

## NEWS

Put nutrition at the heart of healthcare  
Urge experts at discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Experts at a roundtable yesterday called for placing nutrition at the core of the health, climate, and development agendas of Bangladesh and for adopting a multi-sectoral approach to address malnutrition.

They said tackling malnutrition is critical to combating infectious diseases and building a resilient, self-reliant nation.

The discussion, titled "Strengthening Health Systems: Nutrition as a Cross-Cutting Solution for Climate, Malaria, TB, and Other Infectious Diseases", was organised by The Institute of Public Health Nutrition (IPHN), Daily Samakal, and Max Foundation in the capital, marking National Nutrition Week 2026.

Speaking as chief guest, Bangladesh National Nutrition Council Director General Dr Md Rizwanur Rahman said despite significant progress in nutrition status, malnutrition remains a pressing issue.

Highlighting ongoing initiatives, he said the government is updating the National Nutrition Policy and working to strengthen multi-sectoral coordination, including efforts to develop a real-time, integrated information system.

IPHN Director Dr Mohammed Eunos Ali emphasised activating nutrition-related committees at the national, district and upazila levels.

The IPHN chief focused on resource constraints in efforts to address nutrition and urged the allocation of a greater amount of funding for better nutrition services.

Delivering the keynote, Dr AFM Iqbal Kabir underscored that nutrition is not a standalone sector but a "system-wide solution" linking health systems, climate resilience, and infectious disease control.

Max Foundation Country Director Dr Tariqul Islam said the private sector needs to be engaged in efforts to address malnutrition because Bangladesh cannot depend only on grants for its nutrition programmes when the donors are transitioning from aid to trade-based strategy.

The roundtable was chaired by Daily Samakal Editor Shahed Mohammad Ali and moderated by Associate Editor Sheikh Rokon.



Farmers harvest mature mung bean grains in the middle of the ongoing Baishakh month from crops sown during Falgun. After threshing, these are sold to traders for Tk 4,000 per maund. The photo was taken at Kamarkhali village in Bakerganj upazila of Barishal yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

## 'Don't allow

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also said the BNP fulfils its promises and the July Charter signed by the party will be implemented without any "ifs" or "buts".

He warned that any attempt to divert the public's attention will be suicidal. He remarked that just as the AL once considered the 1971 Liberation War its personal

property, it will be a grave mistake for anyone to view the July Charter as their own property.

The people of Bangladesh, he said, will not accept it.

Directing his comments toward the opposition, he said, "You talk about working together, but having honey on your lips

while harbouring poison in your heart will yield no results. We must take Bangladesh forward."

Stressing the need for collective effort, he added, "I urge the opposition not to oppose simply for the sake of opposition."

Inviting the opposition to engage in parliamentary debate, the state minister

## The woman

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"The woman was around 30 years old. Her DNA sample was collected, but fingerprints could not be taken. The report will be submitted within a day or two," he said.

Police recovered the decomposed bodies from a sack buried on the riverbank at Gunotia village in Jamurki union on April 20.

Locals alerted police after noticing a foul smell and seeing a dog trying to pull something from the ground, said Russell Ahmed, inspector (investigation) of Mirzapur Police Station.

He said the woman was believed to have been seven to eight months pregnant and may have given birth before death.

The bodies were buried the following day at Mirzapur municipal graveyard as unclaimed after the autopsy.

## BNP MPs irked

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and how they were engaging with people at the grassroots.

In response, several MPs complained that local administrations were giving priority to MPs from Jamaat and allies, instead of those from the ruling party.

Speaking to The Daily Star on condition of anonymity, a meeting attendee said, "Local administration tends to act mainly on the instructions of ministers. When ministers press for an issue, it is implemented effectively. But MPs say their concerns are often not given due attention."

"When we raise problems, they are not treated as a priority, making it increasingly difficult to serve our constituencies."

Tarique then directed the lawmakers to spend more time in their constituencies, engage with people, address their problems, and report to him if any work was not being carried out effectively.

At the meeting, MPs also said it was difficult to carry out development work as they had to depend on central fund allocations.

Two Standing

Committee members told this correspondent that the PM himself expressed dissatisfaction over the performance of some ministers.

"There are cabinet members who are inexperienced and lack sufficient knowledge to deal with the situation. That's why their performance has not yet reached the expected level," they quoted him as saying.

Tarique directed everyone to refrain from any untoward incidents and to maintain unity within the party, they added.

Lawmakers also told the meeting that any move to increase electricity prices could trigger public discontent and put additional pressure on the government at a time of rising living costs.

They added that load-shedding in rural areas was increasing every day and warned that if it continues, it could create a negative impression of the government.

