

RESERVED SEAT Appeal filed with EC against BNP nominee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An appeal has been filed with the Election Commission (EC) challenging the nomination of BNP candidate Madhabi Marma for a reserved women's parliamentary seat.

Chandra Chakma, central joint secretary of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, alleged that Madhabi is still serving as a member of the Bandarban Hill District Council, which she says disqualifies her from contesting.

Appeals over nomination papers were submitted at the EC office in Agargaon from 9:00am to 4:00pm yesterday.

After filing the appeal, Chandra said Madhabi submitted her nomination on April 21 without resigning from an "office of profit" or completing the required legal procedures. "This makes her nomination invalid. I have requested the Chief Election Commissioner to cancel it," she said.

Chandra also noted that she had sought BNP's nomination for the same reserved seat.

Denying the allegation, Madhabi said she resigned from the council on April 20. "I have submitted copies of my resignation to the relevant authorities," she told The Daily Star.

On whether the resignation was mentioned in her EC affidavit, she said the form had no requirement for such information.

Bandarban Hill District Council officials said Madhabi submitted her resignation on April 20, but it was formally accepted yesterday.

Executive Officer Md Abul Monsur said he received the resignation copy yesterday afternoon but could not confirm when it took effect.

The EC has set April 21 as the deadline for nomination submissions.

Safety risks at Gazipur BRT station raise concern

Missing lifts, unsafe stairs leave passengers exposed at Chandana Chowrasta



MONJURUL HAQUE, Gazipur

At Chandana Chowrasta in Gazipur, one of the country's busiest intersections, a newly built Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) station is raising serious safety concerns due to the absence of lifts and inadequate safe access.

Despite being designed to ease congestion and improve commuter experience, the multi-tier station remains partially unusable, with key safety features yet to be installed, according to on-site observations.

The two passenger lifts are still not in place, leaving upper levels largely inaccessible. Commuters – particularly the elderly, women and children – are forced to use staircases that lack proper railings.

Parts of the elevated structure also have inadequate barriers, increasing the risk of falls.

Locals said buses frequently stop at

unauthorised points near the station, disrupting movement and adding to safety risks.

In some cases, people are seen gathering on elevated sections of the station to view the surroundings due to inadequate monitoring, raising further concerns.

Emarat Hossain, a garment worker from Bason, said he narrowly avoided an accident while travelling with his children.

"The lift shafts are still empty, and the stairs are unsafe. Installing lifts and proper railings is urgently needed," he said.

A police officer, requesting anonymity, said he nearly fell while on duty during Eid operations due to the absence of railings.

Shafiqul Alam, president of the Bangladesh Garments and Industrial Workers Federation's Gazipur unit, said workers are facing significant difficulties due to the lack of safe access.

"Women and elderly commuters are suffering the most," he said, calling for immediate installation of lifts and

improved passenger management.

Frustration over the delayed BRT project has also triggered protests.

On April 13, hundreds of students and residents staged a human chain and blocked roads at Board Bazar, demanding safer infrastructure and faster progress.

Faruq Hossain Khan, a local political leader, said the slow pace of the project and lack of safe crossings have contributed to frequent accidents in the area.

Gazipur City Corporation Chief Executive Officer Sohel Hasan said the authorities are aware of the problem and will take steps to address safety risks.

"We will inform the Roads and Highways Department and also take measures from our side if needed. Public safety is the priority," he said, adding that officials will inspect the site soon.

Attempts to contact Rezaul Karim, project director in charge of the Gazipur section of the BRT project, by phone were unsuccessful as he did not receive the calls.



PHOTO: STAR

Syed Abdal Ahmed principal info officer of PID

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Journalist leader Syed Abdal Ahmed has been appointed as the principal information officer (PIO) of the Press Information Department (PID) on a contractual basis.

The Ministry of Public Administration issued a notification in this regard yesterday.

According to the notification, Syed Abdal Ahmed has been appointed to the post in Grade-1 (Secretary status) for one year from the date of joining.

The appointment is subject to the condition that he severs all ties with any other profession, business, or any government, semi-government, or private organisation.

Syed Abdal Ahmed is currently the executive editor of the Daily Amar Desh and previously served as the general secretary of the Jatiya Press Club.

He also served as a member of the Media Reform Commission during the past interim government.

SCHOOL FEEDING ROW Govt orders action as students fall sick

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to take swift and strict action after several primary school students reportedly fell ill after consuming food under the school feeding programme in Chapainawabganj and Madaripur.

The Ministry of Primary and Mass Education said its attention was drawn to a recent media report titled "Irregularities in school feeding project: Children falling sick after eating substandard rotten food".

According to the report, several students in primary schools in Chapainawabganj Sadar and Madaripur Sadar upazilas fell ill after consuming

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HC gives taskforce six more

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Attorney General Md Ruhul Quddus Kazal sought the extension, telling the court the investigation is in its final stage, but investigators have been unable to reach key individuals involved at the time of the killings after August 5, 2024.

"The delay in completing such a murder investigation is very painful," he said.

He also informed the court that a progress report has been submitted through the Supreme Court registrar general's office.

Advocate Mohammad Shishir Manir, representing the case informant, urged the court to allow only

three months and to summon taskforce officials to explain the delay.

Writ petitioner's lawyer Manzil Murshid prayed for the progress report to be submitted by affidavit so lawyers can review it.

About one and a half years ago, the High Court directed the interim government to form a taskforce and submit its report within six months.

However, Md Mustafa Kamal, additional inspector general of police and chief of the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI), who heads the taskforce, recently said there has been no significant progress.

Earlier probes by the Detective Branch and Rapid Action Battalion also failed to identify the killers or submit a full report.

Sagar, news editor of Maasranga TV, and Rumi, senior reporter at ATN Bangla, were murdered in

their West Rajabazar flat on February 11, 2012. Rumi's brother filed a case the next day without naming any suspects.

Despite a pledge by then home minister Sahara Khatun to arrest the killers within 48 hours, more than 14 years on, the case remains unresolved.

Earlier this month, a Dhaka court deferred submission of the investigation report for the 125th time, setting May 7 as the next date.

The High Court had previously criticised the taskforce for failing to complete the probe, questioning how long it would take to finish an investigation that has drawn nationwide attention.

The court had earlier granted multiple extensions, including a six-month deadline that expired on March 31 last year.

Move beyond

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adding that many women are unable to vote independently due to male household control.

ActionAid Country Director Farah Kabir said although female voter turnout has historically been high, the 2026 electoral cycle reflected a "chilling effect", with right-wing forces restricting women's participation and limiting female candidates.

She called for institutionalised solidarity and a mentorship mandate within parties, along with alumni networks to support aspiring women candidates.

Stressing that political parties must end the excuse of "candidate scarcity", she said, "Political parties have to take responsibility to bring in women so that in five years' time we are not having the same conversation."

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed said women's participation would remain limited unless political party mindsets change.

She noted that women cannot compete in a "rough" political environment without equal financial backing and suggested parties invest in potential candidates well ahead of elections.

Calling for structural inclusion, she urged ensuring women's representation at all levels, from ward to district committees, proposing at least ten women per committee.

She also said patriarchal norms, political violence and family resistance require sustained institutional pressure for meaningful change.

Samantha Sharmin, senior joint convener of the NCP, criticised the Election Commission, saying it was largely limited to administrative work.

She said the EC lacks both research capacity and the will to enforce the mandatory 33 percent women's representation in party committees.

"Even where women are included in decision-making bodies, key decisions are often taken informally in male-dominated spaces," she

said, calling for greater accountability of party leaders.

Taslina Akhter, a Dhaka-12 candidate, said identity-based politics often undermines women's professional merit, reducing them to labels such as wife, daughter, or sister.

She urged the media and society to focus on women's achievements instead.

Mohammad Moïn Uddin Khan, joint secretary at the EC Secretariat, said while the Representation of the People Order mandates 33 percent women's representation, there are no penalties for non-compliance.

"We need legal instruments or court orders to enforce these quotas," he said.

Razequzzaman Ratan, joint secretary of BASAD, called for a broader social movement to demand fair representation and proposed a convention of women who have contested elections over the past 35 years.

Sonali Dayaratne, deputy resident representative of UNDP Bangladesh, stressed the need to move from identifying problems to implementing solutions, advocating a merit-based system instead of reliance on political dynasties.

The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam said despite nearly three decades of female leadership at the top, there has been no proportional improvement in women's broader political participation.

"It is clear that simply placing women in positions is not enough; the mindset must also change," he said. He also pledged the newspaper's full support for the cause through editorials and continued coverage.

Among others, Dhaka University Gender Studies Professor Tania Haque, UN Women programme manager Tapati Saha, Democracy International senior director Lipika Biswas, and Jamuna TV foreign affairs editor Mahfuz Mishu spoke at the event, moderated by Tanjim Ferdous, head of strategic partnership at The Daily Star.

Ecneec orders study

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administration and court offices from Old Dhaka, reducing congestion and improving court operations.

Following the discussions, ECNEC instructed that a comparative study be conducted before reconsidering the high-rise proposal.

Meanwhile, the meeting approved extensions for three projects – each for the fifth time – prompting the prime minister to

form a committee led by the cabinet secretary to investigate why repeated delays were necessary.

One of the projects, widening a district road between Barisal and Patuakhali, was launched in July 2018 at Tk 302 crore and scheduled for completion in June 2021. Its deadline has now been extended to December 2026, with costs rising by Tk 17 crore.

Another project to upgrade the Barisal-Bhola-Lakshimpur district road, taken up in March 2019

at Tk 302 crore, has seen its cost escalate to Tk 502 crore. Its deadline has been pushed to June 2030.

The Goma Bridge over the Rangamati River in Barisal, initiated in July 2018 at Tk 57 crore, was supposed to be completed by June 2024. The deadline has now been extended to June 2028, with costs rising to Tk 92 crore.

In total, ECNEC approved 14 new and revised projects yesterday involving an expenditure of Tk 13,445 crore.

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NOTICE FOR EXTENSION OF SUBMISSION DEADLINE
Ref. Request for Proposal (RFP) Grounds Development Works at National Cricket Ground (NCG), Purbachal, Dhaka
Ref: BCB/Grounds/T&P/Grounds Development Works-NGC/2026/366
Date: 27th April, 2026

EXTENSION OF RFP SUBMISSION DEADLINE

This is to inform all prospective bidders that the proposal submission deadline for the tender invitation issued by the Bangladesh Cricket Board in national dailies vide **Tender Reference No. BCB/Grounds/T&P/Ground Development Works-NGC/2026/206 dated 16th March 2026, and BCB/Grounds/T&P/Grounds Development Works-NGC/2026/323 dated 13th April, 2026** regarding the Grounds Development Works at National Cricket Ground (NCG), Purbachal, Dhaka, has been extended.

Upon due consideration, the board has decided to extend the submission deadline for **02 (two) weeks**, which was primarily scheduled for April 12, 2026. Henceforth, the revised submission deadline for the sealed proposal submission is **May 18, 2026, until 12:00 p.m.**, and the last tender schedule selling date is **May 17, 2026, until 04:00 p.m.**

All other terms and conditions as stipulated in the original RFP shall remain unchanged.

Chief Executive Officer
Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB)
Management Office: Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium, Mirpur-2, Dhaka 1216
Tel: +880 2 8031001-4, Fax: 803 1199

পাওয়ার গ্রিড বাংলাদেশ পিএলসি
POWER GRID BANGLADESH PLC
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

Grid Bhaban, Avenue-3, Jahurul Islam City, Aftabnagar, Badda, Dhaka-1212 Web: www.powergrid.gov.bd
স্মারক নং- ২৭.২২.০০০০.৪৫৭.১৪.০০৩.২৬.২০৭ তারিখঃ ২০/০৪/২০২৬খ্রিঃ

e-Tender বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পাওয়ার গ্রিডের প্রকল্প-১ দপ্তরের আওতাধীন নিম্নলিখিত দরপত্র e-GP পোর্টালে প্রকাশিত হয়েছে।

ID	Title of Works	Last date & time of document selling	Last date & time of security submission
1261914	Survey Work for Renovation of Sylhet-Chatak 132kV Transmission Line	10 May 2026 at 12.00	11 May 2026 at 11.00

আগ্রহী ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানকে www.eprocure.gov.bd সাইটের মাধ্যমে দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণের জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

মোঃ মঞ্জুর মোর্শেদ
প্রকল্প পরিচালক ও তত্ত্বাবধায়ক (অঃদাঃ), প্রকল্প-১

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Improving Computer and Software Engineering Tertiary Education Project (ICSETEP)
Project Management Unit (PMU)
University Grants Commission of Bangladesh
Level-9, Bangladesh Copyright Building,
Agargaon, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka 1207
<https://icsetep.ugc.gov.bd>

Ref. No.: UGC/ICSETEP/PMU/G-4/2025-1401 Date: 26.04.2026

e-Tender Notice No. 01/2025-26

The tender notice for the procurement of the following package is published on the e-GP portal:

Sl. No	Package No.	Package Name	Tender ID No.	Tender Document Last Selling Date & Time	Tender Closing Date & Time
1	PMU/G-4	Framework Agreement for Procurement of Office Supplies and Consumables	1215020	3:00 pm on 17.05.2026	2:00 pm on 18.05.2026

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the e-GP Portal, and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit an e-Tender, registration on the e-GP system (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is mandatory. For more details, contact the e-GP Help desk.

Prof. Gazi Md. Nazrul Islam
Project Director (Additional Charge)
Email: pd-icsetep@ugc.gov.bd

GD-914

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Civil Surgeon-cum Superintendent
Pirojpur District Hospital, Pirojpur

Ref No. PDH/BARI/TENDER/2025-2026/336 Date: 26.04.2026

e-Tender Notice

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 an e-Tender, please register on the e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). For more details, please contact support desk contract numbers.

e-Tender are invited in the e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Dr. Md. Matiur Rahaman, Civil Surgeon cum Superintendent, Pirojpur District Hospital, Pirojpur for the procurement of following physical services and Goods;

Tender Id	Name of goods	Tender/ proposal last selling date & time	Tender/ proposal closing/opening date & time
1200856	Supply various type of outsourcing manpower (non consultant physical service) as per outsourcing service receive rule 2025 at Pirojpur District Hospital, Pirojpur.	11/05/2026 16:00	12/05/2026 12:00
1265061	Procurement of MSR Furniture for the F.Y 2025-2026 at Pirojpur District Hospital, Pirojpur.	11/05/2026 16:00	12/05/2026 12:00

Dr. Md. Matiur Rahaman
Civil Surgeon cum Superintendent
Pirojpur District Hospital, Pirojpur

GD-918