

Govt planning to revive closed jute mills

Says state minister for jute and textiles

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

State Minister for Textiles and Jute Shariful Alam yesterday said the government is planning to revive closed jute mills across the country by leasing them out in a bid to fulfil its electoral pledges and boost economic activity.



He was talking to journalists after visiting Cooperative Jute Mills and Bangladesh Jute Mill in Palash, Narsingdi.

He said the government is primarily interested in reviving the mills through Public-Private Partnership (PPP) arrangements or by engaging private initiatives, encouraging both local and foreign investors to invest in the once-thriving industrial sector.

He also said the tender process and evaluation of proposals for leasing several closed mills are currently underway. "Once revived, these mills will support the national economy through local employment generation and production," he added.

He further said the government is placing emphasis on improving the quality of locally produced jute seeds and expanding research efforts to restore the lost glory of the "golden fibre" through collaboration with the Bangladesh Jute Research Institute (BJRI).

He also highlighted efforts to ensure fair prices for farmers.

More than 25,000

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If anything happens, we will be able to immediately locate the source and take action," he said.

On the first day, Bangla First Paper and Sahaj Bangla First Paper were held under the general education boards; Quran Majid and Tajvid under the Madrasah Education Board; and Bangla Second Paper under the Technical Education Board.

According to the Bangladesh Inter-Education Board Coordination Committee, 15,09,006 candidates were scheduled to sit for the exams at 3,875 centres under II education boards, but 14,83,598 appeared.

Under the nine general education boards, two examinees were expelled - one each under the Dhaka and Dinajpur boards. Under the Madrasah Education Board, four examinees were expelled.

Under the Technical Education Board, no examinee was expelled, though one invigilator was removed.

According to the exam routine, written examinations will continue until May 20, while practical exams are scheduled from June 7 to June 14.

The minister also visited several centres, including Tetuljhora High School in Savar, Joymondoh High School and Sahrail High School in Singair upazila of Manikganj, Mirpur Mofid

e-Am School and College in Aminbazar, and the Model Academy centre in Paikpara, Dhaka.

According to a ministry press release, he spoke with teachers and guardians and observed examination halls through CCTV from control rooms set up at the centres.

He said no suspicious activity was detected on platforms usually monitored during public examinations and urged journalists to remain vigilant, noting that media scrutiny could help deter malpractice.

Milon said he kept his inspection routes undisclosed to ensure the effectiveness of surprise visits. "If centres know in advance, the purpose of inspections is defeated."

He also expressed satisfaction with the overall arrangements.

On CCTV monitoring, he said the systems were functioning properly at the centres he visited and that authorities had been instructed to preserve footage in case of complaints. He added that many guardians viewed CCTV coverage as a safeguard against wrongful allegations or expulsion.

Replying to a question, the minister said the government was not considering reinstating the Primary School Certificate and Junior School Certificate examinations. He added that the curriculum review is under direct supervision and will continue.

Now ensure

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called "Inspection Rooms," since there is no provision to allocate rooms in the name of MPs. "MPs will be able to sit there, carry out necessary activities, and meet with the public. If an MP's constituency has two, three, or four upazilas, they will have offices in all of them," he added.

Taking the floor, NCP MP Hasnat lauded the decision. "Now we have a place to sit... As the most junior member of this parliament, let me say something. The UNO has a car, the upazila chairman has a car, but we MPs have to hire cars. Out of embarrassment, we don't say this publicly," he said. "Now that we have been given offices, if we are also provided cars to reach the people, it would be easier for us to connect with them," he added.

53 submit

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and Mahbuba Rahman - also filed as independents outside any party or alliance.

The EC announced the election schedule on April 8, setting May 12 as the polling date. Nomination paper sales began the same day, with a total of 464 aspirants collecting forms.

Scrutiny will be held on April 22-23. Appeals can be filed on April 26, with hearings on April 27-28. The last date for withdrawal is April 29, and electoral symbols will be allocated on April 30.

'Gupto' replaces 'student' in graffiti

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Police and college sources said the clash was triggered after JCD City College unit joint convener Abdullah Al Mamun erased the word "student" from a graffiti on a campus building and replaced it with "gupto" (covert or disguised). A video of the act was later shared on social media from Mamun's personal account.

Following the incident, Shibir announced a press briefing and protest procession in the New Market area at 4:00pm. Processions from both sides faced off around that time, leading to chases, counter-chases, and the hurling of bricks.

Witnesses said at least 10 people were injured. This correspondent saw two people being taken to a hospital on a rickshaw. A Shibir activist said one of their members was admitted to Parkview Hospital.

Traffic in the area came to a standstill amid panic.

Shibir activists later moved toward Sadarghat Road, while JCD activists from across the port

city gathered in the New Market area, took position in front of the college carrying sticks, and staged another procession.

Around 5:00pm, JCD activists assaulted a person suspecting him to be a Shibir member. Police later rescued him, witnesses said.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (South) of Chattogram Police Mahmudul Hasan said additional police had been deployed to bring the situation under control.

At an emergency press conference in the evening, Shibir's Chattogram City South unit demanded the immediate arrest and punishment of those who "attacked and injured" its activists.

In a written statement, unit president Maimunul Islam Mamun claimed that at least 30 Shibir activists were injured in an attack by JCD men, adding that four are currently undergoing treatment at hospitals.

City College JCD Convener Sohul Siddique Rony, however, alleged that Shibir activists

initiated the attack following tensions over "gupto politics" graffiti and online exchanges.

"Shibir activists used abusive language on social media, which sparked heated arguments in the comments. The following morning, they approached us and, after a verbal dispute, attacked us with bamboo sticks and wooden objects, leaving several of us injured," he told the media. "We want justice through a proper investigation."

