

Begum Fawzia Samad's death anniv today

STAR REPORT

Today is the 15th death anniversary of Begum Fawzia Samad, wife of late MA Samad, founder of Bangladesh General Insurance Company PLC, said a press release.

She was the founder and editor of Minar, the first Bangla children's magazine, published in 1949.

She showed remarkable courage during the Liberation War by allowing her Dhanmondi residence to be used to receive the first cache of arms in April 1971 and to shelter freedom fighters.

She also established free community schools, Kushumkoli, and other humanitarian initiatives. She served as the longest-serving president of the Dhaka Ladies Club from 1973 to 2011, which continues to serve the community.

Fawzia Samad was born on February 28, 1929, in Shillong, Assam, then part of British India. Her ancestral home was in Balaganj upazila of Sylhet.

She was the mother of Towhid Samad, chairman of BGIC, and Fancy Samad, Tamju Samad, and Sabrina Samad.

PM to address

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prime minister's political adviser, while announcing the details of the event.

BNP Secretary General and LGRD minister Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir is expected to be present as the special guest.

Nazrul Islam Khan said the sacrifices made by workers at that time to demand an eight-hour workday, fair wages, and a humane working environment continue to inspire workers worldwide. "Not just the working class, but all oppressed people around the world draw inspiration from this day," he added.

Regarding the rally, the BNP leader said, "This is a major programme, and extensive preparations have already been undertaken to make it a huge workers' rally. Preparatory meetings started on Thursday and will continue until May 1."

Citing population statistics for the Dhaka metropolis, Nazrul Islam Khan said, "Dhaka's population is over 2.5 crore. A significant portion of them are working people. Yet we have only managed to organise a small fraction of them."

Responding to a question, Nazrul said it is not possible to fulfill all workers' demands at once. However, he noted that the government has adopted a pro-worker policy for their welfare.

He said, "The manifesto presented before the elections contains many positive promises for workers. However, implementation may be delayed in some cases due to the international situation, particularly the recent global conflicts."

জমি বিক্রয়
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Environmental activists and locals form a human chain at Rajshahi's Saheb Bazar Zero Point yesterday, demanding an immediate halt to river encroachment, pond filling, and noise pollution. PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

Chicken prices drop in markets

Eggs, sugar, onion get costlier

UNB, Dhaka

Prices of Sonali chicken in Dhaka markets fell sharply yesterday after more than a month of elevated rates, bringing some relief to consumers, though prices of eggs, sugar and onions moved in the opposite direction.

Retail surveys across key markets, including Karwan Bazar, Shantinagar, Rampura and Badda, showed Sonali chicken selling at Tk 350-360 per kg, down by nearly Tk 100 from Tk 430-460 earlier this month.

However, prices remain well above the Tk 280-320 per kg range seen at the start of March.



Traders attribute the decline to a reduction in bird flu mortality rates at farms. Narsingdi-based supplier

Aminul said avian influenza had wiped out 70-80 percent of Sonali chicken stocks at many farms in recent months. "As the death toll among poultry has eased somewhat, selling at lower prices has become possible again."

But transport costs continue to act as a floor on prices.

Karwan Bazar trader Ebadur said truck fares have risen by over Tk 3,500 per trip, making it impossible to bring retail prices back to Tk 280 per kg regardless of farm-gate improvements.

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Youth hacked to death in Kishoreganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

A youth was hacked to death on Thursday evening in Pakundia upazila of Kishoreganj over prior enmity.

Police have detained three suspects in this connection.

The deceased, Md Sunny, 22, of Hijlia village under the upazila, was returning home around 8:00pm when some local miscreants, allegedly led by one Mofijul, swooped on him near the mosque in Hijlia Dakshin Para and hacked him with sharp weapons before fleeing the scene.

Critically injured, Sunny was rushed to Pakundia Upazila Health Complex and later sent to Kishoreganj Shaheed Syed Nazrul Islam Medical College Hospital, where a duty doctor declared him dead.

According to locals, Sunny had slapped Mofijul during an altercation three years back, and Mofijul allegedly attacked him as revenge.

Confirming the incident, SM Arifur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Pakundia Police Station, said police detained three persons suspected to be involved in the incident while the filing of a case was underway.

