

## Abolishing Rab a govt decision Says new DG

STAR REPORT

Newly appointed Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) Director General Ahsan Habib Palash yesterday



said any decision on abolishing, renaming or restructuring the elite force rests with the government.

Speaking at a views-exchange meeting with journalists in Kawran Bazar, he said Rab had no authority to decide whether it would continue in its current form.

"That is entirely a government matter," he said, adding that the force's responsibility was to continue its work and prove its effectiveness through performance.

Ahsan said the battalion should be assessed based on its recent work and its ability to serve people in a professional, humane and technology-driven manner.

He expressed hope that Rab would move forward as a disciplined and modern force, adding that its performance over the past one and a half years demonstrated its potential to stay on the right track.

Responding to questions on reform, Ahsan said restructuring, legal changes, and institutional redesign were policy matters for the government.

## KILLINGS OF SIX IN CTG Charges against Hasan Mahmud, Nowfel pressed at ICT-2

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The prosecution yesterday pressed formal charges with the International Crimes Tribunal-2 accusing former ministers Hasan Mahmud and Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury Nowfel, former lawmaker ABM Fazle Karim Chowdhury and 19 others of crimes against humanity over killing six people and injuring over 100 others during the July 2024 uprising in Chattogram.

The prosecution of the International Crimes Tribunal yesterday submitted formal charges in the case to the tribunal's registrar office. The tribunal is expected to hold a hearing on the charges today before ICT-2.

The case earlier drew attention after allegations surfaced that a prosecutor had sought Tk 1 crore

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Sat Tala slum dwellers illegally park their rickshaws and rickshaw-vans inside an old health office compound near the slum in the capital's Mohakhali area. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Fuel shortage halts Barishal trawlers, leaves fishers idle

Fish supply in local markets drops sharply

SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barishal

Thousands of fishermen across Barishal division have been passing idle days and suffering financial losses as most fishing trawlers are left anchored at docks amid the ongoing fuel shortage.

This in turn has disrupted the supply of fish in local markets to a significant extent.

More than 1,000 sea-going trawlers remain stranded in Alipur and Mohipur, leaving over one lakh fishermen and workers unemployed. Investors in the fishing sector are facing significant losses, particularly those operating with bank loans.

Pritam Das, owner of two trawlers that have remained docked at Mohipur river port since Eid, said each needs around 14 barrels of fuel per trip, but they have not been able to collect any fuel from dealers in Kalapara.

"As such, around 50 fishermen and crew members of the two trawlers are now sitting idle. We are spending nearly Tk 50,000 daily just to maintain them," he said, adding that despite informing the

district fisheries office and the upazila administration, there has been no effective solution yet.

Abdul Jalil, owner of Messrs Moni Fish, said he owns six trawlers and has investments in around 200 others. "All of those are now stuck at the port amid fuel shortage," he added.



He explained that large trawlers require 20-30 barrels of fuel per trip, medium-sized ones need 10-15 barrels, and smaller vessels need at least two barrels. A typical fishing trip lasts around 10 days.

"No one is highlighting our situation. Thousands of fishermen and workers have become jobless. Many had previously taken bank loans and are now facing

severe financial hardship," he added.

Md Israil Pandit, president of a fishers' association in Barishal division, said the crisis has severely affected around 5,00,000 fishing families.

The impact has also affected related industries. Fish supply to markets across Barishal has declined sharply, while prompting a drop in ice production due to reduced demand, according to the Barishal Divisional Fisheries Office.

According to wholesale fish traders at the Port Road Market in Barishal city, they are now selling around 500 maunds of fish daily, half of what they used to sell daily around this time last year.

Golam Kabir, an official of Barishal Ice Mill Owners' Association, said the demand for ice has fallen to only 200-250 maunds against the total production capacity of 1,500-1,600 maunds in the region's five ice mills.

Retail ice trader Suman said he usually sells 15-20 maunds of ice at Tk 400 per maund, but sales have dropped significantly due to shortage of fish in the market.

