# Prof Israfil appointed first VC of Thakurgaon University

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Thakurgaon*

Thakurgaon University has formally begun its activities following the appointment of its first vice-chancellor.

Dr Mohammad Israfil, a professor at the Department of Theatre and Performance Studies at the University of Dhaka, has been appointed the inaugural VC of the university.

The appointment was made through a Ministry of Education notification issued on Wednesday.

Born in Thakurgaon, Dr Israfeel obtained his BSS (Honours) in Political Science from the University of Dhaka in 1988.

He later completed a master's degree in Theatre and Performance Studies from the National School of Drama in Delhi in 1991. He earned his PhD from Rabindra Bharati University.

Dr Israfeel joined the Dhaka University as a lecturer in 1997 and has long been involved in teaching and research in theatre and performance studies.

**PRAYER TIMING MAY 8**

| | Fazr | Juma | Asr | Maghrib | Esha |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| AZAN | 4-15 | 12-30 | 5-00 | 6-34 | 8-00 |
| JAMAAT | 4-50 | 1-15 | 5-15 | 6-38 | 8-30 |

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

# Ward quota returns to CU following court ruling

## One student admitted per department

SM MAHFUJ AHMED

Although Chittagong University (CU) had administratively decided to abolish the ward quota for the 2025–26 academic session, admissions under the quota have ultimately been allowed following a court ruling.

The university admitted one student under the quota in each department, despite no mention of the ward quota in the admission circular or the published merit lists.

According to university sources, the decision to scrap the ward quota was taken at the second meeting of the university's admission test committee for the 2025–26 session. However, following subsequent court directives, admissions under the quota were reinstated.

A section of CU teachers, officers, and staff later filed a writ petition with the High Court seeking to retain the quota.

Following a preliminary hearing on December 15, 2025, a High Court bench comprising Justice Sikder Mahmudur Razi and Justice Raziuddin Ahmed issued a rule asking the university vice-chancellor and the relevant admission committee to explain their decision.

After the final hearing, another bench comprising Justice Shashanka Shekhar Sarkar and Justice Umme Rahman delivered its verdict on February 25, 2026.

The court ordered the university to implement the previously issued rule.

The rule stated that the ward quota for children and spouses of university employees had long been recognised as an established benefit for first-year undergraduate admissions, which the court considered with due importance.

In a letter signed by 18 teachers and 84 officers and staff members on behalf of the Chittagong University Employees' Unity Council, it was stated that the quota should be implemented "in the same way it has continued for generations," noting that the High Court had also directed its continuation.

The letter further said that at the seventh meeting of the admission committee held on March 31, 2026, the university decided to implement the ward quota in compliance with the court order. It also demanded the reinstatement of the previous 166 seats allocated under the quota.

CU Registrar Prof Dr Saiful Islam said admissions had been conducted in line with the High Court's directive. "The court asked us to maintain the long-standing practice. Although there was scope to admit 166 students under the quota, we limited it to 54, equivalent to the number admitted in the previous academic year," he said.

CU Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Mohammad Al-Forkan acknowledged that the admission circular did not mention the ward quota, despite admissions being conducted under it. "Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic) Prof Shamim Uddin will be able to explain the matter in detail," he said.

Prof Shamim Uddin said the university administration had initially abolished the quota, but the court later directed the university to revert to the previous system following petitions filed by a section of teachers, officers, and staff.

"As all admission-related activities had already been completed before the verdict was delivered, it was not possible to include the quota in the admission circular. Later, an academic meeting decided to admit one student from each department under the quota," he said.

Regarding the publication of the list of admitted students, he said the process was still underway and the list would be published after all admissions were completed.

Students at CU had launched protests demanding the abolition of the ward quota on December 29, 2024. Their programmes included human chains, discussion meetings, sit-ins, and locking the university's main gate. In response to the protests, the university formed a seven-member committee to review the quota system.

For the 2024–25 academic session, the university decided to admit one student per department under the quota, with plans to abolish it entirely from the 2025–26 session. However, the latest court ruling has effectively reversed that decision.

**The university administration had initially abolished the quota, but the court later directed the university to revert to the previous system following petitions filed by a section of teachers, officers, and staff. As all admission-related activities had already been completed, it was not possible to include the quota in the circular.**

**PROF SHAMIM UDDIN,** Pro-VC (academic)

# Revitalise family planning

FROM PAGE 3

Public health specialist Abu Jamil Faisel said the decline in primary healthcare services is creating multiple problems, including the recent measles outbreak.

He said immunisation is a key component of primary healthcare, and disruptions in vaccination services contributed to the outbreak.

Similarly, the family planning programme, another major component of primary healthcare, has remained stagnant for years and requires urgent intervention, he added.

Ashrafi Ahmad, director general of the Directorate General of Family Planning, said funds had been allocated for contraceptive procurement and expressed hope that all types of contraceptives would be available by August this year.

State Minister for Health MA Muhit said the government's health plan is focused on strengthening primary healthcare and building a modernised health system.

He said the existing family planning structure is a major asset, but the system must evolve to meet changing needs.

Muhit said health assistants, family welfare assistants, and community healthcare providers currently work under separate authorities, creating duplication in services.

To improve efficiency, the government is working to reorganise the structure, he said, adding that one lakh new health workers will also be recruited under the new system.

SM Ziauddin Hyder, special assistant to the prime minister, said the current health system is heavily dependent on curative care, but the government wants to shift the focus toward preventive and promotive healthcare.

"And primary healthcare will be at the centre of the system," he said, adding that the government plans to overhaul the system within the next three years.

"We will reform the system without halting ongoing services ... We have already held meetings on how to mitigate the contraceptive crisis," he added.

Other health experts, family planning officials, and journalists also spoke at the programme.

# Follow hajj regulations

FROM PAGE 3

individuals offering shelter.

Fines in such cases could reach up to SAR 100,000 (approximately Tk 32.70 lakh), depending on the number of violators involved.

Authorities also said vehicles used to transport illegal pilgrims could be confiscated following legal proceedings.

Under the revised rules, only pilgrims holding officially approved hajj permits will be allowed to enter Makka and designated holy sites. The restrictions apply to both foreign pilgrims and Saudi residents.

The regulations will remain in force from the first day of Dhu Al Qi'dah until the 14th day of Dhu Al Hijjah. During this period, holders of visit visas will not be allowed to enter or remain in Makka without valid hajj authorisation.

Saudi authorities said foreign residents found violating the rules could also face deportation and bans on re-entering the kingdom for up to 10 years.

# TIB seeks PM

FROM PAGE 3

in Bangladesh to enhance the country's image on the global stage."

"We have sought the prime minister's support in this regard, and he assured us that necessary steps will be taken," he added.

The TIB executive director said the International Anti-Corruption Conference is held every two years. This year's conference will be held in the Dominican Republic. Only three Asian countries -- Malaysia, Thailand and Korea -- have hosted the event so far, he added.

"We think 2028 is the right time to hold this conference in Bangladesh. The prime minister has agreed in principle. If the cabinet gives consent, Bangladesh will try to host it," he said.


গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
মহাপরিচালকের কার্যালয়
বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে, রেলভবন, ঢাকা।

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ের সহকারী স্টেশন মাস্টার ও গার্ড গ্রেড-২ পদে লিখিত পরীক্ষার সময়সূচী প্রকাশিত হয়েছে। প্রকাশিত সময়সূচী বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ের ওয়েবসাইট (www.railway.gov.bd) থেকে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে।

(এ এম সালাহ উদ্দীন)
যুগ্ম-পরিচালক (উন্নয়ন-ট্রাফিক) ও
আহ্বায়ক, বিভাগীয় নির্বাচন কমিটি
বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে, রেলভবন, ঢাকা।

GD-1058



**B-R Powergen Limited (BRPL)**
(A govt. owned power generation organization)
IEB Bhaban (8th floor), 8/A, Ramna, Dhaka-1000
www.brpowergen.gov.bd

**e-Tender Notice**

This is to notify that the following tenders have been invited in the national e-GP portal:

| Sl/ No | Tender ID | Tender description | Tender closing date & time |
|---|---|---|---|
| 01 | 1271040 | Design, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 370 KWp Grid Tied Rooftop Solar PV Plant at Sreepur 160 MW Power Plant. | 07-Jun-2026 15:00 BST |
| 02 | 1265299 | Procurement of schedule and unscheduled spare parts for starting air compressor for Mirsarai 163 MW Power Plant. | 18-Jun-2026 15:00 BST |
| 03 | 1267782 | Supply, installation, testing & commissioning of HFO pressure regulating unit with all necessary auxiliaries for Mirsarai 163 MW Power Plant. | 04-Jun-2026 15:00 BST |

Further information and guidelines are available in the national e-GP portal and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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GD-1057

(Engr. Papon Das)
Superintending Engineer (O&M)



গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তর
পরিবেশ ভবন, ই/১৬ আগারগাঁও
শেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭।
www.doe.gov.bd

স্মারক নং : ২২.০২.০০০০.০৮১.২৩.০০৬.২৬-৪৭

তারিখ : ২১/০১/১৪৩৩ বঙ্গাব্দ
০৪/০৫/২০২৬ খ্রিস্টাব্দ

**বিশ্ব পরিবেশ দিবস-২০২৬ উপলক্ষ্যে শিশু-কিশোর চিত্রাংকন প্রতিযোগিতা**

বিষয় : প্রকৃতি ও পরিবেশ
স্থান : পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তর, সদর দপ্তর, আগারগাঁও, শের বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা।
তারিখ : ১৬ মে ২০২৬ (শনিবার) সময়ঃ বিকাল ৩:০০ ঘটিকা
প্রতিযোগীর বয়স : ক-গ্রুপ: অনূর্ধ্ব ৮ বছর; খ-গ্রুপ: ৮ থেকে অনূর্ধ্ব ১২ বছর
: গ-গ্রুপ: ১২ থেকে অনূর্ধ্ব ১৬ বছর; বিশেষ চাহিদা সম্পন্ন গ্রুপ: বয়স শিথিলযোগ্য
পুরস্কার : প্রতি গ্রুপে ৩ (তিন) জন বিজয়ীকে পুরস্কার প্রদান করা হবে।

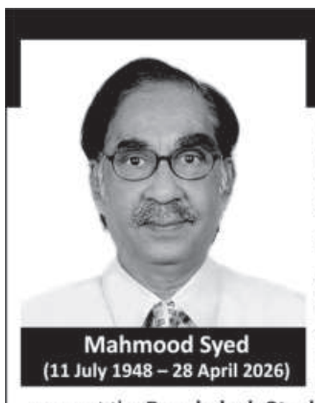
আগ্রহী প্রতিযোগীদের বেলা ২:৩০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে প্রয়োজনীয় উপকরণ (রং, তুলি, বোর্ড ইত্যাদি) এবং জন্ম নিবন্ধন সনদের ফটোকপি নিয়ে পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তরের ৫ম তলায় উপস্থিত হতে হবে। বিশেষ চাহিদা সম্পন্ন শিশুদের ক্ষেত্রে এতদসংক্রান্ত সনদের ফটোকপি সঙ্গে আনতে হবে। পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তর কার্টিজ পেপার সরবরাহ করবে।

বিজয়ী প্রতিযোগীদের নাম ২০ মে ২০২৬ তারিখে পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তরের নোটিশ বোর্ড ও ওয়েবসাইট www.doe.gov.bd- এ প্রকাশ এবং টেলিফোনে জানানো হবে।

রাজিনারা বেগম
পরিচালক
বর্জ্য ও রাসায়নিক পদার্থ ব্যবস্থাপনা
ও
আহবায়ক
শিশু-কিশোর চিত্রাংকন প্রতিযোগিতা-২০২৬
আয়োজন বিষয়ক কমিটি
ফোনঃ ০২-২২২২১৮৩১৫

GD-1061


# OBITUARY



**Mahmood Syed**
(11 July 1948 – 28 April 2026)

It is with profound sadness that I share the passing of my father, **Engineer Mahmood Syed**, Retired Captain, who departed this world on **Tuesday, 28 April, at 9:30 a.m.**, at **Evercare Hospital, Dhaka**, at the age of **77**.

**Inna lillahi wa inna ilayhi raji'un.**

He was educated at **Armanitola Government High School** (1955–1963) and **Dhaka College (1963-1965)** and earned his **B.Sc. in Electrical Engineering** from **BUET** in **1969**. He served in the **Bangladesh Army**, worked in the **Middle East**, and later served for nearly **15 years** at the **Bangladesh Steel and Engineering Corporation (BSEC)**. He also completed a **Postgraduate Diploma in Industrial Management** from **RVB Delta, Netherlands (1986)**, and earned an **MBA (Finance)**. He retired from BSEC as **General Manager (Engineering) in 1994**. He also worked as a management consultant and served as an **Honorary Faculty member (2015 to 2022)** at a private university.

