

## DGHS drive opens can of worms

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bid to curb irregularities.  
**ANOMALIES EVERYWHERE**

A team from DGHS, along with a mobile court of the Dhaka District Administration, yesterday resumed drives in the Chankharpool area, where Health Minister Sardar Md Sakhawat Husain visited several medical facilities on Tuesday night.

One of the facilities inspected was Prime TG Diagnostic and Consultation Centre, located on the first floor of a small building with a very narrow passage.

The centre had obtained permission as a Category-C facility, which allows only basic tests.

However, the team found evidence that it was conducting tests that should be carried out at Category-B centres by qualified pathologists and radiologists.

The facility had also launched Prime TG Blood Bank and Consultation Centre about eight months ago without approval, although setting up a blood bank requires separate authorisation.

Mamun Khan, a marketing promotion officer of the blood bank, said they collect blood from one to two donors daily.

In response to a query, he said they had filed an application seeking approval, but DGHS officials said they found no such application.

In this context, the mobile court, led by Executive Magistrate Shahriar Ashraf, sealed the blood bank and fined the diagnostic centre Tk 60,000.

Authentic Diagnostic and Consultation was established in 2018. In 2024, the authorities took steps to set up a 50-bed Authentic Hospital in the same building.

The team found that the licences of both facilities had expired in June last year. The hospital also does

not have an emergency department.

Although a 50-bed hospital is required to have at least 15 doctors and 30 nurses, the team found only one doctor on duty at the time of the drive.

The hospital authorities had submitted a list of 20 doctors while obtaining approval, but the doctor present during the inspection could not recognise any of them.

Mizanur Rahman, chief executive officer of the hospital, said they had applied for licence renewal but failed to provide any evidence to support the claim.

More than 10 doctors work at the hospital, but they usually arrive after 2:00pm as they are engaged at other facilities he said adding that although the hospital received approval for 50 beds, only a small number of patients are admitted.

Patients are aware the hospital does not have an emergency department and that operations are conducted after 2:00pm, he said.

In this context, DGHS decided to suspend the hospital's operations until further notice and asked the authorities to appear before it within 15 working days with the necessary documents.

Advance Health Aid Diagnostic Centre is located beside the Authentic Hospital.

The team found no pathologist or radiologist present at the facility, which was crowded with patients.

Family members of Md Hanif, 72, who suffered a brain stroke and was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, brought him to the diagnostic centre.

He had been waiting in a wheelchair for more than an hour, but the authorities said the specialist who would perform the echocardiogram would arrive after 2:30pm.

"A man from Dhaka Medical College Hospital took us here, saying the facility was good and tests could be done quickly. But we have been waiting for a long time with this critical patient," said Hanif's son-in-law Md Ripon.

The team also found that the facility was using a reagent that expired in February. Several test reports lacked the signature of the assigned doctor.

In this context, the mobile court fined the facility Tk 1 lakh, while DGHS decided to shut it down until further notice.

The team also shut down Ahmed Specialised Hospital until further notice for not having an emergency department, employing a foreign doctor without permission, maintaining unhygienic conditions and posing serious safety risks by keeping oxygen cylinders and a generator in the same room.

The team also decided to close Active Blood Bank, Transfusion and Diagnostic Centre, Pure Scientific Diagnostic Centre and Dhaka Diagnostic and Consultation Centre until further notice after detecting similar irregularities in the facilities.

Creative Blood Bank was issued a show notice for operating without valid licence.

## Ruhul Quddus made new attorney general

FROM PAGE 12  
from Jhenaidah-1. He is now the law minister after his party's victory.

Ruhul is also a member of the BNP's National Executive Committee.

After his appointment, he told reporters at his Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) chamber that he would discharge his new duties "in accordance with the law, ethics and principles".

He stressed the need for a comprehensive government policy to reduce case backlogs, citing shortages of judges and systemic inefficiencies. "Often a criminal case is filed against 10 to 50 persons though the offence was committed by only one. In civil matters, disputes that could be settled outside court are brought into litigation, adding to the backlog," he said.

He added that training for lawyers and greater awareness among litigants were essential to easing the burden on the judiciary.

Ruhul currently serves on the Bangladesh Bar Council and previously held the post of secretary of the SCBA. A former student of Dhaka University's Law Department, he became a member of the SCBA in 1996.

## Oil prices

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when necessary".

In stock markets trading, European indices jumped around 1.5 percent approaching the half-way stage yesterday.

Asian markets earlier closed with strong gains, led by Tokyo which won nearly three percent.

"European markets are following the wider global theme of optimism as rumours swirl around the apparent negotiations that could lead us out of the conflict in Iran," said Joshua Mahony, chief market analyst at Scope Markets.

"Dip buyers have started to grab what they can, while oil prices shift lower as the perceived length of time associated with the disruption shortens."

European Central Bank chief Christine Lagarde said the ECB has several options for dealing with the energy shock, vowing policymakers would not be "paralysed by hesitation".

At its most recent meeting last week, the ECB kept interest rates on hold, while warning of higher inflation and lower growth in the eurozone owing to the war.

However, analysts have raised bets on the central bank hiking borrowing costs as soon as next month to try and keep the lid on an expected surge in consumer prices.

Hopes of an end to the Middle East conflict surfaced after the New York Times quoted unnamed officials saying that Washington had sent a 15-point peace proposal via Pakistan.

Israel's Channel 12 said that Trump was suggesting a one-month ceasefire during which they would discuss handing over Iran's enriched uranium and banning further enrichment.

The Israeli report added that Tehran would ensure safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz, while Iran would see an end to all sanctions and receive assistance in developing civil nuclear energy.

The strait, through which one fifth of global oil and gas normally flows, has largely been blocked by Iran.

## Domestic airfare

FROM PAGE 12  
(Rita) at her office in the Secretariat yesterday.

There is no necessity to increase the jet fuel price at present.

"We have also informed the minister that increasing the jet fuel price will badly impact the country's aviation industry -- we may even have to suspend the operations."

The Philippine government has decreased the rate of different kinds of aeronautical and non-aeronautical charges by 50 to 60 percent to support their local airline industry, according to Mofizur.

"Our government, in contrast, didn't take any such measures."

The civil aviation minister noted down AOAB's points and assured that she will place their concern before the concerned ministries and department, he added.

## No hike in fuel prices for now

FROM PAGE 12  
normally maintains a 15-day reserve and currently has about a month's supply of fuel.

He assured that the government is taking steps to ensure stability amid the ongoing international energy crisis.

Asked about the PM's response in this regard, he said, "The prime minister reviewed all available government resources, assessed progress, and examined the steps taken by the ministries. I can briefly say that the reserves are sufficient."

About panic buying, Ghani said, "Excess fuel purchased unnecessarily could go to waste. The situation should normalise in a few days once public confidence returns. Under the government's plan, the reserves are being increased further."

Regarding the jet fuel price hike, he explained,

"The international price of jet fuel has increased. Airlines operating here also follow the international rate, so the price movement is aligned with global trends."

He confirmed that the one-month reserve includes all types of fuel and added that the Cabinet Committee on Purchase has approved the acquisition of two cargoes of LNG.

Ghani also said that fuel not immediately available under contracts is purchased from the spot market, and decisions have to be made quickly -- often within 10 hours of the cargo's arrival.

**FIVE ISSUES DISCUSSED**  
The cabinet secretary said five issues were discussed at the meeting.

As it began, members recalled the "black night" of March 25, when occupation Pakistani forces carried

out genocide, which led to the declaration of independence and the start of the Liberation War, reports BSS.

Prayers were also offered for the martyrs of the Liberation War.

Ghani told reporters that five agendas were discussed at the meeting as part of constitutional obligations.

He said the first was the draft amendment to the Value Added Tax (VAT) and Supplementary Duty Act 2026, which received approval in principle and final approval, and that drafts of two finance-related laws, reflecting expenditures of the fiscal year ending in July along with revised final expenditures, also received approval in principle.

Another item was the draft amendment to a financial ordinance, which also received approval in principle and final, he

added.

"This ordinance is part of the annual financial framework for the 2025-26 fiscal year under articles 86 and 27 of the constitution, and revenue has been collected under it since June 26, 2025."

Ghani explained that taxes are collected under specific laws, and to convert the ordinance into an act, the draft Finance (Amendment) Act for the 2025-26 fiscal year was given final approval at a special cabinet meeting, subject to vetting by the Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division.

He said among the 133 ordinances issued during the previous cabinet's tenure, a decision has been made to convert five of them into acts.

"Necessary procedures will be followed, and these will be presented in parliament soon."

## Freedom fighters gave us a map

FROM PAGE 12  
Jamaat at the National Press Club in the capital.

Shafiqur extended greetings on Independence and National Day to Bangladeshis at home and abroad and paid tribute to those who fought and died in the Liberation War.

"An independent nation does not always fully realise the value of freedom, but a subjugated one does. The people of this land had remained bound in the chains of subjugation for nearly 190 years and had therefore understood the true meaning of independence," he said.

Shafiqur added that people had once been assured that, in the name of Pakistan, there would be no discrimination in this land, justice would be established, and people would live with dignity as citizens of an independent country. "But that goal was not achieved. Instead, it was violated at every step. As a result, the Liberation War of 1971 became inevitable."

Referring to the pre-1971 election, the opposition leader said it had been held under military rule, when the constitution was suspended and the process was conducted under military orders.

"But the Pakistani ruling group and the military failed to respect the people's verdict... Ignoring that verdict, they tried to suppress the aspirations of countless people with bullets. They killed people

indiscriminately. They violated people's honour. They destroyed property. They turned the country into a scorched land."

He added that even after 54 years of independence, the people have not received the outcomes they were meant to achieve.

Drawing a comparison with Japan after the Second World War, he said the country had turned around within a short time and amazed the world through industrial development.

"Today, they are established as a developed and dignified nation. Why could we not do it? The main reasons are the failure of leadership, greed, short-sightedness, and limitless corruption."

The Jamaat ameer also said corruption is not limited to the embezzlement of money. "Depriving people of their rights, placing unqualified people in positions requiring merit, and devaluing the qualified are also major [forms of] corruption."

"Unless the poisonous effects of corruption are eliminated from society, it will not be possible to enjoy the true benefits of independence."

Chief discussant Colonel Oli Ahmed Bir Bikram, president of the Liberal Democratic Party (part of the Jamaat-led II-party alliance), said the first reason he "rebelled" in 1971 as a young captain was discrimination, and the second was the absence of

good governance.

He said that despite more than 50 years having passed, politicisation had not stopped except for a brief period. "Except during [late] president Zia's time, politicisation has never stopped. We have not been able to ensure good governance. We have not been able to make appointments on the basis of merit."

Speaking as a special guest, Jamaat Secretary General Mia Golam Parwar said that when a ruling group suppresses people's rights, equality, and aspirations for an independent life, it leads to a mass uprising.

"Looking at the history of our independence or Liberation War, it seems that we won this country's independence within nine months. But is the history of our struggle for independence really limited to these nine months? No."

Also speaking as a special guest, Jamaat Assistant Secretary General and MP Maulana Rafiqul Islam Khan said, "This beloved Bangladesh was achieved in exchange for the blood of lakhs of martyrs. But the goal for which Bangladesh was made independent... that goal has still not been achieved."

The meeting was conducted by Jamaat Dhaka Metropolitan South Secretary and MP Shafiqul Islam Masud. Other central and metropolitan leaders of the party also spoke.

## Kim vows 'unshakable' support for Russia

AFP, Seoul

North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un said his country will always support Russia, and complimented his counterpart in a letter published by state media yesterday.

Ties between the two countries have grown closer since Moscow's 2022 invasion of Ukraine, with Pyongyang dispatching ground troops and weapons systems to aid Russia's war effort.

Analysts say the assistance has been provided in exchange for Russia's provision of food and weapons technology.

"I express my sincere thanks to you for sending warm and sincere congratulations first on my reassignment of the heavy duty as President of the State Affairs," Kim said in the message on Tuesday, the official Korean Central News Agency said.

North Korea's rubber-stamp legislature reappointed Kim this week as head of the authoritarian nation's highest policymaking and governing body.

"Today, the DPRK and Russia are closely cooperating to defend the sovereignty of the two countries," Kim said, using the initials of the North's official name.



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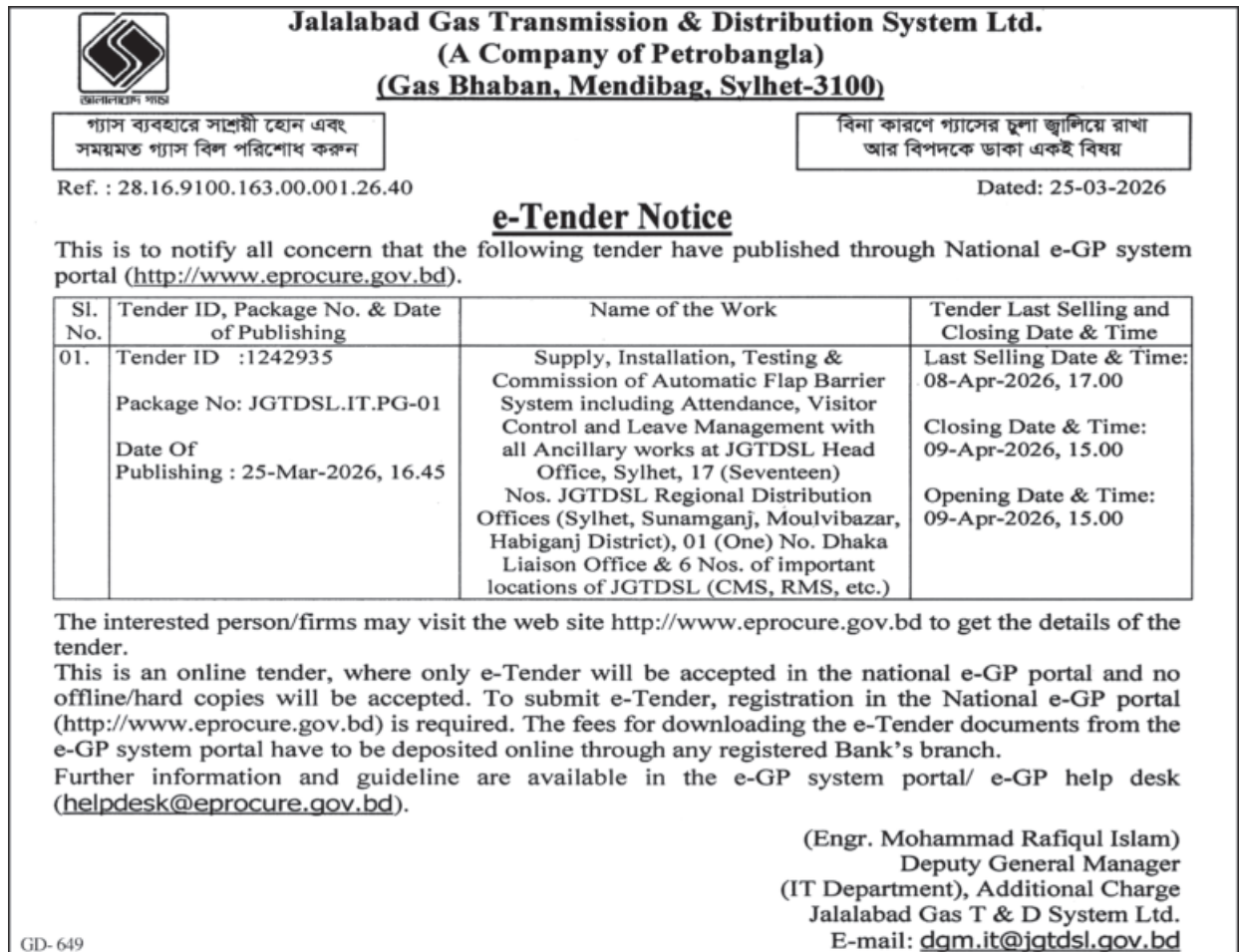
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01.	Tender ID :1242935 Package No: JGTDSL.IT.PG-01 Date Of Publishing : 25-Mar-2026, 16.45	Supply, Installation, Testing & Commission of Automatic Flap Barrier System including Attendance, Visitor Control and Leave Management with all Ancillary works at JGTDSL Head Office, Sylhet, 17 (Seventeen) Nos. JGTDSL Regional Distribution Offices (Sylhet, Sunamganj, Moulvibazar, Habiganj District), 01 (One) No. Dhaka Liaison Office & 6 Nos. of important locations of JGTDSL (CMS, RMS, etc.)	Last Selling Date & Time: 08-Apr-2026, 17.00 Closing Date & Time: 09-Apr-2026, 15.00 Opening Date & Time: 09-Apr-2026, 15.00

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