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## 13TH PARLIAMENT

## No return to syndicate system for Malaysia jobs Says labour minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will not revert to a syndicate-based system that sends workers to Malaysia through a limited number of recruitment agencies, said Labour and Employment Minister Ariful Haque Choudhury yesterday.

He made the remark at the parliament while responding to a question from Cumilla-4 MP Hasnat Abdullah about alleged corruption in previous syndicate-based recruitment to Malaysia.

He said the government is not interested in allowing a limited number of agencies to control overseas recruitment, as had been done in the past. Instead, all licensed agencies would be able to participate under a framework of transparency and accountability.

Answering another question from Nilphamari-2 MP Al-Faruq Abdul Latif, the minister said Bangladesh continues to engage diplomatically with Malaysian authorities to expand opportunities for workers, while also negotiating with countries where labour markets

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## Country has 19.2 lakh tonnes of food grains Says state minister for food

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh currently has 19.2 lakh tonnes of food grains available, stored in government warehouses, including 15.79 lakh tonnes of rice and 3.39 lakh tonnes of wheat, State Minister for Food Md Abdul Bari told parliament yesterday.

He was responding to a question from Noakhali-1 lawmaker AM Mahbub Uddin about the country's food grain availability.

The state minister also said that to maintain supply, the government imports rice and wheat through both government-to-government (G-to-G) agreements and open tenders.

Domestically, rice is procured from contracted rice mills during the Boro and Aman seasons, while paddy and wheat are bought from registered farmers at government-set prices.

The state minister informed that Bangladesh has received 3 lakh tonnes of rice while another 3 lakh tonnes are awaiting delivery against a total contract of 6 lakh tonnes in the current fiscal year (2025-26), including 5 lakh tonnes via

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## Wasa turns to groundwater

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operational, the projects are expected to add nearly 95 crore litres of water daily.

However, both remain far from completion even after years of work.

According to the Wasa sources, only around 50 percent of the Gandharbupur project has been completed over the past decade, while progress on the Saidabad Phase 3 project stands at just about 20 percent.

This slow pace has significantly contributed to the growing supply gap in the capital, they said.

Experts, however, view the new "emergency" project as a stopgap measure.

Former Wasa chairman Ghulam Mostafa told The Daily Star that concerns over excessive groundwater extraction date back to 2009-10. He noted that the water table is falling by about one metre each year, driving up costs and risking a deeper crisis.

Wasa officials insist the

project is a necessity as water demand in Dhaka is rising rapidly, while large projects face delays.

Abdul Majid, the project's focal person, said the crisis could worsen without additional supplies during this interim period. "The initiative is both interim and essential," he said.

He said Dhaka's daily water demand is about 320 crore litres, with 70 percent currently supplied from deep tube wells. The proposed project will add 57 crore litres per day.

He added that rehabilitating old infrastructure and using modern technology would improve system efficiency.

Projections show Dhaka's water demand may reach 360 crore litres per day by 2029 due to population growth and urbanisation.

To meet the demand, the project plans to replace 388 deep tube wells, install 62 new ones, regenerate 280 wells, and rehabilitate 60

others. It also includes installing 44 iron removal plants, 250 pump houses, and expanding pipeline and electrical infrastructure. A SCADA system will be introduced for real-time monitoring.

A feasibility study by the Institute of Water Modelling found the project viable, with a benefit-cost ratio of 1.34 and an internal rate of return of 18.91 percent.

However, experts warn that financial viability does not ensure sustainability without timely implementation and proper planning.

They say completing existing projects on time could have avoided the need for repeated interim measures, reducing costs and stabilising the system.

Urban planner Prof Adil Mohammed Khan criticised the project as "self-defeating".

He said Wasa's original goal was to reduce

groundwater dependence, but failure to complete ongoing projects while returning to large-scale extraction is unsustainable.

He warned that groundwater levels have already dropped significantly, and such initiatives will only prolong the crisis. "The government should prioritise completing ongoing projects instead of allocating such a large budget for interim measures," he said.

