prompting relatives to rush her to Jashore General Hospital.

OC Faruk Ahmed said a case was filed in connection with the incident and legal action will be taken accordingly.

CHT PEACE ACCORD

Adopt a time-bound action plan: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Peace Accord Implementation Movement has demanded a time-bound action plan for the full implementation of the Peace Accord.

It also urged the withdrawal of the non-indigenous state minister from the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs, saying the current appointment contradicts the accord.

The demands were announced at a press conference held yesterday at the Sagar-Runi Auditorium of Dhaka Reporters Unity, under the movement's initiative.

The platform made three other demands, including the immediate reconstitution of the Accord Implementation and Monitoring Committee, the full functionalisation of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Land Dispute Resolution Commission, and the arrangement of a policy-level dialogue between the government and the CHT Regional Council.

Presenting the keynote, Khairul Islam Chowdhury, joint coordinator of

the movement and a teacher at Dhaka University, said the historic Peace Accord was signed on December 2, 1997, after 26 rounds of discussions to end the long-standing armed conflict in the CHT region.

However, even after 28 years, the accord has not been fully implemented, he added.

"Because the core provisions of the accord remain unimplemented, the future of the indigenous people in the hills remains uncertain," he said.

He said the delay has caused concern among those who believe in democratic governance.

Prof Khairul urged the government to prioritise the full implementation of the CHT Peace Accord in its plans.

Referring to the appointment of a non-indigenous state minister at the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs, Prof Khairul said the move is inconsistent with the spirit and provisions of the Peace Accord.

He said the government should withdraw the state minister and assign responsibilities in line with the agreement.

Rights activist Dipayan Khisa said Clause 19 of Part 'D' of the accord clearly

states that the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs should be headed by a minister from among the indigenous communities.

"Whatever we do, it must be consistent with the Accord," he said, adding that respecting the agreement is essential for building trust in the region.

Khan Asaduzzaman Masum, president of Bangladesh Youth Union, said the Peace Accord was the result of years of struggle and conflict.

He warned that maintaining controversial decisions could create further tension between indigenous communities and Bangalee settlers in the region.

He urged the government to act wisely and ensure peaceful coexistence.

Alamgir Kabir, general secretary of Bangladesh Environment Movement, said the signing of the accord had created hope for justice and equal rights but expressed disappointment that full implementation remains pending.

The event was moderated by Zakir Hossain, joint coordinator of the movement.

Govt mulls 7 to 10-day Eid holidays

FROM PAGE 3

19 to March 28 without any break.

Sources of the public administration ministry and the Cabinet Division indicate that the issues of pre-Eid and post-Eid holiday extensions would be presented at the cabinet

meeting for a decision.

Seeking anonymity, a senior ministry official said that extending the holiday before Eid eases the journey home, while a post-Eid extension makes the return trip more comfortable. Proposals are being prepared accordingly

for the cabinet meeting.

Meanwhile, the ministries of roads, railways, and shipping support the extension of holidays. An inter-ministerial meeting with stakeholders, including highway and river police, is slated for tomorrow to finalise the recommendations.

A celebration

FROM PAGE 3

In Old Dhaka's Shankhari Bazar, Tanti Bazar and on the Dhakeshwari National Temple premises, people congregated to participate in the rituals and celebrations.

Shops in Old Dhaka area reported brisk sales of abir, candles, incense sticks, flowers and other materials throughout the day since early morning.

Temples in Dhaka and across the country arranged special prayers, homa rituals and distribution of prasad. Cultural programmes were also held in several areas to mark the occasion.

In Shankhari Bazar, five local organisations — Alpona Krira Sangha, Tridhara Boys Club, Shankhabina Krira Sangha, Albatross and Sahitya Sangsad — organised celebrations this year.

Surjo Kumar Sen, president of Alpona Krira Sangha, said they have been arranging Dol festivities over the past five years with their own funds and support from residents. "We wait for this day throughout the year. Besides locals, people from

different parts of Dhaka join the celebration," he added.

For the first time, Hindu students of Jagannath University organised Dol celebrations at the university's central temple. Suman Kumar Das, president of Jagannath University Sanatan Bidyarthi Sangsad, said the festival was observed through prayers and cultural performances with active participation of students.

He expressed hope that such initiatives would promote harmony and mutual respect.

Priyonto Swarnakar, president of Chhatra Oikya Parishad, said while celebrating, organisers remained mindful of the ongoing month of Ramadan and showed due respect to people of other faiths.

