

Govt hunting for fuel worldwide

Asks US for waiver of sanctions on Russian petroleum products; looks for supplies from India, Malaysia, Nigeria, Australia, America

ASIFUR RAHMAN

The government is moving to diversify fuel imports as traditional shipping routes face disruption and fears of nationwide shortages grow amid escalating geopolitical tensions in the Middle East.

With Iran's tight grip on the Strait of Hormuz, a conduit for roughly one-fifth of global oil trade, importing crude oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG) from the Middle East has become a challenge.

With this in mind, the government has requested a sanctions waiver from the United States so that the country can purchase refined fuel from Russia without repercussions. At the same time, officials

Country's fuel imports to exceed 1 lakh tonnes in April

Govt considering issuing 'fuel passes' to stop panic buying, hoarding

Govt weighs austerity measures: extended weekends, remote work

are negotiating with a range of countries across Asia, Africa, and beyond to diversify fuel sources.

Dhaka wrote to Washington on March 22, requesting permission to import up to 6,00,000 tonnes of refined fuel from Russia or, alternatively, to obtain a waiver for at least two months, according to the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources.

"We held discussions with the US State Department and submitted the formal request following their advice. Now we are awaiting their response," said

Monir Hossain Chowdhury, the ministry spokesperson, during a briefing at the

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A blaze erupts after debris from an intercepted Iranian missile hit an industrial building and fuel tanker at Israel's Oil Refineries in Haifa yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Bangladesh races to secure fertiliser amid Hormuz uncertainty

SUKANTA HALDER

The government is making urgent efforts to secure fertiliser, especially urea, from both regular and alternative sources to ensure food security and prevent any supply shortage after June amid the US-Israel war on Iran.

"We are seeking imports from multiple sources, including Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, while exploring options with Russia despite sanctions-related complications, as well as alternatives such as Brunei, Malaysia, and Vietnam..."

BCIC Chairman Md Fazlur Rahman

Amid instability caused by the war, serious doubts have arisen over whether the 17 listed suppliers can deliver fertiliser through the Strait of Hormuz. In response, the Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) opened an international tender, inviting global suppliers to secure this vital agricultural input.

Contacted by The Daily Star, BCIC Chairman Md Fazlur Rahman said the urea tender was widened for international participation to address the ongoing emergency situation caused by global disruptions in fuel and gas supply, which have led to domestic factory shutdowns.

He said that while there is no supply shortage until June, the country requires a reserve of around 600,000 tonnes of urea for the July-September period, which cannot be met through local production due to gas shortages.

"We are seeking imports from multiple sources, including Saudi

RELATED STORY ON B1

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Tk 31,000cr in fuel subsidies needed till June

Says energy minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The additional import cost of fuel and liquefied natural gas due to the US-Israel war on Iran would require Tk 31,000 crore in subsidies between March and June, said Power, Energy, and Mineral Resources Minister Iqbal Hassan Mahmood Tuku yesterday.

The minister said diesel is currently being sold at Tk 100 per litre, while the actual cost was Tk 189 per litre between March 1 and 29. Octane is being sold at Tk 120 per litre, whereas the actual cost was Tk 150.72.

"The government is shouldering a significant subsidy in public interest," he said in parliament yesterday.

He said subsidy requirements for diesel between March and June could be Tk 15,409 crore, while octane Tk 636 crore. Besides, Petrobangla may need Tk 15,077 crore in LNG subsidies in the April-June quarter.

The minister said the government has kept domestic fuel prices stable despite the challenges, unlike many countries that have adjusted prices multiple times.

He urged the people to avoid unnecessary purchases, prevent waste,

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Iran dismisses 'unreasonable' US demands, says NPT under review

Trump threatens to 'take the oil' in Iran as crude surges

Israel oil refinery hit as Iran steps up attacks

Trump 'interested' in asking Arab allies to help pay for war

Trump threatens to 'obliterate' Iran's energy grid

Tells Tehran to reach deal immediately to open Strait of Hormuz; war rages on amid ground ops fear

AGENCIES

President Donald Trump yesterday warned that Iran's energy plants and oil wells would be obliterated if it did not open the Strait of Hormuz immediately, after Tehran described US peace proposals as "unrealistic" and fired waves of missiles at Israel.

Trump, a day after sounding conciliatory and suggesting a deal could be reached this week, issued an ominous warning yesterday.

"Great progress has been made but, if for any reason a deal is not shortly reached, which it probably will be, and if the Hormuz Strait is not immediately 'Open for Business,' we will conclude our lovely 'stay' in Iran by blowing up and completely obliterating all of their Electric Generating Plants, Oil Wells and Kharg Island (and possibly all desalination plants!), which we have purposefully not yet 'touched,'" Trump said.

Iran has previously threatened that if its key economic sites face further US and Israeli strikes, it will target the energy infrastructure of its oil and gas-rich Arab neighbours on the Gulf.

Market experts warned that any US ground operation or wider Iranian retaliation could send oil prices to levels not seen since the July 2008 commodity boom, when the cost of world benchmark crude Brent hit close to \$150 per barrel – and could rise far more.

Brent has already risen in price by nearly 60 percent this month, and the US benchmark WTI by more than half.

"If the US were to launch a ground invasion of Iran, ... projections of \$200 (a barrel) oil will not be an otherworldly supposition anymore," analyst Tamas Varga of PVM Energy said.

On Sunday night, the US president told

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All attackers of July activists to face action

Says Salahuddin, reiterates warning against mobs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed said those involved in armed attacks against activists of the July uprising would be treated as criminals, irrespective of their uniform, and assured proper investigation of all cases and protection for July fighters.

He made the remarks while answering two separate supplementary questions in yesterday's parliamentary sitting.

To a question from BNP MP Zainul Abedin Farroque, Salahuddin said, "Those who carried out armed attacks against July fighters and ordinary people – whether they wore the uniform of any force, or were [from] Jubo League, Chhatra League – whoever they were, they are all criminals. Cases have been filed against them.

"If not, you may file them, and all cases will be properly investigated. The judiciary is responsible for delivering judgement."

National Citizen Party MP Akhtar Hossen asked whether the home ministry would take departmental action, beyond judicial investigations, against police officers involved in killings and torture over the past 16 years, particularly during the uprising, adding that the Awami League was using the frame of "police killings" to "create disorder".

In response, the home minister said July fighters are

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Humaira, an eight-month-old from Barishal, receives treatment for measles at the Infectious Diseases Hospital in Mohakhali, Dhaka, where she has been admitted for the past seven days. At least 40 children have died of measles and related complications this year as the disease spreads in the capital and several other districts. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

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SPECIAL VACCINE DRIVE

Measles vaccine age lowered to six months

Campaign to start in June-July

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The National Immunisation Technical Advisory Group (NITAG) yesterday recommended lowering the age for receiving the measles vaccine to six months, as one-third of the children recently infected with measles are under nine months, the current age for vaccination.

However, the measles vaccine for children aged six months to five years will be given only during a special vaccination campaign, expected to be held in June or July based on the availability of all logistics, said Halimur Rashid, director of disease control at the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) and also a member of NITAG.

The age for routine measles vaccination will remain nine months.

The group also decided to investigate the recent surge in measles cases to determine whether the cases originated within the country or not and has assigned the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR)

US-ISRAEL WAR ON IRAN

Countries take drastic steps amid supply crunch

AGENCIES

The Middle East war has sparked a global energy and fertiliser crisis, forcing countries, especially in Asia, to take drastic measures to manage the supply crunch.

Sri Lanka yesterday announced a nearly 40 percent increase in electricity prices from Wednesday as it battles an energy shortage caused by the war.

The Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka said further increases were likely in April, in-line with global energy prices.

Sri Lanka has raised fuel prices three times this month, increasing them by more than a third, and has announced a four-day working week in a bid to save energy. The government has also asked the private sector to reintroduce work-from-home arrangements where possible.

South Korea is also considering extending driving curbs to the general public if global oil prices climb further, senior officials said.

Finance Minister Koo Yun-cheol said on Sunday the government could expand restrictions on passenger car use beyond public institutions if crude prices rise to around \$120-\$130 a barrel.

If expanded to the entire public, the policy would mark the country's first nationwide driving curbs since the 1991 Gulf War, when the government imposed a 10-day vehicle rotation system to conserve energy.

India yesterday said the disruption has impacted domestic production of urea, making the current

situation "very vulnerable".

April and May are crucial for stocking ahead of crop cycles, though officials noted these are relatively lean months for farm activity, allowing time to bridge supply gaps through imports.

Indian government sources said petrol and diesel are available in sufficient quantities across the country, even as the government continues to monitor distribution closely.

Earlier, the Philippines declared a "national energy emergency," saying its fuel reserves would last about 45 days, while Taiwan said it held roughly 11 days of LNG "safety stock."

Several countries are also revisiting Covid-era policies to reduce energy use.

Pakistan announced a four-day workweek for public offices and a two-week closure of schools and universities. Indonesia is considering hybrid schooling and a one-day-per-week remote working model from April.

Vietnam has urged workplaces to adopt remote working, while Thailand has instructed public sector employees to work from home and suspend overseas travel.

The effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow channel along the Iranian coast, has stopped the passage of 20 percent of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas and a major portion of fertiliser since the US and Israel began airstrikes on Iran on February 28. Much of it was bound for Asia, including China, India, Japan and South Korea.



Opposition leader and Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman meeting with Prime Minister Tarique Rahman and LGRD Minister Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir at the Parliament Secretariat yesterday.

PHOTO: PM PRESS WING

Bangladesh races to secure fertiliser

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Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, while exploring options with Russia despite sanctions-related complications, as well as alternatives such as Brunei, Malaysia, and Vietnam. Meanwhile, in the current situation, China has stopped exporting fertiliser.

A senior official of the agriculture ministry said the government is also working to explore whether US sanctions on Russia could be eased to allow fertiliser imports from that country.

He added that a letter was sent to Iran through the foreign ministry on March 29 to ensure safe transit of shipments from the Middle East, which pass through the Strait of Hormuz.

The same day, a meeting at the industry ministry decided to issue a tender for the import of an additional 200,000 tonnes of urea fertiliser.

Rahman expressed optimism that the Ghorashal Polish Fertilizer PLC will resume operations shortly, while Karnaphuli Fertilizer Company Limited and Shahjalal Fertilizer

Company Limited are expected to resume operations by May.

Currently, the country has urea stock until June this year, while non-urea fertiliser stock will last until October, said Ahmed Faisal Imam, additional secretary for fertiliser management and monitoring branch at the agriculture ministry.

Bangladesh requires over 26 lakh tonnes of urea annually, of which around 10 lakh tonnes are produced domestically. The rest have to be imported from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Qatar, all of which ship fertiliser, gas, and oil through the Strait of Hormuz.

Aman rice, which is grown in a season beginning after June, accounts for 40 percent of the total annual rice crop, estimated at around 4 crore tonnes in the 2024-25 fiscal year.

Azajul Haque, research officer of fertiliser management and monitoring at the Ministry of Agriculture, said Bangladesh imports non-urea fertilisers from Russia, Canada, Morocco, China, Tunisia, Jordan, and Egypt.

Urea is mainly imported from Saudi Arabia and Qatar, he told the reporter.

He stated that current fertiliser stocks stand at 373,100 tonnes of urea, 381,200 tonnes of TSP, 538,500 tonnes of DAP, and 318,200 tonnes of MOP.

Regarding import routes, he said the Hormuz route is used most frequently, particularly for imports from Middle Eastern countries, while shipments from Russia, Canada, and China do not face such issues.

According to a recent CNBC report, analysts said they had seen the cost of FOB (Free On Board) granular urea in Egypt -- a bellwether of nitrogen fertilisers -- jump to around \$700 per metric ton, up from \$400 to \$490 before the war began.

The peak season for fertiliser demand is November to March, mainly for Boro rice cultivation, when Bangladesh uses 60 percent of the fertiliser used in crop production.

Apart from urea, the government also plans to sign a contract with Egypt to import Diammonium Phosphate and Triple Super Phosphate fertilisers.

Govt hunting for fuel worldwide

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Secretariat yesterday.

Officials did not provide details on the procurement mechanism, including whether shipments would come directly from Russia or via a third country.

In the meantime, Dhaka has also been trying to secure additional supplies from regional partners.

Officials said India had earlier committed to supplying around 60,000 tonnes of diesel between January and June under an existing arrangement. However, before the conflict escalated, Bangladesh received only about 5,000 tonnes.

Subsequent communications at ministerial and secretary levels yielded additional shipments. So far, Bangladesh has received three consignments of 5,000 tonnes each through the India-Bangladesh pipeline and another shipment of 7,000 tonnes via the sea route, bringing the total diesel imports from India to roughly 22,000 tonnes.

Meanwhile, two additional shipments -- each estimated at around 6,000 tonnes -- are expected from Indonesia.

As part of exploring new sources to diversify imports, the government has been reaching out to Singapore, Malaysia, Nigeria, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Angola, Australia, and the United States for potential fuel and gas supplies.

"In several cases, we have received positive responses, as two LNG shipments have been confirmed from Angola and Australia," said the ministry spokesperson.

Authorities have also reached out to Iran to explore possible shipment arrangements, though logistical and security complications naturally remain.

Spokesperson Monir Hossain said, "In the present situation, moving cargo through the Hormuz is extremely risky. In many cases, vessels not carrying the Bangladesh flag may face restrictions."

Iran has reportedly indicated that Bangladeshi vessels may be allowed to operate through the strait, though

Dhaka is still waiting for formal confirmation.

Officials said they have examined several alternatives, but many have turned out to be economically unviable.

One proposal involved routing fuel through a 150km pipeline to Yanbu in Saudi Arabia. However, additional port charges, transit fees, and handling costs would significantly raise the overall import price.

"All procurement decisions must ultimately be economically viable," the spokesperson added.

The search for new suppliers has also grown more difficult, as some traditional exporters are raising surcharges on top of already surging oil prices in the global market.

Despite the uncertainties, officials said Bangladesh's short-term fuel supply remains adequate.

Two shipments scheduled to arrive yesterday and April 3 are expected to bring in about 54,600 tonnes of diesel. Another 7,000 tonnes from India's Numaligarh Refinery Ltd are due in April.

Additional diesel shipments from Malaysian suppliers are also expected, which could bring total imports in April to a little over 1 lakh tonnes. Besides, the current stock of 1.37 lakh tonnes of diesel is expected to ease the crisis for the time being.

However, officials cautioned that it is too early to predict supply conditions for May and June.

For the time being, the government is able to secure supplies for the immediate future, the ministry spokesperson said, urging people not to panic.

REGULATING DISTRIBUTION

The government is also preparing measures to regulate domestic fuel consumption.

Officials said a digital "fuel pass" system based on QR codes is under consideration to curb panic buying and regulate distribution. Under the proposed system, each registered vehicle would receive a QR code allowing it to purchase a fixed quantity of fuel within a specified period.

Once fuel is collected, the system would prevent the same vehicle from making repeated purchases before the next cycle.

Authorities are thinking about bringing motorcycles under the scheme, as octane consumption has surged in recent weeks. The system would operate through a digital platform recording vehicle registration details, purchase time, and fuel quantities, allowing authorities to monitor distribution more closely.

According to the ministry, the passes would likely be issued centrally and distributed through filling stations to avoid administrative complications. Authorities said the agriculture sector remains the top priority in fuel allocation, particularly during the irrigation season.

Diesel distribution is being coordinated through lists prepared by agricultural officers at the upazila level to ensure farmers receive adequate supplies.

"So far we've not received complaints from any district administration about diesel shortages affecting irrigation," the energy ministry spokesperson said.

In addition, the government is weighing a set of austerity measures, including extending weekends and introducing work-from-home and online classes, he added.

RIPPLE EFFECT

Fuel prices have risen sharply in Nepal, Bhutan, Pakistan, Afghanistan, the Maldives, and Sri Lanka, in some cases by more than 25 percent.

Besides, the Philippines has declared a national energy emergency, while Cuba has recently reported critically low fuel reserves.

By comparison, officials say Bangladesh's overall fuel management remains relatively stable.

The supply of diesel, which makes up about 63 percent of national consumption, has yet to face any disruption, according to ministry sources.

The main concern lies in the procurement and distribution of octane, which accounts for just over six percent of total demand, they added.

Measles vaccine age lowered to six months

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to carry out the task, The Daily Star has learnt from meeting attendants.

The advisory group held the meeting amid a surge in measles cases, with at least 40 children reported dead from measles or related complications as of Sunday. The actual number of deaths could be higher.

A total of 676 positive measles cases have been reported until Sunday to the DGHS, though the actual number could be higher.

Children aged nine months and 15 months receive measles vaccination twice under the regular immunisation programme, said Shahriar Sajjad, director of the Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI).

The vaccination rate is 90 to 92 percent, so special vaccination campaigns are usually carried out every four years, with the latest one held in 2020.

The planned special campaign in 2024 could not be conducted due to

unrest in the country, he said.

However, 34 percent of the measles patients in this outbreak are under nine months, and the meeting therefore decided to lower the measles vaccine age to six months during the special vaccination campaign.

During the campaign, the vaccine will be given to children aged six months to five years. However, in six districts where the vaccine dropout rate is relatively high, it will be administered to children aged six months to 10 years, he said.

The age for routine measles vaccination will remain nine months, as they need to analyse all data before making any changes to the age limit for regular vaccination.

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, the public-private global health partnership that helps vaccinate children in the world's poorest countries, funds the vaccine and other logistics for the special campaign, according to Sajjad.

While Gavi has already provided

two crore measles vaccines for the campaign, the other logistics like syringes and others are yet to arrive.

EPI had planned to carry out the special campaign in mid-April but it would not be possible as Gavi said they would be able to provide syringes between May and July. In that case, the campaign can be delayed, he said.

Asked about the shortage of measles vaccine, he said the vaccine is still available at the field level but it would be exhausted.

"So, we have written to Gavi to use the vaccines intended for the special campaign for routine vaccination and will replace them when we procure vaccines for regular use," he said.

Meanwhile, Health Minister Sardar Md Sakhawat Husain yesterday reiterated that the cabinet committee on government purchase approved a Tk 604 crore proposal for procuring vaccines last week and will attempt to bring the shots as soon as possible.

All attackers of July activists to face action

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legally and constitutionally protected under the July National Charter, and added that an ordinance issued during the interim government to safeguard them has been placed before parliament and is expected to be passed as a bill with consensus.

"The Awami fascist groups are demanding justice for killings on social media. As I said before -- if that is the case, then freedom fighters too would have to be tried for killing Razakars, if someone now files a case."

He noted that specific cases have been filed over police killings. "Some are being tried at the International Crimes Tribunal, while others are under the Penal Code in regular courts. Investigations are ongoing, and some charge sheets have already been submitted," he said, adding that courts will conduct trials independently, without government interference.

Responding to another supplementary question from BNP MP Abul Kalam Azad Siddiqui, Salahuddin said some politically motivated and false cases were withdrawn during the interim government. "After BNP came to power, one of its first tasks was to withdraw false cases. Cases against political activists, journalists, and people from various professions

were reviewed and withdrawn upon application."

Noting that district-level committees were formed under the leadership of district magistrates, he said, "Politically motivated cases filed between 2009 and 2024 can be submitted for withdrawal through these committees, which review and forward them to the ministry."

"Based on recommendations from a committee led by the law minister, cases are then withdrawn under Section 494 of the Criminal Procedure Code."

'ROAD BLOCKADES WON'T BE ALLOWED'

The home minister, responding to another question, said, "The tendency to block highways and roads to press demands, which was seen during the interim government and in some cases inspired by its weakness, will never be allowed by us."

He said that as part of the democratic process, demands will exist, and petitions can certainly be submitted to the relevant authorities, ministries, or departments in that regard.

"To build public opinion, seminars and symposiums can be organised, and if necessary, those demands can be expressed through public gatherings.

"The right to association, the right to speak -- we will ensure these. That can be done. It is democratic culture," he said, adding that all must move away from the tendency of pressing demands through mobs.

Responding to a question by Brahmanbaria-2 MP Rumeen Farhana, Salahuddin reiterated, "There will be no kind of mob culture in Bangladesh."

Asking what steps the government would take to stop mob culture, Rumeen said that for 15 long years of Awami League rule, there was a culture of enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, and torture in custody.

"Then during the interim government, we witnessed mob culture. From September 2024 to January 2026, statistics show that more than 250-300 people were killed after falling prey to mobs."

To this, Salahuddin said, "I do not have that exact statistic. What we have is an estimate.... Since taking on this responsibility, incidents resembling mob violence -- though not exactly mobs -- have occurred during this period. Because here we must distinguish definitions."

"The definition of mob is different. When it is a specific crime, the definition of crime is different."

go," Trump said.

The US president also rejected any Iranian toll for ships passing the strait.

On March 22, Trump threatened to strike Iran's power plants if the Strait of Hormuz was not reopened within 48 hours. He has since extended the deadline twice, most recently pausing attacks for 10 days until April 6 (US time).

Despite making diplomatic overtures, including proposing a 15-point plan to end the war, the United States has also been sending more military assets into the region, including an amphibious assault ship carrying 3,500 Marines, raising fears of ground operations.

Iranian leaders have denied being in direct talks with the US.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmacel Baghaei, yesterday, referring to the 15-point US demand, said the requests were "unreasonable."

Baghaei also said Iran's parliament was reviewing a possible exit from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, but claimed that the Islamic republic was not seeking a nuclear weapon.

Meanwhile, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt yesterday told reporters that Trump would be interested in calling on Arab countries to pay for the cost of the Iran war.

"I think it's something the President would be quite interested in calling them to do," Leavitt said.

On the ground, fighting escalated across the Middle East.

Israeli media reported that an oil refinery in the northern city of Haifa had been hit. Television network Channel 12 showed thick black smoke

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Do not get
involved in
politics during
sports life
PM urges athletes

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman yesterday called on athletes not to affiliate themselves with any political party or group during their professional sporting careers, saying they should instead represent the country through sporting excellence.

The prime minister was addressing the inaugural ceremony of the sports card and allowance distribution programme at his office.

Tarique Rahman also urged sportspersons to take Bangladesh to a higher position in the global sporting arena by winning games at home and abroad.

The premier said sport is no longer merely a matter of hobby, entertainment or physical exercise, but is now

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Non-biodegradable waste clogs the Mayur River in Khulna, disrupting its flow and causing severe pollution. Polythene, plastic bottles, and other discarded materials are narrowing the channel, leading to stagnant water and raising the risk of waterlogging during the monsoon. The pollution also threatens local livelihoods, agriculture, and aquatic life. The photo was taken in the Gallamari area yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

SURGE IN MEASLES

Children's hospital
lie idle, patients
struggle at RMCHSHOHANUR RAHMAN RAFI,
Rajshahi

While children battling measles and other life-threatening illnesses struggle for intensive care at the overcrowded Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH), a newly built children's hospital nearby has stood idle for three years — paralysed by administrative indecision and delays in approving its staffing plan.

The four-storey, 200-bed hospital, equipped with modern infrastructure including a 56-bed intensive care unit, operating theatres, and diagnostic services



such as X-ray, CT scan, and MRI units, was built at a cost of Tk 35 crore on 2.44 acres of land in the city's Lakshimpur area.

According to PWD 2 Rajshahi Executive Engineer Md Mizanur Rahman, the facility has remained unused since construction was completed in June 2023.

He said neither the Rajshahi civil surgeon's office nor RMCH has taken charge of the hospital.

"We have sent a letter to the health ministry seeking approval of the organogram, which will determine administrative responsibility and staffing," he said.

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FARMERS' CARD SCHEME

21,000 farmers to come
under pre-pilot phase

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Around 21,000 farmers in 11 upazilas across the country will receive "Farmers' Cards" through Sonali Bank in the pre-pilot phase of the new government scheme, according to finance ministry sources.

The decision was taken at a meeting earlier this month involving the agriculture ministry, the Financial Institutions Division, and Sonali Bank, the sources said.

Selected farmers will receive Tk 2,500 through the card to purchase fertiliser, seeds, pesticides, and other agricultural inputs.

Under the pre-pilot phase, Sonali Bank will open accounts for farmers in 11 blocks across 11 upazilas, issue Farmers' Cards in the form of Visa debit cards, and disburse government subsidies through them.

The bank will bear the cost of card preparation, while no fees will be charged for opening accounts. POS machines will also be provided free of cost at selected dealers' shops.

A finance ministry official said multiple state-owned banks would

be brought under the programme when the programme is expanded nationwide.

In this phase, the cards will be distributed through Sonali Bank branches in 11 upazilas — Adarsha Sadar in Cumilla, Teknaf in Cox's Bazar, Tangail Sadar in Tangail, Shibganj in Bogura, Islampur in



Selected farmers will receive Tk 2,500 through the card to purchase fertiliser, seeds, pesticides, and other agricultural inputs.

Gaibandha, Boda and Panchagarh Sadar in Panchagarh, Juri in Moulvibazar, Goalanda in Rajbari, Shaikupa in Jhenaidah, and Swarupkathi in Pirojpur.

The Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) will implement the pre-pilot phase by preparing

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Govt moves to lift
ban on e-cigarettesTobacco display restrictions also set to be removed
in amendment of anti-tobacco ordinance

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The government is set to amend the anti-tobacco ordinance, withdrawing the ban on the production and sale of e-cigarettes, raising serious public health concerns.

Besides, the provision prohibiting the display of tobacco products at points of sale will also be removed from the ordinance.

The ordinance was approved by the interim government last year, introducing stricter provisions to the Smoking and Tobacco Products Usage (Control) Act.

The changes to the ordinance are being made following recommendations by a parliamentary special committee formed to review 133 ordinances issued during the interim government, sources said.

Following the JS body's recommendations, the health ministry is preparing a draft,



PHOTO: AI GENERATED

Surveys show the number of e-cigarette users is increasing sharply, especially among youths. Around 30 countries have banned e-cigarettes to protect their youths. So, the ban on e-cigarettes should remain in place.

ATAUR RAHMAN
Advocacy manager
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids

omitting the provisions from the ordinance, and will send it to the Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division soon, they added.

An e-cigarette (electronic

cigarette) is a battery-operated device that heats a liquid — usually containing nicotine and other chemicals — to produce a vapour that can be inhaled by a user, an act known as 'vaping'.

E-cigarettes are the most common type of electronic nicotine delivery system (ENDS), and their emissions typically contain nicotine and other toxic substances that are harmful to both users and non-users who are exposed to the aerosols, according to WHO.

In order to protect public health, particularly that of youths and teenagers, anti-tobacco campaigners urged the government to reconsider its decision, terming it "very unfortunate".

Ataur Rahman, advocacy manager (Bangladesh) for Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, said some recent surveys show that the number of e-cigarette users is increasing

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Data on 8.29 lakh
Rohingyas shared
with Myanmar

Foreign minister tells JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has shared information on 8,29,036 Rohingya refugees to the Myanmar government for repatriation in six phases, said Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman yesterday.

"As of January 2026, Myanmar authorities have completed verification of about 3,54,751 people. Of them, 2,53,964 have been identified as 'persons previously residing in Myanmar,'" he said in a scripted reply to a question from Chattogram-15 MP Shahjahan Chowdhury in the parliament.

"However, due to the ongoing conflict in Myanmar, the repatriation process cannot be started right now," he added.

He reiterated that Bangladesh sees safe, voluntary and dignified repatriation as the only sustainable solution and will continue diplomatic, legal and humanitarian efforts with international support.

He added that on September 30, 2025, a high-level event on the Rohingya crisis was held during the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly, where repatriation was presented as the permanent solution. It was the first such high-level conference on the issue at the General Assembly.

Foreign minister urges stronger global action

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Transport, livelihoods
take a hit in fuel crisisGovt offers up to Tk 1 lakh reward for
information on illegal fuel hoarding

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ongoing fuel crisis has deepened across at least six districts, exposing weaknesses in distribution and leaving commuters and businesses struggling.

District administrations have launched drives against hoarders, recovering large volumes of fuel and penalising violators, as the shortage disrupts daily life and fuels public frustration.

Authorities are responding with raids, rationing, fines and security deployments, but uncertainty continues to affect transport and livelihoods.

Meanwhile, the government has announced a reward of up to Tk 1 lakh for individuals providing information on illegal hoarding and smuggling of fuel oil, amid growing concerns over supply disruptions and price manipulation.

In a statement issued yesterday, the Energy and Mineral Resources Division said the decision was taken to ensure the proper distribution of imported fuel at government-fixed prices.

In Gazipur, a mobile court has seized 33,900 litres of illegally hoarded fuel from

Abdul Ali Filling Station in the Konabari area.

The owner and the manager of the station have each been sentenced to one month in jail. Their identities, however, have not been disclosed.

The matter was confirmed around 10:00pm yesterday by Gazipur Deputy



Commissioner and District Magistrate Md Nurul Karim Bhuiyan.

In Chattogram, the district administration yesterday seized around 25,000 litres of illegally stockpiled diesel in Sitakunda's Faujdarhat. The raid, conducted near Jalil Gate, placed the fuel under police custody, with cases to be filed

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

Decision
pending
on Iqbal's
adjournment
motion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Independent MP Sheikh Mujibur Rahman placed an adjournment motion in parliament to discuss the process of implementing the July Charter, but no decision was taken on its acceptance.

Deputy Speaker Kayser Kamal said he would announce his decision after the Maghrib break. However, no ruling was given, and the sitting was adjourned after 8:15pm.

Earlier, on Sunday, Opposition Leader Shafiqul Rahman had submitted a similar motion on convening a meeting of the Constitutional Reform Council under the July National Charter (Constitutional Reform) Implementation Order.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3



Dhaka University Pro-Vice Chancellor (Admin) Prof Sayema Haque Bidisha inaugurates preparations for the Pahela Baishakh Mangal Shobhajatra and cultural programmes at the Faculty of Fine Arts of DU yesterday. Dean Prof Md Azharul Islam Sheikh presided over the event, while Ekushey Padak-winning artist Prof Abdus Sattar attended as special guest.

PHOTO: MEHEDI HASAN

Improve emergency health services to save lives: experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Health experts from home and abroad at a roundtable yesterday recommended that the government improve emergency health services to save lives and reduce the pressure of inpatients at hospitals.

They said infrastructure for emergency services is already in place, and only skilled manpower, clinical systems and protocols, prehospital ambulance services, and training are required to improve the services.

The roundtable titled "Emergency Healthcare and Management System in Bangladesh: In Light of the Australian Experience" was held at Prothom Alo office, jointly organised by Prothom Alo and the Bangladesh Medical Society of New South Wales.

A number of Australian doctors of Bangladeshi origin took part in the programme.

Reza Ali, associate professor at the University of Western Sydney, said the emergency department is the front door of the health system, as every serious illness enters through it, and strong emergency services will reduce overload of inpatients at hospitals and lower healthcare costs.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



Workers lay out cardboard sheets, used to make packaging boxes for sweets, shoes and clothing, to dry under the sun. Each labourer earns around Tk 2,500 to Tk 3,000 per week, working from morning to afternoon. The photo was taken from the Haripasha area of Barishal city yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Road accidents claim 351 lives during Eid rush

Says Jatri Kalyan Samity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 351 people were killed and 1,046 injured in 346 road accidents across the country during the Eid-ul-Fitr holidays between March 14 and 28, said Bangladesh Jatri Kalyan Samity.

Md Mozammel Hoque Chowdhury, secretary general of the association, revealed these figures at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity yesterday.

"If we compare the casualties to the recent war in Iran over the past 15 days, Bangladesh's toll from road crashes is several times higher," he said.

The organisation's report,

compiled through media monitoring, found motorcycles were involved in the most accidents. At least 135 people died and 114 were injured in 125 motorcycle crashes, accounting for nearly 39 percent of all road fatalities.

Outside road accidents, 23 railway accidents killed 35 and eight waterway accidents left eight dead and three missing. Overall, 394 people died and 1,288 were injured in 377 accidents across roads, rail, and waterways.

During the period, 2,178 people were admitted to the National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (Nitor).

Among vehicles involved in road

accidents, motorcycles accounted for 27 percent, trucks and vans 18 percent, and buses 16 percent. Most accidents were head-on collisions (36 percent) or involved pedestrians (32 percent), with 43 percent occurring on national highways.

Mozammel criticised the government's Eid planning, saying passenger representatives were excluded from meetings due to pressure from transport owners and workers' federations.

"The fare anarchy and road chaos were caused by these syndicates, a contrast to the situation with the interim government period when such groups had less influence," he added.

Step out of line

FROM PAGE 12

"Local government elections will be held soon, and your tenure is temporary. You have been given this responsibility only until the elections," sources quoted him as also saying in the nearly two-hour meeting.

He also directed the administrators to use district council funds, including allocations received from the ministry, with honesty, dedication, and a clear focus on public welfare.

He said their performance would remain under close watch until elections to the posts were held.

At the meeting, Tarique said the government wants to turn the zilla parishads into stronger and more functional institutions -- ones the public can view as people-oriented and welfare driven.

He asked the administrators to maintain

good relations with lawmakers, party leaders, and activists and to work in coordination with the local administration.

Tarique also instructed them to help create conducive conditions for the upcoming local government elections.

The meeting also heard views from some of the administrators about the current state of the district councils.

Contacted, Syed Emran Saleh Prince, administrator of Mymensingh Zilla Parishad and BNP joint secretary general, said the institution had been badly weakened over the years. "The Awami League has completely destroyed this institution. They left behind commission business, irregularities, and a percentage-based system. So now there are no funds," he said.

Bangladesh Bakelite Industries (Pvt.) Limited
Of-Block-B, Plot-B-7, BSCIC Industrial Area, Purbā
Nasirabad, Sholoshahar, Bayezid, Chattogram.
Incorporation No.3849 of 1972-73

Sub: Notice Of Alteration Of Object Clause

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the order dated 04.03.2026 passed by the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh in Company Matter No.137 of 2026 the Company is in the process of altering its object clause in the Memorandum of Association (MOA)

The special regulation passed by the members on 15.01.2026 authorized the Company to alter the sub clause 1, 4 and 9 of cause-III of MOA for carrying on business in respect of furniture, fittings, knitting, wearing apparel handicrafts ornaments, Fashion house, interior decorators etc.

The details amended object clauses are available for inspection by any creditor, member or interested party at the registered office of the company mentioned above during working hours (10.00 AM to 05.00 PM) until the date for objection.

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed alteration and who wishes to object may submit their objection(s) to the Hon'ble High Court Division within 21st days of the publication of the notice with a copy to be served to the Company's registered office.

(Signature)
MOHAMMED ELIAS - Managing Director
Bangladesh Bakelite Industries (Pvt.) Limited

নোটিশ

স্বদেশীয় বাংলাদেশ সুলভ কোর্ট
হাইকোর্ট বিভাগ (সিভিল/কমার্শিয়াল/কর্পোরেশন)
কোম্পানী ম্যাটার নং ১৩৭/২০২৬

সানজিনা আকার খানম - পিটিশনার
আর.কে.এস.সি এবং অন্যায়্য - রেসপন্ডেন্টস

সংশ্লিষ্ট সরকারের অবশিষ্ট জমা জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, সানজিনা আকার খানম, ব্যাংকিং পরিচালক, ডিট এইট লি পিটিশনার হইয়া ২০১৯, ২০২০, ২০২১, ২০২২, ২০২৩, ২০২৪ এবং ২০২৫ পঞ্জিকা বর্ষের বার্ষিক সাধারণ সভা অত্রদিনের তামাদি মতক্বেসের নিমিত্তে ১৯৯৪ সালের কোম্পানী আইনের ১১(২) সেক্স ১৫(৩) এবং ৩৯৬ ধারা অনুযায়ী একতারা আবেদন দাখিল করিয়াছেন। বিগত ১২ মার্চ ২০২৬ ইং তারিখে মহামান্য হাইকোর্ট বিভাগের মাননীয় বিচারপতি জনাব কাজী জিনাত হক প্রাথমিক তদনীতিতে সঙ্কট হইয়া আবেদনটি গ্রহণ করিয়াছেন এবং রেসপন্ডেন্টদের প্রতি নোটিশ জারি করিয়াছেন। উক্ত পিটিশনের তদনীতিতে বার্ষিকের কেস অংশ নিতে চাহিলে ব্যক্তিগতভাবে অথবা আইনজীবীর মাধ্যমে তাহা করিতে পারিবেন। পিটিশনের কপি আমাদের অফিস হইতে সংগ্রহ করা যাইবে।

আবুল বাশার টুটুল
আডভোকেট, আপিল বিভাগ
বাসা নং- ১০/১ (৩য় তলা), মধ্যপল্টন,
মসজিদ গলি, বাবুর মার্চ, ঢাকা-১০০০
মোবাইল নং ০১৭৭৭৭০২৪৪৬

STATUTORY NOTICE
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO. 272 OF 2026

An application under Section 81(2) and Section 85(3) of the Companies Act, 1994
Md. Oliur Rahman -----Petitioner

-VERSUS-
Oliur Export Import Ltd. and another -----Respondents.

