

Seraj Uddin Ahmed's death anniversary today



CITY DESK
Today is the 41st death anniversary of Seraj Uddin Ahmed, founder chairman of Elite Paint Group of Companies, said a press release.
He was also founder director of Arab Bangladesh Bank Ltd, former president of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industries and former chairman of Tea Traders Association of Bangladesh (TTAB).
A milad mahfil followed by ziafat will be held at Golf Garden, Army Golf Club, Dhaka. A similar programme will also be held in Chattogram.

1,800 cases

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He said investigations have so far been completed in 158 cases, with charge sheets submitted in all of them – 48 for murder and 110 for other offences. The remaining 1,697 cases are still under investigation.

Asaduzzaman said the large volume of cases has made the process complex and time-consuming. However, police are working to submit reports as quickly as possible while ensuring proper evidence collection and due legal procedure so that trials are not weakened by technical flaws.

On the issue of bail, he said the matter lies entirely within the jurisdiction of the courts.

He reaffirmed the government's commitment to securing justice for victims and their families.

Answering another query from Muhammad Ali Asgar MP, the law minister said the government does not maintain statistics on how many such cases were politically motivated, as police reports do not record the political affiliation of accused persons.

However, citing data from BNP headquarters, he said between 2007 and January 11, 2025, a total of 1,42,983 false and harassment cases were filed against BNP activists.

The minister also said that since assuming office, the current government has withdrawn 23,865 "politically motivated" cases.

JS removes age limits for BSEC, IDRA appointments

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2026, removes the 67-year limit for the IDRA chair and members.

A debate followed the passage of the bills, with opposition MPs questioning the timing and intent of the amendments and raising broader concerns over recent regulatory appointments, including that of the Bangladesh Bank governor. Treasury bench members rejected the allegations.

Independent MP Rumeen Farhana moved to send the bills to a public opinion review committee, effectively limiting further formal discussion. Although several opposition MPs sought to speak, the speaker allowed Opposition Leader Shafiqur Rahman to participate.

Shafiqur Rahman objected to the legislative process, saying members had not received the bills in time.

"We were supposed to receive the bills three days earlier, but we didn't even get them a day before. We just received them on our

desks. I request you not to curtail our rights," he said.

The speaker said the report had been circulated the previous day and that proceedings were within his discretion, before moving to pass the bills.

After the passage, NCP's Akhter Hossen questioned whether the removal of age limits was intended to favour specific individuals.

He also recalled that during BNP's tenure in 2001, the retirement age of the Chief Justice was raised, which he said led to prolonged national suffering.

"If something similar happens in the future, the government will have to take responsibility," he added.

Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury defended the amendments, saying they reflected demographic and economic realities.

"When the securities law was first enacted, the average age was 57. Now it is 72. Given the new economic context, if qualified individuals want to

serve, we must take this into account. There is no room for emotion here," he said.

He added that parliamentary rules typically restrict debate after a bill's passage, but he responded to address concerns raised.

Opposition Leader Shafiqur Rahman also criticised recent appointments to financial institutions, including the central bank governor, alleging a lack of neutrality.

"If everything is politicised and family or group interests are prioritised, the country will not progress," he said.

Deputy Opposition Leader Syed Abdullah Mohammad Taher went further, questioning the governor's neutrality.

"He was part of BNP's election steering committee... he should be removed, and a qualified governor appointed," he said.

The finance minister rejected the claim, saying political association did not determine affiliation.

"Supporting a party does not make someone a party man. Assisting in election activities does not make someone a party man," he said, adding that

Regardless of faith

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Purnima at the Public Administration Hall of the Cabinet Division at the Secretariat.

He also extended greetings to the Buddhist community on the occasion.

During the meeting, Tarique said building a state and society where citizens can freely practise their religious beliefs without obstruction remains a key responsibility of the government.

The administration's political philosophy is "Bangladeshi nationalism", he added.

"It has been proven many times in Bangladesh that only this philosophy can ensure coexistence among all races, religious

appointments during BNP rule were also non-political and maintained that the current governor's performance has been strong.

communities and ethnic groups," he said.