Dol Jatra is primarily observed by followers of Vaishnavism. According to belief, Lord Krishna played with colours with Radha and her companions in Vrindavan on this day, giving rise to the tradition of colour play that now defines the festival.

Set priorities for health reforms

Speakers urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Health experts and professionals yesterday called upon the new government to set priorities and begin implementing the necessary reforms in the health sector to make healthcare more accessible and affordable for the people.

They said the Health Sector Reform Commission report, prepared in consultation with major political parties and stakeholders, should not be viewed as a report of the then interim government and should be implemented to bring significant positive changes to the sector.

The speakers made the call at a discussion titled "Implementation of Health Sector Manifesto — Stakeholder Dialogue and Priority Framework" at Dhaka's CIRDP auditorium, jointly arranged by the Alliance for Health Reform Bangladesh, Institute of Health Economics (IHE) of Dhaka University and Clinical Oncology Department of Bangladesh Medical University.

IHE director Prof Shafiqun Nahin Shimul said the new government can set three priorities for the health sector: primary and preventive healthcare; capacity building, good governance and institutional reform; and innovative financing to bring major reform under the existing financial model.

National Professor AK Azad, also chief of the Health Sector Reform Commission, said in implementing reforms, the new government should start with easier tasks, such as issuing directives to ensure all food producers list nutritional ingredients on their packages, and emphasise disease prevention to reduce people's healthcare expenses.

He noted that the targets set for primary healthcare are achievable.

Zahirul Islam Shakil, secretary general of the pro-BNP platform Doctors Association of Bangladesh, said the health sector would see major changes if the BNP's manifesto on the sector is implemented. He said they are in discussions with BNP leaders to this end.

In his presentation, Prof Syed Abdul Hamid, convener of the alliance, said a supreme authority should oversee issues regarding food, water, and other health-related factors.

Prof Syed Akram Hossain, joint convener of the alliance and a member of the commission, said the BNP government should take into consideration the commission's recommendation to form a separate health service and health commission.

Saidur Rahman, former health secretary, Prof Abul Kamal Azad, former director general of the Directorate General of Health Services, also spoke, while Mushtaq Husain, another joint convener of the alliance, chaired the event.

Parwar slams bringing political issues to court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An attempt is being made to gain political advantage by evading political responsibility and creating pressure on the court, alleged Mia Golam Parwar, secretary general of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami.

He made the allegation in a statement issued yesterday in response to the High Court division of the Supreme Court issuing a four-week rule over matters related to the implementation of the July Charter.

According to the statement, the HC issued the rule regarding an order on the implementation of the July Charter, the oath-taking of a constitutional reform council, the question of a referendum, and 30 reform proposals adopted on the basis of consensus.

Golam Parwar said political issues should not be brought to the court. In the past, attempts to resolve political matters through judicial means did not yield positive outcomes; rather, they created confusion and stalemate in national life.

The Jamaat leader said the old tactic of using the court to secure desired outcomes must be abandoned. If the government retreats from its commitment to implement the July Charter, it would go against public expectations, he said.

Expression of Interest (EOI) Sponsorship Rights

Bangladesh Cricket Board

Ref No: BCB/Official Drinks and Official Beverage Partner /2026/167 Date: 04th March 2026

Expression of Interest (EOI)

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) hereby invites Expression of Interest (EOI) along with financial offers from the reputed Business Houses/ Companies/ Parties/ Agencies for acquiring the following Sponsorship Rights for a period of Two (02) years starting from 17th March 2026 to 16th March 2028.

- Official Drinking Partner Rights
- Official Beverage Partner Rights

Eligibility Criteria :

- Companies related to Tobacco, Alcohol (surrogated and non-surrogated), Betting or Online Betting and its surrogate shall not be eligible to participate in the EOI process.
- Any person(s) or entities with an existing unresolved dispute (i.e. Financial, Disciplinary and any other) with BCB or ICC on a point of law or fact shall be ineligible to acquire the aforementioned rights or to participate in the EOI Process.
- Reputed business houses, companies, agencies or parties with proven experience in the marketing, sales, or management of organized cricket tournaments, series, or sports events shall be given preference during the evaluation of EOI submissions.

Document Collection Procedure:

Interested parties need to obtain a copy of the EOI Document (General Guidelines) related to EOI will be available at the BCB's Official Website: www.tigercricket.com.bd

The details of the EOI process, Series Itinerary, etc. set out in the EOI document. EOI document will be available from 05th of March 2026 to 15th of March 2026.