Take Notice that an application under Section 81(2) and Section 85(3) of the Companies Act, 1994 for condonation of delay in holding the AGM for the calendar years 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026 of Oliur Export Import Ltd. was filed before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. Upon hearing of the application on 12.03.2026, a single Bench of the Hon'ble High Court Division comprising his Lordship Ms. Justice Kazi Zinat Hoque was pleased to admit the said application and further pleased to issue notice upon the Respondents as well as by way of publication in Daily Newspaper and also directed to file Affidavit in Compliance. If you are interested to oppose the said application you may appear before the Hon'ble Court either in person or through an Advocate. Copy of the said application may be obtained from the under mentioned advocate on payment.

Md. Wabaydullah Emon
Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh; 0162-5758259

UTTARA BANK PLC.
PURCHASE & PROCUREMENT DEPARTMENT,
HEAD OFFICE, DHAKA.

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Quotations are hereby invited from bonafied & experienced firms for Construction and other related works at Uttara Bank PLC. Central Godown, Chowmuhani, Noakhali. Please visit www.uttarabank-bd.com/home/tender for details.

General Manager

NCC Bank
with you always

NOTICE OF INVITING PROPOSAL

Sealed proposals are hereby invited by National Credit and Commerce Bank PLC. (the Bank) from reputed Companies/Local Agents/Service Providers for the below mentioned requirement under the terms and conditions mentioned detail in the Request for Proposal (RFP) documents.

Item Description	RFP collection start date	RFP collection end date	Date and time for RFP Submission
RFP for Engagement of Professional Cleaning & Facility Maintenance Service Provider	March 31, 2026	April 08, 2026	April 12, 2026 on/before 12:01 PM

The schedule containing detailed Terms & Conditions may be collected from the Common Services Division, Level-5, NCC Bank PLC. Head Office, Dhaka and submit the same under sealed envelope to the Tender Box placed at Common Services Division (CSD). The Price of the RFP document is Tk. 2,000/- (Taka Two Thousand) only in the form of Payment Order (non-refundable) favoring National Credit and Commerce Bank PLC. by any scheduled bank of Bangladesh. Failure to submit offer within the stipulated time frame will be treated as "Disqualified" for the bidding. The Bank authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposal without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Vice President & Head of Common Services Division

NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY

WE ARE HIRING

North South University is seeking applications from qualified candidates with the required qualifications and experience for the following positions. Please read the full job description carefully to see if you have the skills, knowledge and experience that we are looking for. Only eligible candidates will be contacted by NSU for written examination & interview.

- Assistant Director (IT Support), Office of Information Technology (IT).
- Program Officer, Department of Public Health, SHLS

Any prior communication or persuasion to the position will be considered as a disqualification. Interested candidates are requested to apply through Jobs.northsouth.edu by April 29, 2026

For more information please visit: jobs.northsouth.edu

FOR DETAILS

Scan me

BCS (Administration) Welfare Multipurpose Cooperative Society Limited
BIAM Foundation Bhaban, 63 New Eskaton, Dhaka - 1217

Request for Proposal (RFP)

Consultancy Opportunity: Integrated Prototype Residential Design & Engineering

The BCS (Administration) Welfare Multipurpose Cooperative Society Limited (BCSWMCS) invites reputed national consulting firms to deliver complete architecture, structural, MEP, sustainability and infrastructure design services for its premium residential project.

Project Highlights

- Prime Location: Khilkhet, adjacent to 300 ft Purbachal Highway
- Scope: Construction-ready prototype designs for 10, 20 & 40 Katha luxury homes
- Full Integrated Services: Architecture, Structural, MEP, STP Feasibility, Green Building & Infrastructure
- Strict Compliance: RAJUK, BNBC, DoE & Fire Safety regulations
- Fast-Track Assignment: 4 months

Submission Details

- Pre-Bid Meeting: April 20, 2026 (11:00 AM).
- Submission Deadline: May 5, 2026 (1:00 PM).
- Address: BCSWCS Office, 63 New Eskaton, BIAM Foundation, Dhaka.

Shape the future of premium residential living in Dhaka.

For detailed TOR and inquiries, please contact:
Mohammad Mashur Rahman, General Secretary, BCSWCS
Email: bcswmcs2007@gmail.com | Mobile: +880 1712 171059

BCS (Administration) Welfare Multipurpose Cooperative Society Limited
BIAM Foundation Bhaban, 63 New Eskaton, Dhaka - 1217

Request for Proposal (RFP)

Investment Opportunity: Uttara Multipurpose Commercial Complex with Convention Center (UICC) in Dhaka

The BCS (Administration) Welfare Multipurpose Cooperative Society Limited (BCSWMCS) invites reputed national and international developers and investors to design, finance, and construct an iconic commercial landmark in Uttara, Dhaka.

Project Highlights

- Prime Location: Plot-08, Sector-17, Uttara Phase-3—the most coveted zone in the area.
- Connectivity: Minutes from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport and major Metro Rail (MRT) stations.
- Land Area: 1.25 Acres.
- Vision: A Grade-A complex featuring corporate offices, luxury retail, a convention center, and high-tech facilities.
- Development Models: Flexible structures including Joint Venture, Long-Term Lease (up to 99 years), or PPP.

Submission Details

- Pre-Bid Meeting: April 20, 2026 (11:00 AM).
- Submission Deadline: May 5, 2026 (1:00 PM).
- Address: BCSWCS Office, 63 New Eskaton, BIAM Foundation Bhaban, Dhaka.

Shape the skyline of Dhaka's newest commercial hub.

For detailed TOR and inquiries, please contact:
Mohammad Mashur Rahman, General Secretary, BCSWCS
Email: bcswmcs2007@gmail.com | Mobile: +880 1712 171059

TROOPS TO IRAN GOP lawmaker demands Congress vote

US Representative Nancy Mace, a Republican, has said Congress should have a say in any decisions to deploy troops to Iran, further underscoring division within President Trump's political party.



Smoke rises from the site of an Israeli airstrike on Beirut's southern suburbs yesterday. A United Nations peacekeeper was killed in southern Lebanon overnight, prompting condemnations yesterday after a bloody weekend in which Lebanese journalists and medics were killed in Israeli strikes.

Spain closes airspace to US military planes

Spain has closed its airspace to US planes involved in attacks on Iran, a step beyond its previous denial of use of jointly-operated military bases, Defence Minister Margarita Robles said yesterday.

'Nuclear fatwa is dead' Analysts wonder if Iran, cornered after Khamenei's death, will seek a nuclear bomb

When Iran's covert nuclear programme came to international attention over two decades ago, Tehran insisted that its intentions were peaceful and that it had no plans to develop weapons.

leader resisted internal pressure to authorize the building of a nuclear weapon, particularly after President Trump withdrew from nuclear pact negotiated between Iran and Obama administration in 2018.

actual bomb development. The calls to pursue a nuclear bomb grew louder after Trump's order to strike three of Iran's most important nuclear sites this month.



American Univ in Armenia moves all classes online

The American University of Armenia said yesterday it was moving all classes online over Iranian threats to target US universities in West Asia.

Myanmar junta chief steps down Eyes presidency in parliamentary vote

Min Aung Hlaing, Myanmar's military chief who led a coup in 2021, stepped down yesterday to stand as president in a parliamentary vote following the first polls in the Southeast Asian nation since the takeover that triggered a civil war.



Israeli fire kills 4 in Gaza, West Bank

An Israeli air strike killed at least three people in the Gaza Strip yesterday, local health officials said, in the latest round of violence since a US-brokered ceasefire took effect more than five months ago.



Tk 31,000cr in fuel subsidies needed till June

and act responsibly. "If people buy more than they need or store fuel, supply will inevitably be disrupted. As a flammable substance, this also poses serious fire risks," he warned.

1.33 lakh tonnes. The minister told parliament that fuel supply in March was maintained at 10-25 percent higher than that of the same period last year.

a steady supply in the market. Long queues at filling stations for octane and petrol do not reflect the overall supply situation, he added.

ILO lauds changes

FROM PAGE 12 government in 2021 formulated a five-year roadmap on labour sector reforms and submitted it to the ILO Governing Body.

the discussion. Bangladesh's Permanent Representative to Geneva, Ambassador Nahida Sobhan, and Labour Secretary Abdur Rahman Tarafdar were also present.

পঞ্চদশবার্ষিকী বাংলাদেশ সরকার বাংলাদেশ চা বোর্ড প্রধান কার্যালয় ১৩১-১৩২, বায়েলিখ বোম্বারী রোড নাসিরাবাদ, গুট্টাগাম। ই-টেন্ডার নোটিশ: ২০২৫-২০২৬ তারিখ: ৩০ মার্চ ২০২৬ খ্রিঃ

বাংলাদেশ সুপ্রীম কোর্ট হাইকোর্ট বিভাগ, ঢাকা www.supremecourt.gov.bd উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

Measles vaccination hobbled by neglect Govt must rebuild broken immunisation system amid reports of deaths

There is something particularly cruel about a child dying of measles. The disease is ancient, the vaccine usually reliable, and the science unambiguous. This disease can be beaten cheaply. Yet, children are dying of it again—at least 46 as of March 29 this year, with new deaths being reported at overwhelmed hospitals in Dhaka and beyond.

The facts coming to the surface are grim. The Infectious Diseases Hospital in Mohakhali has reportedly received 560 suspected measles patients this year alone. Twelve children died at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital this month; five at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital; six at Bangladesh Shishu Hospital; three in Chapainawabganj. The true toll is almost certainly higher, because health authorities themselves admit they lack comprehensive data on measles-related deaths.

Worse still, the central vaccine warehouse is running short of routine vaccines for tuberculosis, hepatitis B, polio, pneumonia, the combined measles-rubella jab, and the vaccine for tetanus and diphtheria in women, according to a report by *Prothom Alo*. Only three vaccines remain in adequate supply. Meanwhile, in 37 of the 64 districts, 45 percent of frontline health workers are simply absent. The country's vaccination programme also depends on 1,326 porters who transport jabs daily in special containers from local centres; those porters have not been paid for nine months. The system is thus being disrupted in various ways.

Measles is a disease of gaps—gaps in coverage, in funding, in political attention. Bangladesh's routine immunisation reaches 90 to 92 percent of children, which sounds impressive until one does the arithmetic. With roughly 30 lakh births per year, that residual 8 to 10 percent represents hundreds of thousands of unvaccinated children accumulating annually. The special vaccination campaigns held every few years exist precisely to mop up these accumulated gaps, but the last such campaign was conducted in 2020; the next, planned for 2024, a year of political turmoil, was cancelled. Vitamin A and deworming campaigns, which strengthen children's nutritional resilience against measles complications, were also suspended. Regular services were disrupted three times in a single year by strikes among health assistants. None of this happened overnight. Each failure was the product of decisions deferred, warnings unheeded, and budgets cut.

Under the previous procurement arrangement, Bangladesh bought vaccines relatively swiftly, with Unicef and Gavi facilitating fast-tracked purchases. In August 2025, the interim government abolished this system without having a replacement ready. Since then, every step of the process—drafting new project documents, securing approvals, appointing a project director, releasing funds—has stalled. What should the new government do then?

First, the finance ministry must release proper funds immediately. The recent approval of a Tk 604 crore vaccine procurement proposal is welcome, but approving a budget line is not the same as getting jabs into arms. A functioning procurement mechanism therefore must be in place. Field staffing gaps in different districts must also be filled. Coverage data must be disaggregated to pinpoint exactly where immunity has lapsed. And those responsible for managing the health system must be held accountable. Otherwise, more children will die from a disease that should have been under control.

An alarming record of trade misinvoicing Govt must show political will to curb illicit financial outflows

It is deeply concerning that trade misinvoicing continues to drain the nation's wealth, undermining our economic stability and development prospects. According to the latest report by Global Financial Integrity (GFI), Bangladesh lost around \$68 billion between 2013 and 2022 due to trade misinvoicing—an average of \$6.8 billion annually. These illicit outflows account for roughly 16 percent of the country's total trade with the world. Of the total amount, \$32.8 billion is linked to transactions with advanced economies.

Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs) refer to money or assets moved across borders that are illegally earned, transferred, or used. Such flows erode a country's tax base, weaken domestic resource mobilisation, undermine the rule of law, and severely constrain the government's ability to finance public services. If these persistent losses of resources could be contained, they could be invested in healthcare, education, and infrastructure development.

Trade misinvoicing, through the deliberate over- or under-reporting of import and export values, has long been recognised as a key channel for money laundering across the region. In Bangladesh's case, over-invoicing of capital machinery imports, often facilitated by access to subsidised loans, has emerged as a particularly common tactic. Weak oversight, delayed reporting of trade data, and limited coordination among institutions have created an enabling environment for such activities. Economists have pointed out that discrepancies in trade data are often exacerbated by our failure to publish timely and comprehensive statistics, making it difficult to verify transactions with partner countries. This not only hampers accountability but also emboldens those seeking to exploit the system. Moreover, export earnings that are not repatriated, along with the use of informal remittance channels such as hundi, further contribute to the outflow of foreign currency. Together, these practices paint a worrying picture for our economy.

The new government must prioritise addressing this issue. It needs to strengthen customs enforcement, ensure real-time monitoring of import and export pricing, improve transparency in trade transactions, and undertake institutional reforms. Since Bangladesh is not alone in facing these challenges—similar patterns are evident across developing Asia—the need for coordinated domestic and international responses is reinforced. Enhancing data sharing and cooperation with international partners, particularly those in advanced economies where a substantial share of these illicit flows is directed, is essential.

Above all, the government must demonstrate the political will to confront the underlying drivers of illicit financial flows. As the deadline for achieving Sustainable Development Goals approaches, we cannot afford to lose billions of dollars through preventable loopholes.

Managing fuel shocks for Bangladesh's economic stability



MACRO MIRROR

Dr Fahmida Khatun is an economist and executive director at the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD). Views expressed in this article are the author's own.

FAHMIDA KHATUN

Bangladesh faces a fuel crisis worsened by global tensions, supply disruptions, and panic buying, even after rationing was lifted ahead of Eid. Long queues at the filling stations persist, indicating uneven deliveries and fears of shortages. The distribution system is being strained, exposing vulnerabilities in the country's energy supply chain that struggle to respond quickly to shocks.

The government should view this situation as a challenge to energy security, the balance of payments, and inflation control, rather than just a concern about fuel procurement. This shock comes at a time of high inflation, a contractionary monetary policy and insufficient foreign exchange reserves. In February 2026, headline inflation reached 9.13 percent, and the Bangladesh Bank kept the policy rate steady at 10 percent amid ongoing inflation risks. Reserves were \$29.39 billion (BPM6 method) as of March 25, 2026. Meanwhile, Bangladesh's tax-to-GDP ratio was only 6.8 percent in FY2025, limiting fiscal space for widespread subsidies.

In terms of energy supply, the primary objective should be to secure essential volumes early before the spot market prices rise further. Bangladesh should swiftly divide its energy import plan into three phases amid high LNG procurement costs—first, immediate short-term cargoes to keep up power supply and industry operations for the next one to three months; second, medium-term contracted supplies for use in the six to twelve months ahead; and third, a contingency reserve for emergency replacements if disruptions worsen.

The import strategy should therefore shift away from over-reliance on opportunistic spot buying and towards a portfolio approach. For crude oil, refined products, and LNG, Petrobangla and Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) should maintain a diversified supplier matrix with explicit caps on single-source exposure, while allowing private and state entities to source from multiple countries whenever freight and delivery windows are feasible. For LNG in particular, Bangladesh already has a World Bank-backed financing facility to support new imports from this year. Once operationalised, it is expected to provide \$350 million in annual commercial financing.

Simultaneously, the government should reduce demand in areas which generate the lowest economic benefits. Safeguarding gas and electricity

supplies for export industries, food production, fertiliser, irrigation, and urban passenger transport should be prioritised, while non-essential public spending needs to be cut back. There should also be a clear, temporary energy-rationing system that includes reduced hours for non-essential public buildings, setting lower fuel-use targets for government fleets, halting decorative lighting, and establishing a merit order in gas distribution that favours sectors with the highest foreign-exchange earnings and critical food-security roles. It is logical because, with domestic gas output declining and LNG reliance increasing, attempting to supply all sectors

amid rising fuel prices risks converting temporary external inflation into persistent domestic inflation by boosting demand, devaluing the taka, and increasing import needs. For Bangladesh, with high inflation, fragile expectations, and reliance on energy and industrial imports, cutting policy rates could strengthen dollar holdings and weaken the taka. Another reason to avoid cutting rates is the risk of second-round effects. Rising fuel prices increase freight, electricity, irrigation, and fertiliser costs. When these costs spill over into food and services, reversing inflation becomes more difficult. If monetary policy is loosened simultaneously, wage demands, pricing behaviour, and credit growth can all reinforce inflationary persistence. In this context, maintaining steady or tight rates is not about restricting growth; it is about preventing a stagflationary cycle.

Therefore, a tight monetary approach alone will not solve the issue. The government should combine it with targeted fiscal measures rather

as food inflation becomes much harder to control once production costs increase. With international fertiliser and fuel costs raising irrigation and logistics expenses, the government should safeguard the farm input supply chain, even if that means higher prices elsewhere.

The fuel-pricing system should stay formula-based, but include a stabilisation component. Bangladesh implemented an automatic fuel pricing mechanism in February 2024, which should be maintained and refined. Instead of fully passing on international price spikes at once, the scheme should gradually incorporate price changes over time. During sharp global price increases, only part of the rise can be passed through immediately, with the rest phased in over multiple review periods. When prices drop, the formula should save some benefits to rebuild a stabilisation fund or settle arrears. This approach is better than ad hoc price controls because it maintains incentives, enhances transparency, and prevents sudden fiscal shocks.



PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Petrol pumps in a number of districts across Bangladesh have been struggling to keep up with fuel demand.

equally during a shock is inefficient and costly.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Bank should manage foreign currency carefully. It must preserve reserves for key imports and allow the exchange rate to adjust gradually, avoiding aggressive dollar sales to support taka. This approach aims to reduce volatility rather than artificially fix rates. The government should ensure external stability through flexible exchange rates, targeted support, formula-based fuel pricing, and tight monetary policy, given the inflation risk. The central bank must continue buying dollars when market conditions allow to rebuild reserves and prioritise reserve adequacy, cutting non-essential imports, and allocating foreign exchange mainly to fuel, fertiliser, food, medicine, and export-related raw materials.

Despite the challenges posed by high interest rates, this is not the right time to cut policy rates. Lowering rates

than broadly controlling fuel prices. Widespread fuel subsidy could risk crowding out development projects, increasing domestic borrowing, and making inflation harder to manage. A more effective strategy is a targeted support package for low-income households, small farmers reliant on irrigation, public transportation, and potentially export-oriented SMEs, with clear eligibility criteria and sunset clauses. This approach will maintain social objectives while minimising fiscal losses.

For households, the most effective immediate measure would be to offer income protection to the most vulnerable by reallocating existing budget priorities and, where possible, partly through external aid. Regarding transportation, buses and freight services linked to essential goods should be supported. In agriculture, the focus should be on diesel support for irrigation throughout the crop cycle and ensuring a reliable fertiliser supply,

The medium-term solution involves structural reduction of dependence on imports. Bangladesh cannot remain overly vulnerable to external fuel shocks. This requires speeding up domestic gas exploration where feasible, improving grid efficiency, decreasing system losses, expanding renewable energy options that reduce reliance on imported fuels, and being more selective about new LNG infrastructure investments. The current crisis demonstrates that energy security involves more than just securing contracts. It includes diversification, storage, financing, pricing discipline, and macroeconomic coordination.

The optimal approach now is to secure vital imports early, diversify sources, conserve foreign exchange for key needs, maintain a tight monetary policy to control inflation, avoid blanket subsidies, and leverage the crisis to develop a more resilient energy system.

The case for a database that can transform our madrasa workforce



Md Mahmudul Hasan is a digital banking and fintech strategist focused on financial inclusion, platform economics, and innovation.

MD MAHMUDUL HASAN

A few months ago, I hired an Arabic teacher for my children. He arrived on time, was patient and methodical, and could explain grammar to a 10-year-old while quoting theological texts from memory. One afternoon, I asked him, was there any platform where families like mine could find teachers like him—verified, experienced, and available? He looked at me in quiet confusion.

The fact is, no one knows precisely how many Qawmi madrasa students exist in Bangladesh today. Conservative estimates place the figure at around 14 lakh. Under Befaqul Madarisil Arabia Bangladesh alone, examination participation grew from 225,631 students in 2022 to 349,776 in 2025. In Sylhet division, one regional board oversees more than 185,000 students across roughly 1,100 institutions. If smaller and unregistered madrasas are included, the total number of Qawmi institutions could exceed 60,000 nationwide.

But as things stand, Bangladesh has no unified national database

recording who these students are, what qualifications they earn, or how their skills connect to the wider economy. This is not simply a data gap. It is one of the largest missing pieces in the country's human capital infrastructure.

A typical Qawmi student spends 10 to 15 years in rigorous study—classical Arabic, Quranic exegesis, jurisprudence, logic, and rhetoric. Their Dawra e-Hadith degree carries official recognition that is equivalent to a postgraduate qualification. Many graduates are multilingual, trained in memorisation and disciplined reasoning. Yet the economic pathways available to them remain narrow. A widely cited empirical study by economist Abul Barakat and colleagues found that roughly three-quarters of madrasa graduates were unemployed or underemployed within a national context where, according to the World Bank, graduate unemployment rose from 9.7 percent in 2013 to 27.8 percent in 2022. Within that broader crisis, Qawmi graduates

remain the least visible.

Many Qawmi madrasas function as orphanages, housing and educating thousands of children from vulnerable backgrounds. This system is sustained by donations from across the country. But without a unified data infrastructure, there is limited scope for independently verifying how those contributions are actually allocated—whether towards nutrition, healthcare, or residential welfare. The same absence of data that hides graduates from the labour market also constrains financial accountability.

Qawmi graduates possess social capital, serving as imams, teachers, counsellors, and mediators in communities across the country. In many places they are among the most trusted local figures. Economists describe this as trust capital: high-trust intermediaries who lower transaction costs and strengthen community cooperation. But the modern labour market has no mechanism to recognise or mobilise this trust.

Other countries have begun addressing similar challenges. Indonesia, for instance, has started integrating its pesantren network into national digital systems through the Ministry of Religious Affairs' Education Management Information System, enabling graduates to access broader economic opportunities without altering their religious education.

A digital platform could allow

madrasa graduates to maintain verified professional profiles linked to their institutions and qualifications. In that scenario, when a student completes *Dawra e-Hadith*, the credential is authenticated. Service as an imam or teacher becomes searchable. Once credentials become visible, families can find tutors, mosques can recruit imams, and organisations can identify community educators. Over time, the same verified identity could connect graduates to digital skills training, scholarship programmes, or microfinance. Even a modest transition—say, 10 to 15 percent of currently underemployed graduates moving into structured income-generating roles—could translate into significant economic activity, potentially adding thousands of crores annually through increased productivity and household income.

Bangladesh has solved complex development challenges before, such as building a global model for microcredit, a garment industry exporting billions annually, and digital financial services at a remarkable scale. Each transformation occurred because infrastructure was built where none previously existed. The Qawmi network already hosts centralised examinations processing hundreds of thousands of students annually. What is missing is the digital layer connecting religious education with economic participation.

The 'game' of migration: A deadly illusion that we must confront urgently



Aparajita Debnath is an advocate at the Dhaka Judge Court.

APARAJITA DEBNATH

A large section of Bangladesh's youth today finds itself confronting a stark reality in which some of life's most consequential decisions are made not on the basis of rationality or safety but are driven by frustration, social pressures, and the dream of achieving rapid success. One such decision is the attempt to reach Europe through irregular sea routes, evading border guards and crossing borders illegally—a process colloquially referred to as "game."

News headlines repeatedly highlight stories of capsized boats (mostly in the Mediterranean Sea), missing young men, and victims of human trafficking intercepted at borders. Yet, the journey of undocumented migrants continues, even as the latest Middle East crisis rages on. In fact, this dangerous journey is expanding further with the emergence of new routes, evolved trafficking networks, and increasingly sophisticated methods. Why do Bangladeshis knowingly take such life-threatening risks? Sadly, there is no simple answer to this question. This is not merely a consequence of economic hardship; rather, it reflects a complex, multi-layered social reality.

First, the lack of sufficient employment opportunities and income instability discourages many young people from envisioning a future within the country. At the same time, it is true that millions continue to work, run businesses, and sustain themselves in Bangladesh. Thus, the issue is not solely the absence of opportunity, but rather a profound gap between expectations and reality. Second, migration has increasingly become a marker of elevated social status. Stories such as "someone

went to Italy and became successful" exert a far greater influence than the harsher realities of migration. As a result, the concept of going abroad has transformed from an economic decision into a form of social competition.

Third, the effort, skill, and patience required for legal migration, such as establishing language proficiency, passing standardised tests, maintaining strong academic records, and/or acquiring technical training, can often be avoided in the so-called "game." This gap is precisely what drives many towards irregular migration routes.

Fourth, human trafficking syndicates actively exploit this demand. They do not merely traffic people; they advertise a dream—one in which risks are concealed and success stories are exaggerated. In many cases, these networks operate with political patronage, making effective enforcement difficult.

Finally, there is a deeper psychological dimension: disillusionment and alienation from the state. Many young people believe that they must leave the country "by any means necessary," even if it involves the risk of death. Ongoing political instability and a sense of insecurity fuel this tendency. The "dream of Europe" becomes so powerful that many are willing to step into the deadly waters of the Mediterranean to pursue it.

According to the International Organization for Migration, at least 606 migrants died or went missing along the Mediterranean route in just the first two months of this year. In a recent incident, at least 22 migrant hopefuls died while attempting to cross the sea in a

small rubber boat from Libya to Greece, and 18 of them were reportedly from Bangladesh. The boat had left a port in Libya on March 21 carrying 43 people. The passengers on board lost bearings during the journey, spending six days at sea without food and water, according to survivors rescued by a European border agency vessel.

Sadly, these irregular migrations also impact the credibility of the Bangladeshi passport,

migration routes sustained, and cases of fraud remained widespread. Recognising these limitations, the interim government promulgated the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Ordinance, 2026 on January 6, which could be an important policy advancement if implemented properly. For the first time, this ordinance addresses previous gaps by formally recognising migrant smuggling as a distinct

Importantly, the law also addresses contemporary challenges. It brings online recruitment and digital exploitation, through which many young people are lured, under legal scrutiny. It further includes provisions for victim and witness protection, and explicitly recognises other forms of trafficking such as organ trafficking and forced criminality. Therefore, it is crucial that this ordinance be swiftly passed into law by the parliament and, more importantly, effectively implemented.

However, the depth of this crisis means that no single solution will suffice and that a coordinated approach is essential. First, trafficking syndicates must be dismantled through strict and impartial enforcement of the law, without any political concessions. Second, mandatory pre-departure training must be introduced for aspiring migrants, focusing on language, skills, and labour rights. The government must also provide maximum support for students seeking higher education abroad. In this context, the new BNP government's initiative to provide loans of up to Tk 10 lakh as financial support for overseas education—to meet bank guarantee or solvency requirements—deserves commendation. This policy can offer a viable alternative to risky and irregular migration. Pursuing education abroad through legal means, acquiring skills, and entering the global labour market benefits not only individuals but the country as a whole. Third, widespread public awareness must be built regarding the risks of irregular migration, particularly in rural areas.

Finally, it is imperative to establish effective institutional support systems for Bangladeshis in distress abroad. Many migrants who travel without proper documentation face detention, abuse, or legal complications but fail to receive timely assistance. Strengthening embassy capacities, establishing emergency helplines, providing legal aid, and actively protecting labour rights are crucial. At the same time, safe and dignified repatriation mechanisms must be ensured for those wishing to return home.



VISUAL: ANWAR SOHEL

whose value has effectively deteriorated. Consequently, even travellers with valid visas are now subjected to heightened scrutiny and extensive questioning at immigration checkpoints. Furthermore, several countries have tightened their visa policies and, in some cases, temporarily suspended immigrant visa processing for Bangladeshis.

To combat human trafficking, Bangladesh enacted the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act, 2012. However, despite the existence of this law, trafficking networks continued to expand, irregular

criminal offence alongside human trafficking.

As a result, the so-called "game" towards Europe is no longer merely an unethical act; it is now clearly defined as a punishable offense, with provisions for long-term imprisonment, fines, and, in severe cases, life imprisonment for organised trafficking syndicates. Not only direct traffickers but also their facilitators, financiers, and intermediaries can be brought within the scope of punishment. Measures such as asset seizure, freezing of bank accounts, and travel bans have been incorporated, targeting the financial foundations of these networks.

A mandate for reform is not a blank cheque



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KAZI A S M NURUL HUDA

Bangladesh may be standing at a generational moment of constitutional possibility. Few would deny that the country's long history of executive dominance, institutional capture, and weak accountability demands serious reform. On that much, a recent column in this newspaper by Justice M. A. Matin, Dr. Mirza M. Hassan, Dr. Sharif Bhuiyan, and Dr. Asif M. Shahan, published on March 16, 2026, is right. If handled well, this moment could correct structural failures that have damaged democratic life for decades and restore trust in state institutions.

But because the stakes are so high, the arguments used to justify reform matter as much as reform itself. A persuasive diagnosis of political decay does not automatically produce a sound constitutional argument. This is where the column's central claim requires closer scrutiny.

The authors' basic position is clear: the February 12 referendum authorised the implementation of the July National Charter through a Constitution Reform Assembly (CRA), and objections to that path amount to disregard for the people's will. Though a powerful political claim, it overreads what the referendum actually authorised.

The central question is not whether the referendum created a mandate. It plainly did. The real question is: what was the scope of that mandate? A democratic mandate, however strong, is not self-interpreting. It must be read in light of the procedure through which it was created, the question put to voters, and the institutional limits within which that authority can be exercised.

The argument of Matin et al. rests on a foundational claim: that the fall of the Sheikh Hasina regime rendered the constitution inoperative and returned sovereignty directly to the people. This view echoes a Lockean doctrine: that when a government betrays public trust, the people may alter or abolish it. But the authors blur a critical distinction between

the loss of political legitimacy and the collapse of a constitutional order. Governments can lose moral authority without the constitution itself ceasing to exist or the institutional framework through which authority operates dissolving.

That distinction matters because the rest of their argument depends on it. If the Constitution of Bangladesh truly collapsed, one might plausibly speak of a founding moment in which constituent power returned directly to the people. But that is not what happened. The state did not dissolve. The constitution was not replaced. The interim government was formed through existing institutional channels and later validated within the constitutional framework. These features are difficult to reconcile with the claim that the constitutional order itself had ceased.

At this point, some describe the events of August 5, 2024, as a revolution to ground a claim of constituent power. I do not agree. A revolution strong enough to found a new constitutional order normally produces a visible reorientation of the state apparatus towards the new sovereign authority. That did not occur. What took place was a profound political rupture, but not an unambiguous constitutional refounding. The language of constituent power, therefore, cannot simply be assumed.

This reveals a further problem: the referendum is being treated as a blank cheque for institutional redesign. The 2026 referendum was a powerful act of authorisation, but not a constitution-founding moment. It operated through a pre-defined framework. Constitution-founding acts replace prior orders; they do not operate through them. An act that presupposes an existing structure cannot be treated as having silently transcended it.

This leads to a derivative authority problem. When authority is exercised through a specified framework, it becomes structured and limited by that framework. Once authority is channelled through

defined procedures, it is no longer open-ended but conditioned by the terms under which it was granted. A structured ratification cannot later be reinterpreted as an unconstrained mandate.

The issue of scope follows naturally. A democratic mandate binds only to the extent that it is specific. The referendum bundled together large institutional questions. It did not separately ask voters whether they approved every institutional implication later derived from that endorsement, most notably, the creation of a CRA operating alongside parliament.

This matters more than some critics admit. To raise this concern is not to question the intelligence of voters. It is not "elitist" to insist on a basic democratic principle: consent must track the question asked. The more questions are bundled, the weaker the claim that any specific institutional mechanism has been distinctly authorised.

That is why *mandate specificity* matters. Package endorsement is not component authorisation. This point is reinforced by a further difficulty: the wording of the referendum question itself admits of more than one plausible reading. The ballot asks voters whether they approve the implementation order and the charter in relation to the listed reform proposals. But the structure allows that approval to be read in two ways, either as extending to the broader implementation framework or as confined to the reform proposals themselves.

This is not a merely technical issue. It bears directly on the scope of the mandate. If the ballot does not clearly distinguish between approval of reforms and approval of the mechanisms to implement them, the mandate cannot be treated as determinate. A single vote may be read as authorising both, or only one. That ambiguity cannot be resolved after the fact, nor through interpretation alone.

Ratification confirms a document as presented; it does not erase internal dissents or settle every ambiguity. Where the question admits of multiple reasonable readings, the mandate cannot be treated as precise. It must be interpreted with restraint. Ambiguity in the question cannot produce certainty in the authority claimed from it.

These two features, the procedural boundedness of the referendum and the ambiguity of its wording, reinforce rather than contradict

each other, and together limit the authority that can be claimed from it.

This conclusion points to a more general principle. In a constitutional democracy, the people are supreme in source, but that supremacy is not self-executing. Matin et al. invoke Article 7, emphasising that all powers belong to the people. But Article 7 also requires that those powers be exercised under, and by the authority of, the constitution. Invoking "the people" while bypassing these procedures weakens, rather than strengthens, democratic legitimacy.

The authors also argue that reform through parliament may not survive judicial scrutiny because of the basic structure doctrine. This is not trivial. Article 142 suggests broad amendment power, but judicial interpretation has imposed limits. But recognising that limitation does not resolve the institutional question; it only


shifts it. The move from constrained amendment to a CRA requires further justification. One must show that constituent authority was clearly exercised through the referendum in a way that authorises the specific mechanism proposed.

As the preceding analysis suggests, the referendum did not unambiguously present voters with a discrete choice to constitute a separate body exercising founding authority, nor did it clearly confer such authority on the proposed assembly. A general expression of approval cannot perform that institutional work. The deeper question, then, is unavoidable: *who* authorised the CRA, and through *what* mechanism? A limitation on one institution does not automatically confer legitimacy on another. Without that clarification, the problem is not resolved but displaced.

It is also worth noting that the

interim government that organised the election did not rely solely on assertion. Its legitimacy was anchored, at least formally, in the constitution, as the president sought the advice of the Appellate Division under Article 106, reflecting an attempt to situate the political transition within a recognisable constitutional framework.

None of this denies the need for reform. Bangladesh requires stronger constraints on executive power, but that does not relieve reformers of the burden of constitutional precision. The people spoke on February 12. The question is not whether their voice matters, but whether it will be interpreted with discipline. A mandate for reform is not a blank cheque. Precisely because this is a rare constitutional opportunity, it must not be converted into a licence for unlimited interpretation.



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তারিখ: ১৫ চৈত্র ১৪৩২
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Honesty in performance, honestly in character: ZILANI

RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA

From working as a stunt double for Arifin Shuvoo in a scene from *Shapludu* to winning hearts as the sniper in *Cactus*, Arifin Zilani has come a long way. His journey has been marked by challenges and setbacks, but his dedication to acting has paid off. Today, he has carved a space for himself across both films and OTT platforms.

In a candid conversation with The Daily Star, Zilani spoke about his struggles, turning points in his career, and more.

Interestingly, he performed all the stunts in *Cactus* himself. Trained in Muay Thai, he said it was difficult to find a suitable double due to his height. "As I'm trained in Muay Thai, my punches, hooks, and jabs naturally look more convincing. The stunt doubles available were around five-seven or five-eight—it would have been obvious on screen. So, I did the stunts myself to maintain believability," he said.

Filming the final action sequence, however, proved particularly challenging. While shooting in Sreemangal, Zilani fell ill with a bacterial infection but continued working through it. "I performed the entire action sequence with a high fever—running along railway tracks, jumping from heights, climbing, shooting—doing everything. I was physically very weak, and on top of that, it was extremely hot. Wearing a leather jacket, a turtleneck, and a sweater under intense sunlight made it even more difficult. But somehow, I managed. Interestingly, whenever the camera rolled, I didn't feel the fever. But the moment they said 'cut,' it would hit me again," he said.

He also recalled performing a physically demanding rope-climbing sequence. "It was my first time doing something like that. I was scared, but I stayed focused on the performance," he added.

Zilani believes that honesty in performance matters more than the size of a role. He pointed to *Cactus*, where he had no dialogue in the first five episodes, yet still connected with viewers.

On the work front, he was recently seen in Tanim Noor's *Utshob* and *Bonolota Express*. Speaking about the director, he said, "I'm a

newcomer and haven't worked with many people yet, but Tanim Noor *bhai* and his team are very organised and clear about what they want."

He also noted that being cast in a comedic role in *Bonolota Express* marked a shift from how he is usually perceived. "Because of my appearance, I'm often seen in action-oriented roles. But as an actor, it's my job to

adapt. Playing Faisal, who is naive and often clueless, was a different experience," he said.

Among his upcoming projects is the web film *Kalo Biral*, where he plays the lead in a biographical role based on a Dhaka University vice-chancellor. Without any family background in the industry, Zilani said he has earned each role through auditions, with his wife remaining his biggest supporter.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Zilani believes that honesty in performance matters more than the size of a role. He pointed to *Cactus*, where he had no dialogue in the first five episodes, yet still connected with viewers.



Prangone Mor returns to Shilpakala after two years

Theatre troupe Prangone Mor returned to the National Theatre Hall of the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy after nearly two years, marking a significant homecoming. The group staged two productions—*Shesher Kobita* and *Timer Talowar*—over a three-day run from May 1 to 3, with shows beginning at 7:00pm.

Despite its absence from the venue, the troupe had continued regular performances at the Mohila Samity Auditorium. Its return to the National Theatre Hall, a key centre of theatre in Bangladesh, carried symbolic and professional weight.

Shesher Kobita, adapted from Rabindranath Tagore, opened the run, followed by Utpal Dutt's *Timer Talowar* on the next two days. Both productions explored enduring themes of love, art and institutional control.

WHAT'S THE HAPS?

'Photoseum: Life of Poetree'

Nasir Ali Mamun turns his lens toward two towering literary figures—Shamsur Rahman and Al Mahmud—in a striking black and white exhibition that captures the quiet gravitas of their lives. Intimate, austere, and deeply archival, the portraits trace memory, legacy, and the enduring face of Bangla poetry.



DATE: APRIL 3-16, 2026
TIME: 3:00 PM-9:00 PM (OPENING: 6:00 PM)
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NEWS

Dhaka, Delhi 'move to mend ties'

FROM PAGE 12
of maintaining good relations with neighbouring countries, especially India, she said.

However, foreign policy analysts caution that while the optics are positive, translating them into stable, long-term cooperation will require navigating domestic political pressures, deep-seated distrust, and addressing longstanding structural issues.

DOMESTIC PERCEPTIONS

In Bangladesh, it is widely perceived that India's support helped the ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina hold onto power for long. This perception fuelled anti-India sentiment, and it may persist if India continues to shelter the ousted PM, said Prof Sreeradha Datta of the International Affairs Department at OP Jindal Global University in India.

Besides, issues such as border killings and water sharing have long been sources of public dissatisfaction, she noted.

Sreeradha further said the new government faces a complex domestic political landscape, as the Jamaat-e-Islami and the youth-led National Citizen Party (NCP) have emerged as vocal opposition forces, which are likely to monitor India-related issues closely.

Lailufar said the Indian media has spread massive misinformation and disinformation regarding communal issues in Bangladesh. Many Indian politicians make them big issues for political gains in their constituencies.

"Whether this trend will continue or not will largely depend on political engagement. If that is not done, things will not change," she said, suggesting that both countries should make efforts to eliminate radical elements.

Meanwhile, the extradition of Hasina, who has been convicted in Bangladesh for crimes against humanity, remains a sensitive topic.

Sreeradha said LGRD Minister Fakhrul Islam Alamgir's statement that Bangladesh-India relations will not hinge on Hasina's extradition reflects the government's willingness to advance bilateral ties.

Delwar Hossain, a professor of international relations at Dhaka University, said the BNP government's phrases, such as "Bangladesh first" and "mutual respect", reassure domestic audiences while signalling stability in foreign policy.

WATER SHARING

Bangladesh and India share 54 transboundary rivers, but only one formal agreement—the Ganges Water Treaty signed on December 12, 1996—currently regulates water sharing between the two countries.

This treaty, which is set to expire in December this year, needs to be renewed. There have been competing claims over water allocation. West Bengal claims that Bangladesh receives more water through the Farakka Barrage than what was approved, while people in Bangladesh complain of water shortages.

Referring to the treaty, Lailufar said it is a technical matter that requires a close examination of data by experts.

"Bangladesh needs to work on it in a focused way... Renewal of the Ganges treaty will be a litmus test for India."

There are also complications regarding the Teesta water-sharing agreement, which was stalled due to last-minute opposition from West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

With no breakthrough on the Teesta deal initially planned for 2011, Bangladesh has explored China's support for river-dredging and water management projects.

China has agreed to implement the project, but India has expressed concerns due to the project's proximity to the sensitive Siliguri Corridor.

While this has geopolitical implications, people in Bangladesh's northern region are suffering from water scarcity in the dry season and flooding during the monsoon. There needs to be a solution; otherwise it could deepen the trust deficit, said Lailufar.

BORDER KILLINGS

Killings of Bangladeshi nationals by the Border Security Force (BSF) along the border continue to be an emotionally charged issue in Bangladesh.

According to Ain O Salish Kendra, a human rights organisation, at least 34 Bangladeshis were killed by the BSF last year, compared to 30 in 2024, 31 in 2023, 23 in 2022, and 18 in 2021.

If the two countries are to have good relations, these border killings must stop, said Lailufar.

On different occasions, India said these killings occur due to crimes like human trafficking and smuggling

at night. The fact is that not only Bangladeshis, but also Indians are involved in such activities, she pointed out.

"There are problems on both sides... It requires cooperation between the two countries to address the problem."

There should be an agreement restricting shoot-on-sight practices, and even if such actions are required, lethal weapons must not be used, Lailufar said.

Echoing her words, Datta noted that India must show sensitivity to issues that carry psychological weight in Bangladesh.

She further said New Delhi wants Dhaka's assurance that Bangladesh's territory will not be used for anti-Indian activities, especially in the Northeast.

The BNP government's commitment that no terrorist activity will be tolerated on Bangladeshi soil is thus helpful, she added.

TRADE GAPS, CONNECTIVITY
India exports around \$12 billion worth of goods to Bangladesh annually, while Bangladesh's exports to India stand at only \$2 billion, reflecting a persistent trade imbalance.

Trade relations between the two countries took a hit during the interim administration's tenure as both sides imposed various restrictions.

Last year, India withdrew transshipment facility for Bangladesh, restricted the entry of certain Bangladeshi goods through land ports in northeastern states, and limited imports of jute products and woven fabrics to a single seaport.

On the other hand, Bangladesh halted the import of Indian yarn through major land ports.

Delwar said that both sides should withdraw these restrictions to normalise trade flows.

Bangladesh must focus on export diversification, and India should avoid non-tariff barriers that undermine trust, he noted.

Meanwhile, many of the projects that Bangladesh took up under Indian lines of credit since 2010 have been delayed due to bureaucratic red tape and conditionalities.

Experts said total commitments from India for these projects, involving mostly road, railway and waterway networks, have exceeded \$7 billion.

Delwar said India benefits

directly from connectivity projects, while Bangladesh's gains are largely indirect, primarily through infrastructure development.

For Bangladesh, it is important to have access to markets in India's northeast region and achieve the broader goal of linking the country with South and Southeast Asia, he pointed out.

He further said Bangladesh needs to negotiate better revenue mechanisms and conduct in-depth studies to maximise benefits from transit use and connectivity.

THE WAY FORWARD

Experts highlighted the importance of sustained, high-level engagement between the two countries not only for bilateral relations but also for regional cooperation.

Modi's invitation to Tarique is a positive signal, Datta said, adding that a high-level meeting between the two neighbours would be a good start.

Lailufar said there should be at least a foreign-secretary-level meeting to start with.

Prof Delwar said that in the current global context, economic and security interdependence matters far more than ideological alignment.

"Both sides must focus on concrete steps to ensure that their relationship benefits citizens directly and helps build long-term trust," he added.

Former DGFI

FROM PAGE 12
On July 6 last year, the victim's wife, Liza, 34, filed a case with Mirpur Model Police Station, accusing 74 individuals, most of whom are leaders and activists of the Awami League.

According to the case statement, Delwar was shot in the Mirpur-10 area on July 19, 2024, during the quota reform protests. He later died while undergoing treatment at City Care General Hospital in Dhaka's Shyamoli area two days later.

Earlier, DB arrested Lt Gen (ret'd) Masud Uddin Chowdhury and Sheikh Mamun Khaled in connection with the case. Both are currently on remand.

Afzal served as a DGFI director from March 2006 to March 2008. During that time, he was allegedly involved in the torture of political leaders and businessmen while they were in custody.

He was later dismissed from service on November 5, 2009.

Bangladesh ready to stand by Qatar

FROM PAGE 12
appreciation Qatar's arrangement of special air ambulances for his late mother and former prime minister Begum Khaleda Zia's emergency medical travel to London last year, the statement added.

During the meeting, Kobir praised Qatar's constructive role in regional peace, dialogue, and humanitarian diplomacy. Both sides discussed ways to deepen bilateral cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

The adviser also met Qatar's Minister of Labour Ali bin Saeed bin Samikh Al Marri, conveying condolences on behalf of the prime minister following the recent military helicopter crash that claimed the life of the minister's relative.

Kobir later visited the Bangladesh embassy in Doha, reviewing welfare issues concerning expatriates and bilateral cooperation matters.

He is scheduled to visit several

other Gulf states in the coming days.

The conflict in the Middle East that erupted on February 28 with US-Israeli strikes on Iran has quickly spread across the region, sending global energy markets into turmoil.

Qatar's economy has been among the hardest hit, facing retaliatory missile and drone attacks by Iran on US assets and energy facilities.

Earlier this month, an attack on Qatar's Ras Laffan liquefied natural gas hub knocked out 17 percent of the country's LNG export capacity, equivalent to 3-4 percent of global supplies, causing an estimated annual revenue loss of \$20 billion, projected to persist for three to five years.

With fuel supplies from Gulf countries disrupted and the Strait of Hormuz, the key route for one-fifth of the world's crude oil, under blockade, Bangladesh too is grappling with a mounting fuel crisis.

Govt to borrow extra Tk 5,000cr

FROM PAGE 12
Government borrowing from domestic sources has been rising since this fiscal year.

In the first seven months of the fiscal year, net government borrowing from domestic sources, including the banking system, stood at Tk 80,251 crore, up from Tk 35,306 crore a year earlier, central bank data showed.

Of the total domestic borrowing during the seven-month period, Tk 73,035 crore was borrowed from the banking system.

As per the fiscal 2025-26's budget, targets for government borrowing from the banking system, non-banking system and foreign sources have been set at Tk 104,000 crore, Tk 21,000 crore and Tk 96,000 crore respectively.

The government's demand for funds is increasing due to a revenue shortfall, said Mohammed Nurul Amin, a former chairman of the Association of Bankers, Bangladesh, a former banks' chief executives and managing directors.

At the same time, it needs money

to meet day-to-day expenditures, while the expected funding from the International Monetary Fund has yet to arrive.

Apart from remittance inflows, there is little positive news on the external front, he said.

As a result, the government may need to borrow even more in the coming months.

If the US-Israel war on Iran does not end soon, financial strain could emerge by June.

Funds are also being required for measures such as agricultural loan waivers and the introduction of various cards, said Amin, also the former managing director of Meghna Bank.

On the other hand, with credit growth in the private sector remaining weak, banks are feeling comfortable lending to the government.

Private sector credit growth hit a decade-low of 6.03 percent in January, data showed.

"This is not a positive sign for the economy, as production is not expanding," Amin added.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Director
DNCC Dedicated Covid-19 Hospital
Mohakhali, Dhaka
e-GP Tender Notice

Memo No-DNCC DCH/2025-2026/Re-Tender/002 Date: 30/03/2026

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 portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>), for more details, please contact support desk contact numbers, e-Tender are invited in e-GP system portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) by Acting Director, DNCC Dedicated Covid-19 Hospital, Mohakhali, Dhaka for the Procurement of:

Tender Id	Name of Goods	Tender/Proposal Publication Date & Time	Tender/Proposal Last Selling Date & Time	Tender/Proposal Closing/Opening Date & Time
1250763	MSR Medicine Non EDCL (Injection Items)-2 for 2025-26 FY	31 Mar 2026 10:00	07 Apr 2026 16:00	08 Apr 2026 10:00
1250640	MSR (Chemical Reagent X-Ray Film With ECG Paper)-4 for 2025-26 FY	31 Mar 2026 10:00	07 Apr 2026 16:00	08 Apr 2026 10:00

e-Tender details can be downloaded on e-GP System portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for pursuer, e-Tender will be accepted only as stated in above list; accepted tenders will be opened online on the dates stated above.

Colonel Latifa Rahman
Acting Director
DNCC Dedicated Covid-19 Hospital
Mohakhali, Dhaka
Phone: 0241082277

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বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক
হিউম্যান রিসোর্সেস ডিপার্টমেন্ট-১
(রিক্রুটমেন্ট এন্ড আউটসোর্সিং উইং)
প্রধান কার্যালয়
মতিঝিল, ঢাকা।

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং: ২৫/২০২৬ তারিখ: ১৫ চৈত্র ১৪৩২
২৯ মার্চ ২০২৬

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক সর্বকারী পরিচালক এর ১০৮ টি পদে (পদ সংখ্যা কম/বেশী হতে পারে) নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্তে বাংলাদেশী স্থায়ী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে:

- ১) মেড এন্ড বৈদ্যক পদে:
 - ক. নবম গ্রেড
 - খ. জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল, ২০১৫ এর টাকা ২২০০০-২৩১০০-২৪২০০-২৫৩০০-২৬৪০০-২৭৫০০-২৮৬০০-২৯৭০০-৩০৮০০-৩১৯০০-৩৩০০০-৩৪১০০-৩৫২০০-৩৬৩০০-৩৭৪০০-৩৮৫০০-৩৯৬০০-৪০৭০০-৪১৮০০-৪২৯০০-৪৪০০০-৪৫১০০-৪৬২০০-৪৭৩০০-৪৮৪০০-৪৯৫০০-৫০৬০০-৫১৭০০-৫২৮০০-৫৩৯০০-৫৫০০০-৫৬১০০-৫৭২০০-৫৮৩০০-৫৯৪০০-৬০৫০০-৬১৬০০-৬২৭০০-৬৩৮০০-৬৪৯০০-৬৬০০০-৬৭১০০-৬৮২০০-৬৯৩০০-৭০৪০০-৭১৫০০-৭২৬০০-৭৩৭০০-৭৪৮০০-৭৫৯০০-৭৭০০০-৭৮১০০-৭৯২০০-৮০৩০০-৮১৪০০-৮২৫০০-৮৩৬০০-৮৪৭০০-৮৫৮০০-৮৬৯০০-৮৮০০০-৮৯১০০-৯০২০০-৯১৩০০-৯২৪০০-৯৩৫০০-৯৪৬০০-৯৫৭০০-৯৬৮০০-৯৭৯০০-৯৯০০০-১০০১০০-১০১২০০-১০২৩০০-১০৩৪০০-১০৪৫০০-১০৫৬০০-১০৬৭০০-১০৭৮০০-১০৮৯০০-১১০০০০
 - গ. জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল, ২০১৫ এর টাকা ২২০০০-২৩১০০-২৪২০০-২৫৩০০-২৬৪০০-২৭৫০০-২৮৬০০-২৯৭০০-৩০৮০০-৩১৯০০-৩৩০০০-৩৪১০০-৩৫২০০-৩৬৩০০-৩৭৪০০-৩৮৫০০-৩৯৬০০-৪০৭০০-৪১৮০০-৪২৯০০-৪৪০০০-৪৫১০০-৪৬২০০-৪৭৩০০-৪৮৪০০-৪৯৫০০-৫০৬০০-৫১৭০০-৫২৮০০-৫৩৯০০-৫৫০০০-৫৬১০০-৫৭২০০-৫৮৩০০-৫৯৪০০-৬০৫০০-৬১৬০০-৬২৭০০-৬৩৮০০-৬৪৯০০-৬৬০০০-৬৭১০০-৬৮২০০-৬৯৩০০-৭০৪০০-৭১৫০০-৭২৬০০-৭৩৭০০-৭৪৮০০-৭৫৯০০-৭৭০০০-৭৮১০০-৭৯২০০-৮০৩০০-৮১৪০০-৮২৫০০-৮৩৬০০-৮৪৭০০-৮৫৮০০-৮৬৯০০-৮৮০০০-৮৯১০০-৯০২০০-৯১৩০০-৯২৪০০-৯৩৫০০-৯৪৬০০-৯৫৭০০-৯৬৮০০-৯৭৯০০-৯৯০০০-১০০১০০-১০১২০০-১০২৩০০-১০৩৪০০-১০৪৫০০-১০৫৬০০-১০৬৭০০-১০৭৮০০-১০৮৯০০-১১০০০০
- ২) শিক্ষাপত্র:
 - ক. স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হতে এইচ.এস.সি/সমমান পরীক্ষা পাসের পর স্বীকৃত কোন বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে ০৪ বছর মেয়াদী স্নাতক ডিগ্রী অথবা স্বীকৃত কোন বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে স্নাতকসহ যে কোন বিষয়ে স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রী। স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রীর ক্ষেত্রে স্নাতক ও স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রীর সম্মিলিত মেয়াদ ন্যূনতম ০৪ বছর হতে হবে।
 - খ. মাধ্যমিক স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট এবং তদুর্ধ্ব পর্যায়ের পরীক্ষাসমূহে ন্যূনতম ০২ টিতে প্রথম বিভাগ/শ্রেণি বা সমমানের জি.পি.এ থাকতে হবে।
 - গ. শিক্ষা জীবনের কোনো পর্যায়েই ৩য় বিভাগ/শ্রেণি বা সমমানের জি.পি.এ গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।
 - ঘ. (১) শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়ের ০২/০৩/২০১০ তারিখের প্রজ্ঞাপন নং শিম/শাঃ১১/১৯-১/২০০৭/১৭৪ অনুযায়ী এস.এস.সি বা সমমান এবং এইচ.এস.সি বা সমমান পরীক্ষার ফলাফলের ক্ষেত্রে বর্তমানে প্রচলিত জি.পি.এ বা ক্ষেত্রমত, সি.জি.পি.এ-এর বিপরীতে পূর্বের ১ম, ২য় ও ৩য় বিভাগ/শ্রেণি নিম্নরূপে নির্ধারিত হয়েছে:

৫.০০ পয়েন্ট স্কেলে	সমতুল্য শ্রেণি/বিভাগ
জি.পি.এ ৩.০০ বা তদুর্ধ্ব	প্রথম শ্রেণি/বিভাগ
জি.পি.এ ২.০০ থেকে ৩.০০ এর কম	দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণি/বিভাগ
জি.পি.এ ১.০০ থেকে ২.০০ এর কম	তৃতীয় শ্রেণি/বিভাগ

 (২) শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়ের ০২/০৬/২০০৯ তারিখের প্রজ্ঞাপন নং শিম/শাঃ১১/৫-১(অংশ)/৫৮২ অনুযায়ী অনুমোদিত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সি.জি.পি.এ-এর ক্ষেত্রে বর্তমানে প্রচলিত জি.পি.এ বা ক্ষেত্রমত, সি.জি.পি.এ এর বিপরীতে পূর্বের ১ম, ২য় ও ৩য় বিভাগ/শ্রেণি নিম্নরূপে নির্ধারিত হয়েছে:

অর্জিত সি.জি.পি.এ	সমতুল্য শ্রেণি/বিভাগ
৪.০০ পয়েন্ট স্কেলে	৫.০০ পয়েন্ট স্কেলে
৩.০০ বা তদুর্ধ্ব	৩.৭৫ বা তদুর্ধ্ব
২.২৫ বা তদুর্ধ্ব কিন্তু ৩.০০ এর কম	২.৮১৩ বা তদুর্ধ্ব কিন্তু ৩.৭৫ এর কম
১.৬৫ বা তদুর্ধ্ব কিন্তু ২.২৫ এর কম	২.০৬৩ বা তদুর্ধ্ব কিন্তু ২.৮১৩ এর কম
- ৩) O' Level এবং A' Level এর ক্ষেত্রে এ দেশীয় সংশ্লিষ্ট শিক্ষা বোর্ড হতে ইস্যুকৃত সমমান সার্টিফিকেট (Equivalence Certificate), বিদেশী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে প্রাপ্ত ডিগ্রীর ক্ষেত্রে দেশীয় সংশ্লিষ্ট বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়/বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় মঞ্জুরী কমিশন/ উপযুক্ত কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক ইস্যুকৃত সমমান সার্টিফিকেট (Equivalence Certificate) অনুযায়ী ডিগ্রী ও ফলাফলের তথ্য প্রদান করতে হবে।
- ৪) বয়সসীমা (সর্বোচ্চ ০১/১২/২০২৫ তারিখে এবং সর্বনিম্ন ২৭/০৪/২০২৬ তারিখে):
 - ক. সকল প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে বয়স ২১ হতে ৩২ বছর (জন্ম তারিখ: ০২/১২/১৯৯৩ থেকে ২৮/০৪/২০০৫ এর মধ্যে)।
 - খ. প্রার্থীর বয়স কম বা বেশি হলে আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।
- ৫) অগ্রহী প্রার্থীদেরকে আগামী ৩০/০৩/২০২৬ তারিখ হতে ২৭/০৪/২০২৬ তারিখের মধ্যে শুধু বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত ওয়েবসাইট (erecruitment.bb.org.bd)-এ Online Application Form পূরণের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে হবে। Online Application Form-এ পরীক্ষা নিয়ন্ত্রক কর্তৃক প্রকাশিত পরীক্ষার ফলাফলের তারিখ অবশ্যই উল্লেখ করতে হবে। ২৭/০৪/২০২৬ তারিখ বা তৎপূর্বে যাদের স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রী অথবা ০৪ বছর মেয়াদী স্নাতক ডিগ্রীর ফলাফল প্রকাশিত হয়েছে/হবে তারা আবেদনের যোগ্য হবেন।
- ৬) আবেদন করার সময় Application Form পূরণ করার নিয়ম ও অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী উপরে উল্লিখিত ওয়েবসাইটে পাওয়া যাবে।
- ৭) আবেদন কি: অফেরতযোগ্য টাঃ ২০০/- আবেদনের সময় Bangla QR এর মাধ্যমে প্রদান করতে হবে।
কি প্রদান ও Payment Verification এর শেষ তারিখ ও সময়: ৩০/০৪/২০২৬ তারিখ, রাত ১১.৫৯ টা।
- ৮) অনলাইনে আবেদন করার পর সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রার্থী Bangla QR code সফলভাবে একটি Payment Page পাবেন। মোবাইল ফোনের Payment App (Bangla QR সাপোর্ট করে এরূপ ব্যাংক/MFS) এর মাধ্যমে Bangla QR স্ক্যান করে টাঃ ২০০/- আবেদন কি হিসেবে পরিশোধ করতে হবে। কি প্রদান করার পর প্রার্থী কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত মোবাইল নম্বরে SMS প্রেরণ করা হবে। SMS প্রাপ্তির পর ওয়েবসাইটে প্রার্থীকে Verify Payment Link-এ Click করে Payment Verification সম্পন্ন করতে হবে, অন্যথায় আবেদন অসম্পূর্ণ হয়ে যাবে। Payment Verification সম্পন্ন হওয়ার পর প্রার্থীকে Tracking ID Number সফলভাবে একটি Tracking Page প্রদর্শন করা হবে। Payment Confirm করার পর প্রার্থী Tracking Page টি ভবিষ্যতে ব্যবহারের জন্য সংরক্ষণ করবেন। পরীক্ষার প্রবেশপত্র ডাউনলোড এবং পরবর্তী বিভিন্ন কাজে Tracking Page টি প্রয়োজন হবে। Payment Verification না করলে আবেদন অসম্পূর্ণ অবস্থায় বাতিল হবে এবং payment refund এর সুযোগ থাকবে না।
- ৯) যাদের বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত ওয়েবসাইট (erecruitment.bb.org.bd)-এ CV রয়েছে, তারা তাদের উক্ত CV এর মাধ্যমে আবেদন করবেন। প্রার্থীর নাম এবং পিতার নাম এস.এস.সি/সমমানের সনদে যে ভাবে লেখা আছে অনলাইন আবেদনপত্রে হুবহু সে ভাবে লিখতে হবে। নাম, পিতা ও মাতার নাম, শিক্ষাপত্র যোগ্যতা, ১১ ডিজিটের মোবাইল নম্বর, ঠিকানা ইত্যাদি সংক্রান্ত তথ্যে অসামঞ্জস্য/ভুল থাকলে প্রার্থীরা আবেদনের সময় নিজ উদ্যোগে সংশোধন/আপডেট করে নিতে হবে। যাদের CV নেই তারা ওয়েবসাইটে প্রদত্ত নির্দেশনা অনুযায়ী অনলাইন আবেদনের ক্ষেত্রে নতুন CV তৈরি করবেন এবং নির্ধারিত স্থানে স্বাক্ষর ও সন্ধ্যা তোলা Formal রঙিন ছবি আপলোড করে নিবেন। স্বাক্ষর এবং ছবির ব্যাকগ্রাউন্ড অবশ্যই সাদা হতে হবে। স্বাক্ষর এবং ছবি আপলোডে ত্রুটি/বিঘ্নতির বিষয়ে সাবধানতা অবলম্বনের পরামর্শ প্রদান করা হলো। আবেদনপত্রের তথ্যে অসামঞ্জস্য/ভুল থাকলে সংশোধনের সুযোগ থাকবে না এবং কোন প্রকার যোগাযোগ ব্যতিরেকেই প্রার্থিতা বাতিল করা হবে।
- ১০) অনলাইনে আবেদন করার পর প্রার্থী কর্তৃক CV Identification Number, Tracking Number ও Password যথাযথভাবে সংরক্ষণ করতে হবে। পরীক্ষার প্রবেশপত্র ডাউনলোড করা এবং পরবর্তী বিভিন্ন কাজে বর্ণিত তথ্যসমূহ প্রয়োজন হবে।
- ১১) প্রার্থীদেরকে প্রাথমিকভাবে কোনো দলিলাদি প্রেরণ করতে হবে না। লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদেরকে আবেদনে প্রদত্ত তথ্যাদির সমর্থনে প্রয়োজনীয় দলিলাদিসহ মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য উপস্থিত থাকতে হবে। দাখিলকৃত দলিলাদির সঠিকতা যাচাই সাপেক্ষে তাদেরকে মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের সুযোগ দেওয়া হবে।
- ১২) প্রার্থীদেরকে প্রাথমিকভাবে কোনো দলিলাদি প্রেরণ করতে হবে না। লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদেরকে আবেদনে প্রদত্ত তথ্যাদির সমর্থনে প্রয়োজনীয় দলিলাদিসহ মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য উপস্থিত থাকতে হবে। দাখিলকৃত দলিলাদির সঠিকতা যাচাই সাপেক্ষে তাদেরকে মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের সুযোগ দেওয়া হবে।
- ১৩) প্রার্থীদেরকে প্রাথমিকভাবে কোনো দলিলাদি প্রেরণ করতে হবে না। লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদেরকে আবেদনে প্রদত্ত তথ্যাদির সমর্থনে প্রয়োজনীয় দলিলাদিসহ মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য উপস্থিত থাকতে হবে। দাখিলকৃত দলিলাদির সঠিকতা যাচাই সাপেক্ষে তাদেরকে মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের সুযোগ দেওয়া হবে।
- ১৪) চাকুরিরত প্রার্থীগণ তাদের নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের পূর্বনুমোদনক্রমে আবেদন করতে পারবেন। লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ হলে নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের অনাপত্তিপত্র মৌখিক পরীক্ষার বোর্ডে দাখিল করতে হবে। অন্যথায় প্রার্থীকে মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের সুযোগ দেওয়া হবে না।
- ১৫) আবেদনে প্রদত্ত স্থায়ী ঠিকানার সপক্ষে সংশ্লিষ্ট সিটি কর্পোরেশনের মেয়র/ পৌরসভার মেয়র/ কাউন্সিলর/ ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ চেয়ারম্যান/ নোটারি পাবলিক কর্তৃক স্বাক্ষরিত সনদপত্র মৌখিক পরীক্ষার বোর্ডে জমা দিতে হবে। বিবাহিত মহিলা প্রার্থীগণ স্থায়ী ঠিকানা হিসেবে যদি স্বামীর ঠিকানা ব্যবহার করেন সে ক্ষেত্রে সনদপত্র উক্ত স্থায়ী ঠিকানার সপক্ষে হতে হবে।
- ১৬) নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে কোটা সংক্রান্ত সর্বশেষ সরকারি নীতিমালা অনুসরণ করা হবে।
- ১৭) কোন ক্ষেত্রে দলিলাদির ঘাটতি থাকলে বা পরবর্তীতে কোন প্রার্থীর যোগ্যতার ঘাটতি পাওয়া গেলে বা দুর্নীতি, অসত্য তথ্য প্রদান, কোন জাল সনদ দাখিল, অসদুপায় অবলম্বন, প্রতারণার আশ্রয় নিলে বা আবেদনপত্রে গুরুতর (Substantive) ত্রুটি বা ঘাটতি দেখা গেলে বা প্রদত্ত তথ্য মিথ্যা প্রমাণিত হলে নিয়োগ প্রক্রিয়ার যে কোন পর্যায়ে উক্ত প্রার্থীর প্রার্থিতা বাতিল করা হবে।
- ১৮) আবেদনের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়ের জন্য অপেক্ষা না করে পর্যাপ্ত সময় নিয়ে আবেদন করতে পরামর্শ প্রদান করা হলো।
- ১৯) বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক কর্তৃক প্রার্থীদের কাউকে নিয়োগ প্রদান করা বা না করার ক্ষেত্রে চূড়ান্ত সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণের অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করে।

জিপিএ ৪৮/২০২৬-৭৫৩
তারিখ: ৩০/০৩/২৬

ব্যারিকিং ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হযরানির শিকার হলে কিংবা কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।
মোঃ শহীদ রেজা
পরিচালক (এইচআরডি-১)

GD-674

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক
প্রধান কার্যালয়
মতিঝিল, ঢাকা

হিউম্যান রিসোর্সেস ডিপার্টমেন্ট-১
(রিক্রুটমেন্ট এন্ড আউটসোর্সিং উইং)

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং: ২৪/২০২৬ তারিখ: ১৫ চৈত্র ১৪৩২
২৯ মার্চ, ২০২৬

পুনঃনিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

দি সিকিউরিটি প্রিন্টিং কর্পোরেশন (বাংলাদেশ) লিঃ, গাজীপুর-এ 'চিকিৎসা কর্মকর্তা' পদে নিয়োগের উদ্দেশ্যে প্রকাশিত ১০/০৪/২০২৫ তারিখের নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং: ২১/২০২৫ এর অন্তর্ভুক্তি বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত স্থায়ী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্তাবলী পূরণের দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে:

পদের নাম	পদ সংখ্যা	গ্রেড	বেতনস্কেল, ২০১৫	ন্যূনতম শিক্ষাপত্র যোগ্যতা
চিকিৎসা কর্মকর্তা	০১	৯ম	২২০০০-২৩০৬০/-	ক) এমবিবিএস ডিগ্রী ও বিএমডিএস সনদ থাকতে হবে। খ) সকল পরীক্ষায় ন্যূনতম ২য় বিভাগ/শ্রেণিসহ যেকোন ২টিতে ১ম বিভাগ/শ্রেণি থাকতে হবে। কোন পরীক্ষায় ৩য় বিভাগ/শ্রেণি গ্রহণযোগ্য হবেনা।

- ০১। আবেদনপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়: ২০/০৪/২০২৬ তারিখ, রাত ১১.৫৯ টা।
- ০২। কি প্রদান ও Payment Verification এর শেষ তারিখ ও সময়: ২৭/০৪/২০২৬ তারিখ, রাত ১১.৫৯ টা।
- ০৩। আবেদন কি: অফেরতযোগ্য টাঃ ২০০/- Bangla QR এর মাধ্যমে আবেদনের সময় প্রদান করতে হবে।
- ০৪। (ক) শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়ের ০২/০৩/২০১০ তারিখের প্রজ্ঞাপন নং শিম/শাঃ১১/১৯-১/২০০৭/১৭৪ অনুযায়ী এস.এস.সি বা সমমান এবং এইচ.এস.সি বা সমমান পরীক্ষার ফলাফলের ক্ষেত্রে বর্তমানে প্রচলিত জিপিএ বা ক্ষেত্রমত, সি.জি.পি.এ-এর বিপরীতে পূর্বের ১ম, ২য় ও ৩য় বিভাগ/শ্রেণি নিম্নরূপে নির্ধারিত হয়েছে:

৫.০০ পয়েন্ট স্কেলে	সমতুল্য শ্রেণি/বিভাগ
জিপিএ ৩.০০ বা তদুর্ধ্ব	প্রথম শ্রেণি/বিভাগ
জিপিএ ২.০০ থেকে ৩.০০ এর কম	দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণি/বিভাগ
জিপিএ ১.০০ থেকে ২.০০ এর কম	তৃতীয় শ্রেণি/বিভাগ

 (খ) শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়ের ০২/০৬/২০০৯ তারিখের প্রজ্ঞাপন নং শিম/শাঃ১১/৫-১(অংশ)/৫৮২ অনুযায়ী অনুমোদিত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সি.জি.পি.এ-এর ক্ষেত্রে বর্তমানে প্রচলিত জিপিএ বা ক্ষেত্রমত, সি.জি.পি.এ এর বিপরীতে পূর্বের ১ম, ২য় ও ৩য় বিভাগ/শ্রেণি নিম্নরূপে নির্ধারিত হয়েছে:

অর্জিত সি.জি.পি.এ	সমতুল্য শ্রেণি/বিভাগ
৪.০০ পয়েন্ট স্কেলে	৫.০০ পয়েন্ট স্কেলে
৩.০০ বা তদুর্ধ্ব	৩.৭৫ বা তদুর্ধ্ব
২.২৫ বা তদুর্ধ্ব কিন্তু ৩.০০ এর কম	২.৮১৩ বা তদুর্ধ্ব কিন্তু ৩.৭৫ এর কম
১.৬৫ বা তদুর্ধ্ব কিন্তু ২.২৫ এর কম	২.০৬৩ বা তদুর্ধ্ব কিন্তু ২.৮১৩ এর কম
- ০৫। বয়স (০১/০৪/২০২৫ তারিখে):
 - ক) সকল প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে বয়স ২১ হতে ৩২ বছর।
 - খ) বিভাগীয় প্রার্থীদের জন্য বয়স ৩৫ বছর পর্যন্ত শিথিলযোগ্য।
 - গ) বয়সের ক্ষেত্রে একিভেজিট গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়।
- ০৬। অগ্রহী প্রার্থীদেরকে আগামী ২০/০৪/২০২৬ তারিখের মধ্যে শুধু বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত ওয়েবসাইট (erecruitment.bb.org.bd)-এ Online Application Form পূরণের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে হবে। Online Application Form-এ পরীক্ষা নিয়ন্ত্রক কর্তৃক প্রকাশিত পরীক্ষার ফলাফলের তারিখ অবশ্যই উল্লেখ করতে হবে।
- ০৭। আবেদন করার সময় Application Form পূরণ করার নিয়ম ও অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী (erecruitment.bb.org.bd) ওয়েবসাইটে পাওয়া যাবে।
- ০৮। যাদের বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত ওয়েবসাইট (erecruitment.bb.org.bd)-এ CV রয়েছে, তারা তাদের উক্ত CV এর মাধ্যমেই আবেদন করবেন। প্রার্থীর নাম ও পিতার নাম এস.এস.সি/সমমানের সনদে যেভাবে লেখা আছে অনলাইন আবেদনপত্রে হুবহু সেভাবে লিখতে হবে। নাম, পিতা/মাতার নাম, শিক্ষাপত্র যোগ্যতা, ১১ ডিজিটের মোবাইল নম্বর, ঠিকানা ইত্যাদি সংক্রান্ত তথ্যে অসামঞ্জস্য/ভুল থাকলে প্রার্থীরা আবেদনের সময় নিজ উদ্যোগে সংশোধন/আপডেট করে নিবেন। তথ্যে যাদের CV নেই তারা ওয়েবসাইটে প্রদত্ত নির্দেশনা অনুযায়ী অনলাইন আবেদনের ক্ষেত্রে নতুন CV তৈরি করবেন এবং নির্ধারিত স্থানে স্বাক্ষর ও সন্ধ্যা তোলা Formal রঙিন ছবি আপলোড করে নিবেন। স্বাক্ষর এবং ছবির ব্যাকগ্রাউন্ড অবশ্যই সাদা হতে হবে। স্বাক্ষর এবং ছবি আপলোডে ত্রুটি/বিঘ্নতির বিষয়ে সাবধানতা অবলম্বনের পরামর্শ প্রদান করা হলো। আবেদনপত্রের তথ্যে অসামঞ্জস্য/ভুল থাকলে সংশোধনের সুযোগ থাকবে না এবং কোন প্রকার যোগাযোগ ব্যতিরেকেই প্রার্থিতা বাতিল করা হবে।
- ০৯। পূর্বের নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি (নং: ২১/২০২৫, তারিখ: ১০/০৪/২০২৫) শর্ত মোতাবেক যে সকল প্রার্থী আবেদন করতেন তাদের নতুন করে আবেদন করার প্রয়োজন নেই। তবে অনুচ্ছেদ-১১ এর বর্ণনা মোতাবেক 'আবেদন কি' পরিশোধ ও Payment Verification সম্পন্ন করতে হবে।
- ১০। অনলাইনে আবেদন করার পর CV Identification Number, Tracking Number ও Password যথাযথভাবে সংরক্ষণ করতে হবে। পরীক্ষার প্রবেশপত্র ডাউনলোড করা এবং পরবর্তী বিভিন্ন কাজে বর্ণিত তথ্যসমূহ প্রয়োজন হবে।
- ১১। অনলাইনে আবেদন করার পর সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রার্থী Bangla QR code সফলভাবে একটি Payment Page পাবেন। মোবাইল ফোনের Payment App (Bangla QR সাপোর্ট করে এরূপ ব্যাংক/MFS) এর মাধ্যমে Bangla QR স্ক্যান করে টাঃ ২০০/- আবেদন কি হিসেবে পরিশোধ করতে হবে। কি প্রদান করার পর প্রার্থী কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত মোবাইল নম্বরে SMS প্রেরণ করা হবে। SMS প্রাপ্তির পর ওয়েবসাইটে প্রার্থীকে Verify Payment Link-এ Click করে Payment Verification সম্পন্ন করতে হবে, অন্যথায় আবেদন অসম্পূর্ণ হয়ে যাবে। Payment Verification সম্পন্ন হওয়ার পর প্রার্থীকে Tracking ID Number সফলভাবে একটি Tracking Page প্রদর্শন করা হবে। Payment Confirm করার পর প্রার্থী Tracking Page টি ভবিষ্যতে ব্যবহারের জন্য সংরক্ষণ করবেন। পরীক্ষার প্রবেশপত্র ডাউনলোড এবং পরবর্তী বিভিন্ন কাজে Tracking Page টি প্রয়োজন হবে। Payment Verification না করলে আবেদন অসম্পূর্ণ অবস্থায় বাতিল হবে এবং payment refund এর সুযোগ থাকবে না।
- ১২। প্রার্থীদেরকে প্রাথমিকভাবে কোনো কাগজপত্র প্রেরণ করতে হবে না। লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদেরকে আবেদনে প্রদত্ত তথ্যাদির সমর্থনে প্রয়োজনীয় দলিলাদিসহ মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য উপস্থিত থাকতে হবে। দাখিলকৃত দলিলাদির সঠিকতা যাচাই সাপেক্ষে তাদেরকে মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের সুযোগ দেওয়া হবে।
- ১৩। চাকুরিরত প্রার্থীগণ তাদের নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের পূর্বনুমোদনক্রমে আবেদন করতে পারবেন। লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ হলে নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের অনাপত্তিপত্র মৌখিক পরীক্ষার বোর্ডে দাখিল করতে হবে। অন্যথায় প্রার্থীকে মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের সুযোগ দেওয়া হবে না।
- ১৪। আবেদনে প্রদত্ত স্থায়ী ঠিকানার সপক্ষে সংশ্লিষ্ট সিটি কর্পোরেশনের মেয়র/ পৌরসভার মেয়র/ কাউন্সিলর/ ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ চেয়ারম্যান/ নোটারি পাবলিক কর্তৃক স্বাক্ষরিত সনদপত্র মৌখিক পরীক্ষার বোর্ডে জমা দিতে হবে। বিবাহিত মহিলা প্রার্থীগণ স্থায়ী ঠিকানা হিসেবে যদি স্বামীর ঠিকানা ব্যবহার করেন সে ক্ষেত্রে সনদপত্র উক্ত স্থায়ী ঠিকানার সপক্ষে হতে হবে।
- ১৫। সকল জেলার স্থায়ী বাসিন্দারা আবেদন করতে পারবেন।
- ১৬। নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে কোটা সংক্রান্ত সর্বশেষ সরকারি নীতিমালা অনুসরণ করা হবে।
- ১৭। কর্তৃপক্ষ প্রয়োজনে এই বিজ্ঞপ্তির কার্যক্রম যেকোন পর্যায়ে সংশোধন/স্থগিত/বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।
- ১৮। কোন ক্ষেত্রে কাগজপত্রাদির ঘাটতি থাকলে বা পরবর্তীতে কোন প্রার্থীর যোগ্যতার ঘাটতি পাওয়া গেলে বা দুর্নীতি, অসত্য তথ্য প্রদান, কোন জাল সনদ দাখিল, অসদুপায় অবলম্বন, প্রতারণার আশ্রয় নিলে বা আবেদনপত্রে গুরুতর (Substantive) ত্রুটি বা ঘাটতি দেখা গেলে বা প্রদত্ত তথ্য মিথ্যা প্রমাণিত হলে নিয়োগ প্রক্রিয়ার যেকোন পর্যায়ে উক্ত প্রার্থীর প্রার্থিতা বাতিল করা হবে।

জিপিএ ৪৮/২০২৬-৭৫৩
তারিখ: ৩০/০৩/২৬

ব্যারিকিং ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হযরানির শিকার হলে কিংবা কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।
মোঃ শহীদ রেজা
পরিচালক (এইচআরডি-১)

GD-674

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক
হিউম্যান রিসোর্সেস ডিপার্টমেন্ট-১
(রিক্রুটমেন্ট এন্ড আউটসোর্সিং উইং)
প্রধান কার্যালয়
মতিঝিল, ঢাকা।

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং: ২৫/২০২৬ তারিখ: ১৫ চৈত্র ১৪৩২
২৯ মার্চ ২০২৬

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক সর্বকারী পরিচালক এর ১০৮ টি পদে (পদ সংখ্যা কম/বেশী হতে পারে) নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্তে বাংলাদেশী স্থায়ী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে:

- ১) মেড এন্ড বৈদ্যক পদে:
 - ক. নবম গ্রেড
 - খ. জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল, ২০১৫ এর টাকা ২২০০০-২৩১০০-২৪২০০-২৫৩০০-২৬৪০০-২৭৫০০-২৮৬০০-২৯৭০০-৩০৮০০-৩১৯০০-৩৩০০০-৩৪১০০-৩৫২০০-৩৬৩০০-৩৭৪০০-৩৮৫০০-৩৯৬০০-৪০৭০০-৪১৮০০-৪২৯০০-৪৪০০০-৪৫১০০-৪৬২০০-৪৭৩০০-৪৮৪০০-৪৯৫০০-৫০৬০০-৫১৭০০-৫২৮০০-৫৩৯০০-৫৫০০০-৫৬১০০-৫৭২০০-৫৮৩০০-৫৯৪০০-৬০৫০০-৬১৬০০-৬২৭০০-৬৩৮০০-৬৪৯০০-৬৬০০০-৬৭১০০-৬৮২০০-৬৯৩০০-৭০৪০০-৭১৫০০-৭২৬০০-৭৩৭০০-৭৪৮০০-৭৫৯০০-৭৭০০০-৭৮১০০-৭৯২০০-৮০৩০০-৮১৪০০-৮২৫০০-৮৩৬০০-৮৪৭০০-৮৫৮০০-৮৬৯০০-৮৮০০০-৮৯১০০-৯০২০০-৯১৩০০-৯২৪০০-৯৩৫০০-৯৪৬০০-৯৫৭০০-৯৬৮০০-৯৭৯০০-৯৯০০০

21,000 farmers Children's hospital

FROM PAGE 3
a farmer database, distributing the cards, and managing data collection. According to the DAE, the card will provide farmers access to various services, including agricultural inputs at fair prices, government subsidies and incentives, agricultural machinery and irrigation services at affordable prices. Farmers will also have easier access to agricultural loans and insurance.

Farmers will also be able to sell produce at fair prices, receive training, and access weather and market information digitally, along with guidance on crop diseases and pest control.

Officials said the programme will cover small, marginal, medium, large, and landless farmers. Fish farmers, livestock rearers, and dairy farmers will also be eligible for the benefits of the Farmers' Card.

Agriculture contributed 11.03 percent to Bangladesh's GDP in fiscal year 2024-25, according to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.

The government allocated Tk 17,000 crore in both FY2024-25 and FY2025-26 for subsidies on fertiliser, seeds, machinery, and other agricultural inputs.

For FY2025-26, it has proposed allocating Tk 27,224 crore for the agriculture sector, according to finance ministry documents.

Earlier, Agriculture Minister Mohammad Amin Ur Rashid told The Daily Star that the government hopes to launch the pre-pilot phase by Pahela Baishakh, with plans to expand the programme nationwide within the next four years.

Data on

FROM PAGE 3
on climate, Rohingya crisis at Commonwealth meeting.

The foreign minister also highlighted the ongoing case at the International Court of Justice in The Hague, "Gambia vs Myanmar", over genocide. The merit phase hearings were held from January 12 to 29, 2026. Bangladesh has supported the case through the OIC and provided financial assistance, and has agreed to contribute further funds as costs have risen.

He said the Rohingya issue is being discussed at the current UN Human Rights Council session in Geneva. Bangladesh also organised a side event there on March 12, focusing on human rights, repatriation challenges and accountability.

The foreign minister added that the upcoming OIC Council of Foreign Ministers meeting is expected to adopt two resolutions on the Rohingya issue, with Bangladesh playing a leading role in drafting and negotiations.

Meanwhile, in reply to a supplementary question from Jamaat MP Mir Ahmad Bin Quasem, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam said there is no fuel crisis in Bangladesh. At this point opposition members protested.

Shama said the prime minister held meetings with multiple ministries to import fuel from diverse sources. "Work is ongoing tirelessly to secure alternative sources beyond the Middle East, and we will succeed in that effort," she said.

The state minister said that since the beginning of the Middle East conflict, the government's first priority has been to ensure the safety of Bangladeshis living there.

PRAYER TIMING
MARCH 31

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:45	12:45	4:45	6:20	7:45
JAMAAT 5:20	1:15	5:00	6:25	8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Transport

FROM PAGE 3
"Until the organogram is approved, it remains unclear who will take charge. If the authorities formally take over the hospital, we can immediately complete the finishing touches. Otherwise, we cannot even release the contractor. We also do not have the manpower to guard the facility."

Meanwhile, at least 28 children died between March 11 and March 25 this year while waiting for admission to RMCH's intensive care unit.

"They were advised to receive intensive care but remained waiting due to a shortage of ICU beds," RMCH spokesperson Dr Shankar K Bishwas told The Daily Star, adding that 30 to 40 more children are currently waiting for ICU support.

RMCH's paediatric ward also continues to operate far beyond capacity.

Dr Shankar said the department has 200 beds but regularly accommodates between 1,000 and 1,200 patients. The crisis has worsened as measles infections spread among children in the region.

Although an isolation corner has been set up for measles patients at Ward 10 of the paediatric department, space shortages mean not all infected children can be isolated, raising concerns about further transmission.

During a visit on Sunday, He explained that while the RMCH director chaired a committee overseeing infrastructural development, responsibility for manpower and operations does not lie with RMCH.

Improve emergency

FROM PAGE 4
He stressed that Bangladesh's health system is struggling with a huge burden of critically unwell patients, delays in diagnosis and definitive care, overcrowded tertiary hospitals, and high preventable mortality.

Prof Sahabuddin Talukder, a cardiologist at Evercare Hospital, said most doctors lack motivation for emergency medicine due to limited salary and job scope, and the number of specialists in the field is too low to meet the country's demand.

He proposed mandatory training in emergency medicine to doctors from the internship stage.

Mohammad Iftakhar Hussain Pavel, an adult and paediatric emergency specialist and also lecturer

Do not get involved

FROM PAGE 3
recognised as a profession worldwide.

"Bangladesh will also not lag behind. Before the 2026 national election, we pledged in our party manifesto that if the BNP had the opportunity to run the state through the people's mandate, we would establish sport as a profession. The implementation phase of that promise formally began today [yesterday]," he added.

He said the government has begun implementing a plan to bring sports persons under a structured salary framework based on a specific policy so that they can pursue sport professionally without financial uncertainty for themselves and their families.

"For the first time in the country's history, athletes are being brought under a salary structure and provided with sports allowances," the premier said.

Tarique Rahman said he physically challenged individuals capable of contributing to sports will also receive sports cards.

A plan has been taken to make sports compulsory from grade four in the education curriculum to ensure the involvement of interested students alongside their studies, said the premier.

Transport

FROM PAGE 3
under the Special Powers Act, 1974.

At least two individuals have been identified in connection with the hoarding, said Additional District Magistrate Syed Mahbubul Haque.

A total of 18 drives were conducted in Chattogram, resulting in three cases and fines amounting to Tk 1.1 lakh. So far this month, 98 drives have been carried out, with Tk 4.3 lakh in fines collected and nearly 31,000 litres of diesel recovered.

In Rangamati, launch services on Kaptai Lake face possible suspension as the fuel shortage worsens. Owners said operations may halt from Wednesday if supplies do not resume, affecting thousands in six upazilas. About 30-35 launches require 1,000-1,200 litres daily, but supplies have remained scarce since Eid.

"We will run out of fuel in a day or two. If launches stop, passengers will suffer greatly," said Biswajit Dey, a lineman at Reserve Bazar pier.

Residents warned of higher fares and safety risks if forced to rely on small boats. Launch owners have appealed to the administration.

Deputy Commissioner Nazma Ashrafi said the issue is under review.

In Thakurgaon, authorities have introduced mandatory "fuel cards" for motorcyclists from April 5 to manage shortages that have persisted for over two weeks.

Long queues formed at UNO and DC offices as the card distribution began. Each cardholder will be allowed up to 15 litres within 12 days, while petrol is being rationed at Tk 200 per motorcycle at selected stations.

Fuel supplies were also disrupted after tanker workers in eight northern districts went on strike Sunday over the jailing of three colleagues in Nilphamari. The strike was called off later that night.

Scheduled fuel deliveries were delayed due to the disruption, said Thakurgaon Additional Deputy Commissioner Nazmul Haque Sumon.

"We are receiving only 3,000 to 4,000 litres every two to three days, instead of a full tanker daily," said Bablur Rahman, owner of Supriya Filling Station.

Motorcycle riders have been hit hard. "After waiting four to five hours, fuel worth Tk 200 is not enough to carry out my duties. It affects both my company's targets and my income," said Ariful Islam, a pharmaceutical sales representative.

In Tangail, a mobile court yesterday fined M/S Elenga Filling Station Tk 25,000 for storing excess fuel without proper documents. Authorities found the station closed despite holding around 10,000 litres of diesel, 4,000 litres of octane and 2,000 litres of petrol.

Similar drives are being conducted across the district, said Executive Magistrate Sajibul Islam Shuvo.

In Moulvibazar, Border Guard Bangladesh has been deployed at three oil depots since March 25 to prevent hoarding and strengthen security.

Two platoons of Sreemangal 46 Battalion are on round the clock duty at Padma, Meghna and Jamuna depots, which together hold over 5 million litres of fuel.

Depot managers reported supplies are meeting demand, though distribution delays persist.

"There is no crisis in Moulvibazar and Habiganj. Fuel is being supplied daily as per demand," said Jamuna Depot Manager Rashedul Islam.

Lt Col Sarkar Asif Mahmud, commanding officer of the Sreemangal 46 Battalion, said additional forces are deployed during oil arrivals from Chattogram.

Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed also said the motions differ and suggested that, if accepted, Iqbal's motion be discussed separately.



A farmer displays his wheat harvest before taking it for threshing and cleaning in Deopara union of Godagari upazila in Rajshahi. Despite a good yield across the Barind region, including Naogaon and Chapainawabganj, farmers remain worried about prices. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

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-08.01.0000.000.107.04.0003.26/78

Date: 29 March, 2026

Request Expressions of Interest (REOI)

For
Individual Consultant Service as Senior Financial Management Specialist Strengthening Domestic Revenue Mobilization Project (SDRMP) part of Strengthening Institutions for Transparency and Accountability (SITA).

Assignment Title: Providing Individual Consultant Service as Senior Financial Management Specialist Strengthening Domestic Revenue Mobilization Project (SDRMP).

Reference Number: SDRM/PIU/S-2

- 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 Accountability (SITA). The National Board of Revenue (NBR) will implement the project. It intends to apply a part of the proceeds this credit for the services of an individual Consultant as Senior Financial Management Specialist.
- The broad scope of consulting services ("the Services") includes but not limited to carrying out following in the project.
 - Supporting the Project Director in providing strategic and technical leadership in project financial management.
 - Planning and managing budget, disbursement, bookkeeping, reconciliation, and related financial management activities.
 - Preparing annual and semi-annual project budgets aligned with procurement plans and work plans.
 - Assisting the PIU in day-to-day financial management and accounting operations of the project.
 - Processing payments, disbursements, reimbursements, and preparing Withdrawal Applications for the World Bank.
 - Preparing quarterly, semi annual, and annual financial reports including Interim Unaudited Financial Reports (IUFR).
 - Maintaining financial and procurement records in compliance with World Bank regulations, the Financing Agreement, and Government financial management rules.
 - Coordinating internal and external audits including those conducted by the Foreign Aided Projects Audit Directorate (FAPAD).
 - Preparing audit responses, action plans, and follow-up on audit observations.
 - Maintaining liaison with relevant ministries, divisions, and accounts offices regarding project accounts and budgeting.
 - Performing any other responsibilities described in the Terms of Reference (TOR).
- The expected date for commencement of the services is 15 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 www.nbr.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

- Minimum M. Com/ MBA in Accounting/Finance.
- Professional certification such as CA, FCMA, FCA, CPA, ACCA accredited by the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) will be added advantage. Membership/professional qualification through reciprocity agreements like Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) (without appearing examination) shall not be considered educational qualification.