"So, none of you should ever think of yourselves as minorities. The state belongs to all of us. Every citizen is Bangladeshi," he added.

"Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists and Christians – together, with the sacrifice of millions of lives, we achieved independence. During the Liberation War, no one asked who followed which religion," he said.

"This independent Bangladesh belongs to all of us."

At the event, the Buddhist community presented the prime minister with a commemorative crest and a replica of a Buddha statue.

Waterlogging wipes

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"In a year with less rainfall, we might manage a small harvest, but one year we grow paddy, and for the next few years, we cannot," she said.

Feeding livestock has also become difficult. "Where will I find straw or grass? The entire beel remains under waist-deep water," she added, urging authorities to ensure drainage through Tidal River Management (TRM).

Spanning parts of Abhaynagar, Monirampur, and Keshabpur upazilas in Jashore, and Dumuria and Phultala in Khulna, the low-lying Bhabadah basin consists of at least 52 interconnected beels linked to rivers such as the Mukteshwari, Teka, Sri, and Hari.

Heavy siltation over the years has reduced these rivers' drainage capacity, causing rainwater to remain trapped for months.

Last July and August, excessive rainfall inundated more than 150 villages, affecting over 2,00,000 people and submerging homes, roads, educational institutions, and fish enclosures. Although a pilot channel excavation project by the Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) has eased water levels in some residential areas, most agricultural land remains underwater.

Agriculture experts say Boro cultivation typically runs from December to April, with seedbeds prepared between mid-December and early January and transplantation completed by late February.

In Bhabadah, those timelines have become largely irrelevant.

DAE data show the region has around 50,000 farmers and 35,531 hectares of cultivable land. This year, Boro was cultivated on only about 17,650 hectares, leaving more than 17,800 hectares fallow due to waterlogging.

In Keshabpur alone, over 2,300 hectares out of 5,400 hectares remained uncultivated.

Local farmer leaders say the prolonged crisis has pushed thousands into economic hardship.

"Year after year, thousands of hectares remain submerged. Farmers could not cultivate Aman,

and now they have missed Boro as well. How can they survive like this?" said Iqbal Kabir Zahid, chief adviser of the Bhabadah Water Drainage Committee.

He stressed the urgency of implementing TRM – a method that allows controlled flooding to restore river flow and reduce siltation.

"This is the right time to implement TRM. The rivers that were recently dredged are already silting up again. If action is delayed, restoring these river systems will take decades," he added.

During visits to several beels – including Kedaria, Kapalia, Dumur, Jhikra, Gandhimari, and Payra – in the last week of March, this correspondent saw vast stretches of water dotted with water hyacinths and aquatic plants, with only limited Boro cultivation.

In a few places, farmers attempted small-scale irrigation by enclosing parts of the beels, but such efforts remained limited.

Samoren Biswas, additional deputy director (crops) of the DAE in Jashore, said, "First and foremost, water must be drained. Without solving the drainage problem, agriculture cannot recover here."

"If water could be removed in time, much more land could have been cultivated," he added.

BWDB officials say river re-excavation is underway as part of a long-term solution.

Polash Kumar Banerjee, executive engineer of BWDB in Jashore, told The Daily Star that the army is re-excavating 81.5 km of river at a cost of Tk 140 crore. Around Tk 45 crore will be spent on installing pumps to improve drainage, while another Tk 20 crore has been allocated for re-excavating several canals.

He said the waterlogging situation in the Bhabadah area is expected to improve significantly once the works are completed.

No right to remain

FROM PAGE 3
Nahid questioned why the BNP government still accepts such a person as president.

Nahid acknowledged that he had once taken oath as an interim government adviser under the same president. The context then was not the same as now, he said. After the July uprising, they had two options: form a national unity government – which BNP rejected – or hand power to the army.

He said that had they chosen the latter, it is doubtful the ruling party would be sitting here today. "For the sake of stability, we joined the government at that time."

He added that now, under an elected government, BNP has the authority to replace the president.

On the referendum, he said after election, BNP took a different stance. They should have clarified beforehand that they did not recognise the referendum, that whether "yes" or "no" won, it had nothing to do with them. "But they did not do so."