Meanwhile, regarding the clash, Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed in parliament said, "Until the investigation, no political party should be blamed unilaterally."

"I would request that we avoid the culture of blaming each other without investigation. If such incidents occur, cases must be filed and a proper investigation will follow," he said.

He made the remarks in the evening after Jamaat-e-Islami MP from Chattogram-15 Shahjahan Chowdhury raised the issue on a point of order.

NICRH deputy director attacked

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Intekhab said the attackers used sharp weapons, injuring the doctor in the hand and back.

The official said based on intelligence and evidence, Rab-1 and its intelligence wing arrested the five suspects. They are: Shariful Alam Karim, Aminul Islam Kalu, Salauddin Badi, Sajjad, and Arifuzzaman. Several of them are accused in

multiple cases.

Meanwhile, a police team also arrested two more suspects - Yusuf Ali and Nesar Ahmed - in connection with the incident, Faridul Islam, officer-in-charge of Banani Police Station, told The Daily Star.

On Monday, criminals stabbed NICRH Deputy Director Ahmad Hossain, 50, in Mohakhali while he was walking

home after the office through a lane beside the old campus of BRAC University.

He was first taken to NICRH and later shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where he is undergoing treatment.

Following the incident, an administrative officer of the hospital filed a case with Banani Police Station against eight to ten unnamed individuals.

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Divisional Mechanical Engineer (Carriage) Bangladesh Railway, Kamalapur, Dhaka. www.railwaydhaka.gov.bd. Memo No: BR/DCD/FY26/eGP/Advertisement-5 Date: 20 April 2026. e-GP Tender Notice. e-GP Tender is invited in National e-GP Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of the goods and related services / works and physical services mentioned below:

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Sirajganj (Nezarat Section) www.sirajganj.gov.bd. Memo No. 05.43.8800.006.02.062.25.421 Date: 20 April 2026. e-GP: Tender Notice No. 06/2025-2026. e-Tender is invited in the e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of the following goods. Details are given below:

July net shutdown

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and former ICT state minister Zunaid Ahmed Palak.

He said a group, "18th July ITC Operations", was opened around 7:45pm, where BTRC Director General Brig Gen Kazi Mustafizur Rahman relayed the decision via voice call. In another group, "IIG Operations", operators were instructed to shut services and confirm compliance.

Kamal said he was "astonished" by the order to cut submarine bandwidth at Cox's Bazar and Kuakata - an unprecedented move.

Around 8:00pm, he received confirmation and a direct call from the BTRC DG to shut down submarine connectivity, after IIG and ITC operators had already suspended bandwidth.

Around 9:00pm, Palak called and asked why the submarine shutdown had

not been enforced and how long it would take.

Kamal said 15 minutes and, on instruction, ordered the closure of both submarine cables.

He said services were partially restored on July 23 after a BTRC meeting, with submarine bandwidth resuming around 8:45pm following Palak's press briefing. Another shutdown order on August 5, around 10:00am, was implemented within an hour and lifted later that afternoon.

Kamal submitted call records, a forwarding report signed by Teletalk officials, and screenshots of the WhatsApp groups.

According to the prosecution, Palak, with Joy's approval, ordered the shutdown to conceal alleged atrocities and directed law enforcers and ruling party activists to open fire on demonstrators.

Persons with

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Mohua Pal, chairperson of Access Bangladesh Foundation, called for a multidisciplinary rehabilitation approach involving doctors, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists, and counsellors.

She also urged increased allocations for rehabilitation, therapy services, counselling, and accessible support centres to help persons with disabilities live and work independently.

Mohammed Moniruzzaman Khan, director of the Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies at Dhaka University, called for budget measures to support women entrepreneurs with disabilities, including low-interest or interest-free loans, training, tax waivers, and market access.

BERDO Executive Director Sadiqul Huq urged allocation for implementing the Rights and Protection of Persons with Disabilities Act.

Salma Mahbub, executive director of Bangladesh Society for the Change and Advocacy Nexus, called for accessible buses, tax waivers on lifts, and tax exemptions on house rent of up to Tk 50,000 a month.

Litan Baruri, movement liaison at Action on Disability and Development, said many children with disabilities are dropping out at the primary level, ramps often remain unusable, and

wash blocks are inaccessible.

He also said Tk 5 crore could provide 20 speech-to-text and text-to-speech devices to each of the country's 51 public universities.

Dewan Mahfuz E. Maula, advocacy and communication manager at CBM Global, Bangladesh, called for VAT and tax relief on the import and local production of assistive devices.

Anika Rahman Lipy, assistant director of Centre for Disability in Development; Nasrin Jahan, executive director of Disabled Child Foundation; and Anamika Panday, facilitator at Community Development Association, also spoke. The event was moderated by Tanjim Ferdous, head of strategic partnerships at The Daily Star.

Transport fares

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crisis, all of us will have to bear some loss. This is happening all over the world," he said, noting that even small price hikes in essentials can strain low-income families.

To support vulnerable groups, the government plans to expand assistance programmes, including widening coverage under the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB).

Dr Zahed also announced plans to launch eight night markets in Dhaka to relocate street vendors and keep footpaths free for pedestrians.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার খাদ্য মন্ত্রণালয় সেবা শাখা বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা www.mofood.gov.bd. নম্বর: ১৩.০০.০০০০.০০০.০১৫.০৭.০০০১.২৬.২৭৭ তারিখ: ৮ বৈশাখ ১৪৩৩ বঙ্গাব্দ ২১ এপ্রিল ২০২৬ খ্রিস্টাব্দ. ই-টেন্ডার বিজ্ঞপ্তি. বিষয়: দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি সংবাদপত্র প্রকাশ।

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