If approved, the project will cover around 361 square kilometres across the Dhaka North and South city corporations.

Experts say isolated measures will not resolve the water crisis and call for a coordinated, long-term strategy.

Ghulam Mostafa said, "Public money is being wasted due to delays in major projects. Such interim projects will increase costs and harm the environment."

## Govt renames

FROM PAGE 3

or conflict among people. We want unity in diversity," he said. He added that in a democratic society, people of different opinions and ideologies coexist, and such diversity reflects its strength.

The minister said the procession is a long-standing cultural tradition inherited from earlier generations, particularly from the farming community.

"As their successors, we find ourselves debating the name, and we want to resolve this issue," he said.

The minister said the procession will be organised with dignity and inclusivity, allowing people to participate with their own traditions, music, instruments, and attire.

"People will take part with their own cultural expressions, making it a festive and inclusive procession," he added.

He said the new name reflects the broader spirit of Baishakh, similar to how events like Baishakhi fairs are referred to.

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Project Director  
Accelerating and Strengthening Skills for Economic Transformation (ASSET) Project  
Directorate of Technical Education  
Plot-F-4/B, Agargaon, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207  
www.asset-dte.gov.bd

Memo No. 57.03.0000.051.07.985.26-1055

Date: 5 April, 2026

## Corrigendum

e-Tender ID No.	Original Last Date of Submission	Revised Last Date of Submission	Original Last Date of Opening	Revised Last Date of Opening
1244349	07/04/2026 15:00 (GMT+06:00)	21/04/2026 15:00 (GMT+06:00)	07/04/2026 15:00 (GMT+06:00)	21/04/2026 15:00 (GMT+06:00)

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

*(Signature)*  
05.04.2026

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GD-727



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## e-Tender Notice

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

S/N	Tender ID	Tender Name	Package No.	Tender Publication Date and Time	Tender Document last selling Date and Time	Tender Closing & Opening Date and Time
01	1251264	Replacement of Car Engine for BSCL Car No. Dhaka Metro Gha-15 7945	Ref:14.39.0000.000.012.07.0003.23.94(T) Date: 22.10.25	06-Apr-2026 Time: 10:00 AM	12-Apr-2026 Time: 17:00 PM	13-Apr-2026 Time: 17:00 PM

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-GP system Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd/>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

(Signed)  
Md. Golam Sarwar  
General Manager (Admin & Procurement)  
Bangladesh Satellite Company Limited.

GD-728

## Request for Quotation (RFQ) for Cleaning and Maintenance Services for BRAC Bank PLC.

BRAC Bank PLC. delivers a full array of banking services to individuals and businesses through a network of 194 Branches, 116 Sub-branches, 330 ATMs, 446 SME Unit Offices and 1,120 Agent Banking Outlets across the country. The Bank is currently seeking vendor(s) to provide **Cleaning and Maintenance Services** to ensure hygiene and cleanliness across its facilities. A pre-bid meeting has also been scheduled in this regard.

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

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



**BIRDEM GENERAL HOSPITAL**  
(An Enterprise of the Diabetic Association of Bangladesh)  
122, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1000.

## Employment Notice

Applications are invited from the citizen of Bangladesh for the following post.

(1) Professor (Immunology), (2) Consultant (Anaesthesiology), (3) Consultant (Surgery), (4) Consultant (Ophthalmology) (5) Jr. Consultant (Nephrology), (6) Jr. Consultant (Haematology), (7) Internal Medicine, (8) Senior Staff Nurse (9) Ward Master

Academic designations will be conferred to eligible persons. Applications to be submitted in prescribed form, obtainable from Cash Counter # 15 & 22, BIRDEM on all working days (from 9-00 A.M. to 12-30 P.M.).

For details please visit BIRDEM & BADAS Website: [www.birdembd.org](http://www.birdembd.org) & [www.dab-bd.org](http://www.dab-bd.org)  
Last date of Application 30.04.2026.

GD-725

Director General