

## 21,000 farmers Improve emergency health

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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

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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

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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 jobs 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 Iftokhar Hussain Pavel, adult and paediatric emergency specialist and also lecturer at Monash University, shared his experience at emergency service in Australia and suggested improving the service in Bangladesh to improve overall healthcare services.

Prof Dr Moudud Hossain Alamgir Pavel, BNP's media cell chief, called for introducing recommended mandatory first aid courses in educational institutions, and regular emergency drills at different organisations.

Addressing the

discussion, Health Minister Sardar Md Sakhawat Husain asked the visiting doctors to prepare a summary report on emergency services and hand it over to him so that he can present it before the premier.

Prothom Alo assistant editor Firoz Chowdhury moderated the session.

## Transport

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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 Elega 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.

Officials said the move aims to stop illegal stockpiling amid global volatility.

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.

## Road accidents

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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 interim government period when such groups had less influence," he added.

## Children's hospital

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"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, children with measles

were being treated in the isolation corner.

However, Habiba Khatun, mother of a patient named Sinthia, said her daughter has measles but was kept alongside other paediatric patients instead of being placed in isolation.

Regarding the unused facility, Rajshahi Civil Surgeon Dr SIM Raziul Karim said a committee had been formed to oversee the process of making the hospital operational.

Chaired by the RMCH director, the committee sent a letter to the ministry, which instructed the director to shift RMCH's paediatric department to the children's hospital. "The progress of that instruction can best be explained by them," he said.

RMCH spokesperson Dr Shankar, however, said the management of the children's hospital does not fall under RMCH's jurisdiction.

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

"Under existing administrative rules, government hospitals at the district level -- except medical college hospitals -- fall under the authority of the civil surgeon. Therefore, the responsibility of this hospital should go to the civil surgeon," he said.

## Do not get involved

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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 sports is no longer merely a matter of hobby, entertainment or physical exercise, but is now 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 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.

Stating that "Notun Kuri Sports", a talent-hunt programme, is set to be launched nationwide in a new format, said Tarique.

On the occasion, the prime minister handed over sports cards to 129 athletes and honoured those who achieved success at the international level.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir spoke at the function as the guest of honour, with State Minister for Youth and Sports Md Aminul Haque in the chair.

## Decision

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That motion is scheduled for discussion today.

The deputy speaker noted that the opposition leader's motion had already been accepted and, under parliamentary rules, the same subject cannot be discussed twice, making Iqbal's motion inadmissible.

Law Minister Asaduzzaman argued the two motions were different and could be discussed together, as one concerns the Implementation Order and the other the Charter itself.

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 for 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](http://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.

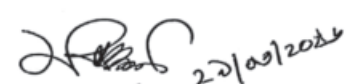
The selection criteria are:

#### (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  
Webmail: sdrmp@nbr.gov.bd

GD-667

**PRAYER TIMING**  
MARCH 31

Fazr	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