

With high hopes, 13th parliament goes into session

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The 13th parliament begins its journey today amid hopes that the new House will emerge as the living centre of democratic practice, alive with constructive debate, meaningful decision-making, and a strong role in holding the government accountable.

The Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban will come to life at 11:00am when newly elected lawmakers gather for the first sitting.

They were elected in the February 12 general election, the country's first

and deputy speaker on the first day. The new parliament features a two-thirds majority for the treasury bench.

However, uncertainty remains over the formation of the Constitution Reform Council, proposed under the July National Charter (Constitution Reform) Implementation Order, 2025.

Chief Whip of the 13th parliament Nurul Islam Moni told reporters at a press conference yesterday, "The parliamentary session that begins tomorrow will be the people's parliament, the highest



This handout photo, taken yesterday and released by the Royal Thai Navy, shows smoke rising from the Thai bulk carrier Mayuree Naree near the Strait of Hormuz after an attack.

PHOTO: AFP

Migrants' woes mount in war-hit Lebanon

Many Bangladeshis without work, pay

PORIMOL PALMA

When Ripon Bepari sent his entire salary -- about \$200 -- home in early February, he had no idea that the next month would be any different.

However, the latest Israeli offensive on Lebanon has caught the construction worker off guard and put his somewhat stable life into disarray. Ripon has not received his March salary and is unsure whether he still has the job that supports him and his elderly parents in Faridpur.

"Since the war broke out, construction work has

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PM to nominate an MP to preside until Speaker elected

President to address session

Condolence motions to honour Khaleda Zia, July uprising victims

credible polls in more than 15 years.

Since 1991, Bangladesh's parliaments have often been marred by boycotts, hollow debates, and the perception of serving as little more than rubber stamps for ruling parties.

Expectations are therefore high that the new House will break from that pattern.

From the outset, the parliament faces several crucial tasks. Among the most immediate is deciding the fate of 133 ordinances promulgated by the interim government. Under the constitution, parliament must approve or reject them within 30 days.

Lawmakers will also elect a Speaker

democratic institution representing the rights, hopes, and dreams of the people.

"Our goal is to run an effective, vibrant, and responsible parliament," he said.

"We want an environment for constructive discussion, rational arguments, and healthy debate on issues of national importance. The beauty of democracy is finding solutions to national problems through discussion and despite differences of opinion."

He also expressed hope that opposition parties would play a constructive role so the nation can move towards a stronger and more self-reliant future.

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Dhaka seeks US waiver to buy Russian oil

Requests Delhi for more fuel

ASIFUR RAHMAN

The government has formally requested the US to allow Bangladesh to purchase Russian oil, similar to the arrangement provided to India, to address potential supply shortages and reduce the economic impact of the surge in crude oil prices amid the US-Israel war on Iran.

The US sanctioned Russian oil following Moscow's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022. In the wake of the Middle East war, the US last week issued a 30-day waiver to allow Indian refiners to purchase Russian oil.

"India has already been given a temporary waiver to

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‘Get ready for \$200 a barrel’

Iran tells world as IEA nations agree record release
of oil reserves; 3 ships hit in Strait of Hormuz

AGENCIES

Iran yesterday said the world should prepare for oil to hit \$200 a barrel, as three more ships came under attack in the blockaded Gulf, forcing governments to tap their strategic oil reserves.

As the conflict entered its 12th day, Iran vowed to target "economic centres and banks" it deems linked to US and Israeli interests, while all eyes were on the Strait of Hormuz, the vital sea lane connecting Gulf oil and gas export terminals to the

global economy.

Meanwhile, Iran fired at Israel and targets across the Middle East yesterday, demonstrating its capacity to launch critical attacks and disrupt energy supplies while withstanding the "most intense" US-Israeli strikes.

Oil prices, which surged earlier this week, have since eased, and stock markets rebounded, with investors betting that US President Donald Trump will find a quick way to end the war he

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Remembering

SYED MANZUR ELAHI

(26 SEP 1942 - 12 MAR 2025)

YOUR LEGACY LIVES ON AMONGST THE
COUNTLESS LIVES YOU TOUCHED

Apex



Prime Minister Tarique Rahman addresses ruling party lawmakers at the first meeting of the BNP parliamentary party at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday. PHOTO: PTD

‘Careful what you say’

PM tells MPs, ministers during parliamentary party meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman yesterday urged ministers and ruling party lawmakers to exercise restraint in their conduct and public remarks, warning that careless statements or behaviour could undermine the government's message at a politically sensitive moment.

Speaking at the first meeting of the BNP parliamentary party at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, Tarique told ministers and members of parliament to remain disciplined in both their speech and actions, particularly when dealing with the media.

He also directed ministers and lawmakers to maintain office hours, follow traffic rules while travelling and practise austerity in their daily conduct.

“Everyone has a specific responsibility – no one should make comments beyond

their assigned duties,” he told lawmakers, according to participants at the meeting.

The meeting, which began at 11:15am and continued until 1:00pm, brought together 209 BNP lawmakers. It marked the first formal gathering of the ruling party's legislators since the new parliament convened.

The session opened with a welcome speech by Chief Whip Nurul Islam Moni, after which senior leaders addressed the gathering. Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir, the BNP secretary general who now serves as local government minister, spoke alongside Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed.

The prime minister used the meeting to outline the government's priorities for the coming months, focusing on public welfare programmes and administrative discipline within the cabinet and the parliament.

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‘Take oath for Constitution Reform Council’

Jamaat ameer urges BNP MPs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A day before the first session of the 13th Jatiya Sangsad begins, Jamaat e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman has urged the BNP MPs to take oath as members of the Constitution Reform Council.

Shafiqur, also the opposition leader, said his party does not want a deputy speaker's post that has been offered “in fragments”. Instead, his party wants opposition-entitled positions based on the July reform proposals.

When asked whether the opposition would boycott the president's speech in parliament today, he did not give a direct answer, saying that the opposition's stance would be “visible” during the parliamentary session.

The Jamaat chief made the remarks while briefing reporters after a meeting of the parliamentary committee of the opposition alliance at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday. Elected members of parliament from the

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Jamaat chief Shafiqur Rahman presides over a meeting of the parliamentary committee of the opposition alliance at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban. PHOTO: PTD

High chicken price hurting low-income families

SUKANTA HALDER

The price of broiler chicken, a primary protein source for low-income people, has risen in the capital's markets due to alleged supply shortages, intensifying consumer hardship amid soaring inflation.

The demand for poultry surged ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr, the largest religious festival for Muslims, while market supply fell short, according to traders.

Broiler chicken yesterday sold for Tk 210 to Tk 220 per kilogram, up from Tk 165 to Tk 170 a kg a week ago, according to the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh. A quarter-dozen eggs sold for Tk 36 to Tk 40, up from Tk 32 a week ago.

The higher prices of broiler chicken and eggs come at a time when overall inflation has risen to its highest level in ten months. In February, inflation climbed to 9.13 percent, up from 8.58 percent the previous month, according to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.

The prices of chicken may rise further as Eid approaches, said Bashir Sheikh, a retail trader in Kawran Bazar.

Over the past week, wholesale prices have risen by Tk 40 per kilogram, and farmers attribute the increase to higher costs of day-old chicks and feed, said Mohammad Sohel, a wholesale trader in Kaptan Bazar.

A few days ago, a demand-supply gap pushed up wholesale egg prices, with 100 eggs costing Tk 800, said Mohammad Amanat Ullah, a wholesaler and former president of the Tejgaon Egg

Merchants' Association.

However, the price has started to decline, he said, adding that 100 eggs were selling for Tk 750 yesterday.

Suddenly, the price of day-old chicks



increased to Tk 80 to Tk 90 from Tk 20 to Tk 25 each, said Akram Hossain, a farmer in the Kalma area in Savar.

After that, no chicks were stocked, because it is not possible to run the business by buying chicks at such a high price, he said.

“I am completely idle this Eid season,” he said, adding that it is becoming difficult to manage his household expenses.

The day-old chick prices were abruptly increased from Tk 30 to Tk 45 to Tk 90 to Tk 95 ahead of Ramadan and Eid, as a result of which production costs have risen, said Sumon Howlader,

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‘Get ready for \$200 a barrel’

FROM PAGE 1

began alongside Israel nearly two weeks ago.

But there has been no let-up on the ground, nor any sign ships can safely sail through the strait, where a fifth of the world's oil has been blockaded behind a narrow channel along the Iranian coast – the worst disruption to energy supplies since the oil shocks of the 1970s.

“Get ready for oil to be \$200 a barrel, because the oil price depends on regional security, which you have destabilised,” Ebrahim Zolfaqari, spokesperson for Iran's military command, said in remarks addressed to the United States.

After the offices of a bank in Tehran were hit overnight, Zolfaqari also said Iran would respond by attacking banks that do business with the US or Israel. People across the Middle East should stay 1,000 metres from banks, he added.

Iran has said it will not allow oil through the strait until US-Israeli attacks cease and has ruled out negotiations. Trump has threatened to hit Iran “twenty times harder” if it blockades the strait, but US officials have not disclosed

Mojtaba Khamenei had been lightly injured early in the war when airstrikes killed his father, mother, wife and a son. He has not appeared in public or issued any direct message since the war began. A source also said Israel believed he had been lightly hurt.

The Iranian military said it had launched missiles at a US base in northern Iraq, the US naval headquarters for the Middle East in Bahrain, and targets in central Israel. Explosions rang out in Bahrain, while in Dubai, four people were injured when two drones crashed near the airport. Loud explosions were also heard in Doha.

Saudi Arabia said it had intercepted a wave of seven drones heading toward a strategic oil field.

According to AFP, at least 25 Iranian attacks have targeted US sites or locations housing US military personnel in the Middle East since the start of the war.

Of these attacks, recorded between February 28 and March 11 at 1500 GMT, four targeted US embassies or consulates in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iraq.

ship Express Rome and the Thai bulk carrier Mayuree Naree because they had entered the strait “after ignoring the warnings of the IRGC naval forces”.

Thailand's navy said the Mayuree Naree was attacked while transiting the strait. Oman's navy rescued 20 crew members, while efforts were underway to find three more. Pictures shared by the Thai navy showed black smoke pouring from the vessel.

Earlier, the Japan-flagged container ship ONE Majesty sustained minor damage from an unknown projectile 25 nautical miles (46 km) northwest of Ras Al Khaimah in the United Arab Emirates, two maritime security firms said.

Iran's military operational command yesterday declared on state television that any vessel belonging to the US, Israel or their allies would be considered a legitimate target.

At least 14 ships have been hit in the region since the war began on February 28.

Analysts say a prolonged closure of the strait, which also carries a third of the fertiliser used in global food production,

missiles, sending Israelis to shelters.

Israel also launched a barrage on Beirut aimed at rooting out the Iran-backed group Hezbollah, which has fired into Israel from Lebanon in solidarity with Tehran.

More than 1,300 Iranian civilians have been killed since the US and Israeli airstrikes began on February 28, according to Iran's UN ambassador Amir Saïd Iravani. Scores have also been killed in Israeli attacks on Lebanon.

Iranian strikes on Israel have killed at least 11 people, while two Israeli soldiers have died in Lebanon. Washington says seven US soldiers have been killed and around 140 wounded.

On the diplomatic front, Russia said it has been in constant contact with the Iranian leadership and is willing to contribute to efforts to stabilise the region.

Spain, meanwhile, permanently withdrew its ambassador to Israel on Tuesday as a diplomatic standoff deepened between the two countries over Spain's opposition to the US-Israeli attacks on Iran.

In Italy, Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni delivered her strongest criticism yet of the US-Israeli war on Iran, describing it as part of a growing and dangerous trend of interventions “outside the scope of international law”.

Her remarks to parliament came after repeated accusations from the opposition that her right-wing government had been too soft toward its allies. Most other European nations, with the notable exception of Spain, have avoided direct criticism of the US and Israeli attacks, largely calling for restraint.

Israel's Foreign Minister Gideon Saar urged the UN Security Council to designate Iran's Revolutionary Guards a “terrorist organisation”.

Meanwhile, the EU approved new sanctions on 19 Iranian officials and entities, its foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said, citing “serious human rights violations” during Tehran's deadly crackdown on mass protests.

Two held for raping college girl on launch

STAR REPORT

Police have arrested two men on charges of raping a college girl on a launch on Sunday as she was travelling from Noakhali to Dhaka.

The accused are Sakib Uddin, 26, and Nuruzzaman Mithu, 32. Both of them are residents of Noakhali's Hatia upazila.

They were arrested in the capital's Mirpur area early Tuesday, said Moshikul Alam, inspector (investigation) of Dhaka's Kotwali Police Station yesterday.

Mithu has already made a confessional statement before court, and Sakib is now on a five-day remand, he said.

Earlier on Monday evening, the victim's brother filed the case with the police station, accusing the duo, said the police officer.

The girl was provided with necessary treatment, and her medical test was completed at the One-Stop Crisis Centre (OCC) at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said the police inspector.

[Our correspondent from Noakhali contributed to this report.]

With high hopes

FROM PAGE 1

FIRST SITTING

Nurul said the maiden sitting will begin with the Speaker's chair remaining vacant briefly, as there is currently no Speaker or deputy speaker in office.

Leader of the House Prime Minister Tarique Rahman will propose the name of a senior member to preside over the sitting temporarily. After it is seconded by another MP, the nominated member will chair the session during which the speaker and deputy speaker will be elected, Nurul said.

Usually, the outgoing Speaker or deputy speaker presides over the first meeting of a new parliament. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Speaker of the 12th parliament, resigned in September 2024 and has not appeared publicly since and deputy speaker Shamsul Haque Tuku is in prison after being arrested in a murder case linked to the July uprising.

Nurul said the BNP Parliamentary Party has entrusted Tarique with nominating the candidates for Speaker and deputy speaker.

After the election, the two will be sworn in by the president, and the new Speaker will then preside over the House.

The parliament's Business Advisory Committee will also be formed during the first sitting, with the Speaker as its head. The committee will determine the duration of the inaugural session and the parliamentary agenda.

Condolence motions will be placed in memory of three-time prime minister and former BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia, those who made the supreme sacrifice during the July mass uprising, and other eminent personalities from home and abroad.

The law minister will present the 133 ordinances issued during the interim government. A “special committee” comprising members from treasury and opposition benches will be formed to scrutinise them, the chief whip said.

“The committee will decide which ordinances will remain in force and which will lapse. We will try to pass the necessary ordinances by April 12,” he added.

President Mohammed Shahabuddin is scheduled to address the session. The day's sitting will be adjourned after his speech.

REFORM COUNCIL UNCERTAIN

Under the July charter order, members of the 13th parliament were expected to perform a dual role, serve as lawmakers and as members of a Constitution Reform Council to deal with 48 constitutional provisions outlined in the July charter within 180 working days.

For this purpose, MPs were required to take two separate oaths: one as members of parliament and another as members of the council.

However, the future of the council remains uncertain. Nurul said the council is not recognised in the constitution, which is why the BNP MPs did not take oath as its members.

A decision on the matter will be made once the council is incorporated into the constitution, he added.

The proposal to form the council faced a setback when BNP lawmakers

took oath as MPs but declined to be sworn in as council members. In contrast, MPs from Jamaat-e-Islami and allied opposition parties have taken both oaths.

EXPECTATIONS

Prof Al Masud Hasanuzzaman of Jahangirnagar University's government and politics department said many hope the stagnation and failures of past parliaments will not be repeated.

“The treasury bench and the opposition bench must play their respective roles,” he said.

He said opposition parties have already indicated they want to make the parliament constructive, adding that the proposal to offer the deputy speaker's post to the opposition is a positive gesture from the BNP.

To make parliament effective and strengthen the legislative process, he said, every bill must undergo proper scrutiny and debate.

He hoped that the culture of boycotting parliament, the absence of the opposition leaders, and the use of “unparliamentary language” would come to an end.

Despite lawmaking being one of parliament's core responsibilities, lawmakers have often shown limited interest or exposed a lack of skills or knowledge required for meaningful legislative deliberation.

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) found that in the 11th parliament, only 16.7 percent of total proceedings time was devoted to lawmaking. The 10th parliament spent 12 percent of its time on legislative affairs, while the 9th devoted just 8 percent.

BOYCOTTS

Bangladesh's parliamentary history has also been marked by frequent boycotts.

The Awami League boycotted 34 percent of sittings in the fifth parliament, BNP 43 percent in the seventh, Awami League 60 percent in the eighth, and BNP 82 percent in the ninth.

Opposition leaders skipped 70 percent of working days in the fifth parliament, 93 percent in the seventh, 88 percent in the eighth, 97.6 percent in the ninth, 41 percent in the 10th, and 80 percent in the 11th.

The culture of boycotting parliament declined significantly in the 10th, 11th, and 12th parliaments, which were formed through the controversial elections of 2014, 2018, and 2024.

The 10th parliament set a rare precedent when three opposition MPs from the Jatiya Party simultaneously held cabinet positions. The party played only a limited role as an opposition in the following two parliaments.

Prof Nazim Ahmed, an expert on parliamentary affairs, said he remains cautiously optimistic about the new House.

Many MPs, he noted, are professionals rather than businessmen, which could give them an advantage in parliamentary work.

“From the party's side, there also appears to be a serious effort to prepare and groom them and build a disciplined team ready for the responsibilities ahead,” he said.



A fireball rises from the site of an Israeli air strike that targeted an area in Beirut's southern suburbs early yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

any military plan to reopen it.

A senior Israeli official told Reuters Israeli leaders now privately accept that Iran's ruling system could survive the war. Two other Israeli officials said there was no sign Washington was close to ending the campaign.

Meanwhile, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said its 32 member countries had unanimously voted to release 400 million barrels of oil, describing it as the “largest ever” release.

The IEA said the emergency stocks would be made available to the market over a “timeframe that is appropriate to the national circumstances” of each member country.

It is the sixth time the IEA has approved a coordinated release of oil stocks, having previously done so in 1991, 2005, 2011, and twice in 2022.

In the latest public display of defiance, huge crowds of Iranians took to the streets yesterday for the funerals of top commanders killed in airstrikes. They carried caskets and brandished flags and portraits of slain supreme leader Ali Khamenei and his son and successor, Mojtaba.

An Iranian official told Reuters

The other 21 Iranian missiles or drone attacks targeted 13 different military sites housing American personnel. These included the Prince Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia and Erbil airport in Iraq, which houses a US base. Both were attacked at least four times.

The Al-Udeid Air Base in Qatar and Al Dhafra Air Base in the United Arab Emirates were each targeted at least twice.

The count does not include seven attacks observed or claimed by Iran against radars or US THAAD missile defence systems operated either by the US or Gulf states.

AFP was able to confirm damage after 12 strikes targeted US-linked military sites by analysing satellite images, the most recent dating from March 5, before US providers of high-resolution imagery imposed restrictions on availability in order to protect allies.

Meanwhile, nearly 30 attacks have targeted energy infrastructure in the Middle East between the start of the conflict and March 11, more than half of which were carried out by Tehran.

Meanwhile, Iran yesterday said it had struck the Liberian-flagged container

would have a devastating impact on the world economy, particularly in Asia and Europe.

On Tuesday, the Pentagon said US forces had carried out strikes destroying 16 mine-laying vessels that could have been used to block the strait.

Oil prices, which briefly surged to nearly \$120 a barrel on Monday, have since settled around \$90, suggesting investors are betting Trump will be able to halt the war and reopen the strait soon.

But that prospect appears unlikely. Israel's Defence Minister Israel Katz said the operation “will continue without any time limit, as long as required, until we achieve all objectives and win the campaign.”

The longer the war continues, the greater the risk to the global economy. If it ends with Iran's clerical system intact, Tehran is certain to declare victory.

Iran's police chief Ahmadreza Radan said anyone taking to the streets would be treated “as an enemy, not a protester. All our security forces have their fingers on the trigger.”

In Israel, explosions rang out before dawn as air defences intercepted

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Take steps to prevent dengue: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman yesterday called on people to adopt preventive measures against dengue and chikungunya, announcing that a nationwide cleanliness drive will start on March 14 to safeguard people from the deadly mosquito-borne diseases.

"Deadly diseases like dengue and chikungunya have caused loss of life. But, if we all become aware, it is possible to protect ourselves from dengue and chikungunya," he said in a

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PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Severe traffic congestion grips the capital's Gulistan area as shoppers crowd markets ahead of Eid, now less than 10 days away. The rush also intensifies after office hours as people gather on the streets to head home before iftar. The photo was taken yesterday afternoon.

Action if allegations proven against any prosecutor

Says ICT chief prosecutor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Crimes Tribunal Chief Prosecutor Aminul Islam yesterday warned that appropriate legal action will be taken if allegations are proven against any prosecutor.

"We have received an allegation, and we are not taking it lightly," said Aminul, who leads a fact-finding committee formed on Tuesday to investigate allegations of unethical conduct involving members of the prosecution team.

The prosecution will also examine any other complaints related to the tribunal, he said while talking to reporters at his office.

The controversy surfaced after media reports cited multiple audio recordings purportedly involving former ICT prosecutor Saimum Reza Talukder, who allegedly sought Tk 1 crore from former Awami League lawmaker ABM Fazle Karim Chowdhury's family to arrange for his bail in a July uprising case.

Meanwhile, ICT-1 set March 30 to decide whether to frame charges against former lawmaker Rashed Khan Menon and former food minister Qamrul Islam, who are accused of three charges, including the killing of 23 people in Badda and surrounding areas during July uprising.

The tribunal set the date following hearing on charge framing by the defence.

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Leadership void risks stagnation at ACC

Govt yet to form search committee to appoint new commission after resignations

DIPAN NANDY

Nearly a week after the chairman and two commissioners of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) resigned, the government has yet to begin the formal process of forming a search committee to appoint a new commission.

This has raised concerns about possible institutional paralysis at the country's top anti-graft body.

Officials familiar with the matter said the Cabinet Division is still waiting for a green signal from higher authorities before starting the process.

Under Section 7 of the Anti-Corruption Commission Act, 2004, a search committee recommends qualified candidates for the posts of commissioners. The committee prepares a list and submits it to the president, who appoints the commissioners and designates one as chairman.

On March 3, ACC Chairman

Mohammad Abdul Momen and two commissioners -- Mohammad Ali Akbar Azizi and Hafiz Ahsan Farid -- resigned, leaving the commission vacant and halting many key decision-making functions.

With Momen's departure, the

matters that were approved by the previous commission," he told The Daily Star.

Regarding the formation of the search committee, he said they had not yet received any information on the matter.



On March 3, ACC Chairman Mohammad Abdul Momen and two commissioners resigned, leaving the commission vacant and halting many key decision-making functions. The ACC has entered such a crisis for the fourth time since its establishment.

ACC has entered such a crisis for the fourth time since its establishment.

ACC Secretary Mohammad Khaled Rahim said the commission's activities have not come to a complete halt.

"ACC activities cannot be termed as stagnant. Work is continuing on

The ACC was established on November 21, 2004, replacing the Bureau of Anti-Corruption. Since then, seven commissions have been formed, though several left office before completing their terms due to political transitions.

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An unprecedented event for the House

13th parliament to begin today with speaker's chair vacant



MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

In a scene never witnessed before in Bangladesh's parliamentary history, the maiden sitting of the 13th Jatiya Sangsad is likely to begin today with the speaker's chair vacant for a brief period.

Parliamentary experts have described the development as "unprecedented", highlighting the unusual circumstances under which the new House is convening. Chief Whip Nurul Islam Moni yesterday said since there is currently no speaker or deputy speaker in office, proceedings will begin with both seats vacant for a short time.

Leader of the House Tarique Rahman will propose the name of a senior member to preside temporarily. Once another MP seconds the proposal, the nominated member will chair the session until the speaker and deputy speaker are formally elected, he said at a press conference at the parliament complex.