He is survived by his wife, only son, and grandson. He was the eldest of 10 siblings. He was laid to rest in his family graveyard in **Patang, Barisal**.

We humbly seek forgiveness from anyone he may have unintentionally hurt and request your sincere duas for him. May Allah (SWT) forgive his shortcomings, envelop him in His mercy, and grant him the highest place in **Jannat-ul-Firdous. Ameen**.

**Shabab Mahmood (Son)**

# Ensure workplace

FROM PAGE 3

and members of the Hijra community still do not fully enjoy equal wages, safe workplaces, or protection from harassment.

He added that the rights of workers in the informal and gig economies remain unclear, leaving many outside legal and institutional protection.

Speakers highlighted several issues, including the gap between minimum wages and inflation, fair compensation, workplace safety, and the independence of trade unions.

They said job insecurity remains a major concern, as nearly 84 percent of workers are employed in the informal sector.

Speakers also stressed the need for skill development, digital labour registration, and new employment opportunities to prepare workers for the future labour market.

They said political and institutional weaknesses often hinder labour welfare initiatives and delay meaningful reforms.

The speakers also pointed to the lack of recognition for domestic workers and others in the informal labour sector.

They said workers from marginalised communities often do not receive proper dignity, social protection, or fair value for their labour.

Prime Minister's Special Assistant Saiyed Abdullah; lawmaker Mansura Akter; Bangladesh Garment Sramik Samhati President Taslima Akhter; Bangladesh Research Analysis and Information Network Executive Director Shafiqur Rahman; Network for People's Action member Anik Roy; and student leader Abdul Kader, among others, attended the event.

# Govt plans int'l

FROM PAGE 10

to revitalise underutilised aviation infrastructure in the north.

Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology is carrying out the feasibility study for Bogura airport.

Bangladesh currently has 17 airports, including international and domestic airports, navigation-service-providing facilities used by the Bangladesh Air Force, and a number of old Short Take-Off and Landing airports.

There are only three international airports in the country: Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka, Shah Amanat International Airport in Chattogram, and Osmani International Airport in Sylhet.

The five domestic airports are Saidpur, Shah Makhdum in Rajshahi, Jashore, Barishal, and Cox's Bazar.

Mir Shahe said the prime minister had announced at a public rally that an international airport with cargo facilities would be launched in Bogura.

Following the announcement, the Prime Minister's Office issued a directive, after which the Civil Aviation and Tourism Ministry formally began work on the project, he added.

Besides training Air Force pilots, the proposed flying academy would also help produce private-sector pilots, Mir Shahe said.

He said a new 10,500-foot runway would be required to launch the international airport, and a decision to expand the runway was taken during the visit.


**Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh**
Office of the Conservator of Forests
Wildlife & Nature Conservation Circle
Ban Bhaban, 5th floor, Agargaon, Dhaka.

Memo No.22.01.0000.000.101.29.0007.26.1043 Date: 07/05/2026

**e-Tender Notice/2025-26**

e-Tender is inviting in the National e-Gp System portal (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of the following package;

| Sl. No. | Tender/Proposal ID | Name of Package | Closing Date and Time |
|---|---|---|---|
| 01 | 1258104 | Selection of Individual Consultant (Wildlife Specialist) | 21-May-2026 at 14:00 PM |

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-Gp portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-Gp portal (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required.

Further information and guideline are available in the National e-Gp System portal and from e-Gp Help Desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Md. Sanaullah Patwary
Conservator of Forests
Wildlife & Nature Conservation Circle
Ban Bhaban, Agargaon Dhaka-1207
Phone No: 02-55007111
E-mail: cf-wildlife@bforest.gov.bd

GD-1059



**ফ্যাক্টরী ও কমার্শিল স্প্রেস বিক্রয়**
মানিকগঞ্জ আরিচা হাইওয়ের উপরে সেভ ও গ্যাস লাইন সহ ৪২ বিঘা জায়গায় উপর ফ্যাক্টরী বিক্রয়। পান্থপথে ১০,০০০ স্কয়ারফিটের এবং ১১,০০০ স্কয়ারফিটের কমার্শিয়ার স্প্রেস বিক্রয় হইবে।
মোবাইল: ০১৭৫৭-০৬৯৫৯৪, ০১৯১২-৮১৯৩৭৮