

## Khalilur set for Türkiye visit today

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Bangladesh delegation at the meeting, while Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan will head the other side.

"A key objective of the foreign minister's visit is to seek its support for the UNGA election," a diplomatic source said.

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has nominated Khalilur Rahman for president of the 81st session of the UNGA for 2026-2027 after Palestine withdrew its candidature.

Bangladesh will compete with Cyprus in the election, scheduled to be held on June 2 at the UN headquarters in New York.

After assuming office, Khalilur made his first

foreign trip to Saudi Arabia in late February, where he attended an emergency meeting of the OIC in Jeddah on the Palestine issue.

He also attended the Commonwealth ministerial meeting in London recently. He sought support from OIC and Commonwealth members for the UNGA election.

**BILATERAL ISSUES**  
According to diplomatic sources in Ankara and Dhaka, relations between Bangladesh and Türkiye have strengthened in recent years, particularly in trade, defence and humanitarian cooperation.

Bilateral trade has risen from around \$1 billion to about \$1.3 billion, with both countries aiming to

increase it to \$3 billion.

Bangladesh has also increased defence purchases from Türkiye, while Turkish firms have shown interest in investing in Bangladesh's defence industry.

Türkiye is also a key partner in humanitarian assistance for the Rohingya and supports several hospitals in the refugee camps in Cox's Bazar.

The ongoing Middle East conflict and its global implications – particularly for countries in Asia that rely heavily on fuel imports from Gulf states and migrant remittances – may also be discussed during the meeting between the two foreign ministers, a ministry official told The Daily Star.

## A walkout, a speech, and a few wry

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Moreover, the 133 ordinances – along with the orders related to the July Charter and the referendum that the opposition alliance is demanding be implemented – all bear Shahabuddin's signature.

As nearly 80 MPs from the opposition alliance continued shouting in protest, the atmosphere in the chamber grew tense. When the chief whip requested the president to begin his address, Shahabuddin calmly started his address amid the noise, maintaining a composed demeanour that suggested

he had expected nothing less.

The shouting persisted for some time. Prime Minister Tarique Rahman appeared slightly concerned and was seen glancing towards LGED Minister Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed seated to his right.

From the gallery their conversation could not be heard, but the home minister appeared relaxed.

As soon as the opposition MPs staged their walkout, more than 200 MPs from the BNP-led coalition thumped their desks in support of the president's speech.

At that moment, a restrained smile briefly crossed the prime minister's face.

The smiles, however, did not end there.

Each time Shahabuddin referred to the past 17 years as "fascism" in his speech, Tarique was seen exchanging remarks with Mirza Fakhrul, Salahuddin, and Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury.

From the gallery, the words remained inaudible. Yet the expressions were unmistakable.

The quiet, wry smiles seemed to tell their own story.

## Raise tobacco taxes

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Presenting the proposal, Prof Shafiq Nahin Shimul, director of the institute, said tobacco use prevalence in the country is the highest in South Asia at 35.3 percent, according to the Global Adult Tobacco Survey 2017.

He said the existing multi-tiered tax system is complex and makes cigarettes more affordable and accessible, especially for youths and low-income users.

The proposal recommends merging the low and medium tiers and setting the maximum retail price at Tk 100 – currently Tk 60 and Tk 80 respectively – while increasing tax by Tk 10 for the high tier and Tk 15 for the premium tier.

Contrary to concerns, raising tobacco taxes would not reduce government revenue, he said. Instead, the reform could generate about Tk 44,000 crore in additional tax revenue

compared to the previous fiscal year.

It is also projected to encourage nearly five lakh adults to quit smoking and prevent more than 3.72 lakh youths from initiating tobacco use, reducing overall prevalence by 0.5 percent, he also said.

Hossain Zillur Rahman, executive chairman of PPRC, said tobacco control is fundamentally a democratic policy exercise.

"It is not about banning individuals or punishing smokers but about using such policy instruments – like taxation, sales regulation, and advertising restrictions – to advance public welfare," he said.

He described the issue as a contest between narrow commercial interests and the broader public good, stressing that society must stand with the latter.

Several journalists and anti-tobacco campaigners also spoke at the programme.

## Police roll out Eid safety guidelines

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Eid and urged officers to stay vigilant so crimes such as robbery and mugging do not occur.

He said additional police forces will be deployed to ensure safe and orderly travel and urged officers to perform their duties with honesty to enhance the force's image.

He also urged bus owners to not hike fares during the Eid journey.

Additional Police Commissioner (Crime and Operations) S N Md Nazrul Islam stressed the need for visible improvements in law and order.

He directed officials to maintain special supervision at major terminals, including Gabtoli Bus Terminal, Mohakhali Bus Terminal, Sayedabad Bus Terminal, Kamalapur Railway Station, and Sadarghat Launch Terminal.

Nazrul also ordered increased patrolling across the city's beat areas and regular monitoring of CCTV cameras at shopping malls. "A zero-tolerance policy will be followed in maintaining law and order," he said.

Meanwhile, the DMP has suspended the movement

of some vehicles, including trucks, covered vans and lorries, on highways from March 17 to March 23.

However, vehicles carrying essential goods – such as perishable food items, garments, medicine, fertiliser and fuel – will remain exempt from the directive.

The DMP also issued instructions for transport owners and workers to operate buses from designated terminals, avoid charging extra fares, refrain from reckless driving, and ensure drivers have valid licences and vehicles have proper fitness certificates.

## Release Shahriar Kabir

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Forum; Chris Blackburn of the European Bangladesh Forum; Klaus Strempe; Tariq Gunersei; and Prof ABM Nasir.

They urged the government to act swiftly to protect Kabir's life and uphold international human rights standards.

A wheelchair user who suffers from several chronic illnesses, Shahriar Kabir has experienced a rapid health decline since his arrest, the statement said, adding that his weight has dropped significantly, and he now finds it difficult to stand.

Despite repeated requests, he has

reportedly not received the necessary medication and appropriate treatment, the statement read.

The Lemkin Institute for Genocide Prevention and Human Security stated on January 5, 2026, that Kabir's detention represents a serious violation of Bangladesh's international legal obligations.

Earlier, the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention declared in its Opinion No. 40/2025 that Kabir's detention was arbitrary, unlawful, and punitive. The group called for his immediate release, compensation, and an independent investigation.

These recommendations were not implemented by the previous government, the statement said.

The coalition called on the Government of Bangladesh to take three urgent actions: immediately release Shahriar Kabir and all elderly or vulnerable prisoners, ensure urgent and proper medical care for detainees, and ensure that all prisons in the country follow international human rights and humanitarian standards. "His [Shahriar Kabir] protection and release would reaffirm Bangladesh's commitment to the spirit of 1971 and the rule of law," the organisations said.

## Three incidents of rape reported

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Police Station, said Barhatta Police Station OC Nazmul Hasan.

According to the police, the rape took place about two months back. He later threatened the victim not to disclose the incident to anyone.

Days later, the child fell ill and was initially treated locally. However, as her condition worsened, she was taken to Dhaka.

OC Nazmul Hasan said that a rape case has been registered based on the complaint. The victim has been sent to the hospital for a medical examination, and her statement will be recorded in court. Efforts

are underway to arrest the accused.

In Noakhali, a 30-year-old woman was reportedly gang-raped on Tuesday night after being lured there under the false promise of marriage.

On Wednesday night, the victim filed a case, naming three individuals, said Hatia Police Station OC Md Kabir Hossain.

Police and locals said the victim met the main accused while looking for a groom through an acquaintance.

On Tuesday evening, the individual took her to a watermelon field at Kalapara. There, he and two others gang-raped her.

The victim has identified two of the accused: Shamir Uddin and Faisal. She was unable to identify the third individual.

OC Md Kabir Hossain said the woman filed a written complaint against Shamir Uddin, Faisal, and one unidentified person on Wednesday night.

## Considering

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situation, Dhaka is seeking to increase supply through it. The decision on how much the supply can be increased will be made by India.

"If the war in the Middle East is prolonged, it may disrupt the import of fuel oil. Therefore, to ensure

imports as per demand, the government is seeking new sources outside existing agreements," Tuku told reporters after a meeting with Indian High Commissioner Pranay Verma on Wednesday.

Following the US-Israeli attacks on Iran, shipping through the Strait of Hormuz has been severely disrupted amid Iranian threats, attacks on vessels, and reports of mines in the waterway. This has effectively choked one of the world's most vital energy corridors.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is also in touch with his Iranian counterpart, Seyed Abbas Araghchi, and has been discussing matters related to the safety of shipping and India's energy security, Jaiswal added.

## Historic WWII airbase

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"I have seen this airbase since I was a child. It now lies in a dilapidated state. It's shocking that a place with such history has been left to rot," said Hafez Mohammed Shaikue, a local.

Nurul Haque, 60, who has been living in a semi-pucca house beside the observation tower for the past 25 years, said, "We have heard since childhood that aeroplanes used to land here during the war. The then administration had rented the land from locals for the airfield but did not purchase it. So after the war ended, everyone reclaimed their own land."

Contacted, Mohammad Abdullah Al Mumin, UNO of Hathazari, said, "We have learned that this is a World War II site, but no action has been taken by the upazila administration so far."

He, however, said the administration plans to visit the site soon,

and, if it is found worth preserving, the relevant government departments will be informed to take the necessary steps.

Bangla Academy fellow and history researcher Md Shamsul Haque said the airbase is a rare reminder of Chattogram's role during World War II, but neglect is slowly erasing that history.

"Preserving the site is of utmost importance to keep the memory of our wartime heritage alive," he said.

Dr Nahid Sultana, regional director of the Department of Archaeology in Chattogram, said they were unaware of the presence of the airbase.

"We have already identified and drafted a list of archaeological sites in Hathazari. During our next visit, we will inspect this airbase and, if it meets the criteria, we will take necessary steps for its preservation," she told The Daily Star.

### Request for Quotation for Consultancy Services for Retail and SME Transformation

BRAC Bank PLC. delivers a full array of banking services to individuals and businesses through a network of 194 Branches, 116 Sub-branches, 330 ATMs, 446 SME Unit Offices and 1,120 Agent Banking Outlets across the country. The bank is currently seeking potential vendor(s) for **Consultancy Services for Retail and SME Transformation**.

A Technical Request for Quotation (RFQ) is hereby issued for this purpose. A pre-bid meeting for discussion and clarification shall be held on **16 March 2026**. The RFQ, along with details of the pre-bid meeting and the bidding process, can be found on the bank's website: <https://www.bracbank.com/en/page/e-tender>

Interested eligible bidders are requested to submit their technical offers as per **Instruction to Bidder (ITB)** outlined in the bidding process.



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### Company Car For Sale

Name: Mitsubishi Pajero Sports 2012, Color: Silver, CC: 2477, Registration: Aug 2012, Fuel Type: Diesel, Company Used Condition, All Papers are up to date  
We only sale car to company not any individual. All the papers including Trade license, Tax certificate must be updated for the company. Asking for your reasonable bid for the above car for purchase. You can directly call to Cell: 01713022601 or e-mail to [camel@mitsui.com](mailto:camel@mitsui.com) for further details. Bid submission deadline is Mar 31, 2026.  
Name Transfer fee will be borne by the buyer. We will only contact with the highest bidder and no further clarification/explanation will be given to any bidder.

### ICT Cell University of Dhaka Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh e-Tender Notice

ICT-No. EGP-26-02 Dated: 12/03/2026  
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
1244324	Package No.: ICT-20260309-DISP Supply, Installation, Testing, and Commissioning of Interactive display	12-Mar-2026 15:00	22-Apr-2026 12:00	22-Apr-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](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

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

GD-582

### ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

**UNIVERSITY OF DHAKA:** Applications in prescribed form, obtainable from the office of the Registrar, are invited from the Bangladeshi nationals for filling up 3 (Three) permanent posts of Lecturer in the Institute of Nutrition and Food Science, University of Dhaka. In the pay scales of Tk. 22,000-53,060/- (National Pay scale-2015).

**Qualifications:** Candidates must have a first class/a minimum CGPA 3.50 out of 4.00 both in Bachelor and Master degrees in Nutrition and Food Science with a first division/a minimum GPA 4.25 out of 5.00 in both SSC & HSC examinations. Requirements for either the SSC or HSC examinations may be relaxed for the candidates who have obtained the first position/the highest CGPA in both Bachelor and Master degrees. Candidates having a Ph.D. in the relevant field and research publication(s) in a quality journal may get preference. Articles published in predatory journals will not be accepted. Relevant notes and conditions apply. (For details, see the Dhaka University Website).

Eight copies of application together with attested copies of certificates, testimonials and mark-sheets/grade sheets and proof of experience along with a Pay Order/Bank Draft of the value Tk. 750/- (Seven hundred fifty) only payable to the Registrar, should reach Director, Institute of Nutrition and Food Science, University of Dhaka on or before 16.04.2026. Candidates already in service must apply through proper channel.

GD-576

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Office of the Project Director  
**Accelerating and Strengthening Skills for Economic Transformation (ASSET) Project**  
Directorate of Technical Education  
Plot -F-4/B, Agargaon, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207  
[www.asset-dte.gov.bd](http://www.asset-dte.gov.bd)

Memo No: 57.03.0000.051.07.956.25-877

Date: 12 March, 2026

### e-Tender Notice No: 11/2025-26

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

Tender ID No.	Package No.	Package Description	Tender Document last selling Date and Time	Tender Closing/Opening Date and Time
1244324	CP-GD-40	Supply and Operation of Desktop Computers	05-Apr-2026 17:00	06-Apr-2026 15:00
1244349	CP-GD-43	Supply, Installation & Operation of Smart Boards	06-Apr-2026 17:00	07-Apr-2026 15:00

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The fees for the e-Tender Document Price have to be deposited online through any registered Bank's Branches up to 5:00 PM of one day before the Closing Date.

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

Mir Zahid Hasan  
12-03-2026

Mir Zahid Hasan  
Project Director (Additional Secretary)  
ASSET Project  
Telephone: 880-02-41024953  
E-mail: [pd@asset-dte.gov.bd](mailto:pd@asset-dte.gov.bd)

GD-586

### পাওয়ার গ্রিড বাংলাদেশ পিএলসি POWER GRID BANGLADESH PLC (An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

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### নবীনগর-খামরাই বিদ্যুৎ সঞ্চালন লাইন চালুর সতর্কীকরণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার, পাওয়ার গ্রিড বাংলাদেশ পিএলসি (পাওয়ার গ্রিড) এবং কেএফডব্লিউ, জার্মানি-এর যৌথ অর্থায়নে বিদ্যুৎ, জ্বালানি ও খনিজ সম্পদ মন্ত্রণালয়ের বিদ্যুৎ বিভাগের অধীন পাওয়ার গ্রিড কর্তৃক "গ্রীড ভিত্তিক বিদ্যুৎ সরবরাহে দক্ষতা উন্নয়ন প্রকল্প" শীর্ষক প্রকল্পের আওতায় নবীনগর-খামরাই ১৩২ কেভি ডাবল সার্কিট সঞ্চালন লাইন (প্রায় ১৫.৯৮৫ কি.মি.) নির্মিত হয়েছে। সঞ্চালন লাইনটি ঢাকা জেলার সাভার উপজেলার পাঁচ ঘুঘুদিয়া ও ঘুঘুদিয়া মৌজা ও তৎসংলগ্ন এলাকা এবং খামরাই উপজেলার পূর্ব বাড়িগাঁও, সাছনা, সীতি, পল্লি, বারিলা, পশ্চিম গোপালপুর, রঘুনাথপুর, ভাদালিয়া, জয়তেজুলিয়া, বাজাসন, নামার, বর্গাবিল ও শ্রীরামপুর মৌজা ও তৎসংলগ্ন এলাকার উপর দিয়ে গমন করেছে। নবনির্মিত লাইনটি আগামী ১৪ মার্চ ২০২৬ তারিখ, শনিবার, সকাল ১১.০০ টায় ১৩২ কেভি অর্থাৎ ১,৩২,০০০ (এক লক্ষ ত্রিশ হাজার) ভোল্টেজে চালু করা হবে।

সঞ্চালন লাইনটি চালুর সময় হতে ১৩২ কেভি হাই ভোল্টেজের বিদ্যুৎ দিয়ে চালু থাকবে বিধায় সম্মানিত এলাকাবাসীকে উক্ত সঞ্চালন লাইনের টাওয়ারে আরোহণ, টাওয়ারে গরু, ছাগল ইত্যাদি গবাদি পশু রাখা, টাওয়ারে রশি বেঁধে কাপড় শুকানো প্রভৃতি ঝুঁকিপূর্ণ কাজ হতে বিরত থাকার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে। এছাড়া ১৩২ কেভি নবনির্মিত সঞ্চালন লাইনটির সকল স্থাপনা হতে লাইন বা টাওয়ার হতে নিরাপদ দূরত্বে (লাইনের উভয় পাশে ১৪ মিটার) থাকার জন্য সম্মানিত এলাকাবাসীকে বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে। এ বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের পর কেউ সঞ্চালন লাইনের সংস্পর্শে এসে দুর্ঘটনার শিকার হলে তার জন্য "পাওয়ার গ্রিড বাংলাদেশ পিএলসি" কোনোভাবেই দায়ী থাকবে না।

শহীদ উল্লাহ

প্রকল্প পরিচালক ও প্রধান প্রকৌশলী (অতিরিক্ত দায়)

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