The body has been sent to the Kishoreganj Shaheed Syed Nazrul Islam Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy, the OC added.

3,000 more fresh faces join NCP

Former Jubo Dal leader among them

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 3,000 leaders and activists joined the National Citizen Party (NCP) yesterday.

Among them were former Jubo Dal leader Mohammad Ishaq Sarker; Fersamin Huq Iqbal, granddaughter of AK Fazlul Huq; content creator Nuruzzaman Kafi; and activist Mohiuddin Rony.

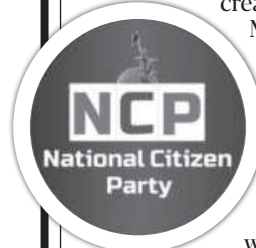
They formally joined the party at a programme held at the auditorium of the Institution of Diploma Engineers in Kakrail in the capital.

At the event, Convener Nahid Islam and other senior NCP leaders welcomed the new members with flowers after announcing their names.

Nahid said Fersamin joined the party at the central level and will work in Barishal. He also welcomed Nuruzzaman Kafi and Mohiuddin Rony, saying they would all work together in the party.

Nahid, also the opposition chief whip at the

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Newborn's body recovered from roadside in Jashore

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Police yesterday recovered the body of a newborn girl from a carton left under a tree by the roadside in the Jamtala area of Goaladah village under Jashore Sadar upazila.

According to locals, a man was seen leaving a paper carton by the roadside and quickly fleeing the scene early yesterday. Suspicious of his behavior, the locals opened the box and found the body of a newborn girl inside. They immediately informed the police, who later arrived at the spot and recovered the body.

Masud Khan, officer-in-charge of Jashore Kotwali Police Station, confirmed the incident.

When cases end in compromise

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The pattern continued in 2025, when 236 of 245 disposed cases ended in acquittal, with 857 accused walking free.

CID officials say trafficking persists despite arrests because demand for irregular migration remains strong.

"Many still choose these routes after seeing others succeed, often ignoring the risks," said Mohammad Badrul Alam Mollah, special superintendent of CID's Serious Crime Unit.

Officials also cited difficulties in obtaining evidence from abroad.

On low conviction rates, Badrul said, "Documentary evidence can often be collected, but field-level investigators struggle to properly apply trafficking laws, creating gaps that allow accused persons to walk free."

Another challenge is the difficulty of securing records and evidence from abroad in time for the trial.

One such case involves eight Bangladeshis who died when a boat sank off Tunisia on February 14, 2024, while en route from Libya to Italy.

Investigators are still waiting for autopsy and inquest reports from Tunisia, sought in August last year through mutual legal assistance.

The delay has held up the charge sheet, and several accused remain absconding, officials said.

The investigation officer in the case, CID Sub-Inspector Swapan Mia, said efforts are being made

to arrest the absconding accused.

Mostofa Kamal Khan, public prosecutor of Dhaka's anti-human trafficking tribunal, said repeated acquittals stem from structural weaknesses.

He cited poor awareness, poverty, weak understanding of the law among some lawyers and investigators, lack of technical support, and difficulty in collecting foreign evidence.

He added that cases often take around five years, leaving victims unwilling to continue, while witnesses are often unavailable.

Another recent case highlights how such networks operate.

Mohammad Zakir Hossain of Chandpur left Bangladesh on June 12, 2024, after being promised travel to Italy. Instead, he ended up in Libya, where he was confined in a "game ghar" for eight days, later jailed, and eventually returned home on August 28.

He said he had filed a case with CID but is willing to settle if the accused repays the remaining amount.

Zakir said he paid Tk 15 lakh for the journey and has recovered only part of it. One accused was arrested after the payment was traced to his bank account. The accused later agreed to pay Tk 6.5 lakh each to two complainants, but Zakir has so far received Tk 5 lakh.

He said they were promised legal travel to

Italy on visit visas but were instead taken to Dubai, then Egypt, and later Libya. Only after reaching Egypt did they realise the deception.

In Libya, he said, they were confined, given minimal food and water, and later detained before returning home.

To arrange the Tk 15 lakh, Zakir used Tk 2 lakh of his own savings, borrowed Tk 7 lakh from in-laws, and took loans from others.