He also reiterated that the Constitution Reform Council should be formed without delay.

Nahid said the 1972 constitution was inherently undemocratic. "It was drafted with Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the forefront. The seeds of

authoritarianism were sown in Bangladesh through the '72 constitution, which was written in the spirit of Mujibism," he added.

He said, "Through the Sepoy-People's Revolution in 1975, there was an opportunity to abolish the '72 constitution. We missed that chance. With respect, I say, Ziaur Rahman made that historic mistake. In 2024, another opportunity came, and we are still missing it."

Accusing BNP of shifting from its position, Nahid said, "If they move away from their stance, then we too must return to our earlier position and demand a rewriting of the constitution. If BNP remains steadfast in support of the '72 constitution, then we must respond accordingly."

Nahid said unnecessary debate is being created over the July uprising. "None of us ever claimed that the uprising was greater than the Liberation War, or greater or lesser than the 1990 movement," he said.

"The July uprising is a distinct event in Bangladesh's history. The Liberation War is also a distinct event – it is the foundation of Bangladesh. On this, we are uncompromising; there is no scope for debate," he added.

Leadership void stirs

FROM PAGE 3
Selim Ahmed, a Rajhat Union Parishad member and tea workers' leader, alleged that unelected individuals were clinging to power.

"We have repeatedly demanded elections and even issued ultimatums, but there has been no action," he added.

Observers linked the clash between two groups of workers at Teliapara Tea Garden in Madhabpur upazila of Habiganj on February 23 this year to disputes stemming from the absence of an elected panchayat committee.

"In the absence of legitimate leadership, misunderstandings, internal feuds, and violence are increasing. Timely elections could have prevented such divisions," said Lalon Tanti, president of the Teliapara panchayat.

Current union leaders, however, rejected the allegation of stagnation and cited financial and administrative hurdles to holding the elections.

They said a letter was sent to the Department of Labour in 2022 seeking support for the polls, but the process stalled.

"We have taken steps, including communicating with the Department of Labour, but financial and administrative complications have delayed the process," said Nripen Paul, acting general secretary of the union's central committee.

He acknowledged that expired committees did not enjoy the same acceptance among workers as elected ones and that problems were emerging in many gardens as a result.

Pankaj Kanda, vice-president of the union, admitted the leadership itself was uneasy with the situation.

"It is not easy to remain in charge without an election for so long," he said. "We also feel

uncomfortable continuing without a fresh mandate, but the situation is beyond our control."

Tea workers' leader Sitaram Bin cited disputes over constitutional amendments, changes in the election commission's structure, and a shortage of funds for the prevailing situation.

"The delay in holding elections is weakening the democratic structure of the union. Leadership without accountability – through expired or ad hoc committees – cannot properly represent workers," he added.

For tea garden workers, the cost of the impasse continues to be reflected in low wages, inadequate accommodation and healthcare, and weakened collective bargaining rights.

Sanjoy Kanto Das, adviser to Cha Sramik Oikyo, said that the Bangladesh Tea Workers Union (B-77) was established to safeguard workers' wages and rights – not to serve political interests.

"However, in recent years, the union has frequently acted under the influence of the ruling party, often prioritising government favour over the legitimate demands of workers. The 2023 gazette further weakened the union by restricting its authority to negotiate wages for five years, yet the leadership failed to protest it," he also said.

Consequently, long-standing problems in tea gardens remain unresolved, and dissatisfaction among workers continues to grow.

Moulvibazar Deputy Commissioner Touhiduzzaman Pavel said the tea workers' leaders had submitted a memorandum demanding the union elections. Steps will be taken after talking to the director general of the Department of Labour.

UNIVERSITY OF DHAKA

MASTER OF PROFESSIONAL FINANCE (MPF)

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

Admission Notice

For Application: mpf.finanancedu.ac.bd/admission

Application last date: May 4, 2026. **Admission test date:** May 8, 2026 (Friday) at 10:00 AM (Written) and 11:15 AM (Viva-voce).

For more information: MPF Program Office (Room 4005), 3rd Floor MBA Building, Faculty of Business Studies, University of Dhaka
Email: mpf@du.ac.bd, Cell: +8801725288250 and +8801914379230.