Traditionally, the outgoing speaker or deputy speaker presides over the inaugural sitting.

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'Will publish Shafiqur's letter if he consents'

Says foreign ministry

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The foreign ministry has said it is ready to publish the full text of a much-discussed letter if the Leader of the Opposition provides written consent.

In a statement yesterday, the ministry responded to media reports published on March 10 regarding a letter sent by Opposition Leader Shafiqur Rahman to Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman on February 22.

The letter requested the appointment of the opposition leader's foreign affairs adviser, Prof Mahmudul Hasan, as an adviser to the foreign ministry with the status equivalent to a minister.

Officials and experts expressed surprise at the request, saying there is no known precedent anywhere in the world for an opposition party member to be appointed as an adviser to a government ministry.

Following media reports, Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Mia Golam Parwar issued a statement on March 10 saying Prof Mahmudul had been relieved of his responsibilities for violating the leader's instructions regarding the letter.

He was replaced by Dhaka-14 MP Mir Ahmad Bin Quasem.

The Jamaat statement said Prof Mahmudul had been asked about two weeks earlier to write a

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First death anniv of Syed Manzur Elahi today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today marks the first death anniversary of business titan Syed Manzur Elahi.

The eminent industrialist and former caretaker government adviser died on March 12 last year at Gleneagles Hospital in Singapore, leaving behind an industrial and financial landscape forever shaped by his vision. He was 83.

He built the country's leading shoe brand -- Apex, becoming known as a man who preferred building lasting legacies.

In 1996, Elahi served as an adviser to the caretaker government, overseeing the ministries of communications, shipping, civil aviation and tourism, posts and telecommunications, and housing and public works.

He was born into a distinguished family. His father, Sir Syed Nasim Ali, was the chief justice of undivided Bengal.

Elahi began his career at British American Tobacco, enjoying the stability of a corporate job before shifting to the leather business in Dhaka's Hazaribagh

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A group of school students browse books at a stall during the Amar Ekushey Book Fair in Dhaka's Suhrawardy Udyan yesterday. Despite a relatively low turnout this year, the fair continues to draw bookworms.

PHOTO: MEHEDI HASAN

e-Health Card to be launched by June

Says health minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Health Minister Sardar Md Sakawat Husain yesterday expressed hope that the national e-Health Card will be launched by June to make the country's healthcare stronger, more integrated, and effective.

He said Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has directed the implementation of this card as one of the priority initiatives to strengthen public service delivery.

The minister made these remarks while speaking as the chief guest at the closing session of a two-day high-level policymaking workshop on reviewing preparations for the implementation of the national e-Health Card, held at a hotel in Dhaka.

The health minister said whenever a patient -- whether from the village or city -- receives treatment, physicians would be able to access essential health-related information through the card, enabling them to diagnose and treat more effectively.

He further said the card will serve as a foundational identity framework in the health sector. As a result, individuals can be accurately identified across different healthcare systems, while hospitals, clinics, and other facilities will be able to exchange medical information securely.

The workshop was jointly organised by the Aspire to Innovate (a2i) programme of the ICT Division, the Health Services Division, and the Asian Development Bank (ADB).



Prof Lutfun Hossain passes away

STAR REPORT

Dr Lutfun Hossain, a retired professor of the Department of Fisheries Biology and Genetics at Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) and former dean of its Faculty of Fisheries, passed away at a hospital in Dhaka on Tuesday, aged 84.

Prof Hossain taught at the Department of Zoology of Dhaka University from 1964 to 1973. In 1973, she joined BAU, where she served in the departments of Zoology and Fisheries Biology & Genetics until her retirement in 2007.

She left behind her husband Prof Lutfur Rahman, a retired teacher of BAU, two daughters – Dr Sabrina Luthfla, a faculty member at University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh, and Dr Samina Luthfla, a teacher at the Department of Sociology of Dhaka University – and three grandchildren.

Her namaz-e-janaza was held after Isha prayers at Baitun Noor Jame Mosque in Uttara on Tuesday, and she was laid to rest at a graveyard in Uttara-12.

A doa mahfil will be held at her residence in Uttara after Asr prayers tomorrow.



First death anniv

FROM PAGE 3
area, an industry known for its difficult working conditions.

The decision proved pivotal, laying the foundation for one of South Asia's most successful footwear businesses.

Beyond business, Elahi, chairman of Apex, played a key role in Bangladesh's industrial growth.

He advocated improved working conditions in the tannery sector

and supported its modernisation. His influence also extended to trade policy and industrial reforms.

He studied at St Xavier's College before earning a master's degree in economics from Dhaka University.

Under his leadership, Apex Footwear and Apex Tannery became leading exporters in the leather and footwear sector, feeding into a global demand for

high-quality products.

Elahi also helped establish institutions like Mutual Trust Bank and Pioneer Insurance.

His guidance extended to educational and social organisations such as East West University, Sunbeams School, Manusher Jonno Foundation and Freedom Foundation – institutions that continue to influence education, social development and civil society in Bangladesh.

Take steps

FROM PAGE 3
special video message to the nation.

Referring to experts, the prime minister said people become infected with dengue or chikungunya through the bite of Aedes mosquitoes. “So, it is necessary to take all preventive measures in advance...”

Although dengue usually spreads most during the monsoon from June to October, he said public health experts warn that the risk is not limited to any particular time of the year.

He said the government is going to start a nationwide cleanliness campaign every week from March 14.

The PM called on all public representatives, including MPs, to conduct weekly cleanliness campaigns every Saturday in their respective areas with the participation of locals.

Leadership void risks stagnation at ACC

FROM PAGE 3

The first commission was headed by former justice Sultan Hossain Khan. Following the political transition in 2007, the commission resigned before completing its term.

The second commission, led by Lt Gen (ret'd) Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury, also stepped down before finishing its tenure after the Awami League came to power in the 2008 national election.

In 2009, the third commission was formed with Ghulam Rahman as chairman. The fourth commission was headed by M Badiuzzaman, and the fifth by Iqbal Mahmood. These three commissions, formed during the AL government, completed their full terms.

After the July uprising, the sixth commission resigned on October 29, 2024, when the Moinuddin Abdullah-led commission stepped down.

The ACC then remained without a commission for 42 consecutive days, triggering widespread criticism and slowing many of the organisation's activities.

Abdul Momen later assumed office as chairman on December 10, while the other commissioners joined on December 11 and December 15.

In the absence of commissioners, it remains

unclear who has the authority to make decisions on crucial matters such as approving cases, authorising investigations and initiating enforcement actions, as the ACC Act does not clearly specify an alternative decision-making mechanism.

Officials fear that aside from ongoing inquiries, investigations and routine administrative work, many important decisions may remain stalled.

Some senior ACC officials and stakeholders have suggested an interim administrative arrangement until a new commission is appointed.

One proposal suggests a five-member committee led by the ACC secretary to oversee administrative decisions temporarily. Another proposal suggests that the secretary work with the commission's eight directors general to maintain continuity.

ACC ACT AMENDMENT
During the interim government period, the ACC Act was amended through the ACC (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025.

The ordinance increases the number of commissioners from three to five and reduces the tenure from five years to four years. It also requires that at least one commissioner be a woman and that at least one have

expertise in information and communication technology.

The president appoints one of the commissioners as chairman.

The ordinance also replaces the search committee with a verification and selection committee and revises its composition.

Under the amended framework, a senior judge of the Appellate Division – except the chief justice – will chair the search committee. Other members will include a High Court judge nominated by the chief justice, the Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh, and the chairman of the Public Service Commission.

The committee will also include two members of parliament – one from the ruling party and one from the opposition – nominated by the speaker after consultations with both sides. If parliament is dissolved, the committee may be formed without MPs.

DISCUSSIONS BEGIN
A source at the Cabinet Division said preliminary discussions on forming the search committee began on Sunday, and the ACC secretary has already met the cabinet secretary.

However, the division is still waiting for policy-level approval from the government before formally starting the

process.

Once the signal comes, the committee could be formed quickly, the source said.

EXPERTS STRESS

CREDIBILITY

Governance experts say the situation could have been avoided if the government had adhered more carefully to its commitments on anti-corruption and good governance.

If te k h a r u z z a m a n , executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh, said, “Understandably, governments may want individuals of their choice to lead institutions like ACC. However, removing the incumbent commission in a manner that has tarnished the government's image only addressed the easy part – creating the vacancies.”

“As the nation watches, the real challenge now is to minimise the damage by appointing individuals with proven records of expertise and experience,” he said.

He added that even if political considerations influence appointments, the public will expect the new ACC leadership to demonstrate professional integrity and independence and enforce the law without fear or favour, regardless of a person's identity, status or political affiliation.



Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology
141-142, Love Road, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208
Website: www.aust.edu, Phone: 8870422 (PABX)
Contact: Civil Engg. - 01774848686, EEE - 01572684902
Mathematics – 01732939789 and Registrar Office - 01773500054

ADMISSION IN POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMS
FALL - 2025 Semester

Program	Duration	Minimum Qualification/ Requirement
M.Sc. Engg./M.Engg. in Civil Engg.	Minimum	Minimum CGPA of 2.50 out of 4.0 in BSc. Engg. and a minimum GPA of 3.50 out of 5.0 in either S.S.C. or H.S.C., but GPA not less than 2.00 in the either examination.
M.Sc. Engg./M. Engg. in EEE	1½ years	
M.S. in Mathematics	1 or 2 years	Bachelor Degree in Math/ Statistics/ Physics/ Engineering or equivalent degree

Online Application opens on **10/03/2026**. The address for online application is “<https://i ums.aust.edu/pg-admission>”. Please contact the respective Department Office or the Registrar Office for further information. The last date of submission of applications/online application is **30/04/2026**.

INNOVATION:: CREATION:: LEADERSHIP

Worldwide Media Rights
Bilateral International Home Series involving the Bangladesh National Cricket Team (Men) in 2026

**Bangladesh Cricket Board**

Ref No: BCB/Media Rights / 2026/201

Date: 12th March 2026

Expression of Interest (EOI)

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) invites Expression of Interest (EOI) along with financial offers from reputable TV Broadcasters, Digital Platforms, and Marketing Agencies / Consortiums / Firms for acquiring the Worldwide Media Rights of the following Bilateral International Home Series involving the Bangladesh National Cricket Team (Men), to be hosted in Bangladesh in 2026:

Series Covered under this EOI :

01. New Zealand Teams Tour of Bangladesh 2026
02. Pakistan Teams Tour of Bangladesh 2026 (Test Series only)
03. Australia Teams Tour of Bangladesh 2026

Categories of Media Rights :

01. Satellite TV (Linear) Rights - Worldwide including Bangladesh.
02. Digital OTT Rights - Worldwide including Bangladesh

Eligibility Criteria :

a) 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.

b) 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.

c) The Broadcaster/ TV Channel must be in operation (on air) for at least 03 (Three) years. Marketing agents must have the capability and reasonable experience in marketing international standard cricket events.

EOI Document Collection Procedure:

a) 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

b) The details of the EOI process, Series Itinerary, Production Specifications etc. set out in the EOI Document. EOI document will be available from 14th of March 2026 to 28th 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 29th of March 2026 during office hours (between BST 1000 to BST 1700) in the following manner:

i. **Category A:** Financial offer including TV Production Cost.

ii. **Category B:** Financial offer excluding TV Production Cost.

The submission must be placed in a sealed envelope to be addressed to: **Chief Executive Officer, Bangladesh Cricket Board**. Interested participant may submit EOI along with financial offer electronically via email at sponsorship.rights@bcb-cricket.com

The EOI needs to be accompanied with the following documents:

01. Company Profile and Individual Directors' / Owners' Profile.

02. Updated auditor's report on financial statements (In case of consortium, each party's auditor's report needs to be submitted individually).

03. Bank Solvency Certificate along with Bank Statement.

04. Certified copy of Memorandum and Articles of Association along with certificate of Incorporation or similar constitutional documents.

05. Updated VAT Registration Certified, Trade License and Tax Identification Number (TIN) Certificate or similar documents.

06. In case of Consortium, notarized consortium Agreement.

The BCB reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers at its sole discretion without assigning any reason. The BCB also reserves the right to 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 an 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

Action if allegations

FROM PAGE 3

Claiming that there is no sufficient ground to prove this case, defence counsel Munsurul Hoque Chowdhury sought discharge of Menon and Qamrul from the charges.

The counsel also argued that the accused had no authority to make decisions at the 14-party meeting on July 19 and that no incidents occurred in Keraniganj, where Qamrul served as lawmaker.

Also yesterday, a witness, Md Faisal, told ICT-1 that his nephew Maruf Hossain died before he could be taken to hospital as law enforcers and AL activists had allegedly stopped an ambulance carrying him on Rampura Bridge during the July uprising.

He quoted a BGB member as saying, “One

is already finished; we will finish you too.”

After repeated pleas from the family, they were eventually allowed to proceed, but the delay proved fatal. By the time the ambulance reached Dhaka Medical College Hospital at 7:20pm, doctors declared that Maruf had died around 15 minutes earlier.

Maruf was shot in the lower abdomen while protesting near BRAC University campus on July 19.

Faisal was testifying in a crimes against humanity case against two former BGB officers – Lt Col Mohammad Redowanul Islam and Maj Rafat Bin Alam Moon – and two police officers – former Khilgaon additional deputy commissioner Rashedul Islam and former Rampura OC Md Moshior Rahman.

STATUTORY NOTICE
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(ORIGINAL STATUTORY JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO. 215 OF 2026

IN THE MATTER OF: An application under Sections 81(2) and 85(3), 183 read with section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994.

AND

IN THE MATTER OF: Md. Billal Hossain Siddique , shareholder & Managing Director of **Green Oxygen Limited** having its registered Office:- at 270/2/ko, Meradia, Khilgoan, Dhaka. **-VERSUS-** **Petitioner**

Green Oxygen Limited, a Private Limited Company having its Registered Office:- at 270/2/ko, Meradia, Khilgoan, Dhaka., representative by its Managing Director Md. Billal Hossain Siddique and another **-Respondents.**

Notice is hereby given that an application under Sections 81(2) and 85(3), 183 read with section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994 was moved in the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh by the petitioner for condoning the delay in holding the Annual General Meeting of the company name & style as **Green Oxygen Limited**. The Hon'ble Company Judge Mr. Justice Kazi Zinat Hoque has admitted the said application on 02.03.2026 and Hon'ble court directed the petitioner to publish the notices within 3(three) weeks and also to submit affidavit-in-compliance on or before on 23.04.2026 from the date of publication. Any person interested in the said application may appear before this Hon'ble Court. A copy of the said application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of charges. **(Mohammad Shariful Islam)**, Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh, Hall Room No. 1, Supreme Court Bar Association Bhaban, Dhaka-1000, Mobile: 01711173360

STATUTORY NOTICE
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO. 148 OF 2026

IN THE MATTER OF: An application under Section 43 of the Companies Act, 1994.

AND

IN THE MATTER OF: Md. Hossain Mollah, son of late Ibrahim Mollah, Address: 18/1-19 West Testuri Bazar, Dhaka. **-VERSUS-** **Petitioner**

Card Board and Box Factory (Pvt.) Ltd. represented by it's Managing Director, Mr. Golam Sarward, bearing Registration No. C-23624 (2029) of 1993 dated 15.03.1993, Registered Office Address:- 24, Outer Circular Road, South Shajahanpur, Dhaka and others **..... Respondents**

Notice is hereby given that an application under Sections 43 of the Companies Act, 1994 was moved in the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh by the petitioner for rectification of the share register of the company name & style as **Card Board and Box Factory (Pvt.) Ltd.**. The Hon'ble Company Judge Mr. Justice Debashish Roy Chowdhury has admitted the said application on 24.02.2026 and Hon'ble court directed the petitioner to publish the notices within 4(four) weeks and also to submit affidavit-in-compliance on or before within 2(two) weeks from the date of publication. Any person interested in the said application may appear before this Hon'ble Court. A copy of the said application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of charges. **(Mohammad Shariful Islam)**, Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh, Hall Room No. 1, Supreme Court Bar Association Bhaban, Dhaka-1000, Mobile: 01711173360

STATUTORY NOTICE
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(ORIGINAL STATUTORY JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO. 31 OF 2026

IN THE MATTER OF: An application under Sections 81(2) and 85(3) read with section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994.

AND

IN THE MATTER OF: S.M Moniruzzaman, shareholder and Managing Director of **Elit Line Express Ltd.** Having his office- House -130, Suit-C Word-3 Lane-2 Haji Elahi Box Road, Gawayer, Prem Bagan, Haji Camp, Dakshinshin, Dhaka. **-VERSUS-** **Petitioner**

Elit Line Express Ltd. Having its office- House -130, Suit-C Word-3 Lane-2 Haji Elahi Box Road, Gawayer, Prem Bagan, Haji Camp, Dakshinshin, Dhaka. represented by its Managing Director Dr. S.M Moniruzzaman and another **..... Respondents**

Notice is hereby given that an application under Sections 81(2) and 85(3), 183 read with section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994 was moved in the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh by the petitioner for condoning the delay in holding the Annual General Meeting of the company name & style as “**Elit Line Express Ltd.**”. The Hon'ble Company Judge Mr. Justice Kazi Zinat Hoque has admitted the said application on 09.02.2026 and Hon'ble court directed the petitioner to publish the notices within 5 (Five) weeks and also to submit affidavit-in-compliance on or before 16th March 2026 from the date of publication. Any person interested in the said application may appear before this Hon'ble Court. A copy of the said application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of charges. **(Rowshan Ali)**, Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh, Room No. 5028 (Annex), Supreme Court Bar Association Bhaban, Dhaka-1000



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Home Affairs
Office of the Directorate of Engineering
Bangladesh Coast Guard Headquarters
Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207

Invitation for Tender

Director Engineering e-GP Invitation No. 44.08.2680.050.53.002.26.115

Date: 11 March 2026

e-Tender Notice

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

Ser	Tender ID	Package Name	Method	Date & Time		
				Publication	Last selling	Closing and opening
1	1244723	Procurement of furniture of CGFWA building hall room at BCG Base Chattogram	OTM	12/03/2026 12:00pm	30/03/2026 17:00pm	31/03/2026 12:00pm

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). For more details, please contact support desk contact numbers.

Documents can be downloaded till deadline of Tender/Application/Proposal submission.


Riyadh Ibne Jamal
Captain BN
Director Engineering
Bangladesh Coast Guard

GD-564



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

e-Tender Notice

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
01.	1244637	EE-GRL-03 Fy-25/26 Lot-1	27.11.0000.3 04.26.134.26 Date: 11/03/2026	Supply of ACSR Dog Conductor (For Tongi Store)	16-Apr 2026 13.00	16-Apr 2026 14.00	16-Apr 2026 14.00
02.	1238439	EE-GRL-03 Fy-25/26 Lot-2	27.11.0000.3 04.26.135.26 Date: 11/03/2026	Supply of ACSR Dog Conductor (For Fauzderhat Store)	16-Apr 2026 13.00	16-Apr 2026 14.00	16-Apr 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). For more details please contract to the PE's Support Desk (01768595879).

বিদ্যুৎ/জন-৮৭৮(২)/১১/০৩/২৬


Md. Shahidul Azim
ID No. 1-01460
Director
Directorate of Purchase
BPDB, Dhaka

GD-570

Three to die for gang rape

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Jamalpur*

A tribunal in Jamalpur yesterday sentenced three men to death for gang-raping a woman after tying her husband to a tree in 2023.

Judge Muhammad Abdur Rahim of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-1 also fined them Tk 1 lakh each.

The convicts – Md Faruk Hossain, Mansur Ali, and Ferdous Hossain, residents of Pakulla Madhpara village in Sadar upazila – are absconding.

Another accused, Jahidul Islam, was acquitted as the charge against him could not be proven.

Public Prosecutor Fazlul Haque said the incident occurred on night of July 19, 2023, in Pakulla village.

The survivor filed a case with Jamalpur Sadar Police Station the following day.

Will publish

FROM PAGE 3

letter to the foreign minister outlining the party's positions on certain foreign policy matters.

However, he included issues beyond the Ameer's instructions, particularly a section seeking minister-level status, Parwar said.

In its statement yesterday, the ministry said Prof Mahmudul sent the letter by email on behalf of the opposition leader and later delivered the same letter in person to the foreign minister.

The letter was written on the official letterhead of the Leader of the Opposition in parliament.

Signed by Shafiqur, it praised Mahmudul's skills, professionalism and wisdom and recommended his appointment as an adviser "equivalent to the rank of a minister to help advance the country's foreign policy".

The letter also requested the foreign minister to give the matter special consideration.

The ministry noted that only the opposition leader's signature appeared at the bottom of the letter.



Tk 4cr bridge lies unused for 5 years in Tangail

Lack of approach roads forces locals to climb bamboo ladders or take long detours

MIRZA SHAKIL, *Tangail*

A bridge built over the Louhajang river in Tangail municipal town at a cost of Tk 4 crore has remained unused for five years due to the absence of approach roads, forcing residents to rely on risky makeshift ladders or take long detours.

Constructed in 2021 at Charpatholi Kachudanga under Tangail Municipality's Urban Infrastructure Development Project, the bridge was expected to ease movement for locals.

However, without connecting roads on either side, it never became operational, locals said.

Residents have installed bamboo and wooden ladders to climb onto the bridge. While some use the ladders, many people prefer taking longer alternative routes due to safety concerns.

During a recent visit, this correspondent found garbage being dumped on both sides of the bridge, with a foul smell spreading in the area.

Mominul Islam, a local resident, said daily movement has become difficult due

to the incomplete infrastructure.

"Climbing the bridge using ladders is hard, especially for the elderly. It is also difficult to carry sick people or even dead bodies across," he said.

He added that accidents occasionally occur when people try to climb the bridge

Locals alleged that the contractor left the work unfinished, saying funds had not been allocated for constructing the approach roads.

According to municipality sources, the bridge was constructed by contractor Sony Enterprises.

Mehedi Hasan Alim, a former ward councillor of the area, said the bridge was built following long-standing demands from residents.

"The contractor company completed the main structure but did not fill soil on both sides to build the approach roads," he said, adding that attempts to contact the contractor had not been successful.

Md Monir Uddin, assistant engineer of Tangail Municipality, told The Daily Star that the contractor left the project after the political changes in the country on August 5, 2024.

He said the municipality is now taking steps to complete the remaining work and make the bridge operational.

Attempts to contact representatives of Sony Enterprises for comment were unsuccessful.

2 children killed in wall collapse

STAR REPORT

Two children were killed yesterday as a boundary wall collapsed on them while they were playing beside a neighbouring house in Dhaka's Badda.

The victims were Ayesha Moni, 10, a class two student of Shaheed Tojo Government Primary School, and her neighbour Nusrat Jahan Mariyam, 5.

Passersby rescued the two children from under the debris and rushed them to a nearby hospital. Later, they were dead at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Ayesha's father, Iqbal Hossain, said the two children had been playing on the street beside their houses when the wall suddenly collapsed.

He said demolition work had been underway at a neighbouring house, but the boundary wall had not been dismantled. Piles of bricks and sand had also been stacked beside it.

"As the children were playing near the wall, the old structure suddenly collapsed on them."

Mariyam's father, Md Sharif, a mason, said she was his only child.

BUDDHIST TEMPLE FIRE Head monk alleges arson

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Chattogram*

A fire broke out at a Buddhist temple in Chattogram's Raozan upazila early yesterday.

The temple's head monk termed the incident a "deliberate act of arson".

The incident happened at the Aburkhill Talukdarpara Sangharaj Vihar under Utkirchar union.

Head monk Shraddhahal Bhikkhu said the fire started around 4:00am yesterday. He said he woke up hearing loud noises and discovered flames engulfing parts of the prayer hall.

With the help of locals, he managed to bring the fire under control before it could spread further.

"The blaze destroyed portraits of spiritual leaders, religious banners containing sacred texts, and a portion of the temple's bamboo fencing."

"Two days ago, thieves stole valuable items from a room of the Vihar. Last night, someone repeatedly banged on the temple door from outside. When I asked who it was, they fled. Shortly afterwards, the fire was lit," he said, adding that he now fears for his safety.

Following advice from police, he filed a GD with the local police station.

Raozan Police Station OC Sazedul Islam said a police team visited the spot yesterday morning. "We are investigating the matter thoroughly. We have collected evidence from the scene and are looking into the monk's allegations of planned arson."



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Project Director
Maintenance & Rehabilitation of Railway Track in Eastern Zone of Bangladesh Railway Project
Bangladesh Railway, CRB, Chattogram
Mobile No. 01711-506101
E-mail: pd.trep@railway.gov.bd

Reference No. 54.01.1500.109.07.067.25-1029

Dated: 10.03.2026

3rd Corrigendum e-Tender Notice

The following e-Tenders have been invited in the National e-GP Portal System (<http://eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of goods:

Sl. No.	Tender Reference No.	Tender ID No.	Procurement nature and name	Tender method	Field name	Old Value	New Value
1.	E-Tender/GD-1/2025-2026	1191055	Goods: Procurement of Rails	OTM (ICT)	Document last selling date & time	15-March-2026 at 17:00 Hrs.	07-April-2026 at 17:00 Hrs.
					Opening Date & Time	16-March-2026 at 12:30 Hrs.	08-April-2026 at 12:30 Hrs.
					Closing Date & Time	16-March-2026 at 12:30 Hrs.	08-April-2026 at 12:30 Hrs.
					Last date & time for Tender/Proposal Security Submission	16-March-2026 at 11:00 Hrs.	08-April-2026 at 11:00 Hrs.
2	E-Tender/GD-2/2025-2026	1200707	Goods: Procurement of Sleepers & Fittings	OTM (ICT)	Document last selling date & time	15-March-2026 at 17:00 Hrs.	07-April-2026 at 17:00 Hrs.
					Opening Date & Time	16-March-2026 at 12:30 Hrs.	08-April-2026 at 12:30 Hrs.
					Closing Date & Time	16-March-2026 at 12:30 Hrs.	08-April-2026 at 12:30 Hrs.
					Last date & time for Tender/Proposal Security Submission	16-March-2026 at 11:30 Hrs.	08-April-2026 at 11:30 Hrs.

N.B.: All other terms & conditions will remain unchanged.

এস (২৬) (২০২৬)



Md. Tanvirul Islam
Project Director

GD-561

The contractor left the project after the political changes in August 2024.



Mymensingh City Corporation
Supply of necessary equipment & machineries with development of waste management Project under Mymensingh City Corporation
Mymensingh.
www.mcc.gov.bd

Memo No: 46.21.6100.014.00.046.26-272

Date: 10-03-2026

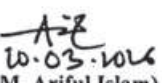
e-Tender Notice: 14/2025-2026

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

So. No	Package No & Scheme Name	Tender ID	Tender Security	Last Selling Date & Time	Closing/Opening Date & Time	Tendering Method
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
01	MCC/DWM/25-26/GD-03 Procurement of Brand New a) Prime Mover (Low Bed)-01 no & b) Wheel Excavator (Big)-01 no for Mymensingh City Corporation	1240997	25,00,000/-	Date: 07-04-2026 Time: 12:00	Date: 07-04-2026 Time: 14:00	OTM
02	MCC/DWM/25-26/GD-13 Procurement of Brand New Amphibious Excavator-01 no for Mymensingh City Corporation	1243172	21,00,000/-	Date: 07-04-2026 Time: 12:00	Date: 07-04-2026 Time: 14:00	OTM

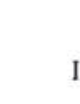
This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/ hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The e-Tender Security Submitted last Date & Time from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks branches respectively. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocurement.gov.bd) also from E-mail: cspomcc25@gmail.com or Cell to 02996667446. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all Tenders/Proposals / Pre-Qualifications / EOIs

Interested persons can communicate with the undersigned during office hours.



(A. H. M. Ariful Islam)
Project Director
Supply of necessary equipment & machineries with development of waste management Project
Mymensingh City Corporation
Email: cspomcc25@gmail.com

GD-555



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Project Director
Integrated and Participatory Project to Control Noise Pollution
Department of Environment
E / 16, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207

Invitation for Tenders

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH			
1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change	
2.	Agency	Department of Environment	
3.	Procuring Entity Name	Project Director, Integrated and participatory project to Control noise pollution	
4.	Procuring Entity Code	1450301-224310900	
5.	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka	
6.	Invitation for	TVC Telecasting on TV and Noise awareness campaign on social media	
7.	Invitation Ref No.	No-22.02.0000.091.14.002.26-127	
8.	Date	11/03/2026	
KEY INFORMATION			
9.	Tender Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)	
FOUNDING INFORMATION			
10.	Budget and Source of Funds	GoB	
11.	Development Partners (if applicable)	N/A	
PARTICULAR INFORMATION			
12.	Project/Program Code (if applicable)	N/A	
13.	Project/Program Name (if applicable)	Integrated and Participatory Project to Control Noise Pollution	
14.	Tender Package No.	GD 33	
15.	Tender Package Name	TVC Telecasting on TV and Noise awareness campaign on social media	
16.	Tender Publication Date	12 March 2026	
17.	Tender Last selling date	31 March 2026, 05.00 PM	
18.	Tender Submission Date and Time	01 April 2026, 12.00 PM	
19.	Tender Opening Date and Time	01 April 2026, 12.30 PM	
20.	Name & Address of the office for Selling Tender Document	Office of the Project Director, Integrated and Participatory Project to Control Noise Pollution, Paribesh Bhaban, E/16, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207 (3rd floor, Room No. 401 of old building).	
	Receiving Tender Document	Office of the Project Director, Integrated and Participatory Project to Control Noise Pollution, Paribesh Bhaban, E/16, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207 (3rd floor, Room No. 401 of old building).	
	Opening Tender Documents	Mini Conference Room of the new building, Paribesh Bhaban, E/16, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207 (2th floor).	
21.	Place/Date/Time of Pre-Qualification Meeting	N/A	
INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT			
22.	Eligibility of Applicant	i. Minimum 10 years general experience as media buying house. ii. The firm/Supplier must have successfully completed at least 02 contract of only TVC airing of any govt. organization within the last 03 years. The value of each contract must be at least BDT 80,00,000.00 (Taka Eighty Lac Only) & 400 minutes of only TVC airing. iii. The firm/Supplier must have successfully completed at least 02 contract of Social Media Page Handling of any govt. organization within the last 03 years. The value of each contract must be at least BDT 80,00,000.00 (Eighty Lac). ii. The minimum amount of liquid assets i.e working capital or credit line(s) of the tenderer shall be BDT 80,00,000.00 (Taka Eighty Lakh Only).	
23.	Brief Description of Goods	TVC Telecasting on prominent 6 TV channels and Noise awareness campaign on social media	
24.	Brief Description of Related Services	N/A	
25.	Price of Tender Document (Tk)	Taka 1500/- (One Thousand and Five Hundred Taka Only)	
26.	Lot No.	Identification of Lot	Location
	N/A	N/A	Tender Security Amount (Tk)
			Completion Time
			2,00,000 Tk (Two Lac Only)
			3 Months
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS			
27.	Name of Official Invitation Tender	Farid Ahmed	
28.	Designation of Official Invitation Tender	Project Director, Integrated and Participatory Project to Control Noise Pollution.	
29.	Address of Official Invitation Tender	Project Director, Integrated and Participatory Project to Control Noise Pollution', Paribesh Bhaban, E/16, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207 (3rd floor, Room No. 401 of old building).	
30.	Contact Details of Official Inviting Tender	Phone: 222218396, e-mail: noisepollutioncontrolproject@gmail.com	
31.	The Procuring entity reserves the right to deleted or reject all Pre-Qualifications		



(Farid Ahmed)
Project Director

GD-566

Government of The People Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Munshiganj PWD Division, Munshiganj
Phone (02) 997731677
e-mail: ee_musi@pwd.gov.bd

Memo No. 25.36.5900.460.27.001.20.835

Date: 11/03/2026

e-GP Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal system portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for procurement of the following work described below.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Tender ID No	Tender proposal Opening date and time
1.	Renovation and repair of the record room established in the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Munshiganj under the project titled "Renovation and Repair of Record Rooms Established in the office of the Deputy Commissioner" (Sub-Head: Civil, Sanitary, Internal Electrical Renovation and Repair Works of the Record Room Building and Protection Arrangements from Rates and Insects)	1160368	Date: 25-03-2026 Time 16:00 PM

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 (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP portal and e-GP help desk: helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd.

(Borun Kumar Biswas)
Executive Engineer
Munshiganj PWD Division Munshiganj

GD-560

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
National Board of Revenue
Strengthening Domestic Revenue Mobilization Project (SDRMP)
Rajashwa Bhaban, Plot-F 1/A, Agargaon
Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
Webmail: sdrmp@nbr.gov.bd



File No-08.01.0000.000.107.07.001.26.59

Date: 10 March, 2026

Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI) For

Individual Consultant Service As Senior Procurement Specialist
Strengthening Domestic Revenue Mobilization Project (SDRMP) part of Strengthening Institutions for Transparency and Accountability (SITA).

Assignment Title: Individual Consultant Service as Senior Procurement Specialist for Strengthening Domestic Revenue Mobilization Project (SDRMP) part of Strengthening Institutions for Transparency and Accountability (SITA).

Reference Number: SDRM/PIU/S-3

- The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (GOB) has received financing from the World Bank for implementing Strengthening Domestic Revenue Mobilization Project (SDRMP), a part of Strengthening Institutions for Transparency and Accountability (SITA). National Board of Revenue (NBR) will implement the project. It intends to apply a part of the proceeds of this credit for the services of an individual Consultant as Senior Procurement Specialist.
- The broad scope of consulting services ("the Services") includes but not limited to carrying out following in the project.
 - Develop procurement plan for goods, works and services for the project, and update the Plan as and when needed (at least quarterly) through the Bank's Systematic Tracking Exchange of Procurement (STEP). Upload and update the procurement transactions using STEP.
 - Assist in soliciting bids, proposals and expression of interest: including use of electronic bidding portal.
 - Participate in or provide support for pre-qualification, short-listing, evaluation and selection of winning bids/proposals and will also assist in (i) the organization of pre-bid or pre-proposal meetings, preparing answers/ clarifications/ modifications/ amendments; (ii) receiving, opening, and examining bids/ proposals; (iii) organizing technical evaluation committees, and participating where appropriate; and (iv) writing evaluation reports using standard format.
 - Assist in negotiating with bidder, when required, and preparing contract documents, for approval/ clearances by the concerned authority and the World Bank.
 - Prepare drafts to Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI), Invitation for Bids (IFB), Bidding Document, Request for Proposals (RFP), and relevant documents.
 - Conduct procurement activities under the project using BPPA's e-GP portal as applicable.
 - Managing the technical and financial evaluation of Change Requests (CRs) during software development to ensure NBR's evolving automation needs are met without unauthorized cost escalations.
 - Ensuring all hardware procurement includes specifications for real-time data synchronization between the Primary Data Center and the Disaster Recovery Site.
 - Any other responsibilities described in the Terms of Reference (TOR).
- The expected date for commencement of the services is April 2026 and the tentative duration of the entire assignment is about 24 (Twenty-four) man-months. Detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) and other information will be available upon request from the address provided below either through email or in person. The TOR can be found at the following websites:
(a) www.nbr.gov.bd, (b) www.bctaxacademy.gov.bd or Scan QR Code
- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) under Internal Resources Division, ministry of Finance, Government of Bangladesh now invites eligible individuals to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested individual should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the services.

The selection criteria are:

(a) Education

- At least Bachelor's in Engineering/Business Administration/Law/Finance or Masters in procurement/commerce/Engineering/Business Administration/Law/Finance.
- Professional certifications/degree in Procurement from any recognized institution will be given preference.

(b) Experience

- At least total 10 (Ten) years' experience in carrying out Public Procurement with primary responsibilities and substantial content of his/her position in practical application of internationally accepted procurement and contracting procedures and documents for works, goods and services
 - Of which at least 05 (Five) years' experience in managing internationally competitive procurement under projects funded by multilateral organizations, preferably World Bank.
 - Should have experience in ICT procurement, data center procurement, cyber-security procurement, large system integration contracts.
 - Hands-on experience in managing all steps in the procurement process, including procurement planning, preparation of bidding/contract documents, bid/proposal evaluation, contract award and implementation monitoring, of internationally competitive procurement of goods, works and consultant services.
 - Understanding of Government's procurement Rule/Act.
 - Analytical capability in identifying and resolving procurement issues.
 - Strong coordination and communications skills in presenting, discussing and resolving difficult issues.
 - Excellent drafting, analytical and communication skill in English.
 - During the term of the contract the consultant shall not be associated with any other Government agency, consulting firm or private business entities.
 - Individuals who are currently working as procurement consultants on another World Bank-financed project may also compete in this selection process, but if they are selected they will be required before signing the proposed contract to provide documentary evidence of having satisfactorily complied with their existing contract's requirements with respect to early termination of the contract by the consultant, including advance notice period, to avoid disruption in implementation of that project.
- The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to the Section III, Para 3.14,3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers, February 2025 (6th edition) setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.
 - A consultant will be selected following the Selection of Individual Consultant method set out in the World Bank Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers, February 2025 (6th edition).
 - Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours (09:00 AM to 04:00 PM Bangladesh Standard Time).
 - Expression of Interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by 01:00 PM (Bangladesh Standard Time), 31st March, 2026.

Md. Masudur Rahman Masud
Project Director
Strengthening Domestic Revenue
Mobilization Project (SDRMP)
Room No. 430, Rajashwa Bhaban, Plot-F 1/A
Agargaon Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
Webmail: sdrmp@nbr.gov.bd

GD-559



Office of the Chief Engineer
Engineering Section
University of Dhaka

Memo No. Prokou/Elec: 142-(2)

Date: 11/03/2026

e-Tender Notice (OTM)

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

Sl No.	Tender ID No.	Name of goods	Invitation Reference No.	Last selling date & time	Closing & opening date & time
1	1244100	Installation of overh3 service lines to replace the faulty underground service cable lines at Katabon Market, University of Dhaka.	XEN/Elec-3/ DU/OF/ OTM/01	25-Mar-2026 12:00	25-Mar-2026 17:00
2	1244391	Supply of Installation of new electrical line to replace the old damaged underground main electrical cable line of the Bangladesh Kuwait Maitree Hall residential teacher's quarter's, University of Dhaka.	XEN/Elec-3/ Kuwait Maitree Hall/DU/03	25-Mar-2026 12:05	25-Mar-2026 17:05

This is an online tender, where only-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's branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Ahasanul Kabir Mallick
Executive Engineer-Elect. (Zone-3)
University of Dhaka

GD-557

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
District: Cumilla
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.02.1900.000.07.427.2025-1768

Date: 10/03/2026

e-Tender Notice Tender Notice No. 57/2025-2026

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of Works as stated below:

Sl. No.	Package No.	Name of works	Tender/ Proposal ID No.	Document last selling/downloading date and time	Tender/proposal closing date and time	Method of Tender
1	IRIDP-3/CUM/RDW-198	Remaining Work of Nobiabad Takuarmar Bridge-Simarguri via Batapukoria GPS Road at Ch. 1000-1716m (Road ID: 419404100) under Debidwar Upazila, District: Cumilla.	1239565	29-March 2026 16:00 BST	30-March 2026 12.30 BST	LTM
2	IRIDP-3/CUM/RDW-78	(a) Remaining Work of Nabiabad Baisher Kut Road (Ch. 1500-2240m) (Road ID: 419404057) (b) Construction of 1 No. 0.900mx0.900m Culvert at Ch. 1935m on the same road under Debidwar Upazila, District: Cumilla.	1239564	29-March 2026 16:00 BST	30-March 2026 12.30 BST	LTM
3	IRIDP-3/CUM/RSDW-166	(a) Remaining Work of Chotona-Ektarbari to Razzak Mia Rice Mill via Amin Uddin Fakir Bari Road at Ch. 00-700m (Road ID: 419404180), (b) Construction of 2 No. 0.900mx0.900m Culvert at Ch. 346m & 695m on the same road under Debidwar Upazila, District: Cumilla	1239563	29-March 2026 16:00 BST	30-March 2026 12.30 BST	LTM
4	IRIDP-3/CUM/DW-73	Improvement of Sultanpur-Joyag Road (Ch. 505-1000m) (Road ID: 419095148) under Barura Upazila, District: Cumilla	1239562	29-March 2026 16:00 BST	30-March 2026 12.30 BST	LTM

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.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP Portal have to be deposited through online at any branches of registered bank.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk

(helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

The Tender Notice will be available on the website: www.lged.gov.bd and www.lged.cumilla.gov.bd

GD-554



বাংলাদেশ নির্বাচন কমিশন

আঞ্চলিক নির্বাচন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়

ফরিদপুর অঞ্চল, ফরিদপুর

www.ecs.gov.bd

১৭.১১.০০০০.০০০.৭০.০১১.২৫-১৩৫

তারিখঃ ২৪ ফাল্গুন ১৪৩২ বঙ্গাব্দ
০৯ মার্চ ২০২৬ খ্রিস্টাব্দ

অকেজো মোটরসাইকেল বিক্রয়ের নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, আঞ্চলিক নির্বাচন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, ফরিদপুর অঞ্চল, ফরিদপুর এর আওতাধীন সিনিয়র জেলা/জেলা নির্বাচন অফিসার ও তাঁর আওতাধীন উপজেলা নির্বাচন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়ের জন্য ব্যবহৃত সর্বমোট ৩৩ (তেরিশ) অকেজো মোটরসাইকেল নিলামে বিক্রয়ের লক্ষ্যে আগ্রহী ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানের (ডেভার) নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে। উক্ত গাড়িগুলো আঞ্চলিক নির্বাচন কর্মকর্তা, ফরিদপুর অঞ্চল, ফরিদপুর-কে নিলামে বিক্রয়ের ক্ষমতা প্রদান করা হয়েছে।

ক্রমিক নং	গাড়ির ধরণ	সরকার নির্ধারিত মূল্য	সিডিউল মূল্য ও জামানত
০১	সিনিয়র জেলা/জেলা নির্বাচন অফিসারের কার্যালয় ও উপজেলা নির্বাচন অফিসারের কার্যালয়সমূহ সংরক্ষিত অকেজো মোটরসাইকেল ৩৩ (তেরিশ)টি।	৫,৮৭,৭৮০/- (পাঁচ লক্ষ সাতাশি হাজার সাতশত আশি)	সিডিউল মূল্য ১০০০/- (অফেরতযোগ্য) ১০% জামানত ৫৮,৭৭৮/-

সিডিউলের শর্তাবলী

- প্রতিটি দরপত্রের সিডিউল মূল্য ১০০০/- (এক হাজার) (অফেরতযোগ্য) টাকা। একই টেন্ডার সিডিউলে এক/একাধিক গাড়ির দরপত্র দাখিল করা যাবে।
- দরপত্রের সিডিউল ১১/০৩/২০২৬ তারিখ সকাল ৯.০০ ঘটিকা হতে ৩১/০৩/২০২৬ তারিখ রোজ মঙ্গলবার, পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন ক্রয় করা যাবে।
- দরপত্র আগামী ৩১/০৩/২০২৬ তারিখ, রোজ মঙ্গলবার, দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর কার্যালয়ে রক্ষিত দরপত্রের বাস্তব দাখিল করা যাবে। বর্ণিত তারিখ ও সময়ের পর কোন দরপত্র দাখিল করা যাবে না বা গ্রহণ করা হবে না এবং ঐ একই দিনে ১২.৩০ ঘটিকায় প্রাপ্ত দরপত্রসমূহ উপস্থিত দরদাতাদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেউ থাকে) খোলা হবে। দরপত্রের সাথে সিডিউল ক্রয়ের রশিদ অবশ্যই সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।
- ইচ্ছুক দরদাতাগণ ৩১/০৩/২০২৬ তারিখ বা তৎপূর্বে অফিস চলাকালীন গাড়ি পরিদর্শন করতে পারবেন।
- দরদাতাকে গাড়ির উদ্ধৃত দরের আর্নেস্টম্যানি হিসেবে ১০% টাকা (ফেরতযোগ্য) যে কোন তফসিলি ব্যাংক হতে পে অর্ডার/ ব্যাংক ড্রাফট এর মাধ্যমে আঞ্চলিক নির্বাচন কর্মকর্তা, ফরিদপুর অঞ্চল, ফরিদপুর-এর অনুকূলে অবশ্যই দরপত্রের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে।
- সর্বোচ্চ দরদাতাকে কার্যাদেশ দেয়ার ০৭ (সাত) কার্যদিবসের মধ্যে (উদ্ধৃত) মূল্যসহ ক্রয়কৃত মূল্যের ১৫% ভ্যাট এবং বিধি মোতাবেক উৎস কর (প্রযোজ্য হারে) প্রদানপূর্বক গাড়ি এবং গাড়ির কাগজপত্রাদি (রেজিস্ট্রেশন/ব্ল বুক/ফিটনেস/ট্যাক্স টোকেন/রোড পার্মিট সনদ) যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে সেই অবস্থায়ই ডেলিভারী গ্রহণ করতে হবে। অন্যথায়, প্রদত্ত আর্নেস্টম্যানি বাজেয়াপ্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।
- সর্বোচ্চ দরদাতা কার্যাদেশের শর্ত মোতাবেক গাড়ি ডেলিভারী গ্রহণে ব্যর্থ হলে তার দাখিলকৃত আর্নেস্টম্যানি বাজেয়াপ্ত করে পর্যায়েক্রমে পরবর্তী সর্বোচ্চ দরদাতাকে কার্যাদেশ প্রদান করা হবে।
- গাড়ি অনুকূলে সমান উদ্ধৃত দরের (সর্বোচ্চ দর) একাধিক দরপত্র দাখিল হলে লটারির মাধ্যমে সর্বোচ্চ দরদাতা নির্ধারণ করা হবে।
- অকেজো গাড়ি বিক্রয়ের পর গাড়ির মালিকানা পরিবর্তনসহ অন্য কোন প্রকার বকেয়া বা বিআরটিএ এর খরচ দাবি করা যাবে না বা কর্তৃপক্ষ বহন করবে না।
- গাড়ি নিলামে বিক্রয়ের ক্ষেত্রে প্রচলিত সরকারি আর্থিক বিধি-বিধান প্রতিপালন করা হবে।
- বর্ণিত শর্তাবলীতে অথবা অন্য কোন শর্তাবলীতে মতানৈক্য দেখা দিলে সেক্ষেত্রে কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।
- কোন কারণ ব্যতিরেকে যে কোর্স দরপত্র বাতিল অথবা যে কোন সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণ করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।

মোঃ মাহবুব আলম শাহ
আঞ্চলিক নির্বাচন কর্মকর্তা
ফরিদপুর অঞ্চল, ফরিদপুর

জিডি-৫৫৬

‘Our hearts were shaking’
Tehran endures night of heavy Israel, US bombing
AL JAZEERA ONLINE

The Iranian capital has experienced one of its most intense nights of bombardment by the United States and Israel since the start of the war 10 days ago as numerous areas of the sprawling city have been hit to devastating effect.
Warplanes flew at low altitudes over Tehran overnight into Tuesday, dropping dozens of heavy explosives that shook neighbourhoods across the city of more than 10 million people and frightened residents who have remained in their homes despite the danger.
More strikes followed



during the day with local media reporting that cities like Isfahan and Karaj were also targeted. US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said Tuesday would be “our most intense day of strikes inside Iran”.
Sima, a 38-year-old who lives with her family in Tehran, said of overnight strikes: “It felt like tens of fighter jets were flying right above our heads for 15 minutes straight at first, then a few minutes of pause before the next rounds of strikes came in.”
“The ground and windows and our hearts were shaking, but we took shelter in bathroom and got through it,” she said.

Will Trump blink on Iran as pressure mounts?

Experts say advisers may halt president’s push if economic pain threatens US midterms

AFP, Washington

US President Donald Trump has built a potential off-ramp by suggesting the Iran war could end soon, but the world is still guessing about whether he will take it – and whether Tehran will let him.
With surging oil prices threatening the global economy and his political fortunes at home, Trump’s tone appeared to shift abruptly on Monday as he called the war “very complete” and a “short-term excursion.”

But the 79-year-old commander-in-chief continued to send mixed messages about when the war could end – and what its goals are – leaving it far from clear what he will ultimately settle for.
For Trump, that calculation will almost certainly involve November’s US midterm elections, with gas prices likely to fuel voter anger over the cost of living.

Polls so far show historically low support among Americans for the war. “I think he’s going to keep going until his advisers tell him that the economic pain is going to risk the midterms,” Colin Clarke, executive director of the Soufan Center in New York, told AFP.

“He’s going to make a political decision about a military operation.” For some, Trump’s comments on a short Iran war timeline were evidence of what observers have dubbed the TACO phenomenon – “Trump Always Chickens Out.”

“What they did communicate clearly, to the delight of markets, was that Trump is looking for an exit,” wrote Robert Armstrong, the Financial Times journalist who first coined the term TACO.

In the opening days of the US-Israeli strikes, Trump suggested the war could last four or five weeks, but markets surged at his hints on Monday that it could be shorter.

Clarke said he believed Trump

would “go hard for the next two weeks tops, then things are so messy he’s going to declare victory.” Victory will then be in the eye of the beholder. Both Trump and his administration have publicly given a panoply of shifting goals for the war, ranging from unconditional surrender, to regime change in all but name, to



securing the flow of Gulf oil.

But on paper it has listed some core military objectives – ensuring Iran has no nuclear weapon, eliminating its ballistic missiles and its navy, and curbing its regional proxies – that could be easier for Trump to sign off on.

“President Trump will determine when Iran is in a place of unconditional surrender, when they no longer pose a credible and direct threat to the United States of America and our allies,” White House spokeswoman Karoline Leavitt told a briefing.

But Iran will likely see any such declaration as Trump blinking first. Despite the significant damage from the US-Israeli air campaign, Tehran has stepped up its defiant tone since Trump’s remarks, vowing to block Gulf oil

supplies.

Israel meanwhile has its own timeline, which Trump also has only limited control over. Differences have already emerged over both the long-term goals and Israel’s strikes on Iranian energy infrastructure.

And while Trump insists he must have a role in choosing Iran’s new leader, there is no sign yet of

large-scale internal resistance to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei, chosen at the weekend to replace his slain father.

If Mojtaba Khamenei and the regime survive, Operation Epic Fury would be “remembered as the Mother of All Lawnmowers” for having only skimmed the surface of things, Walter Russell Mead wrote in The Wall Street Journal.

Trump could then leave an even more dangerous situation, the Soufan Center’s Clarke said, with a “rump IRGC” going all out for a nuclear bomb, and the risk of various ethnic groups launching a huge insurgency in Middle East.

“If it’s Khamenei’s son or another hardliner, what’s different?” said Clarke. “It’s now like a wounded animal, which is arguably more dangerous.”

AI military use can create ‘Terminator’ world
China warns US

AFP, Beijing

China warned the United States yesterday that the excessive use of artificial intelligence (AI) in its military could plunge the world into a “Terminator”-like dystopian future.

US President Donald Trump’s administration has sought the unconditional use of AI startups in the military.

The Pentagon has confirmed Elon Musk’s Grok system is cleared for use in a classified setting, and blacklisted Anthropic after it refused to allow its Claude AI model to be used for mass surveillance and autonomous lethal warfare.

“Such choices as the unrestricted application of AI by the military, using AI as a tool to violate the sovereignty of other nations, allowing AI to excessively affect war decisions, and giving algorithms the power to determine life and death, not only erode ethical restraints and accountability in wars, but also risk technological runaway,” a spokesman for China’s defence ministry, Jiang Bin, said yesterday.

“A dystopia depicted in the American film ‘The Terminator’ could one day come true,” he said.

“The Terminator”, released in 1984 and starring Arnold Schwarzenegger, depicts an apocalyptic future in which AI-controlled robots fight humans.

The Pentagon’s row with Anthropic erupted days before the US military strike on Iran.



US-ISRAEL WAR ON IRAN

Regional casualty count rises

AFP, Dubai

Since the US and Israel unleashed strikes on Iran on February 28, war has spread across the region and casualties have been reported in countries around the Middle East. The United States has confirmed that around 140 of its service members have been wounded since the start of the war. The figures are based on numbers released by governments, militaries, health authorities and rescue organisations in the affected countries.

IRAN

Iran’s health ministry said on March 8 that more than 1,787 people had been killed, including around 200 women and 200 children under the age of 12, with more than 10,000 civilians injured.

ISRAEL

Israel’s first responders and the country’s authorities have reported 14 people in total killed on the Israeli side. First responders and local authorities say Iranian missile fire killed 12 people in Israel, including four minors, since the start of the war, according to an AFP tally based on their announcements.

LEBANON

Lebanon’s health ministry said on Monday that 486 people had been killed and 1,313 wounded during a week of strikes. On Sunday it said that an earlier death toll of 394 people included 83 children and 42 women. The Lebanese army said three of its soldiers had been killed. Hezbollah has not announced its losses.

THE GULF

Authorities in Gulf states and the US Central Command (CENTCOM) have reported 24 people killed in neighbouring states since the start of the Iranian attacks. Most of those killed were military or security personnel, including seven US service members, and 11 civilians.

CENTCOM has confirmed six US service personnel killed in Kuwait and one killed in Saudi Arabia.

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ঃ বিপি মোতারেক প্রদেয় অন্যান্য ভাতাদিসহ টাঃ ২২,০০০-৫৩,০৬০/-বেতন কেলে (জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল-২০১৫) ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের কমিউনিকেশনস ডিজিঅর্ডারস বিভাগ-এর ০১টি শূন্য স্পীচ এন্ড ল্যান্ডুয়েজ থেরাপিস্ট পদ পূরণের জন্য ৫০/- (পঞ্চাশ) টাকার বিনিময়ে রেজিস্ট্রারের দপ্তরে প্রাপ্তব্য নির্ধারিত করমে বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহবান করা যাচ্ছে। প্রার্থীকে এস.এস.সি. ও এইচ.এস.সি/সমমানের পরীক্ষায় ন্যূনতম ২য় বিভাগ/জিপিএ ৫ কেলে ন্যূনতম ৩.৫ এবং কমিউনিকেশনস ডিজিঅর্ডারস বিষয়ে সিজিপিএ ৪ কেলে ন্যূনতম ৩.০০সহ স্নাতক ও স্নাতকোত্তর পাশ হতে হবে। সরকারি বা সরকার অনুমোদিত প্রতিষ্ঠান থেকে কমপক্ষে ০৬ (ছয়) মাসের কম্পিউটার প্রশিক্ষণসহ কম্পিউটার পরিচালনায় দক্ষ হতে হবে। শিক্ষাজীবনের কোন পর্যায়ে ৩য় বিভাগ/শ্রেণি/জিপিএ/সিজিপিএ গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়। শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা, কম্পিউটার প্রশিক্ষণ ও অন্যান্য যোগ্যতার (যদি থাকে) সনদসমূহ আবেদনের সঙ্গে সংযুক্ত করতে হবে। পেশাগত অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন প্রার্থীকে অগ্রাধিকার দেয়া যেতে পারে। অভ্যন্তরীণ প্রার্থীর গোপনীয় প্রতিবেদন সম্বোধনক সাপেক্ষে চাকরির অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন প্রার্থীকে অগ্রাধিকার দেয়া যেতে পারে। প্রার্থীর বয়স অনূর্ধ্ব ৩২ (বত্রিশ) বছর হতে হবে। অভ্যন্তরীণ প্রার্থীর ক্ষেত্রে যে কোনো একটি শর্ত শিথিলযোগ্য।

রেজিস্ট্রারের অনুকূলে প্রদেয় ৭৫০/- (সাতশত পঞ্চাশ) টাকা মূল্যের পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট এবং সকল সার্টিফিকেট ও প্রশংসাপত্রের সত্যায়িত প্রতিলিপিসহ ৮ (আট) প্রস্ত দরখাস্ত আগামী ২২-০৪-২০২৬ তারিখের মধ্যে রেজিস্ট্রারের (২০৩নং কক্ষে) নিকট পৌছাতে হবে। চাকরিরত প্রার্থীকে যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে হবে।

GD-567



Russia, Ukraine trade drone strikes

AFP, Kyiv

Ukraine hit a “key” military factory in a missile strike Tuesday on Russia’s western city of Bryansk, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said after Moscow gave a toll of six dead in the attack.

“Our soldiers struck one of the key Russian military factories in Bryansk. This factory produced electronics and components for Russian missiles. The very ones that are striking our cities,” Zelensky said in a daily address.

Meanwhile, Russian drone strikes on the eastern Ukrainian city of Kharkiv killed two people and wounded seven more, local authorities said yesterday. Kharkiv, Ukraine’s second-largest city, which lies close to the Russian border, was encircled at the beginning of Russia’s invasion four years ago.

বাংলাদেশ সিকিউরিটিজ অ্যান্ড এক্সচেঞ্জ কমিশন

সিকিউরিটিজ কমিশন ভবন, ই-৬/সি আগারগাঁও, শের-ই-বাংলা নগর প্রশাসনিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-১২০৭

Ref: BSEC/Admin/13:53/2025-208

Date: 09 March, 2026

(Invitation for Tender)

E-tender is invited to the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following listed below:

SI	Package No & Tender ID	Name of Goods	Procurement Method	Tender Security	Tender Document Last Selling (date & time)	Tender Opening (date & time)
1	BSEC/2025-2026/G6/Publication & Tender ID: 1233600	Print and Supply of English and Bengali Annual Report, Quarterly Report in electronic version (English and Bengali) proofread by professional proofreader and linguistic service provider for Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission	Open Tendering Method (OTM)	30000/-	06-April-2026 16:00	07-April-2026 14:30

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 downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP system portal have been deposited online through any registered bank branches up to as mentioned in Table. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

(Rana Das)
Assistant Director (Admin)
Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission

GD-565

ICT Cell University of Dhaka Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh

e-Tender Notice

ICT-No. EGP-26-01

Dated: 09/03/2026

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) under the Revenue Budget of University of Dhaka.

Tender ID	Description of works	Tender scheduled publication date & time	Tender document last selling date & time	Tender closing & opening date & time
1236567	Package No.: ICT-20260225-PCLAP Supply, Installation, Testing, and Commissioning Desktop Computer with Display Monitors, Laptop Computers, Multifunction Printers, Graphics Cards, Camera & OPS for Interactive Flat Panels	09-Mar-2026 10:00	29-Mar-2026 12:00	29-Mar-2026 16:00

This is an online tender where only e-Tenders will be accepted through the National e-GP System Portal, and no offline or hard copies will be accepted. To submit an 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 must be deposited online through the branches of any registered bank. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from the e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Professor Dr. Mohammad Hossain Kamal
Director
ICT Cell
University of Dhaka

GD-568

ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় গ্রন্থাগার

Invitation for e-Tender

Following e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd/>) for the procurement of the following goods.

No	Tender ID	Description of Packages	Location of the works	Last selling date & time	Closing & opening date & time
1	2	3	4	5	6
01	1232684	Procurement of Foreign Books for the Faculty of Arts and Fine Arts	Dhaka	02-Apr-2026 12:00	02-Apr-2026 15:00
02	1238541	Procurement of Foreign Books for the Faculty of Social Sciences	Dhaka	02-Apr-2026 12:00	02-Apr-2026 15:00
03	1240115	Procurement of Foreign Books for the Faculty of Science, Biological Sciences & Pharmacy	Dhaka	02-Apr-2026 12:00	02-Apr-2026 15:00
04	1240122	Procurement of Foreign Books for the Faculty of Business Studies	Dhaka	02-Apr-2026 12:00	02-Apr-2026 15:00

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<https://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)

Librarian
University of Dhaka

GD-569

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Institute of Marine Technology, Faridpur
Beribandh Road, Adampur, Faridpur Sadar, Faridpur-7800

Memo No. 49.01.2947.002.14.011.2024-99

Date: 11 March, 2026

Re e-Tender Notice

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

SI #	Tender ID	Package Name	Type Method	Date & Time	
				Publication	Last Selling
1	1230698	Supply of Safety, Electric, and RAC related Goods	NCT OTM	12-Mar-2026 17:00	29-Mar-2026 17:00
2	1238964	Supply of rudder steering system, propulsion system and Heat Exchanger.	NCT OTM	12-Mar-2026 17:00	29-Mar-2026 17:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP 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).

Document can be downloaded till deadline of Tender submission.

Engr. Mohammad Khorshed Alam
Principal (In Charge)
Institute of Marine Technology, Faridpur
Phone: 01781173431

GD-558

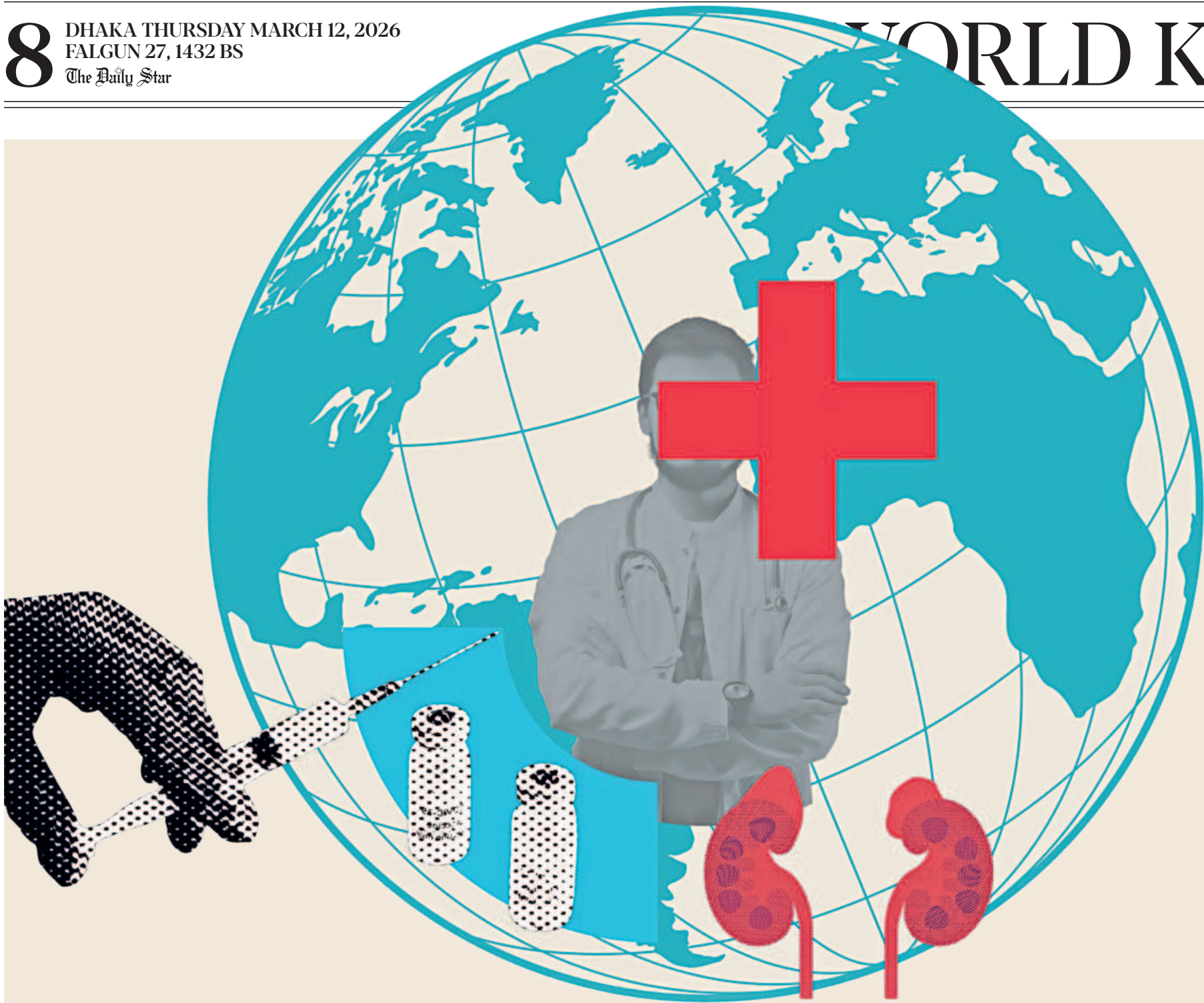


ILLUSTRATION: ADRIN SARWAR

GUARDING OUR VITAL FILTERS

TAGABUN TAHARIM TITUN

Bangladesh is currently navigating a quiet yet catastrophic renal emergency. With an estimated 3.8 crore people suffering from various forms of kidney ailments, nearly one-fourth of the nation's population is at risk. According to a 2024 data of Kidney Foundation, Bangladesh: approximately 54 people die every day across the country due to kidney-related complications. This local crisis mirrors a burgeoning global trend. The World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Society of Nephrology report that over 850 million people worldwide live with kidney disease—double the number of

those living with diabetes and twenty times the prevalence of cancer. With a global prevalence of 10.4% among men and 11.8% among women, Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) is projected to become the fifth leading cause of death globally by 2050. As millions worldwide continue to lack access to transplantation or affordable dialysis, understanding early prevention and routine screening is no longer just a medical recommendation; it is a vital necessity for survival.

On World Kidney Day 2026, The Daily Star interviewed four leading nephrologists to address this crisis. They emphasise that while kidney damage is often silent, early screening of creatinine and protein levels can halt progression.

Halting the Path to Failure



PROF. BRIG. GEN. MAMUN MOSTAFI (RETD.)
MBBS, MACP(USA), FCPS, FRCP, FASN
Consultant, Department of Nephrology, Bangladesh Specialized Hospital
Former Head of Nephrology, Bangladesh Army

If a patient requires medicine three or four times daily, fasting may be prohibited. During the fast, monitoring is vital; if blood sugar levels fall below 4 or rise above 16, or if blood pressure spikes in the afternoon, the patient must stop fasting immediately. A 13-hour fast without water can severely stress the kidneys, making medical supervision mandatory.

Kidney health is often a battle against time. Professor Brigadier General Dr Mamun Mostafi (Retd.) explains that kidney problems generally fall into two categories: primary diseases originating in the organ, such as infections or stones, and secondary conditions like diabetes and hypertension. While primary issues can sometimes be reversed if caught early, secondary conditions require a lifelong strategy of slowing the damage. If a patient maintains an HbA1c (Hemoglobin A1C) level below 7 and keeps systolic blood pressure between 110 and 130, the progression of kidney decay can be significantly delayed.

For patients with kidney disease, lifestyle choices like fasting during Ramadan or traveling require meticulous planning. Dr Mostafi explains that kidney problems are generally divided into five stages. Patients in Stages 1 and 2 can typically fast without issue. However, those in Stage 3 must consult their doctors to rearrange medications for Sehri and Iftar.

But even after all these, Dr Mostafi offers a message of hope: dialysis is not a death sentence. Most patients on dialysis do not die of kidney disease but of secondary complications like heart disease. With modern, subsidised dialysis, patients can regain their quality of life, return to work, and live for decades. The goal is to manage the “enemy” whether it be sugar or pressure and to keep the kidneys resting rather than exhausting them.

Balanced Nutrition for Renal Safety



PROF. DR MD. ABDUL MUQUEET
MBBS, MD (Nephrology)
Professor and Head of Nephrology
Ibn Sina Medical College

Screening is remarkably affordable. A urine test, glucose check, and blood pressure monitoring can cost less than 150 Taka, thus making it inexcusable to wait for symptoms. Beyond clinical tests, nutrition remains vital. Dr. Muqueet warns against starfruit, which contains a specific toxin that can cause acute renal failure within days.

The most perilous aspect of kidney disease is its stealthy progression. Professor Dr Md. Abdul Muqueet highlights a critical physiological timeline: up to age 25, a person's functional capacity (GFR) is typically between 90 and 120, but after that peak, it naturally decreases by 1ml every year. Because the kidneys are remarkably resilient, they do not exhibit obvious signs of “failure” until a massive amount of damage has already occurred.

A patient, or even an uninformed general practitioner, might see a result of 1.6 and assume it is “barely above normal.” A creatinine rise from 1.4 to 1.6 may seem minor, but it signals that 50% of kidney function is already lost. In reality, creatinine only begins to climb significantly once the kidney is already 50% damaged. This 0.2 difference is not a minor fluctuation; it is a siren song for urgent intervention. Never ignore slight increases in your lab results.

The gap in diagnosis is often widened by a lack of early referral. Many patients are only sent to nephrologists when their creatinine reaches 6 or 7, at which point dialysis is the only option.

While healthy kidneys can process most foods, the focus for the aging population must be on maintaining an alkaline environment through balanced, fresh, home-cooked meals while avoiding the chemicals found in processed deli meats.

Spotting Damage Before Symptoms Arise



PROF. DR NAZNEEN MAHMOOD
MBBS, MD (Nephrology), FRCP(Edin, UK), CCD(BIRDEM)
Professor and Head of Nephrology
Anwer Khan Modern Medical College and Hospital

A critical but overlooked issue is childhood hygiene habits. Parents often discourage children from using school washrooms because they are “dirty,” leading kids to hold their urine for hours. This habit causes chronic Urinary Tract Infections (UTIs) and creates a breeding ground for stones.

The most dangerous aspect of kidney disease is its invisibility. Professor Dr Nazneen Mahmood points out that symptoms rarely manifest until the eGFR (estimated Glomerular Filtration Rate) falls below 30. By then, the damage is severe. To counter this, she recommends the uACR (Urine Albumin-to-Creatinine Ratio) test, which detects protein leakage long before standard tests show trouble. This is vital for those with sudden high blood pressure in their 20s, which is a renal red flag in 90% of cases.

Dr Nazneen also stresses that patients with a family history of renal issues must be proactive, as kidney conditions are often hereditary, mirroring the genetic patterns of diabetes and hypertension.

She also addresses the rising epidemic of kidney stones among the youth. The primary culprit is chronic dehydration and the consumption of soft drinks, which many families mistakenly use as a substitute for water. A healthy adult needs 4 to 5 liters of water in the summer to maintain a healthy kidney. Furthermore, dietary habits involving high-uric acid foods such as excessive red meat, liver, and even certain vegetables like cauliflower and spinach. These must be moderated. While lentils are a daily staple, she advises that those with stones or chronic kidney disease should limit their intake. But “Moong Dal” can be the only occasional exception in order to prevent the accumulation of excess protein and uric acid.