(b) Experience

- At least Twelve (12) years of work experience in financial management in government semi government institutions or with international donors, implanting development projects, of which at least 5 years working experience in MDB finance projects is a must.
 - Extensive knowledge of Government budgeting, fund release and reporting requirements.
 - Extensive knowledge of IDA's financial management and disbursement procedures.
 - Excellent spoken and written skills in Bangla and English.
- The attention interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs 3.14, 3.16 and 3.17 of the World Bank Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers (February 2025, Sixth Edition) setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.
 - A Consultant will be selected following the Open Competitive Selection of Individual Consultants method set out in the World Bank Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers (February 2025, Sixth Edition). Shortlisting will be done based on qualifications and experience relevant to the assignment.
 - Interested consultants are invited to submit their Expression of Interest along with updated Curriculum Vitae (CV) demonstrating their qualifications and experience relevant to the assignment. Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours (09:00 AM to 05:00 PM Bangladesh Standard Time).
 - The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any all Expression of Interest (EOI/EOIs) without assigning any reason.
 - Consultants shall not be under suspension or debarment by the World Bank.
 - Expressions of Interest must be delivered in written form (in person, by mail, or by email) to the address below by 01:00 PM (Bangladesh Standard Time), 21st April, 2026.


22/09/2026

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
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Surprised athletes savour TK 1 LAKH MONTHLY BOOST

ANISUR RAHMAN

The announcement was made, the amount was electronically disbursed instantaneously, and the proof of the transaction was on their phones via text message from their banks, still, the country's top athletes were in disbelief, pinching themselves and wondering whether it was reality or a dream.

Yesterday, 129 athletes from 21 disciplines, who have been initially selected in the newly launched Sports Card and monthly allowance programme, received Tk 1,00,000 each during the inauguration ceremony held at the Prime Minister's office in Tejgaon.

For years, athletes from different disciplines who represent Bangladesh internationally have demanded to be included in a salary structure from the government, but their appeals seemingly always fell on deaf ears.

Sportsmen who were used to getting let down time and again from the government were hence in disbelief with such swift execution of this long-standing demand by the current government led by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman.

"In my 17-year career as an athlete, I have never seen such an athlete-friendly policy before, I did not even imagine that I would get such a big amount as a monthly salary," five-time fastest man in Bangladesh sprinter Mohammad Ismail told The Daily Star after



PHOTO: PMO

attending the inauguration ceremony.

"To be honest, this seems like the goose that lays golden eggs. Because this is an incredible amount for an athlete in the context of Bangladesh.

"We had heard that national athletes would come under a pay structure after the formation of the BNP government. We expected that the government would implement it in its second or third year and

the amount would be around Tk 20 or 30 thousand. Receiving Tk 1,00,000 surprised us all."

Asia Cup gold-winning archer Abdur Rahman Alif was also pleasantly surprised by the amount of the monthly allowance.

"Firstly, I want to thank the prime minister and sports minister for taking such initiative. Tk 1,00,000 is a really big amount in Bangladeshi perspective," Alif told The

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman inaugurated the country's first ever sports card and monthly allowance programme at his office in Tejgaon yesterday.

A total of 129 athletes from 21 disciplines have been initially named in the list.

The listed athletes received a monthly allowance of Tk 1,00,000 each yesterday.

A total of 500 athletes are to be included in the salary structure. The complete list will be declared by the first week of April.

Cricketers will not be considered for this allowance initially as they are under the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) — the most affluent sports body in the country.

The athletes in the list will undergo a performance evaluation every four months.

At yesterday's event, alongside allowance disbursement, several sportsmen who have recently won international prizes were honoured. Five athletes in individual disciplines received Tk 3,00,000 each while 22 members of three different champion teams received Tk 2,00,000 each.

Daily Star.

"Apart from playing, athletes usually think of alternative sources of income to run their family. From now on, athletes can

manage everything with this salary and concentrate more on his performance," he added.

Paddler Javed Ahmed felt that this initiative will encourage more to take up sports as a profession and that it "will change the country's sports in the coming days."

A total of 500 athletes will come under this salary structure, and the complete list is expected to be released by the first week of April.

The listed athletes will undergo a review every four months, after which changes could be made according to performance.

The athletes felt this would increase competition between them and drive them to improve their performance.

"The announcement of monthly salary has boosted the athletes. Those who are not in the list are eager to come under the pay structure. So, I have to uplift my standard to keep receiving a monthly salary," said sprinter Ismail.

Shuttler Al Amin said, "This initiative will encourage the juniors to knock us out to secure a place in the national team while it is our responsibility to keep our positions intact."

Although the players unanimously accepted that this was a step in the right direction, they felt that in order to achieve continued success at the global stage, the government also needs to ensure better training facilities, quality coaches and implement sports technology.



PHOTO: AFP

World number two Jannik Sinner powered past Jiri Lehecka 6-4, 6-4 to win the ATP Miami Masters 1000 for a second time on Sunday, adding the title to his Indian Wells crown. Sinner is the first man since Roger Federer in 2017 to win the Indian Wells and Miami titles back-to-back, a feat known as the 'Sunshine Double' given the tournaments' respective locations in California and Florida. The Italian also became the first to complete the 'Sunshine Double' without dropping a set.

Depleted Bangladesh look to spoil Singapore's party

SPORTS REPORTER

Despite missing several key players, Bangladesh will aim to end their AFC Asian Cup Qualifiers campaign on a high when they face already-qualified Singapore national football team in their final Group C clash today.

The match kicks off at 6:00 pm Bangladesh time at the National Stadium in Kallang.

Singapore have already secured the group's lone qualification spot with 11 points from five matches, while Bangladesh sit third with five points, courtesy of a win against India and draws against India and Hong Kong.

The first leg in Dhaka ended in a 2-1 defeat for Bangladesh, though the match could have ended in a draw after they were denied a late penalty following Rakib Hossain's goal. Rakib — arguably the team's most dangerous attacking threat — will miss the match due to suspension, as will experienced centre-back Topu Barman. Injuries to midfielders Shah Quazem Kirmancee and Mohammad Ridoy have further limited the squad.

Head coach Javier Cabrera, however, remains confident that his side can deliver a positive result. Speaking at the pre-match press conference, the Spaniard said he believes the available players are



PHOTO: BFF

well prepared and highlighted the chance to finish with eight points — taking seven from the last three matches — as a motivating target.

The closed-roof stadium in Kallang is expected to host a vibrant, near-capacity crowd, with Singapore fans set to celebrate their historic Asian Cup qualification secured in the previous match against Hong Kong. Head coach Gavin Lee has named a near full-strength squad, making only minor adjustments from the side that travelled to Dhaka.

Around 6,000 tickets have reportedly been allocated to Bangladesh supporters, likely to be filled by expatriate fans based in Singapore. Captain Jamal Bhuyan said the team is motivated to perform for those fans who have

shown strong support since their arrival.

"Whenever we go to countries where there are many Bengalis, we quite often see this kind of crowd, which is very positive," Jamal said. "It would be great if those fans who cannot get a ticket could get one and watch us play, because it is not every day the national team comes to Singapore. So, of course, we will have them in mind and fight for them as well."

While congratulating Singapore on their qualification, Cabrera made it clear that Bangladesh are determined to spoil the celebrations. The match could also mark his final game in charge, with his future dependent on a potential contract extension from the federation.



The definitive Asian debut

After a 72-year wait, the FIFA World Cup finally arrived on Asian soil in 2002, co-hosted by South Korea and Japan. The tournament was defined by massive upsets, starting with defending champions France losing the opener, and both France and Argentina crashing out in the group stages. Meanwhile, Japan topped their group, and so did South Korea but the latter stunned the world to become the first Asian nation to reach the semifinals. Ultimately, it was Ronaldo's magic that propelled Brazil to a record fifth title.

*Visit The Daily Star website to also read: 'Historical scars and 1966's ghost goal'



Italy on edge ahead of Bosnia showdown

STAR SPORTS DESK

The final six places for the 2026 FIFA World Cup will be sealed by Wednesday, with Italy's daunting trip to Bosnia and Herzegovina headlining a decisive slate of playoff finals.

The four-time champions stand one match away from ending a 12-year World Cup absence but must overcome a hostile test in Zenica, where Bosnia await at the Bilino Polje Stadium.

Italy's narrow win over Northern Ireland — secured by goals from Sandro Tonali and Moise Kean — did little to reassure fans after another unconvincing display. Head coach Gennaro Gattuso described the



Bosnia clash as "Everest," bringing forth the immense pressure on his side.

"I'm not interested in the performance," Gattuso said, with conditions expected to be soaking and the atmosphere intense following recent snowfall in Zenica.

The prize for Italy is a spot in Group B at this summer's finals alongside co-



hosts Canada, Switzerland and Qatar, and something to look forward to for a powerful football nation that has fallen behind its rivals since last lifting the World Cup in 2006.

Off-field controversy has only added to Italy's burden. Several players, most notably Federico Dimarco, were seen

celebrating Bosnia's penalty shootout win over Wales — a gesture that drew sharp criticism.

"Bosnia is waiting for them with open arms," former midfielder Miralem Pjanic told Gazzetta dello Sport.

Italy's World Cup winning goalkeeper Dino Zoff added: "It wasn't a good thing to do... it will just further fire up our opponents."

Dimarco later sought to calm tensions, saying: "I wasn't showing disrespect for Bosnia or the Bosnian people... there's really no reason to be arrogant. We've missed the last two World Cups."

Bosnia, meanwhile, are fuelled by belief and home support. Captain Edin Dzeko, who struck a crucial late equaliser in Cardiff to help knock out Wales, remains a key threat even at 40.

"Against Italy I don't know who can call themselves favourites," Dzeko said. "It would mean everything... for these young kids, the new generation."

He could again link up with 18-year-old Kerim Alajbegovic, whose emergence has added fresh impetus to the hosts.

Amnesty flags 'repression risk' at FIFA WC

AFP, London

Amnesty International has warned that the 2026 World Cup in the United States, Canada and Mexico risks becoming a "stage for repression," urging FIFA and host nations to act swiftly to safeguard fans, players and communities.

In its report "Humanity Must Win", the London-based rights group said FIFA's promise of an inclusive and safe tournament contrasts sharply with realities on the ground, particularly in the US, which will host most matches.

Amnesty described the US as facing a "human rights emergency" under the administration of President Donald Trump, citing mass deportations, arbitrary arrests and aggressive immigration enforcement. Concerns have intensified after US authorities indicated immigration agencies like the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) would play a role in World Cup security, while host city plans reportedly lack clarity on protections for fans and residents.

Travel restrictions affecting countries like Ivory Coast, Haiti, Iran and Senegal, alongside fears among LGBTQ+ supporters, have added to the fears. Amnesty said the tournament is far from the "medium risk" once suggested by FIFA, warning that growing gaps between promises and reality must be urgently addressed before kickoff in June.



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'Step out of line and you'll lose your post'

Tarique tells administrators of 42 zilla parishads

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

Prime Minister and BNP Chairperson Tarique Rahman yesterday warned newly appointed administrators of 42 zilla parishads that they would be withdrawn if any allegation of misconduct surfaced against them or if their actions harmed the government's image.



He asked them to stay away from controversial activities and said they must act responsibly so that the opposition does not get any opportunity to criticise the government.

"We will monitor your performance. Those who perform well -- who work with honesty, dedication, and without indulging in corruption, and who do not put the government in an embarrassing situation -- will definitely be evaluated," sources quoted Tarique as saying during a meeting held at the party chairperson's office in Gulshan last night.

Tarique warned that the government's reputation rests, in part, on how responsibly the administrators fulfil their roles.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



Motorcyclists line up at a municipality office in Thakurgaon town yesterday to collect "fuel cards" now mandatory from April 5 amid the ongoing fuel crisis. Similar lines were seen at UNO, municipality, and DC offices in the district as drivers scrambled to secure the required permits.

PHOTO: MD QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT

JULY UPRISING CASE

Former DGFI director Afzal on six-day remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Lt Col Md Afzal Naser, a former director of the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI) and a key figure during the army-backed caretaker government of 2007-08, on a six-day remand in a case filed over the killing of furniture trader Mohammad Delwar Hossain during the July Uprising.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Hasib Ullah Pias passed the order after detectives produced Afzal before the court with a seven-day remand prayer, said a sub-inspector working at the court.

According to the police forwarding report, Afzal was arrested as a suspect in the case.

Members of the Detective Branch (DB) of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police arrested him early Monday from Mirpur DOHS. This marks the third high-profile arrest linked to the 1/11 regime in recent days.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

RISING FUND DEMAND

Govt to borrow extra Tk 5,000cr

MD MEHEDI HASAN

The government is planning to borrow an extra Tk 5,000 crore on top of its regular borrowing from the financial sector this month as the ruling BNP goes about implementing its election pledges amid low revenue mobilisation.

In the first eight months of the fiscal year, the National Board of Revenue fell short of its collection target by 28 percent, leaving a gap of Tk 71,472 crore, shows provisional data.

Generally, the government borrows funds to finance budget deficits and public expenses by issuing treasury bills (short-term) and bonds (long-term). These debt instruments are sold through the central bank to commercial banks, financial institutions and individual investors, acting as a low-risk investment tool.

As part of its election pledge, the new BNP-led government has introduced several cards and waived off farm loans, which are generating additional demand for funds, said Bangladesh Bank (BB) officials involved with the proceedings. They spoke on the condition of anonymity to speak candidly on the issue.

Subsequently, the BB will hold a special auction of Tk 5,000 crore worth of 91-day treasury bills on April 1.

In the latest auctions, the government borrowed Tk 3,417 crore through 91-day treasury bills, Tk 2,382 crore through 182-day bills and Tk 2,046 crore through 364-day bills, BB data showed.

The rate stood at 9.78 percent for 91-day treasury bills, 9.97 percent for 182-day bills and 10 percent for 364-day bills.

The government generally borrows through special treasury bills when its demand for fund increases, said Md. Ezazul Islam, director general of the Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management.

Another reason for the special auction could be the underwhelming revenue collection, he said.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 5

Bangladesh ready to stand by Qatar

PM writes to emir

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has expressed solidarity with Qatar's leadership, government, and people amid the ongoing conflict in the Middle East and conveyed its readiness to extend any assistance should the State of Qatar consider it necessary.

The Prime Minister's Foreign Affairs Adviser, Humaiun Kobir, yesterday handed over the letter of solidarity from Prime Minister Tarique Rahman to Qatar Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani during a meeting with Qatar's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Sultan bin Saad Al Muraikhi, in Doha.

Kobir reached the Qatari capital Sunday as part of his official tour of the Gulf region as the prime minister's special envoy.

"In the letter, the prime minister also conveyed gratitude for measures ensuring the safety and welfare of nearly 450,000 Bangladeshi expatriates in Qatar," according to a statement issued by the foreign ministry yesterday.

The prime minister further recalled with

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Dhaka, Delhi 'move to mend ties'

Experts suggest resolving long-standing issues

PORIMOL PALMA

Bangladesh and India appear to be moving towards improvement in bilateral relations, with both sides signalling a thaw after months of strain that followed the ouster of the Awami League government in August 2024.

The first signal from India was External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's presence at the funeral of Khaleda Zia. Later, Indian Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla's attendance at the oath-taking ceremony of the new cabinet, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's multiple messages to his Bangladesh counterpart Tarique Rahman, and an official invitation for a visit -- all underscore Delhi's intent to reset bilateral ties.

Meanwhile, the West Bengal police arrested three suspects in the killing of Inquilab Moncho spokesperson Sharif Osman Hadi.

Dhaka is also signalling positively to mend the ties, with Bangladesh missions in India resuming issuance of all categories of visas for Indian citizens in late February.

On March 20, Bangladesh High Commissioner to India Riaz Hamidullah called on

EXPERTS' SUGGESTIONS FOR BOTH SIDES

Counter radical elements, misinformation

Address disputes over water sharing

Introduce joint protocols to stop border killings

Remove trade barriers, negotiate fair deals

Resume all types of visas

Jaishankar, and Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal. It was Hamidullah's first meeting with Indian ministers since his appointment in April 2025.

"Our conversation was focused on advancing our bilateral ties," Jaishankar wrote on X, sharing an update on the meeting.

Hamidullah affirmed Dhaka's readiness to work with Delhi for mutual benefits. He and Goyal discussed ways to deepen economic cooperation, advance

the broader Bangladesh-India economic partnership, and address trade-related issues.

He also addressed senior military officers at the Indian Army's War College in Madhya Pradesh on March 10, sharing his perspectives on the state of Bangladesh-India relations and ways to address existing issues.

Earlier, Kaiser Rashid Chowdhury, director general of Directorate General of Forces Intelligence, visited New Delhi from March 1 to 3, marking the first official visit of a Bangladeshi high-up since the BNP assumed office.

Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman is likely to meet Jaishankar and several other officials during his visit to India on April 7-8 before traveling to Mauritius to attend the Indian Ocean Conference.

With India emphasising a "forward-looking and people-centric" relationship, these developments indicate both sides' readiness to renew relations, said Lailufar Yasmin, a professor of International Relations at Dhaka University.

The BNP policymakers seem to recognise the importance

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ICT CASE

Ex-CMP chief Abdul Jalil Mondal held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police yesterday arrested former additional director general of Rab, Abdul Jalil Mondal, who also served as commissioner of Chattogram Metropolitan Police (CMP).



A DB team picked him up from his residence in the capital's Sabujbagh area in the evening.

Confirming the development, DB Joint Commissioner Nasirul Islam told The Daily Star that Mondal had an arrest warrant against him in a case filed with the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) in connection to the July uprising.

Abdul Jalil Mondal served as commissioner of CMP from 2014 to 2016. He was later appointed as an additional director general of the Rapid Action Battalion.



Illegally parked buses in the middle of the road obstructing vehicular movement and triggering traffic congestion near the Mohakhali bus stand in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

ILO lauds changes in Bangladesh labour laws

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The European Union, United States, and Canada commended Bangladesh's progress in labour law amendments, inspector recruitment, and other areas, while urging further steps to fully implement the reform roadmap, said a statement from the Bangladesh Mission to the UN in Geneva at the 356th ILO Governing Body session yesterday.

In June 2019, during the Awami League government, five worker representatives from the International Trade Union Confederation filed a complaint under Article 26 of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention, alleging Bangladesh's failure to comply with Conventions 81, 87, and 98.

In response, the then

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Israeli fire kills four in Gaza, West Bank



WTO conference concludes without major agreements

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Today is the 55th Death Anniversary of S N H Rizvi



We request all relatives, friends and well-wishers to remember him in their prayers and to pray for eternal peace of his soul