The MPs also advised Tarique to visit areas outside Dhaka more frequently so that people could feel closer to the government and develop greater trust in its leadership.

## Number of July martyrs debated in parliament

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"We need to know the actual number. If you did visit, no objection... But we want the actual figure. The July uprising happened only recently, not decades ago. If memories fade now, then in 10 or 20 years this history will be distorted," he added.

He said people commercialised the Liberation War and its spirit, and capitalised on it over the past 54 years.

"We do not want a new business to emerge centring the July uprising,

To stop this, we need the real history -- how many were martyred and their political identities," Razib said.

Referring to a widely circulated video clip of a frontline July uprising leader remembering how much influence they had wielded during the tenure of the Yunus government, Razib said, "One student leader recounted how they lived... they could go and meet the chief adviser at his house whenever they wished. Such privileges are no longer available," Razib

said. Later, the opposition leader took the floor to respond.

He said, "If the (state) minister's claim of the number of July martyrs is just over 800 -- then how could I have visited 1,200 homes?"

The opposition leader pointed out that the state minister was not present in the chamber during his speech. "Had he been here, I would have told him to seek clarification from the honourable state minister for fisheries and livestock

[Sultan Salahuddin Tuku], who himself said in his speech that more than 1,000 martyrs were from the BNP and its affiliated organisations."

"If I endorse his statement, then the calculation is right there; he need not come to me," he said.

Shafiqur continued, "Secondly, I did not utter anything fabricated. We have a complete profile on this matter, and many present here have received that profile. It is available on our website. Only after

thorough checking and cross checking did we prepare these lists."

He further said his statement is not based on any domestic agency's citation. The UN Human Rights Fact-Finding Committee itself reported that the number is around 1,400.

"Wherever I go, people come to me, looking helpless, asking: 'Do you have any information about my father?' During those two days when the internet was shut down, people were killed and

forcibly disappeared -- no one is accounting for them. That number is even higher. When we speak in this post-August national parliament, our words must reflect responsible conduct. I urge that this be treated with seriousness."

PRAYER TIMING					
APRIL 27					
Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
AZAN 4:20	12:45	4:45	6:29	8:00	
JAMAAT 4:55	1:15	5:00	6:34	8:30	
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION					

## Govt orders action

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Education and Primary food provided under the mid-day meal programme, the ministry said in a statement signed by Senior Information Officer Abdullah Shibli Sadiq.

The ministry noted that the programme was introduced to encourage primary education and provide nutritious food to students.

In response, the Madaripur deputy commissioner has formed a five-member probe committee. The project director has also issued a show-cause notice to the food suppliers in Madaripur, asking why their contracts should not be cancelled.

District primary education officers in both districts will take legal action against those responsible under the Food Safety Act.

Education and Primary Minister ANM Ehsanul Hoque Milon has instructed the Chapainawabganj deputy commissioner to form a committee, including the civil surgeon, to investigate the matter.

The Chapainawabganj district primary education officer has already conducted an inquiry and submitted a report. A show-cause notice will also be issued soon against the food supplier there.

District primary education officers in both districts will take legal action against those responsible under the Food Safety Act.

## BNP considering campaigns to counter

FROM PAGE 3

the local administration's role in taking action against hoarding and illegal stockpiling.

"Drives are underway, but the syndicate has not been broken," said one source.

Local administration recovered 5.77 lakh litres of fuel between March 3 and April 21.

The BNP leaders also said local administration should be more active in taking legal action against hoarding, while party leaders and activists should politically counter the opposition's ongoing negative campaign in and outside the parliament, aimed at creating the impression that the government is not prepared

to handle the situation. "People do not believe only official statements. They believe what they see... The opposition is trying to use this issue to stir up people against the government," said a senior BNP leader, who had attended the meeting, wishing anonymity.

"If the situation continues for long, it may create a negative impression on the public," he added.

BNP leaders also said the government's initial decision to introduce a fuel rationing system created panic among people and proved to be a slip-up in managing the crisis. The government later withdrew the measure.

Meanwhile, opposition Jamaat-e-Islami has

already held protest programmes over the past week, where its leaders strongly criticised the ruling BNP.

BNP leaders said the opposition parties may also try to connect the fuel issue with other public grievances, including inflation, unemployment, load-shedding and poor services.

They also expressed concern over the power situation, saying load-shedding has increased in several areas, especially in rural areas, leaving people suffering as power cuts affect homes, shops, small businesses and farming.

Farmers who depend on diesel-run machines for irrigation during the Boro season may be badly

affected if the fuel problem continues, they said, adding that if diesel is not available on time, or if its price rises sharply, it will adversely affect crop production.

The situation may worsen if power cuts continue in the coming summer months when demand for electricity and fuel usually rises, leading to public frustration, the leaders warned.

They urged the government to update the people on fuel stocks and emergency plans in a clear and coordinated manner and address their sufferings through better service delivery.

Also, law enforcement agencies should not respond harshly to public anger, they added.

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Directorate General of Drug Administration

Aushad Bhavan, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212

www.dgda.gov.bd

Memo No. DGDA/Tender/2025-26/6598

Date: 26/04/26

Invitation for Tender (OTM)  
e-Tender Notice No. 01 (2025-26)

e-Tender is invited to the National e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of the following Physical Service (Outsourcing):

Sl No.	Tender/ Proposal ID and Package No.	Description of package	Tender/ Proposal publication date and time	Last selling date and time	Closing/opening date and time
01	1258692 dgda/accounts-03/Rev/procure/2022-23/SR-03	Physical Service (Outsourcing)	27-04-2026 12:00	11-05-2026 10:00	11-05-2026 12:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted on 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 the e-GP Portal have to be deposited online through any branch of the banks registered in the e-GP System.

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

Mohammad Nayeem Golder

Director (c.c)

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GD-913

## গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী (সওজ) এর কার্যালয়

সড়ক বিভাগ, নোয়াখালী

ফোনঃ ০২৩৩৪৪৩৩৬৭০

E-mail: [ceaoa@rhd.gov.bd](mailto:ceaoa@rhd.gov.bd)

স্মারক নং-৩৫.০১.৭৫০০.৪৫৭.০৩.০০৩.২০-৭৮৩

তারিখঃ ২৬.০৪.২০২৬খ্রিঃ

## গণবিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, মহাসড়ক আইন, ২০২১ (২০২১ সনের ২৮নং আইন) এর বিধি ৯ এর উপ-বিধি ১১ নিম্নরূপঃ

"মহাসড়কের সংরক্ষণ রেখার মধ্যে কোনো স্থাপনা নির্মাণ করা যাইবে না"

এক্ষেত্রে,

"মহাসড়ক" অর্থে সড়ক ও জনপথ অধিদপ্তরের সড়ক নেটওয়ার্কভুক্ত জাতীয়, আঞ্চলিক ও জেলা মহাসড়ক, বাংলাদেশের ভৌগোলিক সীমানায় অবস্থিত আন্তর্জাতিক, আন্তর্জাতিক ও মহাদেশীয় মহাসড়ক ছাড়াও-

(ক) মহাসড়কের প্রান্তসীমা (right of way) এর অন্তর্ভুক্ত ভূমি;

(খ) মহাসড়কের ডাল, কিনারা (berm), নয়নজুলা, বরো-পিট (borrow-pit) এবং পার্শ্ববর্তী নালা;

(গ) অধিদপ্তরের নিয়ন্ত্রণাধীন মহাসড়ক সংলগ্ন সকল ভূমি ও মহাসড়ক বাঁধ;

(ঘ) মহাসড়কস্থিত ভূগর্ভস্থ অথবা মহাসড়কের উপর দিয়া নির্মিত যে কোনো স্থাপনা ও কাঠামো;

(ঙ) অধিদপ্তরের নিয়ন্ত্রণাধীন মহাসড়ক অথবা মহাসড়ক সংলগ্ন ভূমির উপরে অবস্থিত প্রাচীর, স্তুতি, সড়ক অবকাঠামো এবং মহাসড়কের দুইপার্শ্বে এই ধরনের ভূমির উপর বিদ্যমান সকল বৃক্ষ; এবং

(চ) নদী, সাগর অথবা বৃহৎ জলাধারের পার্শ্বে মহাসড়কের প্রতিরক্ষামূলক কার্য, সেতুর ক্ষেত্রে উজান ও ভাটির উভয় দিকে গাইড বাঁধসহ নদী তীর প্রতিরক্ষামূলক কার্য অথবা নদীশাসন কার্যসমূহও; ইহার অন্তর্ভুক্ত হইবে। এবং "সংরক্ষণ রেখা" অর্থ মহাসড়কের উভয় পার্শ্বে ভূমির প্রান্তসীমা (Right of Way) হইতে ১০ (দশ) মিটার অথবা সরকার কর্তৃক গেজেট প্রজ্ঞাপনের মাধ্যমে নির্ধারিত রেখা।

উপর্যুক্ত বিধির লংঘন দণ্ডনীয় অপরাধ।

এ বিষয়ে সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের সহযোগিতা কাম্য।

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ

সড়ক বিভাগ, নোয়াখালী

GD-916