After returning home, he said he remains burdened by debt.

CID data show 316 trafficking cases are currently under investigation, including 31 linked to Libya. In the past year, charge sheets were submitted in 123 cases.

Shariful Hasan said these cases show how trafficking routes through Libya continue to shift and expand, while legal responses lag behind.

"Stronger coordination at home and with foreign countries is needed to stop migrants from repeatedly falling into the same deadly trap," he said.

ACC seized, froze

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were attached, along with assets equivalent to US\$ 200,000 being restrained.

Moreover, 400 new inquiries were added in 2025 to the 717 pending from the previous year, bringing the total to 909. Of these, 163 were completed, 449 were converted into cases, 47 were closed, and 13 were disposed of through other means.

Also, 29 new files were added to 60 already pending money laundering related investigations, five out of 189 were completed, and five charge sheets were submitted.

Manjur Morshed, director of the ACC's Asset Management Unit, said that during inquiries and investigations against various individuals, if assets suspected to be illegal are identified, applications are made to the court for issuing orders to seize and freeze those.

"As part of this process, assets worth over Tk 30,351 crore were seized and frozen last year under court orders," he said, adding that the ACC is continuing its efforts to repatriate assets seized and frozen abroad through maintaining communication with the respective countries and following necessary procedures.

Several people came forward to help, and Al Amin's grandparents confirmed that they had received around Tk 80,000 in assistance so far.

His grandparents received the news with a mix of happiness and sadness.

Al Amin, overjoyed by the news, said, "I have always dreamed of completing my education properly. I have got the opportunity, so I will continue. I want to establish myself through education and one day work for other children like me."

Many others were also moved by the story.

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Schoolboy vendor

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Al Amin will be provided with the opportunity to study for free till the HSC level as a residential student. If he does well, there are plans to support him through university too, he added.

Zahirul Islam also has plans to take care of Al Amin's grandparents. He wants to help Nasir Uddin set up a small business so the elderly couple can support themselves.

"Al Amin has a very positive mindset. He is talented. I was impressed after talking with him. If given the right opportunity and guidance, one day he will be in a position to help many more children like himself. I want to open that path for him," the principal said.

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"I am very happy that our grandson has got the opportunity to study at a good school," said Nasir Uddin. "This is the Almighty's blessing. My dream is that he will become established through education."

Rabeya Khatun said, "It will be painful for us to stay away from Al Amin. But for his future, we must endure it. May the Almighty bless the person who has taken his responsibility."

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PRAYER TIMING						
APRIL 25						
Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha		
AZAN 4:20	12:45	4:45	6:29	8:00		
JAMMAT 4:55	1:15	5:00	6:34	8:30		
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION						

PADMA OIL PLC
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation)
Strand Road, Shadarghat, Chattogram.
Ref: 28.22.0000.856.14.023.25/048 Date: 22/04/2026

2nd Corrigendum Notice
FOR
"Procurement of 3 Nos. x Aircraft Refuellers for POCL Aviation Refuelling Facilities at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, Dhaka, Bangladesh".

Ref. E&P/BPC Budget/R-Tender/HSIA/F-10/P-33/25-26

This is for information of all concerned that following amendments of Tender Notice have been made:

Sl no.	Existing	Amended
18	Tender Last Selling Date	29/04/2026 upto 12:00 PM
19	Tender Closing Date and Time	30/04/2026 at 02.00PM
20	Tender Opening Date and Time	30/04/2026 at 03.00PM

All other terms and conditions of the Tender Document shall remain unchanged.

(Md. Faruk Hossain Mahmud)
Deputy General Manager (Operations)

On Her 15th Death Anniversary

"Rabbir Ham Huma Kama Rabba Yani Sagira"

Fawzia Samad
(1929 - 2011)

We Continue,
To remember her work as the Founder & Editor of *Minar* the first Bangla children's magazine published in 1949. Her courage in allowing her home at Dhanmondi to receive the first cache of arms in April 1971 and sanctuary to freedom fighters. Her setting up Free community schools "*Kushumkoli*" and such other humanitarian facilities she founded as the longest serving President of *Dhaka Ladies Club* and which still continue to serve the community.

A short silent prayer for her heavenly rest is requested.

-Family and well wishers