Integrated Control of Chronic Risks



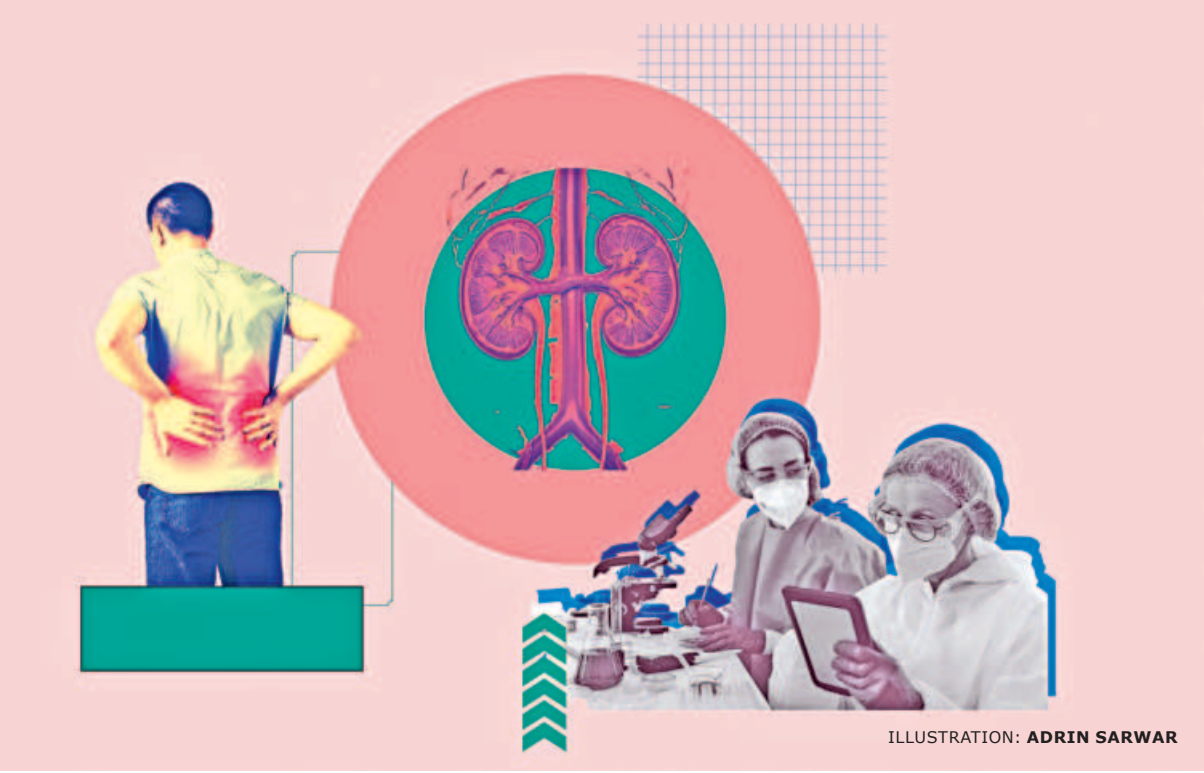
PROF. DR MD. NAZRUL ISLAM
MBBS, FCPS, MD (Nephrology)
Professor of Nephrology department
Bangladesh Medical University

Dr Islam advises to maintain an optimum body weight, as obesity significantly accelerates proteinuria (protein loss in urine). Simple exercises, such as 30 minutes of daily walking, are remarkably effective at balancing the kidney functions of patients who have both diabetes and high blood pressure.

Chronic kidney disease is often the final destination of unmanaged lifestyle diseases. Dr. Nazrul Islam explains that long-standing diabetes and hypertension cause the collapse of the nephron which is the kidney's functional unit. When more than 50% of the filtering structures, known as glomeruli, collapse, impairment becomes official.

Managing a kidney patient's health also requires careful navigation of supplements. While water-soluble vitamins like B and C are often needed for energy production, anemia management, and wound healing.

Quality of life remains a major focus. Dr. Islam notes that a diagnosis does not mean the end of normal activity. Patients with an eGFR above 30, roughly corresponding to a serum creatinine of 1.5 to 2.5 mg/dL, can safely fast during Ramadan, provided they monitor their creatinine levels and adjust fluid intake under a nephrologist's supervision. Even travel is possible; dialysis patients can fly long distances if they arrange treatments beforehand and manage blood pressure diligently, though those with underlying heart conditions should seek a cardiologist's opinion before long flights. By integrating dietary modifications such as reducing salt, sugar, and carbohydrates while increasing green leafy vegetables, patients can protect their renal health and maintain independence even while living with a chronic condition.



Silent signs of kidney stones

TAGABUN TAHARIM TITUN

Kidney stones are hard, solid masses made from minerals and salts. These form inside your kidneys when waste products in the urine build up. They can be as small as a grain of sand or grow as large as a pearl. According to Professor Brigadier General Dr Mamun Mostafi (Retd.) everyone is at risk. He explains that it is not true that only men get

these crystals grow into stones. Dr. Mostafi notes that people with certain genetic conditions or high levels of uric acid are more likely to have this problem. He warns that eating too many foods with high oxalate, such as spinach or starfruit, can make things worse. If the urine is diluted, crystals cannot form. But if you drink less water, those chemicals become concentrated and turn into stones.

He also notes that any evidence of blood in the urine should be investigated immediately. If the stone is small, you might pass it on your own by drinking lots of water and taking medicine.

TREATMENT
For larger stones, doctors choose specific surgeries. One is Shockwave Lithotripsy which uses sound waves to break stones. Another is Retrograde Intrarenal Surgery where a scope goes through natural paths. For very big stones, Percutaneous Nephrolithotomy requires a small cut in the back. Dr. Mostafi explains that the choice depends on the stone size and position. He notes that modern ways like laser surgery or laparoscopic surgery are common. However, open surgery remains an option to cut and bring the stone out.

Kidney stones are often painful but entirely manageable through early detection and healthy habits. Staying properly hydrated and following a balanced diet are your best tools for prevention. If symptoms occur, consult a urologist immediately to discuss advanced surgical options or oral treatments. Prioritising your kidney health today is the best way to ensure a pain-free and much healthier future.

CHECKLIST

- ✦ Drink atleast 2 to 3 litres of water every day
- ✦ Avoid soft drinks and eat less salt in meals.
- ✦ Exercise your body on a regular basis
- ✦ Limit high-uric acid foods such as cauliflower, lentils, tomatoes, beans.
- ✦ Avoid too much red meat and liver
- ✦ Maintain a proper body weight

them. He says that any male, female, or child can have this stone disease.

WHY THESE STONES FORM DAILY

Stones form when your urine has too many chemicals and not enough water. When you are dehydrated, these chemicals stick together and turn into crystals. Over time,

COMMON SIGNS TO WATCH FOR

Finding a stone early is very important. You might feel a sharp pain in your side or see blood in your urine. Some stones do not cause symptoms right away. However, Dr. Mostafi advises seeking medical attention if you have a history of pain in the soft side of your body.

বিশ্ব
কিডনি
দিবস ২০২৬

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A film isn't a race, you don't have to be 'first': RAIHAN RAFI



RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA

The ‘whistle’ seems to be blowing loud for Raihan Rafi as he gears up to present what could be one of the most experimental films of his career, with *Pressure Cooker*.

Since the trailer dropped, audiences have been raving about its striking colour-grading, breathtaking cinematography, and bold storytelling. For Rafi, the film is also a personal milestone — it marks the first time he has stepped in as a co-producer, adding a new layer to his creative journey.

After delivering a hat-trick of commercially successful films, the director is now exploring

new territory. With *Pressure Cooker*, he has set out to create a story that doesn't fit neatly into either the art-house or mainstream commercial category.

The trailer immediately caught attention with its unusual title: ‘Whistle’. For Rafi, the name is deeply symbolic. “The name connects both to a pressure cooker and to sound,” he said. The first whistle heard in the trailer was created entirely through sound editing, reflecting the chaotic rhythm of the city at the heart of the story.

“When you think of Dhaka, the first thing that comes to mind is sound—the streets, the traffic, the constant buzz. We tried to symbolically portray the city through that idea.”

The conversation turned to the film's female-led cast. While some might describe it as a “women-centric” film, Rafi is careful with the term. “I don't like calling it that. When you say a film is women-centric, it feels like you're diminishing the women. Do we call films about men ‘men-centric’?”

Pressure Cooker follows

a hyperlink narrative, weaving together multiple interconnected storylines. It also presents familiar actors in completely new avatars. Viewers will see different sides of Bubly and Nazifa Tushi, alongside new talents like Snigdha Chowdhury and Mariya Hossain Mehnati.

Preparing the cast took months of rehearsal and planning. Tushi, for instance, underwent extensive training to authentically portray a worker at a message parlour. “This isn't something you can just act out,” Rafi said. “She trained with professional beauticians to truly understand the work and environment.”

The production itself was ambitious. To create a realistic setting, the team built a full-scale parlour, so convincing that anyone entering it felt like they were stepping into a real establishment. “Anyone who entered the set felt like they were actually in a real parlour,” Rafi said.

Rafi continued. “*Pressure Cooker* is a film where I've mixed a r t a n d



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

commercial elements. You can't call it an art film, nor purely a commercial film—you can just call it a good film. That's what we should call it. You'll see Dhaka in this film; you'll recognise our city. Many filmmakers follow Tamil or Western cinema, but I want to make films for my own people, my own audience.”

Visual storytelling was particularly important for him. “If I had shot this in America, every frame would naturally look beautiful. But in Bangladesh, creating strong, beautiful cinematography is a challenge. The first shot is of our country's mustard fields, and I tried to layer a lot of story and depth into it—a child watching women in burqas, leading into the hidden, darker side of Dhaka inside a message parlour.”

Rafi described the trailer as a roller-coaster ride. “Through the spa centre and the sounds within it, the trailer tries to show the full feel of the film. The ride ends, and so does the trailer.”

He also reflected on the state of local cinema today. “People have grown bored seeing the same things over and over—the same fights, the same conflicts. That's what's trending now: violence, violence, violence. Meanwhile, our original films are losing their place.

Some people are already saying they're not interested after watching the trailer, but many others realise that this will actually be something different.”

“Even if the film gets termed ‘experimental’ on its budget, it can still recover. But if people like it, it will be a blockbuster. I believe the audience will enjoy it. A film isn't a race—you don't have to be first or second. A film is a director's philosophy, the hunger of his mind. I want to give my audience something new. If they like it, they'll say it's good; if not, they'll say it's bad. That's what cinema is.”

Bon Jovi biopic in development at Universal Pictures



A biographical film based on the iconic rock band Bon Jovi is currently in development at Universal Pictures. The studio secured the project after a competitive bidding process and will produce the film centred on the band behind hits such as *‘Livin’ on a Prayer, You Give Love a Bad Name, and It’s My Life’*.

The screenplay is being written by Cody Brotter. A director and cast have not yet been announced. Formed in 1983, Bon Jovi includes vocalist Jon Bon Jovi, keyboardist David Bryan and drummer Tico Torres. The band has been inducted into both the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and the Songwriters Hall of Fame. Producers include Kevin J Walsh and Gotham Chopra.

WHAT'S THE HAPS?

‘Art for Hope’

Young voices take colour and form at *Art for Hope*, a children's exhibition where artworks by girls and participants of resilience, imagination and possibility. Each piece reflects lived experience, turning small canvases into quiet declarations of courage, dignity and hope.



DATE: TODAY (THURSDAY) | MARCH 12, 2026
TIME: 3 PM – 8 PM
VENUE: ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DE DHAKA, DHANMONDI

NEWS

‘Take oath for Constitution Reform Council’

FROM PAGE 2
Jamaat-led 11-party electoral alliance were present at the meeting, which was chaired by the Jamaat ameer.

He said the meeting openly discussed what role the opposition MPs should play in fulfilling the expectations of the people ahead of the inaugural session of parliament.

“We want the Jatiya Sangsad to play an effective and meaningful role in meeting the expectations of the country and its people. We have already said that we want to play a responsible role as the opposition.”

According to him, the opposition's stance is neither to oppose for the sake of opposition nor to cooperate blindly. The opposition will support and cooperate with any positive decision made by the government for the welfare of the country.

However, if decisions that harm the country or its people are made, the opposition will first point out the mistakes, allow room for correction, and protest if necessary.

“If protest does not work, we will stand firm in defence of the people's rights. But we want problems to be resolved at the earliest stage.”

The Jamaat chief said many parliaments in Bangladesh's history could not complete their full terms. This parliament, he said, was formed following a long political struggle and

sacrifices.

“The movement of '24 took place through immense sacrifice and endurance. Many people lost their lives, many were injured, and many were imprisoned. In honour of those sacrifices, we must establish justice and a society free from discrimination.”

The Jamaat ameer added that his party accepted the outcomes of the parliamentary election and the reform-related referendum held on the same day in the greater interest of the country.

Urging the ruling party MPs to take oath of the “Constitutional Reform Council”, he said, “We call on them to honour July... Ignoring '24 will not bring any good news for the nation in 2026.”

He said his party would work to ensure what the people chose in the referendum and extend full cooperation to the government in this regard.

Responding to a question about the deputy speaker's post, Shahiur said the BNP had informally contacted them on the matter.

“We thank them for that. But we don't want anything in fragments. The July reform proposal should be fully implemented. That proposal states that one deputy speaker will come from the opposition,” he said.

At the briefing, the Jamaat ameer said the opposition wants to play its role in parliament through democratic

means and does not favour going to court unless absolutely necessary.

“We want problems to be resolved within parliament through discussion and debate. If the speaker gives adequate opportunity to all sides, the beauty of democracy will emerge, and a sustainable democratic system can be established.”

Earlier, while speaking to reporters in parliament, Jamaat Nayeb-e-Ameer Syed Abdullah Mohammed Taher described President Mohammed Shahabuddin as an “ally of authoritarianism”.

“We believe the president has no right to deliver a speech in parliament,” he said, adding, “Why the BNP is allowing him to speak is not clear to us. We have made some decisions on this issue, and you will know about them tomorrow [today].”

Regarding the issues discussed at the parliamentary committee meeting, Taher said some guidance had been given to the party's MPs about how they should act in parliament. “Since most of the MPs are new, we briefed them on parliamentary formalities, criteria, character, and language.”

Asked whether the opposition MPs decided to stage a walkout during the president's speech, a Jamaat MP, who attended the meeting, told The Daily Star, “We will not decide hastily on any matter.”

High chicken price hurting low-income families

FROM PAGE 2
president of the Bangladesh Poultry Association, a platform for marginal farmers.

This situation is harming both small farmers, who cannot get fair prices for their produce, and consumers, who face inflated costs, he added.

Egg production is not constant, as supply changes when farmers sell old hens or when young chickens mature and begin laying eggs, said Kazi Zahin Hasan, a director of Kazi Farms.

Consumer demand also fluctuates, with preferences shifting among foods. In winter, people spend more on seasonal vegetables and less on eggs.

The egg prices were low for months due to higher supply, while the recent increase may reflect lower production or rising demand, Hasan added.

But for day labourers like Sourav Mia, the sharp rise in chicken prices in just a week is a huge blow.

“I urge the government to make prompt intervention,” he said.

scenario. At this moment, there is also no plan for evacuation. We will take that step, if necessary,” he said.

He added that the embassy is in contact with Lebanese and international NGOs to help ensure access to food, water and medicine to the workers. “We are urging our people to contact us in any emergency.”

Neyamat Ullah Bhuiyan, senior secretary of the expatriates' welfare and overseas employment ministry, said the government is working to identify Bangladeshi workers stranded in conflict-hit areas abroad.

“Steps are being taken to determine the exact number of workers and to ensure food for them,” he said while speaking at a training event at the ministry yesterday.

He added that Bangladeshis currently in Bahrain cannot be brought back immediately because flights from Bahrain to Bangladesh remain suspended due to the ongoing Middle East crisis.

‘Careful what you say’

FROM PAGE 2
Among the initiatives he highlighted was the BNP's election pledge known as the “Family Card” programme, a social assistance scheme aimed at supporting poor households across the country.

“Our Family Card programme was criticised by many. But even before the ink on the voters' fingers faded, we started implementing our promise. This is BNP. This is the BNP people want to see,” Tarique told lawmakers at the meeting.

The programme would be rolled out in the near future. The government was also preparing to launch a nationwide canal excavation initiative aimed at improving water management.

Tarique also urged the ministers and lawmakers to take steps to improve public cleanliness as the country approaches the dengue season, a recurring health concern during the warmer months.

The prime minister also touched upon the July National Charter, a framework for political reforms that has drawn differing responses from various parties.

Some parties have submitted formal notes of dissent on parts of the charter, but the government would proceed with the sections that are considered implementable, he said.

A total of 133 ordinances were issued during the tenure of the interim government, and under the constitution, they must be placed before parliament at its first session, scheduled to start today.

During the meeting, Tarique also emphasised the importance of discipline within the cabinet, particularly among younger ministers.

While acknowledging the presence of many senior figures in the government, he said newer members of the cabinet must set an example by maintaining regular office hours.

“Younger ministers must reach the office by nine in the morning,” he said, according to attendees.

He also urged ministers to follow traffic rules while travelling to and from work, he said, adding that he himself observes those regulations.

Beyond administrative matters, Tarique called for austerity in daily life, warning that global economic pressures could affect Bangladesh in the coming months.

He pointed specifically to tensions

in the Middle East, including the situation involving Iran, the US and Israel, which could cause upheaval in the global economy.

The parliamentary meeting also addressed procedural matters inside the legislature.

Lawmakers agreed to assign Tarique as the leader of the House and the responsibility of selecting the new speaker and deputy speaker of parliament.

Hafiz Uddin Ahmad, the Liberation War Affairs minister, is being preferred for the post of speaker, The Daily Star has learnt from people involved with the deliberations.

For the post of deputy speaker, the party is considering Andaleve Rahman Partho, Muhammad Nawshad Zamir and Mahbub Uddin Khokon if the opposition declines the BNP's offer to take the position.

Mirza Fakhru'l Islam Alamgir, Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain and Salahuddin Ahmed are in the running for the position of deputy leader of the House.

The formal activities of this parliamentary session will begin with an opening or welcome speech by Tarique. In that speech, he will invite a senior BNP lawmaker to preside over the opening session as per rules given that the speaker and deputy speaker are unavailable. Then, the process of electing the new speaker and deputy speaker will be completed, said BNP Standing Committee Member Salahuddin.

The newly elected speaker and deputy speaker will take the oath before President Mohammed Shahabuddin.

The parliamentary sitting will then resume. During that sitting, the House is expected to elect members to the panel of chairpersons and form key parliamentary bodies, including the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) and other standing committees.

“This session is important and historic for national life — several historic decisions will be taken,” Salahuddin told journalists after the meeting.

The law minister will place several ordinances promulgated during the tenure of the interim government before the House.

President Shahabuddin will deliver a speech before the House. The BAC will determine the duration and agenda of the session.

Migrants' woes mount in war-hit Lebanon

FROM PAGE 1
stopped,” he told The Daily Star by phone from Dahi, a suburb of the Lebanese capital Beirut that has been under intense Israeli attack.

“Now I'm stuck here without work or money. I'm buying food on credit,” Ripon said, adding that five other Bangladeshis in his neighbourhood are facing the same situation.

On March 3, Israel's military began striking Hezbollah targets in Lebanon after the Iranian-backed Shia group launched rockets and drones at the Israeli city of Haifa to avenge the killing of Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Since then, Israeli forces have intensified and expanded their attacks. UN agencies report massive displacement across the region, along with soaring food and fuel prices that threaten to deepen hunger and suffering among the most vulnerable.

According to Unicef, the attacks have forced nearly 800,000 people — including around 200,000 children

— from their homes, in addition to tens of thousands already displaced in previous escalations.

Around 100,000 Bangladeshi migrant workers — men and women — are employed in Lebanon, according to sources.

Abdul Karim, president of the Lebanon Probashi Sramik Union, a group representing Bangladeshi migrants, said the latest fighting has already left an estimated 5,000 Bangladeshis in the country displaced and jobless.

“Every day, bombings target Hezbollah and Shia-dominated areas. Even civilian places where Shias live or move are also being targeted,” he said.

National and international NGOs are providing some assistance — food, medicine and shelter — but many people are still not receiving support, he added.

Karim said many migrants are fleeing their neighbourhoods for safer areas and staying away from work, while fear and uncertainty

are spreading through migrant communities.

Fatima Akhter, who works as a peon at a company, has not gone to work for the past five days after bombings destroyed many buildings nearby.

“Many people are sleeping on the streets, hungry,” she said.

“I would like to go home now and return to Lebanon when the situation stabilises,” Fatima added, noting that no one knows when the war will end.

Anwar Hossain, first secretary (labour) at the Bangladesh embassy in Lebanon, said they are using social media platforms such as Facebook and WhatsApp groups, along with community organisations, to urge migrants to move to safer locations.

“Our migrants who face risks are now living in groups and families in safer places. No Bangladeshi has been killed or injured so far,” he told this correspondent yesterday, adding that the embassy has not set up any shelter centres yet.

“We will do so in a worst-case

NEWS

Cost of housing, food mount on top

FROM PAGE 16
They are also being asked to pay Tk 4,000–5,000 per day for hotel accommodation and meals.

Unable to bear the mounting costs of the extended stay, many stranded passengers are approaching the Bangladesh Hajj Mission in Saudi Arabia for assistance.

Officials at the mission said they are contacting travel agencies and requesting them to provide tickets at lower prices.

Some passengers are also trying to return through alternative routes, including flying with IndiGo via Kolkata and then travelling onward to Dhaka or Chattogram.

Naimul Karim, a resident of Rangpur, said he had bought a ticket for a March 3 Air Arabia flight to return to Dhaka via Sharjah 560 riyals

(Tk 18,480). However, the flight was cancelled after the conflict erupted.

“I eventually paid 1,580 riyals [Tk 52,140], nearly three times the original price and secured a seat on a SalamAir flight,” he said.

Many Bangladeshi migrants and umrah pilgrims have faced similar hardship as most flights through Middle Eastern hubs remain suspended.

Abdur Razzak of Feni said he remained stranded in Makkah for six days before buying a new SalamAir ticket for Tk 62,000 to return home.

He had originally been scheduled to fly back on March 3, but the suspension of Air Arabia flights left him and 13 others stranded.

The disruption has also pushed up airfares on routes beyond the Middle East.

Airfare to destinations in Europe and North America has also increased by around 30 percent, Abdus Salam Aref, immediate past president of ATAB, told The Daily Star.

He said a one-way ticket from Dhaka to London now costs around Tk 90,708, compared with about Tk 65,000 during normal times. Fares to Rome and Toronto have also risen by Tk 40,000 to Tk 45,000.

Farid Ahmed Majumder, secretary general of HAAB, urged the government to arrange additional flights by Biman, Saudia and Flynas to bring back the stranded Bangladeshis from Saudi Arabia.

Contacted, Munshi Alauddin Al Azad, secretary of the religious affairs ministry, said the authorities were trying to address the problems when specific cases were reported.

Rana, Tanzid shine

FROM PAGE 16
Mohammad Wasim Junior in the 14th over after a 33-ball 27-run knock but Tanzid remained not out on 67 off 42 balls as Bangladesh reached 115 for two in 15.1 overs to go 1-0 up in the series.

It is Bangladesh's first win over Pakistan in this format since 2018. They reached home with 209 balls to spare, their third joint biggest win in terms of balls remaining.

Pakistan had earlier made a steady start through a 41-run opening stand between Sahibzada Farhan and Maaz Sadaqat -- two of the four Pakistani debutants in the match -- before Rana triggered a dramatic collapse.

He broke the partnership on the final ball of the first Powerplay when Farhan (27) edged to point, where Afif Hossain took a regulatory catch.

Another debutant, Shamyil Hussain, became Rana's second victim after top-edging a short delivery to wicketkeeper Litton for four. Hussain had earlier been dropped on two by Tanzid at long-on. Sadaqat then departed for 18

before Rana dismissed Mohammad Rizwan (10) and Salman Ali Agha (5) in quick succession to complete his maiden ODI fifer and became only the second Bangladeshi bowler to take a five-wicket haul against Pakistan in this format after Mustafizur Rahman in the 2019 World Cup.

The 23-year-old had previously played five ODIs and had taken five wickets in total. His previous appearance in the format had come against Afghanistan in Abu Dhabi in last year's October.

Skipper Mehidy Hasan Miraz (3-29) then tightened Bangladesh's grip by removing debutant Abdul Samad (0), Hussain Talat (4), and Shaheen Shah Afridi (4) in quick succession. Taskin Ahmed also dismissed Mohammad Wasim Jr (0) as Pakistan slumped to 82 for nine and looked destined to be bowled out for under 100.

However, Faheem Ashraf struck 37 off 47 balls to push the total past the 100-run mark before Mustafizur Rahman dismissed him in the 31st over. The second match of the series will be held at the same venue on Friday.

No legal bar to journo Anis

FROM PAGE 16
Tk 4.25 crore, while his net assets declared in his latest income tax return amount to Tk 57.99 lakh. Investigators allege that he amassed nearly Tk 3.68 crore beyond known sources of income and concealed the information in his wealth statement.

On December 14 last year, Anis was picked up from a gym in Dhaka's Dhanmondi and taken to the Detective Branch office on Minto Road.

The following day, Arian Ahmed, a central organiser of the July Revolutionary Alliance, filed a case with Uttara West Police Station against Anis along with actress Meher Afroz Shaon, Maria Kispotta and Imtu Ratish under the Anti-Terrorism Act, 2009.

On March 5 this year, a High Court bench granted him bail in that case.

Anis previously worked at several media outlets in both print and electronic media and was known for his active presence on television talk shows before his arrest.

Dhaka freezes plan to join Haiti peacekeeping

FROM PAGE 16
Madeline Diorio, stabilization officer at the US Department of State, acknowledging Bangladesh's correspondence accepting the stated deployment of the GSF.

“The Standing Group of Partners (SGP) looks forward to working together to ensure a timely deployment,” Diorio wrote, noting that the SGP is working with the Government of Haiti and the UN Support Office in Haiti (UNSOH) to transmit pledge acceptances and initiate the Status of Personnel Agreement (SPA) process and other preparatory steps.

However, the communication clarified that countries listed as alternate contingents are not being requested to prepare for deployment at this stage.

It added that if the primary country selected to fulfil the mission requirements fails to do so, Bangladesh's pledge could then be accepted, and preparations for deployment would begin.

SCHEDULE TO DEPLOY FROM APRIL

This correspondent obtained a copy of a letter, prepared on January 28 by the armed forces division, outlining the potential deployment structure sought by the US Embassy in Dhaka

as part of the preparation process.

According to the document, the proposed Bangladesh Army contribution included three engineer companies, totalling 420 personnel, comprising one combat engineer company with an explosive ordnance disposal platoon and two multi-role construction companies.

The plan also included two multi-role logistics companies with 280 personnel, one military intelligence company with 125 personnel, and one signal company with 75 personnel.

In addition, the proposal considered the deployment of two small maritime detachments from the Bangladesh Navy, involving 200 personnel and 12 small boats.

For law enforcement support, the plan included three police companies under a Formed Police Unit, with 175 personnel in each company, totalling 525 police members.

The document noted that the first police company could potentially deploy in April, followed by another in May, while the third company would not be deployable for an additional six to eight months.

It also mentioned that one Bangladesh Army military police company could be ready to deploy in April, while the possibility of

deploying three military police companies in May could be considered if required.

However, officials said Bangladesh has now decided not to proceed with deployment at this time in view of the prevailing global circumstances.

Contacted, a high official at the Police Headquarters, requesting anonymity, told The Daily Star police authorities have, in the meantime, completed necessary preparation and training for the deployment of 525 police members for the mission.

3 civilians killed

FROM PAGE 16
artillery” along the border, causing civilian casualties. Two civilians were also injured in the eastern province of Khost on Tuesday, the spokesman added.

According to a report by the United Nations mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), 56 civilians have been killed in Afghanistan, including 24 children, by Pakistani military operations between February 26 and March 5.

About 115,000 people were forced to leave their homes, according to the UN refugee agency.

Govt moves to ensure power

FROM PAGE 16
both divisions of the ministry.

The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) and the hospital wing of the Health Services Division have been instructed to jointly prepare a risk-mitigation action plan within the next week.

Hospitals have also been asked to conserve electricity by disconnecting one of the two power phases while keeping the other operational.

In addition, meetings with heads

of directorates, offices and divisional health institutions will be held online to reduce power consumption.

The authorities have also been asked to explore alternative countries for sourcing Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs), which are essential for producing medicines.

Khorshed Alam, additional secretary (hospital wing) of the Health Services Division, said the meeting was held to determine how the sector could cope with a possible crisis while

Dhaka seeks US waiver to buy Russian oil

FROM PAGE 1
buy Russian oil -- we have said that if such an opportunity is available for India, Bangladesh should also receive it,” Finance and Planning Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury told reporters at his office after a meeting with US Ambassador Brent T Christensen.

The request will be conveyed to Washington, DC, he said.

Earlier in 2022, Bangladesh tried purchasing Russian crude but abandoned the plan after it was discovered that the country's lone refinery, Eastern Refinery, is not configured to process Urals.

Eastern Refinery is configured to process oils from the Middle East, which are comparatively lighter than the Russian Urals.

In December last year, a Tk 35,465 crore project was approved to modernise and expand the capacity of Eastern Refinery to process a wide range of crude oil, including the Russian Urals.

Khosru said the government is preparing for multiple scenarios to keep a steady energy supply.

“We are considering what will happen if the war is short-term, medium-term or long-term. These scenarios are under consideration and we will work accordingly,” he said, while emphasising the need for support from all international partners.

Bangladesh is seeking international cooperation to bolster its energy sector, The Daily Star has learnt from people involved with the proceedings.

In a meeting yesterday with Indian High Commissioner Pranay Verma, Energy Minister Iqbal Hassan Mahmood Tuku formally asked the neighbouring country to increase the volume of fuel supply.

India is considering Bangladesh's request for additional fuel supplies, Pranay told reporters after the meeting.

“Energy connectivity has become a strong pillar of economic cooperation

between our two countries. Cross-border power transmission and the fuel pipeline are important aspects of our economic cooperation,” he said, referring to projects like the Bangladesh-India Friendship Pipeline.

Bangladesh has also sought cooperation from China to strengthen its energy sector amid global uncertainties.

Meanwhile, long queues at fuel stations are gradually easing. Visits to six pumps in Dhaka yesterday revealed shorter lines compared with last week.

The government has raised fuel supply in divisional cities by 10 percentage points to meet public demand amid the crisis. Instead of reducing the supply of octane and petrol in divisional cities by 25 percent from the average sales, it will now be reduced to 15 percent, and fuel will be supplied to filling stations according to the allocation chart, said the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation in a statement.

Depot superintendents, sales officials and dealers have been instructed to ensure proper distribution of the reduced allocation.

However, concerns remain among fuel sellers.

The Bangladesh Petroleum Dealers, Distributors, Agents, and Petrol Pump Owners Association has demanded the deployment of army personnel alongside police at filling stations to ensure security, warning that pumps may be forced to shut down if effective measures are not taken.

Speaking at a press conference in Dhaka, the association's President Mohammad Nazmul Haque criticised conflicting government statements that have eroded public confidence and triggered panic buying.

“As a result, people have been flocking to filling stations day and night to buy fuel.”

He urged the government to restore normal allocations quickly, particularly for octane and petrol,

saving energy.

He said instructions had already been issued to follow the Cabinet Division's directives on energy conservation.

Replying to a question, he said the ministry had decided to send a letter to the Energy and Mineral Resources Division requesting uninterrupted electricity supply to health facilities.

“But we haven't sent the letter yet. The situation seems better today. We will send it considering the situation,” he told The Daily Star yesterday.

to avoid a severe crisis during the upcoming Eid travel rush.

In addition to security deployment, the association outlined seven other demands, including ensuring equal fuel supply for all motorcycles, halting mobile court drives and imposing strict punishment for illegal stockpiling.

The Bangladesh Bank has also issued directives urging banks to take precautionary measures to reduce electricity and fuel consumption in their offices.

The central bank called for strict energy-saving measures at head offices, branches and sub-branches.

UAE president pens poem for defenders

AFP, Abu Dhabi

The UAE President wrote a patriotic poem that was performed by the national orchestra, state media said yesterday, as his country faced the attacks unleashed by Iran after US-Israeli strikes.

“The UAE National Orchestra has released a special musical tribute, titled ‘Men, by God, Truly Men’, featuring the poem ‘Rijal Wallah Rijal’ written by President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, honouring those who dedicate themselves to protecting the nation,” WAM said.

WAM shared a video of the performance, which kicked off with a recent interview in which Sheikh Mohamed said the UAE had “thick skin and bitter flesh. We are no easy prey”.

Men dressed in dark kanduras, the traditional dress for men in the Gulf, and white headresses, then went on to sing, accompanied by an orchestra that included foreigners as well as women.

The footage was interspersed with shots of fighter jets.



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বিদ্যুৎ ব্যবহারে সশ্রমী হোন

Memo No: 27.29.0000.082.011.12.26.496Date: 11/03/2026

Re-circular of Job Opportunity

1.0 Brief introduction to the Company
Northern Electricity Supply PLC (NESCO) is a State-Owned Company (SOC), responsible for distributing electricity across the distinctive parts of Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions, encompassing 16 districts. Established in August 2005 and commencing commercial operations since October 2016, NESCO has significantly contributed to the region's power distribution, ensuring reliable & uninterrupted electricity supply to its customers. Now, NESCO invites applications from eligible candidates from the bona fide citizens of Bangladesh for immediate appointment for the following post on a contractual basis:

Sl.	Name of the Post	NESCO Pay Grade	Basic Salary	No. of Post	Age
01	Executive Director (Finance)	Grade-II	Tk. 1,49,000/-	01	Between 45-60 years of age as on 22/10/2025

2.0 Job Description
The Executive Director (Finance) is the Chief Finance Officer of the Company reporting to the Managing Director. It is a strategic level post. The incumbent shall act as a member of the management team of the Company to assist the Managing Director for overall financial management, ensuring compliances of laws, rules and regulations for good governance including development of setup, systems and financial functions of the organization. He/She should formulate business strategies and financial plans that reflect the long-term corporate goals and priorities established by the company. He/She should implement Financial Module under Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) particularly with emphasis on software-based accounting system for all Regional Account Offices (RAOs). He/She should prepare annual budget and revised budget considering income, expenditure, load and consumer growth, investment possibilities as well as other relevant financial matters; Identify multiple sources of investment opportunities, making comparative statement of their advantages and disadvantages; Identify possible sources of increasing non-operating income and taking appropriate measures to that end; Prepare bi-monthly, quarterly, half-yearly, yearly accounts and cumulative accounts in comparison with similar accounts of preceding year and reporting to competent authority. He/She should supervise collection of online bill, new connection application fees, consumer security deposit, disconnection & reconnection fees and estimate money through all banks with the help of ICT department and other relative means. He/She should endeavor to raise capital from the Capital Markets if required.

3.0 Educational Qualification and Requirements
a. At least MBA/MCom in Finance/Accounting from any recognized university. Professional qualification such as ACA/ACMA will be counted as an added advantage;
b. Candidates passed in the grading system must possess at least CGPA 3.5 on a scale of 5.0 and CGPA 2.5 on a scale of 4.0. Candidates passed in the conventional system (Class/Division) must possess at least 2nd class/division. No third Division/Class at any stage of the academic career shall be acceptable;
c. In case of Public Sector (GoB/SOE's/ Autonomous Bodies), the candidate should have at least 18 years of experience of which at least 3 years in a senior management position (National Pay Scales substantive grade 4 & above);
d. In case of State-owned companies (SOCs), the candidate should have at least 18 years of experience, of which at least 3 years in a senior management position (DGM or equivalent & above);
e. In case of private sector, the candidate should have at least 18 years of experience, of which 3 years in senior management/leadership position in well reputed organization(s) in power sector. Moreover, the candidate's experience certificate must include detailed job responsibilities authorized by competent authority;
f. Must be able to demonstrate knowledge about relevant Govt. rules & regulations, PPA and PPR, etc.
g. Must be able to demonstrate knowledge in business laws, labor law, Tax/VAT Laws, Total Quality Management (TQM), Total Productive Management (TPM), Corporate Governance, Strategic Management, etc;
h. Must demonstrate strong participatory leadership ability and possess adequate knowledge in corporate Management;
i. Able to express information, in both English and Bangla, to individuals or groups effectively; make clear and convincing presentations, write concisely, and convincingly for the intended audience;
j. Strong business acumen with a deep understanding of financial management, Procurement, strategic planning, and operational management.
k. Excellent Negotiation skills with government agencies, development partners and private investors will be an advantage.

4.0 Age
Minimum: 45 years, Maximum: 60 years as on 22/10/2025.

5.0 Tenure of Appointment
The initial contract will be for 3 years subject to the maximum age limit of 65 years. It can be extended for two more terms of 3 years subject to the maximum age limit of 65 years in case of competent candidate.

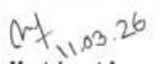
6.0 Salary and Allowances
Basic pay Tk. 1,49,000/- (One lac forty-nine thousand) only per month plus house rent 40% of basic pay, 2 (two) festival bonus, Boishakhi allowance (20% of basic) per year, gratuity, contributory provident fund, group insurance, leave encashment, reimbursement of medical expenses and other fringe benefits will be admissible as per provisions of the company. He/She will also be entitled to a full-time transport with fuel and driver. Income tax shall be paid by the incumbent.

7.0 Submission of Application
i) Interested candidates are requested to apply only through the 'Online Application Form' where in a scanned recent photograph, signature, NID, all academic certificates, transcripts and relevant experience certificates (Mentioning detailed job responsibilities authorized by competent authority for each position with duration of service) must be duly uploaded.
ii) Candidates still serving in GoB/SOE's/Autonomous bodies/SOC's must upload one additional document i.e., NOC from the Authority.
iii) The online application form will be available in NESCO career site <https://career.nesco.gov.bd>. Before filling up the application form please read the instructions carefully which will be available in the career section of NESCO website (<https://nesco.gov.bd>) along with notice section of career site (<https://career.nesco.gov.bd>). Online Application should be submitted from 12/03/2026 (9.00am) to 16/04/2026 (upto 5.00pm). Required updated information about this recruitment will be available in NESCO website and NESCO career site. Candidates are requested to collect relevant information about this recruitment from NESCO website and NESCO career site.

8.0 Please note that only short-listed candidates will be called for interview/recruitment test. Candidates applied for the post shall have to pay Tk.2000/- (Two Thousand) for submitting this application. No TA/DA will be given for participating in the interviews.

9.0 Candidates those who have applied earlier with reference to the Circular No. 27.29.0000.082.011.11.25.312 dated on 20/10/2025 and 27.29.0000.082.011.11.25.261 dated on 26/11/2025 needn't apply further.

10.0 The NESCO authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the applications without assigning any reasons whatsoever.



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GD-573

Family Card launch a positive start

Govt must not allow partisan influence, scammers to undermine its impact

We laud the pilot launch of the BNP government’s promised Family Card programme within less than a month of assuming office, even before the first session of parliament. During the first phase of the pilot between March and June this year, 37,567 women-headed households in 14 upazilas across the country, including several urban slums, will receive Tk 2,500 in their bank accounts or mobile wallets. A part of BNP’s election manifesto, this initiative aims to gradually bring two crore families under the social safety net programme and turn the card into a universal social identity instrument by 2030, with a plan to allocate three percent of GDP for social security by 2028. So far, the launch of the pilot phase—from household selection to data verification—has been positive, without any major complaints. However, the government must be vigilant about partisan influence and scammers that could undermine this initiative.

This daily has found at least 31 Facebook pages and groups that are phishing for users’ personal data by using deepfake videos of the prime minister and his family members in which they appear to offer Family Cards or cash rewards. What is concerning is that some of these videos have been shared many times, and social media users have left their bKash numbers and even addresses in the comment sections of some of these videos. Not all are harvesting personal data, however; some pages are uploading and sharing these deepfake videos only to increase followers rapidly and subsequently sell their pages, as revealed by fact-checking organisation Dismislab. Whatever the case may be, cybercrime units must identify these pages and take necessary action before more people fall prey to these scammers. At the same time, the government must run countrywide awareness campaigns to educate people about the selection and cash disbursement process under Family Cards, and make them aware of social media scams.

As for partisan influence, we have seen in the past how such influences led to huge inclusion and exclusion errors in social safety net programmes. That is why experts suggest incorporating a strong grievance and appeals mechanism as well as routine recertification into the Family Card programme. Also, a single dynamic registry used across ministries can mitigate the problem of “double-dipping.” The government should also be cautious about merging all social safety net programmes as the Family Card may not necessarily fulfil the goals of some specific programmes.

While targeting women-headed households at the pilot phase has been a good decision, once the fully fledged programme is launched, the government should allow for more flexibility and also take into account gender diversity in the selection process. Above all, the BNP leadership must remain steadfast about the proper functioning of this initiative and not allow corruption to seep into this programme, like we have seen in the past.

Educational governance must not regress

Don’t relax qualifications for chairpersons of governing bodies

We are concerned by recent discussions about relaxing the educational qualifications for chairpersons of the managing committees and governing bodies of private educational institutions. The Ministry of Education is reportedly considering lowering the requirement for chairpersons of these committees to hold at least a bachelor’s degree, with some proposals even suggesting the complete removal of formal qualifications. This has raised serious concerns among education experts about the impact this change may have on the quality of education.

We have nearly 35,000 private institutions functioning at the secondary and college levels. They are governed by managing committees and governing bodies, which oversee almost all administrative and operational tasks—from fund collection and teacher appointments to payroll approval, budget management, and the maintenance of school assets. Chairpersons of these bodies are expected to lead effectively, ensuring that schools provide quality education and sound management.

In the past, no formal educational qualification was required to become the chairperson of a private educational institution’s managing committee. However, in May 2024, regulations mandated at least a higher secondary certificate for chairpersons. This requirement was later raised to include bachelor’s or master’s degrees, depending on the level of the institution. These changes were intended to improve leadership and uphold educational standards. Relaxing these requirements now risks reversing progress and undermining governance at a time when the sector is already struggling to maintain quality. This also raises a crucial question of whether the proposed relaxation intends to allow politically affiliated individuals to occupy these positions.

Our education system has long suffered from policy gaps and a lack of consistent reforms. Although various commissions were formed during the interim government’s tenure to drive reforms across various sectors, the education sector was overlooked. Furthermore, low investment has left both public and private institutions struggling to meet even basic educational standards. Therefore, the government must avoid decisions that could prove detrimental to the sector in the long run.

It must prioritise genuine reforms in the education sector, protecting it from political influence, and ensure that qualified and capable individuals fill leadership positions. Any decision that lowers standards would be deeply damaging to the sector. Instead, the focus should be on strengthening governance, providing leadership training, and enabling private institutions to deliver quality education. We hope the government will refrain from taking a decision that undermines the standards of our education system.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Mahatma Gandhi begins Salt March

On this day in 1930, Mahatma Gandhi, leader of the Indian independence movement, began the Salt March, a non-violent protest against British rule that brought him international attention.

A youth-quake Jatiya Sangsad must break with the past



Kamal Ahmed is consulting editor at The Daily Star. He led the Media Reform Commission under the immediate past interim government. His X handle is @ahmedkai.

KAMAL AHMED

The 13th Jatiya Sangsad, which goes into its maiden session today, is in many ways a first for the country. Installed through a historic transition following an uprising that toppled the longest-running autocracy in Bangladesh, it brings about a generational shift in the political guard. Both the prime minister and the leader of the opposition, each in their sixties, are first-time parliamentarians. Two-thirds of the newly elected MPs, responsible for shaping the nation’s future, are also first-timers. In fact, a majority of MPs from both the ruling party and the opposition are newcomers to parliamentary affairs.

In a sense, this is a credit to the youthquake of 2024, which has infused fresh blood into Bangladesh’s parliamentary democracy. The entry of six parliamentarians from the year-old National Citizen Party (NCP) is also significant, as its leadership is entirely a product of the student-led uprising. There has been debate about the party’s electoral alliance with Jamaat-e-Islami, which some argue greatly benefitted NCP through Jamaat’s well-established membership base, strong financial resources, and highly organised political machinery. Conversely, the fledgling party also suffered setbacks as several prominent figures—women leaders in particular—deserted it over the alliance, citing Jamaat’s historical opposition to Bangladesh’s war of independence. It may still be too early to judge how much popular support NCP has consolidated, but its six MPs will undoubtedly attract considerable public attention.

Fresh blood brings fresh hope. Understandably, people have high expectations of this Jatiya Sangsad. The new MPs may lack familiarity with procedural complexities, parliamentary jargon, and legislative culture. But their vision of fairness in governance and their commitment to accountability, human rights, the rule of law, and the reduction of socio-economic disparities offer hope for a fresh start.

In the absence of veterans—or at least experienced hands in parliamentary business—some may wonder what differences we can realistically expect. One certainty is that enacting the July National Charter will be the most contentious issue in the early days of this parliament. The ruling BNP MPs have yet to take the second oath as



VISUAL: ANWAR SOHEL

members of the proposed Constitution Reform Assembly, while opposition MPs have already done so. The July charter requires MPs to assume the role of members of a constituent assembly, alongside their parliamentary duties, to carry out constitutional reforms pledged by the parties that signed the charter. BNP, however, insists that the constitution requires parliament first to approve the idea of assuming this concurrent role. Only after such approval, they argue, would MPs be required to take the second oath.

The nature of the debate on this procedural issue may offer early clues about what lies ahead for the 13th Jatiya Sangsad. Politics may become interesting again—no longer confined to the corridors of power that ultimately enabled autocracy. The Jamaat chief’s pledge to play “a responsible and constructive role” as the opposition is precisely what the country needs, instead of repeated threats of street agitation without exhausting parliamentary avenues.

Bangladesh’s parliamentary experience is relatively short, and MPs often drift from their legislative role into administrative authority to such an extent that many view their constituencies as “MP-raj,” or personal kingdoms. Some first-time MPs may still harbour misconceptions about their responsibilities. On February 26,

for instance, the well-known Islamic speaker-turned-politician Amir Hamza, now an MP, was heard declaring: “There is no higher authority in Kushtia now; I am the authority.” There may well be other similar instances and assertions from across the political aisle that have not come to public notice, but such attitudes to power should not become a feature of our new beginning.

Westminster Code of Conduct for MPs. In Britain, the push for such standards gained momentum after the 1994 “cash-for-questions” scandal, which led to the resignation of Conservative MPs Neil Hamilton and Tim Smith. Both had accepted cash in brown envelopes from Mohamed Al-Fayed, the then owner of the famous Harrods department store, who was later posthumously disgraced

The 2024 uprising was not only against autocracy; it was also a revolt against cronyism and kleptocracy. It rejected a system rigged for the benefit of those in power and riddled with conflicts of interest. Questioning impropriety was discouraged, and accountability became a forgotten word. Ministers and MPs routinely shaped policies and rules that advanced their own business interests without declaring personal stakes. Such practices must never return.

In this connection, one may recall how Mir Ahmad Bin Quasem Arman, a newly elected lawmaker from Jamaat, had expressed interest in bringing fresh investment into the troubled mobile financial services provider Nagad, currently under an administrator appointed by Bangladesh Bank. Reports suggested his interaction with the then central bank governor days before the February 12 election, where he described himself as a coordinator for certain foreign investors. Now that he is an MP, any such association with prospective investors should cease immediately. His constituents elected him not to lobby for specific business deals or advance personal interests, but to represent them in shaping laws and policies.

The 13th Jatiya Sangsad should codify a clear code of conduct for its members based on ethical principles and aligned with global best practices, such as the

over allegations of sexual abuse.

The Committee on Standards in Public Life, established after that scandal, has revised the code over time, and its latest version further tightens lobbying rules. MPs are now prohibited from initiating or participating in proceedings or approaches to ministers, other MPs, or officials that seek material benefits for clients who have paid or rewarded them within the previous 12 months. The rules also require MPs undertaking outside work to have a written contract explicitly stating that they cannot lobby on behalf of their employer or provide paid parliamentary advice and that the employer cannot request such services.

Among many other restrictions and obligations, one particularly important provision requires ministers to register with the House all benefits received in their ministerial capacity. This ensures that the public can access complete and timely information about a member’s financial interests in one place. Failure to comply with these rules may result in suspension from the House for varying durations, or even expulsion.

Those who play with numbers often describe 13 as “lucky for some.” But many also regard it as ominous. We must ensure that the 13th Jatiya Sangsad proves lucky for Bangladesh, setting the country firmly on a new path of democratic revival.

Washington’s Iran gamble is already backfiring



Md Kawsar Uddin is associate professor in the Department of English and Modern Languages, at the International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT).

MD KAWSAR UDDIN

There is something deeply revealing about the way Washington has been speaking about this war. The language has been triumphant, the tone self-congratulatory, and the assessments divorced from reality. Oil refineries bombed, missile launchers taken out, the Iranian navy declared finished and yet, nearly two weeks in, the Strait of Hormuz remains closed, oil is trading at nearly \$120 a barrel, and the regime in Tehran has not only survived but appears to be consolidating around the crisis.

This was never going to be the quick, clean victory that was advertised. The core problem is simple: the US went to war against a country it did not fully understand.

The thinking in Washington went something like this: hit Iran hard enough, destroy enough of its infrastructure, and moderates will emerge from the rubble ready to cut a deal. Iran would pivot away from Russia and China, oil would flow freely again, and the region would reshape itself in the US’ favour. Some policymakers argued that sustained military pressure was the only remaining

lever to prevent long-term nuclear escalation. But the execution so far has revealed a fundamental misreading of what Iran actually is.

Iran is a civilisational state with institutional depth, a security apparatus that shows no signs of internal fracture, and a population that, whatever its feelings about the clerical regime, does not want to see the country dismembered by foreign powers. Persians are roughly half the population, but the Baluch, the Azeris, the Kurds, and every major ethnic group harbours a fierce attachment to Iranian statehood. When you bomb a nation, you don’t fracture it. Often, you fuse it.

The choice of the new supreme leader signals the direction of travel. This is not a regime scrambling for an exit but one that has decided to dig in.

Consider what the US’ war has actually accomplished against its three stated objectives. Iran’s nuclear programme was largely dismantled in last year’s conflict, and that remains the one genuine strategic achievement. But the ballistic missile and drone programme has been damaged, not

destroyed, and according to regional military analysts, Iran still retains significant capacity. The network of proxies, including forces in Lebanon, Gaza, and Yemen, will not collapse because of airstrikes on Tehran. These are organisations with their own roots, their own grievances, and their own local logic entirely separate from decisions made in Iranian ministries.

Iran could not win a conventional fight against the US’ airpower. Nobody expected it to. What it needed instead was to make the war economically unbearable, and towards that objective it has made more progress than Washington is comfortable admitting. Closing the Strait of Hormuz, through which roughly a fifth of globally traded oil passes, was a calculated message: this is what the world economy looks like when Iran decides to create a problem. Stock markets will feel it. Fuel prices will feel it. And voters in the US, historically sensitive to the price of fuel at the pump, will feel it most strongly. That is the strategy Iran chose, and it is one where US military superiority is largely irrelevant.

The Gulf states present another complication that Washington seems to have underestimated. Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain, and Qatar worked carefully to signal neutrality before the conflict began. They made it clear that US bases on their territory would not be used to attack Iran. But those have been utilised anyway. Yet none of these states ostensibly want a regime change in Iran. What they want is containment, because they

understand better than most what a collapsed Iranian state actually means: a nation of 92 million people descending into civil war, with refugee flows and spillover instability across an already fragile region. A failed Iranian state would be catastrophic in ways that a hostile Iranian state is not.

The human cost on the Iranian side is severe. Nearly 1,500 civilians have been killed, and the infrastructure damage will require reconstruction measured in many billions of dollars. The Iranian people are paying an enormous price for a regime most of them did not choose. And yet, the war has given that regime exactly what authoritarian governments prize most in moments of crisis: a foreign enemy, a nationalist cause, and a reason for the opposition to stay quiet.

There will be an off-ramp eventually. The triumphalist language from Washington has already begun softening at the edges. What was once framed as regime change may quietly become “Iran has no nuclear weapons,” which is a condition that was arguably the case before any of this began. Victories will be declared and the complexity will be smoothed over in the telling.

But the underlying reality will remain. The regime survived. It hardened. And the lesson every adversary is drawing from this is straightforward: make the war economically painful enough, hold your institutional ground, and wait the US out. That is not a story the United States should want to keep telling.

‘The energy crisis is not in our control, but our response is’

Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem, research director at the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), speaks with Naznin Tithi of The Daily Star about how the government should respond to the ongoing global energy crisis affecting Bangladesh, its rationing plans, and what additional steps it can take to address the situation.

The energy crisis caused by the US-Israel war against Iran has already hit Bangladesh. We have witnessed a spike in panic buying. Some have called for priority-based distribution among industries. The government, meanwhile, has assured that it holds sufficient fuel reserves but rationing still continues. How do you view this situation?

The global energy supply chain is facing disruptions due to the crisis in the Strait of Hormuz, resulting in a significant level of supply uncertainty. In this situation, even paying higher prices does not necessarily guarantee access to fuel, prompting countries to seek alternative sources of energy imports. Being an import-dependent country, Bangladesh has introduced rationing measures to extend the use of its current stock of fuels. This is a crisis management strategy. There is indeed a supply shortage in the market; the usual level of fuel supply cannot be ensured at present. The aim is to ensure that all sectors receive at least some fuel, even if in smaller quantities. Energy is a fundamental input in nearly all forms of economic activity. When supply is restricted, it inevitably has a negative impact across sectors. Right now, this is the reality we face. We should not expect normal conditions during this period. The government is working to distribute the limited supply across sectors, prioritising certain areas where necessary and making adjustments to manage the situation as effectively as possible.

Do you think the government is adequately addressing the situation, i.e. with rationing and price control? The course of the war is shifting almost daily, making it uncertain as to how long the conflict will continue. In my view, prolonging the war offers little gain for either side. Just as Iran is unlikely to achieve significant benefits by extending the war, so are the United States

and Israel. Nevertheless, the government must plan its strategies according to the scale of the crisis. Initially, it introduced rationing but simultaneously sought to secure energy from alternative sources. For example, two contracts were finalised for LNG import at more than double the usual prices, which was a logical and necessary decision under the circumstances. At this stage, spot purchases to manage the crisis are reasonable, even if they come at a higher cost. Likewise, refined petroleum can be sourced from neighbouring or Southeast Asian countries, and China has also offered cooperation. These initiatives demonstrate proactive government action, and in my assessment, the efforts have so far been positive.

It is important, however, that short-term crisis management is not conflated with long-term strategic planning. Some have suggested creating a strategic reserve and investing in it. I do not believe this should be based on fossil fuels.

If domestic gas exploration in the Bay of Bengal—which previous governments neglected—had been pursued, the country would be in a stronger position to manage this situation. For example, rather than relying on diesel-powered irrigation for the upcoming Boro cultivation, it would have been better to expand renewable energy-based or solar-powered irrigation. Currently, we have around 13 lakh irrigation pumps, of which only about 13,000 are equipped with solar panels. Expanding this number could have significantly reduced diesel demand. Similarly, a gradual transition to battery-operated vehicles would increase electricity demand but reduce the need for diesel and petrol.

Strategically, long-term objectives must not be sacrificed for short-term demands. This is crucial. The government should continue following a rolling plan—monitoring daily developments, assessing changes, and adjusting initiatives accordingly. In my view,



PHOTO: COURTESY
Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem

the government’s rolling plan has so far been largely on track. Unfortunately, people tend to be highly susceptible to rumours and have limited trust in official data. This increases the tendency towards hoarding. The reality, however, is that operations must continue with limited supply, and normal economic activity cannot be fully maintained. This is a reality that all consumers must understand.

Given the concerns surrounding rationing and priority-based distribution, who do you think should be prioritised? Determining who should be given priority is a highly sensitive issue, particularly when it comes to fuel supply. However, it is clear that industries should be included on the priority

list. This is because they are connected with production, employment, exports, foreign currency earnings, and the balance of payments. So industries, especially the export-oriented one, must be a priority. In addition to small- and medium-sized industries, a large number of motorbike riders depend on fuel for their livelihoods, who should also be considered carefully. Public transport should be given higher priority, while large vehicles—whether government-owned or privately operated—should be given lower priority. Priority should go to those engaged in production-related work in factories, whose income relies on fuel and whose livelihoods are closely tied to fuel-dependent activities.

It is somewhat reassuring for the government that diesel demand remains low at present, as Boro irrigation has not begun yet. However, in the next month or so, diesel demand is likely to increase when irrigation will be required for Boro cultivation. Hopefully, the war will not continue till then.

The government has introduced some austerity measures such as the closure of universities, requesting shopping malls to reduce the use of lighting, and so on. Could it have done more? Government officials are still using vehicles without restraint, a practice the authorities could have restricted.

In our country, apart from announcing austerity measures and relying on people’s personal sense of responsibility, little else is done. By contrast, in many developed countries, we observe that drivers switch off their engines while waiting at traffic signals, reducing both pollution and fuel consumption. Unfortunately, that culture does not exist here. As a result, energy is often used neither cost-effectively nor efficiently. Electricity consumption is similarly inefficient. If we had a modern fuel supply and electricity infrastructure, distributors and suppliers could exercise far greater control.

But that infrastructure does not exist here. Consequently, energy usage depends almost entirely on individual discretion—on how much a person chooses to use or conserve.

At a minimum, the government can ensure that the measures it has already announced—such as reducing diesel consumption, limiting fuel use in government offices, and curbing lighting—are properly implemented. By reporting regularly on these measures and informing the public about the actions taken against those who fail to comply, it can raise awareness and encourage more responsible energy use.

There are concerns that inflation could rise further as a result of the war. We already saw inflation exceeding nine percent in February, the highest in 10 months. In this situation, what should the government do?

The entire situation is beyond our control. Ordinary people are bearing the brunt of other countries’ strategic wars and territorial conflicts, which is unacceptable. The government can provide support to the people by increasing supply through social safety net programmes. Truck sales are already taking place, the Family Card programme has been launched, and a reasonable social support system is already in place. Expanding the reach of these programmes even slightly would be beneficial. The government is reportedly planning to continue truck sales until March 12. If it is extended for another week, until March 19, and supply is increased in more locations, low-income households could experience some relief.

Price increases are already becoming a reality at the import stage. In such cases, monitoring is needed at the import and distributor or dealer levels, rather than only at the retail level, to protect consumer rights. It is also necessary to monitor whether goods are being hoarded or supplied in quantities below the usual levels in the market.

Can we use private healthcare to improve health literacy?



Md Shafaat Ali Choyon
is public health professional
with a background in business
strategy and digital innovation.

MD SHAFAAAT ALI CHOYON

When a diabetic patient walks out of a hospital without understanding how to manage their condition between visits, the cost of that failure is economic as much as it is medical. The patient may return sicker, require more expensive intervention, and quite possibly push their family deeper into debt. Multiply that by millions of patient interactions every year in a country where nearly 69 percent of health expenditure is paid directly out of pocket, and the picture becomes systemic.

Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), also known as chronic diseases, are conditions that demand sustained management, early intervention, and informed patient behaviour. In Bangladesh, due to the absence of structured health literacy, NCDs account for around 67 percent of all deaths, with nearly one in five people between 30 and 70 years of age at the risk of dying, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

Currently, public health communication in Bangladesh remains largely campaign-driven: seasonal dengue awareness,

immunisation pushes, and periodic chronic disease messaging. These efforts reach millions but are episodic, centrally designed, and constrained by a system where public health spending stays below one percent of GDP. So, families often find themselves in a position where they have to decide on what symptoms to act upon, when to seek specialist consultation, how to manage hypertension between visits, whether to trust health advice circulating on social media, with almost no consistent, credible source of guidance. This is a gap that can be bridged through a collaboration between public and private healthcare.

The private healthcare sector, now responsible for over half of total healthcare demand, operates thousands of digital platforms, call centres, outreach programmes, and dedicated marketing teams that collectively reach millions daily. The communication infrastructure produces an array of promotional content on a regular basis: physician profiles, equipment announcements, service advertisements,

and patient testimonials. However, it fails to ensure a proper health education for the general people.

This is not because hospitals are indifferent. It is because no policy connects private healthcare communication to public health objectives. There are no national standards defining what evidence-based health education from a private provider should look like. There is no incentive—through accreditation weighting, licensing consideration, or targeted tax benefits—that signals health literacy output carries institutional value. Without that signal, investing in health education remains commercially irrational. The gap is not one of intent but of policy.

Health education does not have to mean national campaigns or expensive programmes. Much of it can be embedded in what hospitals already do. For example, a cardiologist’s profile can include guidance on symptoms that warrant urgent evaluation. An endocrinology announcement can outline warning signs of uncontrolled diabetes. Discharge instructions can include standard follow-up messaging.

Similarly, a doctor who takes two minutes to explain why completing an antibiotic course matters is delivering health education, as is the nurse who teaches a new mother to recognise danger signs in her newborn. These might not be grand interventions and may cost almost nothing individually, but across millions of patient interactions every year, they reshape how a population relates to its

own health. For that to happen, a systematic change must be brought forth.

Making it systematic means repositioning hospital communication teams to work alongside trained public health education and promotion specialists who can embed evidence-based guidance into routine outreach. This is not an additional burden on private providers. Hospitals that integrate health education into their communication build deeper community trust, attract patients earlier in their care journey, and differentiate themselves in an increasingly competitive market. The framework succeeds precisely because it aligns public health objectives with institutional self-interest and participation becomes commercially rational, not charitable.

But this shift requires a professional workforce that barely exists in Bangladesh’s private healthcare sector: public health education and promotion specialists trained in behavioural science, health communication, and programme evaluation. Currently, these professionals work mostly in government agencies, NGOs, and international organisations, not because they are irrelevant to private healthcare, but because there is currently no framework that generates demand for them there. Once the policy framework is created, the demand follows. And when the demand creates positions, it opens the door to measurable impact.

The government does not need new bureaucracies for this. The Bureau of Health

Education under the Directorate General of Health Services already holds a nationwide mandate for health education, with resource centres across all 64 districts. Its scope, however, has never extended to the private sector. Expanding the bureau’s authority to set standards for private-sector health communication, staffed by public health education professionals—not administrative generalists—would give this framework an institutional home. Three mechanisms would make it operational: national content standards for private providers, incentive structures tied to health literacy output, and a public-private health communication compact enabling government messaging to flow through private networks during outbreaks and health emergencies.

If even a quarter of private healthcare communication incorporated structured health education, the effect on population health literacy would exceed what public spending increases alone could achieve. So, the question is not whether this would work. The question is what happens if the government does not act. The private sector will continue reaching millions daily, with content that does nothing to improve general health outcomes. Preventable complications will keep generating avoidable debt. And the country’s largest health communication infrastructure will remain commercially active but strategically wasted. The new government has pledged a stronger, more competitive Bangladesh. This would be a good place to start.

CROSSWORD

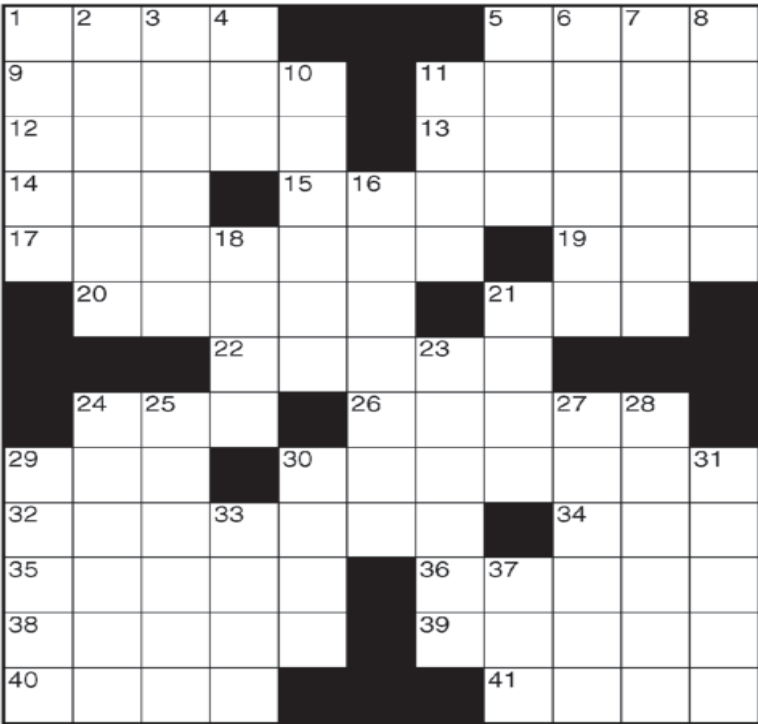
BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Singer Tori
- 5 Swift
- 9 Legitimate
- 11 Stately home
- 12 Tennis star Agassi
- 13 Boiling
- 14 Dine late
- 15 Goals
- 17 Ankle bones
- 19 Rent out
- 20 Director Malle
- 21 Suffered from
- 22 Wed in haste
- 24 Gum mass
- 26 Peruses
- 29 Part of a match
- 30 La Brea fossil preserve
- 32 Kilt patterns
- 34 Horse doctor
- 35 Chinese or Korean
- 36 Green hue
- 38 Enlists again
- 39 Frisco footballer
- 40 Shade trees

41 Ivy League school DOWN

- 1 Sailor’s cry
- 2 Training book
- 3 Expert
- 4 Knight’s title
- 5 Viper feature
- 6 Lansbury of Broadway
- 7 Put into piles
- 8 Secret meeting
- 10 Fine point
- 11 Warring god
- 16 Campaign loser
- 18 Took to court
- 21 Whole bunch
- 23 Human being
- 24 Mink’s cousin
- 25 Skylit court
- 27 Heavenly
- 28 Director Spielberg
- 29 Fixed look
- 30 Earth tones
- 31 Somber
- 33 Spigots
- 37 Pert talk



11-15

TUESDAY’S ANSWERS



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BOOK REVIEW: POETRY

Fragile, floating, enduring: Reading ‘Fenaphul’

Review of Hamayat Ullah Emon’s ‘Fenaphul’ (Oitijjhya, 2026)



ILLUSTRATION: MAISHA SYEDA

SAKIB AHMED

I read poems often, and recently I came across a book titled *Fenaphul*. The cover—painted with soft blue and white watercolour splotches—immediately caught my attention. I decided to read it when I learned that it had received the Oitijjhya-Shantanu Kaiser Literary Award 2025 and was written by a young poet.

The title itself is intriguing. *Fenaphul* is a small flower that grows on the surface of muddy village ponds, often near homes in rural areas. The tiny

plants float on water, sometimes resembling the delicate spread of a peacock’s wing. They are light and fragile, yet they never sink. Instead, they slowly multiply, and sometimes overnight, they cover the whole pond.

But why would a poet name his book after this flower? Is it linked to memories from the poet’s childhood? Does it carry the nostalgia of a lost love? Or is it simply a metaphor for nature—quiet yet persistent, fragile yet enduring?

As one reads the poems, it gradually

becomes clear that ‘fenaphul’ is more than a flower. It seems to serve as a metaphor for the poet’s mind itself. Just as the small plants spread silently across a pond, memories from childhood spread across the pages of this book. Almost weightless images—fields, rivers, prayers, family, animals, village rituals—appear in the poems. Yet they never drown under the heaviness of words. Instead, they float. Reading this book felt less like reading isolated poems and more like watching a long, continuous cinematic frame

of childhood and existence. Hamayat Ullah Emon does not seem interested in following strict poetics. His poetry rarely aims to impress with complicated vocabulary, yet it maintains a refined poetic rhythm.

There are 64 poems in this book. Many lines and thoughts linger in the mind, carrying a deep sense of belonging. Some poems seem to connect the poet with movement, labour, and ancestry simultaneously, as if the past itself propels him forward. Several lines awaken the reader’s consciousness. For instance, in poem number five, the poet writes: “Dakho shomudrer dike, machher nirobota.” (Look toward the sea—the silence of the fish). This line is haunting. It invites the reader into a quiet, meditative space. The effect reminded me of the eerie psychological atmosphere in *The Lighthouse* (2019) by Robert Eggers. Much like that film, these poems sometimes place the reader in a solitary inner landscape, where silence becomes louder than sound.

One of the most interesting stylistic features of Emon’s poetry is the sudden appearance of the word “Tumi” (You) in many poems. This “you” constantly shifts its identity. At times, it feels intimate, almost romantic: “Ami nogno, mathay dhorechhi alo, dingulote tomay”: “I stand naked, holding light upon my head, carrying you through the days.” Here, “you” seems like a beloved presence.

In another poem, it represents something surprisingly mundane: “Maash furala tumi eshe darabe jani, khule dibe boshobasher tension”, which translates to “I know you will arrive when the month ends, easing the tension of survival.” Here, “you” is salary—a deeply relatable reality of adult life.

In yet another poem, “you” becomes the poet’s mother: “Khopa tule bhangchho keno tumio” (Why are you loosening your hair and breaking apart as well?)

Finally, in a striking moment, the poet writes: “Tumi fenaphul”. The metaphor comes full circle. The flower becomes a person, a memory, or perhaps existence itself.

One of the strengths of this book is the poet’s use of small cultural details: prayer, village life, harvest fields, Sufi devotion, family meals, childhood memories. These narrative fragments appear throughout the poems, but none dominates. They function as emotional anchors, evoking a profound sense of belonging.

Through these scattered images, a quiet existential emptiness slowly emerges—the emptiness many from rural Bangladesh feel when moving into modern urban life. Emon does not state this directly, but the sentiment grows visible between the lines. At times, the poet seems quietly dissatisfied with his present life, questioning adulthood, responsibility, and urban pressures. The poems occasionally feel like intimate practices of personal sorrow.

Despite these existential reflections, women rarely appear as objects of desire in Emon’s poetry. Instead, they symbolise tenderness, calmness, and emotional shelter. The father figure is culturally familiar and subtly portrayed, often through small domestic images like a shirt or a piece of fish on a plate.

A small challenge for readers is that none of the poems have individual titles; they are only numbered. Titles often help readers connect with a poem’s core idea and recall it later. This raises an interesting question: is *Fenaphul* one long poem in fragments, or a collection of separate poems?

Ultimately, the book is a collection built on small images and quiet reflections. Like the floating plants on a village pond, the poems appear fragile at first glance. But gradually, they spread, covering the reader’s mind with memories, questions, and a subtle sense of human emptiness.

Sakib Ahmed is Correspondent at Jahangirnagar University.

BOOK REVIEW: NONFICTION

Homage to Rani-ma on her centenary year

Review of ‘Shotoborshe Ila Mitra: Onno Chokhe’ (People’s Book Society, 2026), edited by Omar Tareq Chaudhuri and Subhasis Mukhopadhyay

SUBHORANJAN DASGUPTA

TW: Mention of sexual abuse, rape

Some names act as a spark—for example, Ila Mitra—along with those of Rosa Luxemburg, Pritilata Wadедder, and Matangini Hazra—who is much better known and acclaimed as ‘Nachole-er Rani-ma’ (Queen Mother of Nachole). Inspired by her indomitable communist husband, Romen Mitra, who had been the zamindar of Ramchandrapur in Rajshahi district in East Bengal, Ila Mitra also declassified herself and fought like a tigress leading the impoverished peasants against the landlords and their henchmen. Though the sobriquet ‘Rani-ma’ clung to her, she, in the words of co-editor Subhasis Mukhopadhyay, “could speak Santhali with admirable fluency [...] she simply merged with the landless peasants, Hindus and Muslims, and challenged the landowners as well as the repressive East Pakistani regime armed to the teeth.”

Indeed, the glorious Tebhaga movement, which began in 1946-47 and continued even after Partition, is crystallised in the valour and defiance of Rani-ma. Not a single book nor an essay on the topic forgets to mention her name. Perhaps, the best chronicler of this movement, the leftist icon of East Bengal, Badruddin Umar, emphasised in particular that even after the movement had ebbed somewhat in other districts of East and West Bengal, it continued to glow in Rajshahi, especially in Nachole. In his remarkable essay, “Peasant Uprising Nachole”, which forms the second essay of the book, this indefatigable Leftist wrote, “Tebhaga came to an end in entire Bengal in 1947, but Nachole remained the only exception. Indeed, the region which came under Nachole Police station bristled with persecuted Santhal peasants and they persisted doggedly with their struggle from 1948 to 1950; that was the new phase.” And who led the uprising? Of course Rani-ma and her husband, along with others like Azhar Hosain, Shuku Koramudi, and Brindaban Saha.

What is so exemplary about this book is its meticulous documentation. In the fourth



ILLUSTRATION: MAHMUDA EMDAD

chapter, for instance, co-editor Omar Tareq Chaudhuri has compiled newspaper reports on this subject which were published from 1950 to 1955 in the two Bengals and even beyond. In 28 pages, he has provided the complete history based on news coverage, and, as we read, our eyes remain fixated on the report filed by Shibdas Bannerji, the roving correspondent of Blitz, which carried the heading “East Bengal Court sobs as Ila Mitra bares her wounds”. Bannerji wrote, “When Ms. Ila Mitra was asked by the Court to give her statement, she narrated a story which made the aged pleaders, Muslims and Hindus, weep. They hung their heads down

in shame and heard Ila in rapt and sorrowful silence”.

Though those present in the courtroom sobbed, Ila Mitra, herself, when she recalled her revolt after many years, said “I, in my humble way, tried to play my part, for which I have nothing unusual to speak of. Time generally helps a person to take up a role. For me, the time that I passed through has left its indelible marks, may be majestic, or heroic, or cowardly. For peace in this country, I look for a signal from my star.”. I wonder how she could attain this amazing grace after the horrendous torture inflicted on her at Nachole Police Station when she was

arrested, which included multiple rapes and finally pushing up four redhot boiled eggs through her vaginal passage.

As a student of literature, who had delved into the subject of gender and Partition in the East, I emphasise: the creative articulation of Tebhaga is, by no means, insignificant. I recall Manik Bandyopadhyay’s incredible short story “Haraner Natjamai” that had been converted into a gripping play by one of our great thespians, Arun Mukhopadhyay; Selina Hossain’s dedicated political novel Kantatara Projapati as well as Maleka Begum’s excellent biography; Saukat Ali’s novel Narail, which ended with a Muslim and Hindu peasant

joining hands and advancing to fight for Tebhaga; and, above all, Akhtaruzzaman Elias’s masterpiece Khwabnama, which posited Tebhaga as the redemptive counterpart or utopia to the disjunctive dystopia of the Partition. These texts, literally, incited me like the poem on Rani-ma by the famous communist poet, Gholam Quddus, who hailed her as ‘Stalin-nandini’ and also the intense though raw and rough sketches of Somnath Hore which were included in his Tebhaga Diary.

In fact, I was waiting for the documentation to serve as a basis for the creative expression I have outlined above, and that is what I have acquired in this book. It includes almost everything—questions and answers on Ila Mitra as well as discussions held in the Indian parliament; statements which Ila Mitra made in the West Bengal Assembly as an MLA of the Communist Party of India; fervent recollections penned by Pravash Chaudhuri Lahiri, Anisuzzaman, Mahbulul Alam Chaudhuri, and Satyen Sen. Equally moving are the memories of her son Mohan Mitra in two separate chapters, one titled “Amar Ma” and the other recalling the indispensable connection between her mother and the peasant uprising in Nachole, in an intimate interview. The last lines of this dialogue are memorable, even educative: “She didn’t indulge in intricate theorising on whether the revolution should be ‘national democratic’ or ‘people’s democratic’. Nonetheless, she was a brilliant orator.”

Somehow, I feel that Bangladesh, where she fought, remembers her more vividly than West Bengal. In 2005, the well-known Bangladeshi, director, Syed Ahiduzzaman Diamond, made a film on her titled Nachole Rani and in as late as 2025, Zakir Hossain paid homage to her in his short story titled “Akhono Ila Mitre-r Naame Choto Golpo”. A museum dedicated to her was inaugurated on February 17, 2024, in Nachole itself.

Subhoranjan Dasgupta is an academic and author of several books in English and Bengali, based in Kolkata.

RANA BREATHES FIRE on home ODI debut

➡ Bangladesh won the first ODI against Pakistan at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur yesterday with 209 balls in hand, which is their third joint biggest win in ODIs in terms of balls remaining. They had earlier won by the same margin against New Zealand in Napier in December, 2023. Their biggest victory overall is against Zimbabwe in 2009, where they won with 229 balls to spare in Chattogram.

➡ Pakistan were bundled out for a mere 114 in 30.4 overs -- their lowest total against Bangladesh in ODIs. Their previous lowest total against the Tigers was 161 in 44.3 overs in Northampton during the 1999 ICC World Cup.

➡ This is Bangladesh's first win over Pakistan in ODIs since 2018. That victory came in an Asia Cup encounter in the UAE, which Bangladesh won by seven wickets. Since then, the two sides met only thrice more in the format before yesterday's game and the Tigers had lost all three.

➡ Nahid Rana ran through Pakistan in a fiery spell, claiming his maiden five-wicket haul in ODIs. The 23-year-old finished with 5-24, becoming the second Bangladeshi to claim an ODI fiver against Pakistan since Mustafizur Rahman (5-75), who did it in the 2019 World Cup.

SPORTS REPORTER

Nahid Rana made his way into international cricket with the Sri Lanka Test in March 2024, and emerged as a pace demon in the Rawalpindi Tests against Pakistan that year, but after a few underwhelming performances in away ODIs, some doubts crept in.

For Rana, a place in the XI in the first ODI against Pakistan yesterday was not a given. However, once included in his very first ODI game at home, the 23-year-old ran through Pakistan in a way reminiscent of the two Tests in Rawalpindi two years back.

Pakistan had made a solid start, reaching 39 for no loss before Rana joined the attack in the 10th over.

His first delivery lifted the match from a mundane state to an adrenaline pumped affair, the length delivery zipping off the surface and moving away at serious pace, leaving Sahibzada Farhan, who looked quite comfortable before that over, perplexed.

A loose fourth delivery was pounced on by Sahibzada but Rana came back with vengeance, producing another unplayable delivery that beat the bat, creating anticipation that great fast bowlers produce before releasing the wicket-taking delivery.

The last ball of the over gained on Sahibzada, who failed to adjust to the extra bounce and edged it to point.

Rana's first over was the premonition of destruction and the visitors' slightly inexperienced lineup soon felt his wrath.



PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Debutant Shamyil Hossain knew what was coming for him in Rana's next over but raw pace, angled at his body, saw him top-edge the ball, which landed safely into Litton Das's gloves.

Maaz Sadaqat had started well on his ODI debut but another delivery into the body from around the wicket saw him hurried into a top-edge that went to fine-leg.

Mohammad Rizwan is no debutant, still, Rana's peach of an out-swinging sucked him in and Litton took a fine catch as Pakistan's good start turned into a Mirpur nightmare.

A planned execution of another short delivery to Salman Agha produced the

desired result as Tanzid Hasan Tamim fumbled before taking a sharp catch at short-leg.

In a devastating seven-over spell, Rana completed his maiden five-wicket haul in ODIs, finishing with five for 24. Pakistan were eventually bowled out for just 114 in 30.4 overs, and the fate of the game was pretty much decided in the first innings.

"Each batter has a weak area, but I believe in always trying to focus on my area of strength first," Rana, the player-of-the-match, said in the post-match press conference. "In international cricket, skill matters more than pace and that's what I am working on."

Inaugural WBPL pushed to July

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday pushed back the starting date of the inaugural Women's Bangladesh Premier League (WBPL) from April to July and has announced it will take place across three venues in Dhaka, Chattogram and Bogura.

The three-team tournament was earlier scheduled to take place from April 4-14, and will now be held across July 10-21, BCB announced through a press release.

"In view of the current global context, following consultations with potential franchise owners and key stakeholders, the BCB has decided to schedule the tournament in July to provide additional preparation time for teams, including squad formation, international player recruitment, and operational planning," the press release read.

According to the revised schedule, the tournament will take place five days after the conclusion of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup in England, which is set to run from June 12 to July 5.

"The revised window also aligns well with the international cricket calendar, particularly the ICC Women's T20 World Cup scheduled in June 2026, ensuring greater availability of overseas players," the press release read.

The BCB also announced that the opening ceremony and the first match will take place at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogura and the final will be held at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Dhaka. The BCB is yet to finalise the three franchises for the inaugural tournament. The board had initially set the deadline for submission of Expressions of Interest (EOI) for franchises till March 4, and had later extended it to March 8.



‘Should start preparing now for next qualifiers’

Bangladesh women's football team returned home early Wednesday after their maiden campaign in the AFC Women's Asian Cup, where they faced China, North Korea and Uzbekistan before exiting in the group stage in Australia. Captain Afeida Khandaker, now back with the U-20 camp ahead of next month's AFC U-20 Women's Asian Cup in Thailand, spoke to *The Daily Star's Anisur Rahman* about the experience and what lies ahead. The excerpts follow:



Afeida Khandaker bumped into India women's cricket stars [L] Smriti Mandhana and [R] Jemimah Rodrigues on their way back from Australia.

PHOTO: FACEBOOK

The Daily Star (DS): How significant was the Asian Cup experience, and where does the gap with top teams like China or North Korea lie?

Afeida Khandaker (AK): Hoisting the national flag and singing the national anthem on such a stage was a proud moment for us. We might not even have had the opportunity to play friendly matches against teams of that level, so facing them in the tournament was a great experience.

You can see the difference in their playing style. They groom players from a very young age, while many of us start much later. When you learn something early it stays with you.

DS: There were hopes of reaching the quarterfinals by beating Uzbekistan. Did the team believe it could happen?

AK: Of course. Everyone tried their best and even after conceding early we did not lose confidence. We kept attacking for goals, but luck was not with us.

DS: What should be the immediate priorities

if Bangladesh are to target bigger goals like the World Cup or Olympics?

AK: Good grounds should come first. If you are not used to quality pitches, it becomes difficult on fast surfaces abroad where the ball moves quickly. We also need a better dormitory for residential camps and proper food.

Preparation cannot start just six months before a tournament. First we must qualify for the Asian Cup, then think about the World Cup or Olympics. We should start preparing now for the next Asian Cup qualifiers with a proper four-year plan.

DS: You will now lead Bangladesh in the upcoming U-20 Asian Cup. What are your expectations?

AK: We are in a tough group with China, Vietnam and Thailand. But around 10-12 senior players in the U-20 squad gained valuable experience from the Asian Cup in Australia, which should help us. We will try to perform well and fight to get out of the group stage.

SHORT CORNER

Iran cannot participate in World Cup, sports minister says

Iran cannot participate in the 2026 World Cup after co-host the United States launched airstrikes against the country alongside Israel, killing its leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, sports minister Ahmad Donyamali said on Wednesday. "Considering that this corrupt regime has assassinated our leader, under no circumstances can we participate in the World Cup," the minister told state television. The World Cup will be held in the United States, Mexico and Canada from June 11 to July 19.

NSC orders probe into BCB election

The National Sports Council (NSC) has formed an independent inquiry committee to investigate alleged "irregularities, manipulation and abuse of power" in the 2025 Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) elections, according to an NSC press release on Wednesday. The committee was asked to submit its report to the State Minister for Youth and Sports, Aminul Haque, within 15 working days of its formation. The move comes in response to several complaint letters alleging that the electoral process was compromised.

*** Read full stories on The Daily Star's website*

91 DAYS TO GO



Argentina's shootout supremacy

December 18, 2022, Lusail Stadium witnessed one of football's most dramatic nights. After a 3-3 stalemate between Argentina and France in the World Cup final, the title was decided in a tense penalty shootout. Argentina goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez's psychological edge proved decisive as he saved Kingsley Coman's effort and saw Aurelien Tchouameni miss. Gonzalo Montiel then sealed the victory, handing Lionel Messi the coveted trophy and ending Argentina's 36-year wait. The triumph once again highlighted the Albiceleste's remarkable composure and dominance in the World Cup's so-called 'lottery' of penalty shootouts.

*** Read full story on The Daily Star's website*

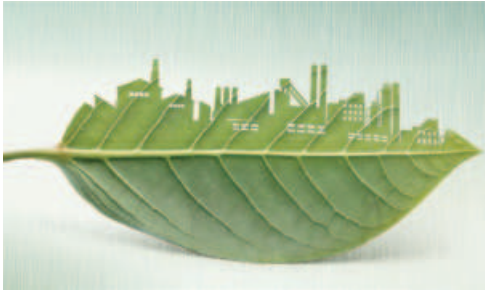


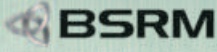
A CRAZY CHAMPIONS LEAGUE NIGHT

It was a night of chaos, drama, and ruthless dominance across Europe in the Champions League last 16 fixtures on Tuesday. At St James' Park, Barcelona were seconds from defeat before Lamine Yamal coolly converted a 96th-minute penalty – the last kick of the game – to snatch a 1-1 draw against Newcastle United. In Madrid, Atletico Madrid ran riot against Tottenham, winning 5-2 as goalkeeper Antonin Kinsky endured a nightmare start that saw Spurs concede three goals in 15 minutes, with the keeper making two glaring mistakes. The second-choice goalkeeper was substituted in the 17th minute, with even Atletico players and fans sympathising with the Czech. Liverpool suffered another setback in Turkey, falling 1-0 to Galatasaray thanks to Mario Lemina's header. Meanwhile in Bergamo, Bayern Munich produced a ruthless display, thrashing Atalanta 6-1 with Michael Olise inspiring a result that virtually seals their place in the quarterfinals.

PHOTO: REUTERS/AFP







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Rana, Tanzid shine as Bangladesh crush Pakistan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pacer Nahid Rana claimed his maiden five-wicket haul before Tanzid Hasan Tamim scored an unbeaten fifty as Bangladesh crushed Pakistan by eight wickets in the opening ODI of the three-match series at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Playing his maiden ODI on home soil, Rana returned figures of 5-24 and ripped through Pakistan's batting lineup with fiery pace, helping the hosts bundle out the visitors for just 114 runs in 30.4 overs after opting to field first.

It is Pakistan's lowest total against Bangladesh in ODIs, eclipsing the previous record of 161 in Northampton during the 1999 ICC World Cup.

In reply, Bangladesh lost opener Saif Hassan (four) early off Shaheen Shah Afridi, but an 82-run stand between Tanzid and Najmul Hossain Shanto for the second wicket all but sealed the victory.

Shanto was dismissed by
SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



Bangladesh pacer Nahid Rana celebrates dismissing Pakistan's Shamyul Hussain in their eight-wicket victory in the first of three ODIs at Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. Rana's maiden five-wicket haul on his home ODI debut restricted Pakistan to 114 all out in 30.4 overs. Bangladesh reached the target in 15.1 overs, powered by Tanzid Tamim's unbeaten 67 off 42 balls. The second ODI will take place at the same venue on Friday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Dhaka freezes plan to join Haiti peacekeeping

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Bangladesh has decided not to deploy peacekeepers to Haiti for the proposed Gang Suppression Force (GSF) mission amid global turmoil and shifting geopolitical dynamics, officials and internal correspondence confirmed.

An initial plan had outlined a contingent of 1,625 personnel, 1,100 from the armed forces and 525 from the police, for deployment beginning next month.

But Dhaka has informed the Department of Peacekeeping Operations that, given the war in the Middle East, it will not proceed for now, a foreign ministry official told The Daily Star yesterday.

The decision comes as US-Israeli strikes on Iran and Tehran's retaliatory attacks have widened conflict across the Gulf, raising global security concerns.

Documents seen by this correspondent show Bangladesh had earlier expressed willingness to join the GSF, a multinational mission intended to help Haitian authorities combat armed gangs and restore stability.

An email dated February 13, 2026, sent by Brig Gen Mohammad Golam Rabbani, military and police adviser at Bangladesh's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York, circulated a communication regarding the Standing Group of Partners (SGP) decision on the proposed deployment.

The forwarded message contained a response from

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

STRANDED UMRAH PILGRIMS

Cost of housing, food mount on top of high ticket prices

RASHIDUL HASAN

Several thousand Bangladeshis who travelled to Saudi Arabia to perform umrah have been stranded in the Gulf kingdom after multiple Middle Eastern countries suspended flights from February 28, the day the United States and Israel launched their war on Iran.

Many pilgrims had booked 15- to 20-day umrah packages, but their stay has now stretched far beyond the scheduled period. As the packages expire, several travel agencies are refusing to bear the additional costs of accommodation and meals, leaving many Bangladeshis struggling to cope financially, pilgrims alleged.

Leaders of the Hajj Agencies Association of Bangladesh (HAAB) and the Association of Travel Agents of Bangladesh (ATAB) said pilgrims are now being forced to buy return tickets at sharply higher prices amid the disruption.

They said Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar and Jordan closed their airspace following the deteriorating security situation in the Middle East, disrupting flight operations to and from Dhaka.

As a result, flights of several airlines, including Emirates, Air Arabia and Qatar Airways, were cancelled.

Currently, only four airlines are operating flights between the two countries. They are Bangladeshi carriers Biman Bangladesh Airlines and US Bangla Airlines, and Saudi airlines Saudia and Flynas.

Many Bangladeshis had travelled for umrah using airlines from Middle Eastern transit hubs such as the UAE and Qatar. With those flights suspended, their return journeys have been thrown into uncertainty.

Some stranded pilgrims said the travel agencies are demanding an additional Tk 30,000 to Tk 35,000 for new return tickets for passengers whose earlier flights were cancelled. For many pilgrims, arranging such a large sum at a short notice has become nearly impossible.

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Political detentions interim govt's failure

Says Rehman Sobhan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prominent economist Prof Rehman Sobhan yesterday said many are languishing in jail primarily because of their political identity, describing it as a failure of the judicial system and the interim government.

"This has been a violation of human rights, a failure of our judicial system and, tragically, a failure of the interim government, which should have been more committed to preserving the rule of law," said Prof Sobhan, also chairman of the think tank Centre for Policy Dialogue.

He made the remarks at a dialogue titled "National Human Rights Commission Ordinance 2025: Expectations from the New Parliament", organised by the Citizens' Platform at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the capital's Agargaon.

Prof Sobhan said while there are ongoing discussions about the proposed legislation for the National Human Rights Commission, the real test of human rights protection in Bangladesh will depend more on the conduct of political leaders and lawmakers than on the commission itself.

Though members of parliament are the primary custodians of human

rights, they have historically also been responsible for violating them, said Prof Sobhan, adding that successive governments have repeatedly violated the rights of opposition groups and often continued the same pattern after assuming power.

Prof Sobhan said the early days of the new home minister would serve as a litmus test for the government's commitment to restoring human rights and re-establishing the rule of law.

He stressed that the real challenge before the new parliament will be to ensure the rule of law and an independent judiciary that protects, rather than violates, human rights.

Speaking as the chief guest, Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed said actions taken during wars and political uprisings cannot always be judged strictly as human rights violations, referring to both the 1971 Liberation War and the 2024 mass uprising.

He said questions are now being raised about whether those who led the July uprising should face legal cases.

"We have given indemnity to the July warriors, and we must remain committed to that nationally," he said.

He argued that if actions taken

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No legal bar to journo Anis Alamgir's release

Gets bail in graft case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted bail to senior journalist Anis Alamgir in a case filed over allegations of acquiring assets beyond known sources of income.

Judge Md Sabbir Faiz of the Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court in Dhaka passed the order following a bail petition, defence lawyer Taslima Zahan Popy said.

With the latest order, there is no legal bar to his release, as he has secured bail in both cases filed against him, the lawyer added.

On January 28, the same court showed Anis arrested in a case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

Earlier, on January 15, ACC Assistant Director Akhtaruzzaman filed the case under section 27(l) of the Anti-Corruption Commission Act with its Integrated Office-1 in Dhaka.

According to the ACC inquiry, Anis's total wealth stands at

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US-ISRAEL WAR ON IRAN

Govt moves to ensure power for hospitals

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The health ministry has taken a series of initiatives to ensure uninterrupted medical services and safeguard the supply of medicines and vaccines amid concerns over power supply triggered by the ongoing US-Israel war on Iran.

According to directives prepared at a recent meeting, special measures will be taken to keep intensive care units (ICUs), operation theatres, laboratories, and cold-chain management systems running without interruption.

➤ Special measures to keep ICUs, OTs, labs, refrigeration running

➤ Risk-mitigation action plan to be prepared within a week

➤ Search on for alternative sources for raw materials for drugs

The authorities will also request the Power Division to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply to hospitals and pharmaceutical factories so that critical medical services, as well as the production of medicines and vaccines, are not disrupted.

The meeting was held on Sunday to prepare for any potential crisis in the health sector arising from the global situation linked to the Middle East conflict, three officials who attended the meeting told The Daily Star.

Health Minister Sardar Md Sakawat Husain presided over the meeting, which was attended by officials from

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3 civilians killed in Pak shelling

Afghan Taliban govt says three others injured

AFP, Kabul

The Taliban government said yesterday that three civilians were killed in southeastern Afghanistan when Pakistani forces fired mortars and artillery across the countries' shared border.

Deputy government spokesman Hamdullah Fitrat told media in an audio message that the deaths happened on Tuesday in Kot village, in the Dand Patan district of Paktia province.

"Three civilians were killed due to a shell hitting their houses and three were injured," he added.

A medical source also confirmed the death of three civilians to an AFP correspondent in southeastern Afghanistan.

Pakistan has insisted it does not target civilians. Casualty claims from both sides are difficult to verify independently.

Months of cross-border clashes have flared again since February 26, when Afghanistan launched an offensive along the frontier, in retaliation for earlier Pakistani air strikes.

Islamabad then declared "open war" against the Taliban authorities and led strikes on Kabul and Kandahar in the following days. Regular clashes have been reported in the border areas since February 26.

Fitrat said Pakistan has fired "hundreds of mortars and

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Despite a government advisory against ornamental lighting, shops along Shyamoli Ring Road in the capital were seen illuminated with fairy lights last night. The energy-saving guideline was issued earlier this week amid US-Israel war on Iran.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

War on Iran rattles Bangladesh dollar market

B1

HASANAH ISLAMI BANKING
البنكية الاسلامي

Prime Bank

PRAYER TIMING
MARCH 12

	Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	4:57	12:45	4:30	6:08	7:30
JAMAAT	5:07	1:15	4:45	6:18	8:00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING

RAMADAN	MAR	SEHRI	IFTAR
22	12		6:08
23	13	4:54	6:08
24	14	4:53	6:09