MPF

ACCREDITED PROGRAMME

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স্মারক নং- ২৭.২১.০০০০.৪৪৮.০৭.০০১.২৬.৩৭২ তারিখঃ ৩০/০৪/২০২৬খ্রিঃ

e-Tender বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পাওয়ার গ্রিডের জিএমডি, কালিয়াকৈর দপ্তরের আওতাধীন নিম্নলিখিত দরপত্র e-GP পোর্টালে প্রকাশিত হয়েছে।

ID	Title of Works
1239360	Construction of property line demarcation structure around substation boundary wall at Ghatail 132/33 kV Grid Substation under GMD Kaliakair, Power Grid Bangladesh PLC.

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

মোহাম্মদ হাসানুল ইসলাম
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, জিএমডি, কালিয়াকৈর

Industrial Land with Factory Shed for Sale

273 decimal industrial land with factory shed located in Kachpur, Sonargaon, Narayanganj area will be sold. The land is directly connected to Dhaka - Chittagong highway.

Contact : 01958-069455, 01408-717121

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer
PWD E/M Wood Workshop Division-1, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka

Memo No-25.36.2680.534.14.170.26-2106 Date- 30/04/2026

e-Tender Notice

This is to notify all concern that the following tenders are invited in the national e-GP portal:

Tender ID No.	Last Selling Date	Opening Date
1266671	17/05/2026	17/05/2026
1267567, 1267585, 1267607 & 1267637	24/05/2026	25/05/2026

This tenders are online Tender where only e-Tenderer will be accepted in the national e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the national e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

(মুহাম্মদ বিন হাউদ)
Executive Engineer (EM)
PWD E/M Wood Workshop Division-1,
Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka.
Email: ee_wood@pwd.gov.bd

GD-971

Price Sensitive Information

ONE Bank

Corporate HQ
2/F HRC Bhaban, 46 Kawran Bazar C.A., Dhaka-1215

This is for information of all concerned that the Board of Directors of ONE Bank PLC in its 41st Meeting held on April 30, 2026 from 3:00 p.m. at its Board Room, Corporate Headquarters, HRC Bhaban, 46 Kawran Bazar C.A., Dhaka-1215, has approved/decided/recommended the followings in respect of 27th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Shareholders of the Bank for the year ended December 31, 2025.

- Recommended Dividend : No Dividend for the year 2025
- Date and Time of 27th AGM (Hybrid) : August 13, 2026 from 11:00 a.m.
- Record Date for AGM : June 11, 2026

AGM Venue	Hybrid system in combination of physical presence at Lakeshore Grand, House No. 46, Road No. 41, Gulshan 2, Dhaka-1212 and virtually by using Digital Platform through the link https://obplc.bdvirtualagm.com	
• Solo		
Particulars	Dec 31, 2025	Dec 31, 2024
Net Asset Value (NAV)	Tk. 23,367,330,879	Tk. 23,550,246,746
Net Asset Value (NAV) Per Share	Tk. 21.92	Tk. 22.10
Earning Per Share (EPS)	Tk. 0.20	Tk. 1.20
Net Operating Cash Flow Per Share (NOCFPS)	Tk. 0.72	Tk. 6.83
• Consolidated		
Particulars	Dec 31, 2025	Dec 31, 2024
Net Assets Value (NAV)	Tk. 23,940,054,069	Tk. 24,043,491,122
Net Assets Value (NAV) Per Share	Tk. 22.46	Tk. 22.56
Earnings Per Share (EPS)	Tk. 0.28	Tk. 1.24
Net Operating Cash Flow Per Share (NOCFPS)	Tk. 0.73	Tk. 6.84

By order of the Board of Directors,

(মুহাম্মদ হাভাব উদ্দিন)
Mohammad Haatab Uddin, FCS
EVP & Board Secretary

Dhaka
April 30, 2026

PRAYER TIMING

MAY 1

Fazr	Juma	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-15	12-30	4-45	6-31	8-00
JAMAAT 4-50	1-15	5-00	6-35	8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION