

RESERVED SEATS EC rejects appeal of NCP's Monira Sharmin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission yesterday rejected an appeal against the nomination of BNP-backed candidate Zeeba Amina Khan for the reserved women's seat poll to the 13th National Parliament, allowing her candidacy to stand.

At the same time, the EC upheld the returning officer's decision to cancel the nomination of National Citizen Party (NCP) candidate Monira Sharmin, ruling that she had not completed three years since resigning from government service.

The EC also dismissed an appeal filed against BNP candidate Madhabi Marma's nomination, leaving her candidacy valid.

Yesterday marked the first day of hearings on appeals against returning officers' decisions regarding nomination papers for the reserved women's seats. The hearings began at 11:00am at the EC headquarters in Agargaon and concluded at noon.

After the hearing, Election Commissioner Abdur Rahmnel SEE PAGE 5 COL 1



Farmers from four Kishoreganj villages, hit by submerged croplands, form a human chain near the Kolapara railway crossing yesterday, demanding re-excavation of the old Uddeya canal to prevent waterlogging across Shukhni, Kachhuar, Chinakandi, Meyakona and other beels. They lamented the canal's lost navigability due to years of neglect. A memorandum was later submitted to local lawmaker through the Sadar UNO.

PHOTO: TAFSILUL AZIZ

Man held over rape of woman in M'singh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Police on Sunday night arrested a man in connection with a case filed over the gang-rape of a woman in Mymensingh's Nandail upazila.

Police produced Helal Uddin, 55, before a Mymensingh court yesterday with a five-day remand prayer, following which the magistrate granted remand for two days to interrogate the accused, said Nandail Police Station OC Md Azharul Islam.

On Saturday, police rescued the 26-year-old victim, a mother of two, who was reportedly gang-raped in Nandail. The next day, the victim's father filed a case with Nandail Police Station, naming one person and several unnamed accused, said the OC.

Quoting the case statement, the OC said the victim, from Sunamganj, was travelling with her three-year-old daughter to her in-laws' house in Mymensingh's Bhaluka upazila on April 19. She lost her way and reached SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

'I was locked up and raped for days'

Female migrant worker shares harrowing ordeals faced in KSA

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

A 31-year-old Bangladeshi woman, who returned to the country from Saudi Arabia recently, made allegations of being repeatedly raped and physically abused in the Gulf country after being lured there with the promise of a domestic worker job.

The woman is currently undergoing treatment at the One-Stop Crisis Centre (OCC) in Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Dr Monika Khondokar of DMCH's OCC said the victim was initially admitted to the hospital's gynaecology department on Sunday and was transferred to the OCC yesterday following her rape allegations.

"Until yesterday, she was experiencing shortness of breath, but her condition is somewhat stable now. There are injury marks on her body. We can confirm the rape allegations once we receive the forensic results," the doctor said.

According to the victim's BMET Emigration Clearance card obtained by this newspaper, she received immigration clearance on March 9 this year.

Narrating her ordeal in a video message provided to the OCC and police, the woman said she returned to Bangladesh on April 22.

She accused Md Badruzzaman, managing director of Soar Travels Limited in Dhaka's Motijheel, of sending her to the KSA under the false pretext of a domestic help visa.

"I was not given any household work SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

CAAB enhances security at all eight airports

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) has enhanced security at all eight airports across the country, including Dhaka's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, amid fears of potential militant attacks on important national installations.

CAAB Chairman Air Vice Marshal Mostafa Mahmood Siddiqi shared this information during a meeting with members of the Aviation and Tourism Journalists' Association of Bangladesh (ATJJB) at CAAB headquarters at the capital's Kurmitola yesterday.

The CAAB chairman stated that security was increased following a letter from the Police Headquarters.

He noted that as the airports are classified as key point installations, they are always under a strict security cordon; however, security has been further bolstered.

"We will keep vigilance for the next few days..." the CAAB chief said.

"I will not say under what SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

Will take action over forced repatriation Expatriates' welfare minister assures Malaysia returnees

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The government has assured returnee migrants -- affected by the arbitrary repatriation from Malaysia -- that their demands, including compensation and the return of passports confiscated by the Malaysian companies, will be addressed.

Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Ariful Haque Chowdhury made the assurance when a delegation of returnees met him at the ministry yesterday.

"We demanded the return of our passports, confiscated by our former employer Mediceram, and removal of the blacklist imposed on us in Malaysia," Ibrahim Nahid, a member of the delegation, told The Daily Star.

The workers also sought zero-cost migration opportunities once the Malaysian labour market reopens.

Nahid said around 180 Bangladeshi workers were forcibly repatriated between January and March after they stopped working for Mediceram, a rubber company, over its failure to renew work permits.

The workers had gone to Malaysia in 2023, each spending about Tk 6 lakh, but faced irregular or unpaid wages. When they protested, they were allegedly repatriated under the employer's [Mediceram's] influence. SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

ATTACK ON MP'S VEHICLE Three BNP, JCD leaders expelled

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrokona

Three leaders from the BNP and its student wing, Jaiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, have been expelled following an attack on a member of parliament and the vandalism of his vehicle in Netrokona district.

The action was confirmed yesterday by District JCD President Anik Mahub Chowdhury.

The incident took place in the Netrokona-5 (Purbadhala) constituency, where MP Masum Mustafa was assaulted at a filling station on Friday evening, according to party sources.

Yesterday, the disciplinary action was taken in line with party decisions. The disciplinary measures followed an internal investigation into the attack, during which Jamaat-e-Islami MP Mustafa's vehicle was also damaged.

According to a statement signed by BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, Ishtiaq Ahmed Babu, joint convener of Purbadhala upazila unit of BNP, has been expelled from all party posts, including his primary membership, over allegations of involvement in terrorism, violence, and activities against party discipline.

In a separate statement, the JCD central committee announced that Saju Ahmed, member secretary of the Purbadhala upazila unit, has been removed from his post, while former joint convener Solaiman Kabir has been expelled from primary membership on specific charges of violating organisational discipline.

Govt agencies rack Drive against drugs after April 30

FROM PAGE 3

government institutions owed more than Tk 1,000 crore in land development tax.

They also noted that dues in the current fiscal year are relatively low, and many institutions are expected to clear payments within the fiscal year ending in June. However, arrears that have accumulated over many years remain unpaid.

A senior official of the board, wishing anonymity, said, "Collecting land development tax from individuals is easier than from government institutions. Institutions

face budgetary and procedural complexities."

Unlike individuals, there is no penalty mechanism for government institutions that fail to pay land tax for three consecutive years, leading to prolonged arrears and a lack of accountability.

Contacted, Land Reform Board Chairman AJM Salahuddin Nagari said, "Ensuring timely payment of land development tax is a priority not only for us but also for the entire Ministry of Land. We issue letters twice a year, in January and May, and organise workshops to engage agencies that owe us dues."

FROM PAGE 3

shisha lounges have sprung up in residential buildings, restaurants, and cafes in elite areas of Dhaka. Despite repeated raids, they continue to operate. Some change addresses, while others run with the tacit support of certain officials. Action must be taken."

In reply, the home minister said, "As pledged in our election manifesto, we have declared zero tolerance against gambling, online gambling, and drugs. After April 30, once the parliamentary session ends, we will conduct a nationwide coordinated drive. There is no alternative to saving our youth."

On the issue of shisha bars, the minister blamed the Awami League era, saying that between 2009

and 2024, under the patronage of influential politicians, businessmen, and certain officials, illegal shisha bars and drug spots flourished in Dhaka's Gulshan, Banani, Dhanmondi, Mohammadpur, Uttara, and Baridhara areas. Despite raids, they were reopened through the influence. At present, the Department of Narcotics Control and police are conducting regular raids. On April 16 and 20, large quantities of shisha and equipment were seized in Gulshan and other areas, he added.

Salahuddin also said intelligence surveillance has been intensified so that no one can continue illegal businesses by changing addresses or evading law enforcement.

"If evidence emerges of any individual or institution's involvement, it will be investigated seriously and legal action will follow," he warned.

"If any police member is found aiding such illegal businesses, strict punitive measures will be taken immediately," he added.

Salahuddin informed the parliament that criminals are being held during raids and brought under the law. Dhaka North City Corporation is also identifying and shutting down unlicensed establishments.

He said the current government has identified drugs as a national problem in its election manifesto. Owners of illegal shisha lounges have filed five writ petitions to keep their businesses running. The

DNC has appealed against High Court rulings in these cases, and the Appellate Division has vacated interim orders.

In a supplementary question, MP Farroque asked how many drug traders have been prosecuted since the present government took office. The home minister said he could provide the details after the lawmaker submits a formal notice for disclosure of specific numbers.

PRAYER TIMING
APRIL 28
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

Local govt polls

FROM PAGE 3

before announcing the schedule, including preparation of voter lists, procurement of election materials, religious festivals, public examinations, weather conditions, and the repair and finalisation of polling centres. Selection and training of election officials are also required.

At least 45 days are needed for pre-schedule preparations, he added.

In response to a question from Faridpur-1MP Md Ilyas Mollah, the minister said

the interim government's Public Administration Reform Commission recommended in December 2024 the creation of two new divisions, Faridpur and Cumilla.

Under the proposal, Faridpur Division would include Faridpur, Madaripur, Rajbari, Gopalganj and Shariatpur districts, currently under Dhaka Division. The final decision will be taken by the National Implementation Committee on Administrative Reorganisation (NICAR).

শিল্প মন্ত্রণালয়
বাংলাদেশ ক্ষুদ্র ও কুটির শিল্প কর্পোরেশন (বিসিক)
নকশা কেন্দ্র

প্রশিক্ষণার্থী ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

প্রশিক্ষণের সেশন : মে-জুন ২০২৬
ভর্তির শেষ তারিখ : ১০ মে ২০২৬

কোর্সের নাম	কোর্স ফি
বাটিক প্রিন্ট	৫০০/=
স্ট্রিন প্রিন্ট	৫০০/=
ব্রুক প্রিন্ট	৫০০/=
বুন শিল্প	৫০০/=
কাপড়ের পুতুল	৫০০/=
প্যাকোজিং শিল্প	৫০০/=
বাঁশজাত শিল্প	৫০০/=
মৃৎশিল্প	৫০০/=
চামড়া জাত শিল্প	১০০০/=
পাটজাত শিল্প	১০০০/=
ফ্যাশন ডিজাইন	১০০০/=

ভর্তি ফরমের সাথে জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের ফটোকপি ও দুই কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ছবি সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।

যোগাযোগ : নকশা কেন্দ্র, বিসিক
১৩৭-১৩৮, মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-১০০০
০২-২২৩৩৮৩১১২, ০১৭২৬৭০০৬৩৮

Pashchimanchal Gas Company Limited (PGCL)
Office of the Project Director
Installation of Smart Pre-paid Gas Meters, SCADA & GIS at PGCL Franchise Area Project
Project Office: Nalka, Sirajganj, Bangladesh
E-mail: pdpsg.pgcl@gmail.com

Memo No. 28.18.0000.000.087.99.0007.25/172 Date: 23/04/2026

Addendum-01 (Extension of Bid Submission Deadline)

The Bid Document issued under the Specific Procurement Notice (Ref. No.: 28.18.0000.000.087.99.0007.25/160, Date: 05 March 2026) for "Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Smart Prepaid Gas Meters, Meter Calibration System, Web System (Cloud Hosting) & Automated Grievance Redress Centre with Design, Drawing, Necessary Hardware & Software" is hereby amended as follows:

Sl. No.	Description and reference	Existing	Amended As
1	The deadline for Bid Submission is (ITB 23.1)	Date: 30 April 2026 Time: 2:00 PM (BST) (UTC+6:00)	Date: 21 May 2026 Time: 2:00 PM (BST) (UTC+6:00)
2	Public Opening of Technical Parts of Bids (ITB 26.1)	Date: 30 April 2026 Time: 2:15 PM (BST) (UTC+6:00)	Date: 21 May 2026 Time: 2:15 PM (BST) (UTC+6:00)

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

This Addendum-01 shall be an integral part of the Bid Document (RFB No.: BD-PGCL-PGM-GD5; Issued on: 09 March 2026).

PGPR-45/2025-2026 (3 x 4")
GD-922
Debdip Barua
Project Director

এলপি গ্যাস লিমিটেড
বাংলাদেশ পেট্রোলিয়াম কর্পোরেশন এর একটি স্বাধীন প্রতিষ্ঠান
উত্তর পতেঙ্গা, চট্টগ্রাম।

দরপত্র স্মারক নং: ১৮-২৭.০০০০.০০৫.৩০.০৩০.২০-২১
তারিখ: ২৮/০৪/২০২৬ খ্রি.

পুন: দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১। কন্ট্রোল নাম: Engagement of Contractor for Handling of Bitumen Drums at Piece Rate
২। অর্থাভিত্তিক উদ্দেশ্য: এলপি গ্যাস লিমিটেড এর নিজস্ব অর্থাভিত্তিক।

৩। দরপত্র আবেদন: ০৫.০০০.০০ (ত্রিশ হাজার) টাকা "দরপত্র আবেদন" হিসেবে সরকার অনুমোদিত যে কোন তফসিলভুক্ত ব্যাংক হতে পে-অর্ডার/ডিমাড ড্রাফট এলপি গ্যাস লিমিটেড, উত্তর পতেঙ্গা, চট্টগ্রাম এর অনুমোদিত দরপত্রের সাথে জমা দিতে হবে। কৃতকার্য দরপত্রের সাথে চুক্তি সম্পাদনের পর "দরপত্র আবেদন" এর টাকা আবেদনের প্রেক্ষিতে ঘনিষ্ঠভাবে বিনা সুখে ফেরত প্রদান করা হবে।

৪। নিরাপত্তা জামানত: চুক্তি সম্পাদনের পূর্বে কৃতকার্য দরদাতা কর্তৃক এলপি গ্যাস লিমিটেড, উত্তর পতেঙ্গা, চট্টগ্রাম এর অনুমোদিত ২,০০,০০০.০০ (দুই লক্ষ) টাকা "কার্যসম্পাদন জামানত" হিসেবে সরকার অনুমোদিত যে কোন তফসিলভুক্ত ব্যাংক হতে পে-অর্ডার/ডিমাড ড্রাফট জমা দিতে হবে, যা চুক্তির মেয়াদে আবেদনের প্রেক্ষিতে বিনা সুখে ফেরত প্রদান করা হবে।

৫। দরপত্র তফসিলের মূল্য: ২,০০,০০০.০০ (দুই লক্ষ) টাকা (অফিসের/ক্যাশে)।

৬। দরপত্র তফসিলের প্রার্থীরা: বিপদ বিবরণ ও শর্তাবলী সঠিকভাবে দরপত্র তফসিল নম্বর অর্ধ প্রদান পূর্বক অফিস লস্কাকামী সময়ে আগামী ২৮/০৪/২০২৬ তারিখ পর্যন্ত সকল কার্যবিবরণের বোর্ড ০৯:০০ ঘটিকা হতে ২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত কাগজ পাশ, এলপি গ্যাস লিমিটেড, উত্তর পতেঙ্গা, চট্টগ্রাম কার্যালয় হতে জমা করা হবে।

৭। দরপত্র জমা হওয়ার তারিখ ও সময়: বিপদ বিবরণ ও শর্তাবলী সঠিকভাবে দরপত্র তফসিল নম্বর অর্ধ প্রদান পূর্বক অফিস লস্কাকামী সময়ে আগামী ২৮/০৪/২০২৬ তারিখ পর্যন্ত সকল কার্যবিবরণের বোর্ড ০৯:০০ ঘটিকা হতে ২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত কাগজ পাশ, এলপি গ্যাস লিমিটেড, উত্তর পতেঙ্গা, চট্টগ্রাম কার্যালয় হতে জমা করা হবে।

৮। দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়: দরপত্র সমূহ আগামী ২৯/০৪/২০২৬ তারিখ বেলা ১০:০০ ঘটিকার সময় দরপত্র খোলার সময় উপস্থিত হতে হবে।

৯। দরপত্রের সন্নিবিষ্ট যোগ্যতা: দরপত্র তফসিল অনুযায়ী কোল বিপদ কো-পারামিটার, ইন্টার্নাল রিজার্ভোয়ার লিমিটেড বা এলপি গ্যাস লিমিটেড এ অনুমোদিত কাছের ন্যূনতম ০৩ (তিন) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে। কোন বেকরকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে প্রায় অভিজ্ঞতার সনদের বিবেচনা করা হবে না।

১০। এ বিঘ্নে কোন তথ্যাদি আবেদন সংশ্লিষ্ট কর্তৃক প্রকৌশলী অফিসের/এইচআর ও সিআর, মোবাইল নম্বর ০২৭৬৬০০০৪ এর সাথে যোগাযোগ করা যাবে।

১১। এলপি গ্যাস লিমিটেড কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কাল পর্যালোচনা ব্যতীতই যে কোন অর্থায়ন সনদের আবেদন বা সনদের প্রমাণ বা বাস্তব হিচক সকল দরপত্র ব্যতীতই অর্থায়ন সনদের বিবেচনা করা হবে না।

১২। দরদাতা কর্তৃক তথ্যাদি/সনদের প্রমাণ বুল হিচক প্রমাণিত হলে দরপত্র সনদের বাস্তব হিচক হবে।

Debdip Barua
Project Director
GD-929