EOI Submission Procedure:

The EOI along with financial offer (prepared in accordance with the EOI Document) must be submitted at the BCB Management Office at Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium, Mirpur-2, Dhaka 1216, Bangladesh by 16th of March 2026 during office hours (between BST 1000 to BST 1700) and should be in a sealed envelope to be addressed to: **Chief Executive Officer, Bangladesh Cricket Board.**

The EOI needs to be accompanied with the following documents:

- Company Profile and Individual Directors' / Owners' Profile.
- Latest auditor's report on financial statements (each consortium's member must submit separately).
- Bank Solvency Certificate along with bank Statement.
- Certified copy of Memorandum and Articles of Association along with certificate of Incorporation or similar constitutional documents.
- Updated VAT Registration Certificate, Trade License and Tax Identification Number (TIN) Certificate or similar documents.
- In case of consortium/ Joint Venture (JV) - a Notarized Consortium/ JV Agreement.

The BCB reserves the unconditional right to accept or reject any or all offers at its sole discretion without assigning any reason whatsoever during the EOI process. The BCB also reserves the right to amend, postpone or cancel the entire EOI process and / or modify, add or alter the terms of the document and/ or the conditions for EOI process by issuing further addendum(s) at any time prior to the submission of the EOI.

Chief Executive Officer
Bangladesh Cricket Board
Management Office: Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium, Mirpur-2, Dhaka 1216

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Chief Commercial Manager (East)
Bangladesh Railway, CRB, Chattogram

No. 54.01.1500.107.05.325.26-472 Date: 03-03-2026

Corrigendum-01

for
Invitation for Proposal for
Integrated Facility Management and Operation of Cox's Bazar ICONIC Station
Reference Proposal No.: 54.01.1500.107.05.325.26-161; Date: 25/01/2026
Package No.: CCM/East/CMG/CXB-01

| Reference Details: | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Published Notice Reference No.: | 54.01.1500.107.05.325.26-160, dated 25 January 2026 | | |
| Issued Bid Document Reference No.: | 54.01.1500.107.05.325.26-161, dated 25 January 2026 | | |
| Package No.: | CCM/East/CMG/CXB-01 | | |

In partial modification of the above-referenced Invitation for Proposal, the following amendments are hereby made:

| Sl. No. | Section, Clause & Page No. | Clause Description (As Published in Original Notice / Bid Document) | Amendment/Modification (Revised Clause) |
|---------|--|---|---|
| 01 | Invitation for Proposal Notice Para 3 Page No. 1 | Bid documents may be purchased up to 04 March 2026 . | Bid documents may be purchased up to 05 April 2026 . |
| 02 | Section 2: Proposal Data Sheet ITB Clause 29.1 Page No. 25 | Proposals must be submitted no later than 05 March 2026 at 12:00pm . | Proposals must be submitted no later than 06 April 2026 at 12:00pm . |
| 03 | Section 2: Proposal Data Sheet ITB Clause 28.3(vi) Page No. 25 | Proposal Opening Date is 05 March 2026 at 12.15pm . | Proposal Opening Date is 06 April 2026 at 12.15pm . |

ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR BIDDERS

A. Bid Document Purchase:
Interested bidders may purchase Bid Documents up to **05 April 2026** during office hours from the locations mentioned in Para 2. f of the original Invitation for Proposal Notice (Reference No. 54.01.1500.107.05.325.26-160, dated 25 January 2026).

B. For Bidders Who Have Already Purchased Bid Documents:
Bidders who have already purchased the Bid Document (Reference No. 54.01.1500.107.05.325.26-161, dated 25 January 2026) are not required to purchase a new document. This corrigendum shall form an integral part of the original Bid Document.

C. Bid Security Validity:
Bidders must ensure that their Bid Security (Bank Draft/Pay Order/Irrevocable Bank Guarantee) remains valid until **28 days beyond the new proposal opening date of 06 April 2026**. If necessary, an extension of Bid Security validity or a new Bid Security must be submitted before the new submission deadline.

D. All Other Terms Unchanged:
All other terms, conditions, specifications, and evaluation criteria of the original Bid Document remain unchanged.

This corrigendum shall form an integral part of the original Bid Document.

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Md. Mahabur Rahman
Chief Commercial Manager (East)
Bangladesh Railway, CRB, Chattogram

GID-480