

## Recruit more women in village police force to ensure justice

### Says LGRD minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

LGRD Minister Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir yesterday stressed the need to strengthen the institutional capacity of village courts and recruit women into the village police force to ensure justice at the grassroots level.

He made the remarks during a meeting with a four-member United Nations Development Programme delegation, led by Deputy Resident Representative Sonali Dayaratne, at the Secretariat in Dhaka.

The two sides discussed the progress and institutional development of the village court project, with a focus on ensuring accessible and low-cost justice for rural people.

Fakhru said village courts have played an important role in resolving rural disputes for more than a century.

He said quick settlement of minor disputes at the local level would reduce pressure on conventional courts and make justice more accessible for ordinary people.

The meeting also discussed increasing women's participation in local government institutions.

Fakhru also said local government institutions need stronger capacity to implement development and social protection programmes effectively.



Student activists protest against unnecessary honking and other sources of noise pollution on Dhaka roads at traffic signals in the Bijoy Sarani area yesterday. Under the banner of the environment ministry, they said noise pollution can damage children's hearing, worsen high blood pressure, and cause other health risks.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## One held over rape of girl

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Police yesterday arrested a man for raping a 14-year-old speech-impaired girl in Mymensingh's Haluaghat upazila.

The arrestee, Shakul Sangma, 56, was later sent to jail after being produced before a Mymensingh court.

During primary interrogation, Shakul confessed to the crime, said Md Ferdous Alam, officer-in-charge of Haluaghat Police Station.

According to the case statement, Shakul, a neighbour of the victim, took the girl to a nearby bush and raped her on Sunday. As locals arrived at the scene, he fled promptly.

On information, police raided the area and arrested Shakul around 8:00pm.

The girl's mother lodged a formal complaint with the police station, accusing Shakul, the OC said.

The victim was taken to a local hospital for medical examination, he added.

## Will put you in sack

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me and took me away," he told the tribunal. "They asked, 'When you were outside, didn't you see sack-bound bodies floating in canals and wetlands? Didn't you see bodies being found frequently on railway tracks?'"

He said the captors warned him: "If you ever do this again, we will put you inside a sack and dump you in a pond."

Nazimuddin said he was abducted on May 25, 2016, from Mirpur after plainclothes men intercepted his motorcycle near the BRTA office and forced him into a microbus.

He alleged that the men took Tk 1,00,000, two iPhones, his wallet, and personal documents before blindfolding and handcuffing him.

The witness said he later realised he was being held inside the DGP headquarters detention facility. During interrogation, he was repeatedly questioned about Facebook posts critical of the then government, as well as his political associates.

When he denied links with others, he said he was tortured.

Nazimuddin said the walls of the cell were covered with names, phone numbers, and desperate messages left by other detainees.

He also named several individuals whom he claimed were detained in nearby cells.

After five months in secret detention, Nazimuddin said he was moved through several Rab facilities before being taken to Chattogram.

He alleged that he was later shown arrested in staged drives, with firearms and ammunition planted earlier, and was made an accused in three cases.

He said he spent 18 months in jail before securing bail in 2018. He later left for Saudi Arabia, citing continued harassment by Awami League activists and the administration, and returned to Bangladesh in September 2024.

Nazimuddin urged the tribunal to punish those responsible for his detention, torture, harassment, and what he described as "false cases".

Meanwhile, the prosecution yesterday presented arguments before ICT-2 in a crimes against humanity case against Awami League Joint General Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif and three other party leaders over the killing of six people in Kushtia during the July uprising.

## No RPO bar

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Following an appeal filed by Jamaat, the apex court also directed the Election Commission to resolve the party's pending issues, including its registration.

The EC later restored Jamaat's registration and returned "Daripalla (scale)" as its election symbol, Advocate Mohammad Shishir Manir, a lawyer for the party, told The Daily Star.

Jamaat lost the right to contest parliamentary elections as a party after the High Court declared its registration with EC illegal on August 1, 2013, following a writ petition.

The petition was filed on January 25, 2009, by Syed Rezaul Haque Chandpuri, secretary general of the Bangladesh Tarikat Federation, along with 24 others, seeking a declaration that Jamaat's registration was illegal.

The EC later cancelled Jamaat's registration in October 2018 ahead of the 11th national election. Jamaat subsequently filed an appeal with the SC challenging the HC verdict. The apex court began hearing the appeal on December 3, 2024.

No lawyer presented arguments on behalf of the petitioners during the Appellate Division hearing on this issue.

## 51,581 pilgrims

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24,636 pilgrims on 62 flights, Saudi Airlines carried 18,479 pilgrims on 48 flights and Flynas transported 8,454 pilgrims on 22 flights.

Officials at the Ashkuna Hajj Camp said the remaining pilgrims will travel to Saudi Arabia gradually on designated flights.

The first hajj flight departed Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport for Jeddah on April 17.

Subject to moon sighting, hajj is expected to take place in Saudi Arabia on May 26, while return flights are scheduled to begin on May 30.

## 10 lakh jobs, legal aid

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its network of "academies" from eight to 80 institutions.

On women's empowerment, he said BRAC will expand legal aid services through 268 legal aid clinics, with an estimated 25,000 women expected to receive assistance annually over the next five years. Besides, special emphasis will be placed on 20 vulnerable districts to address climate change, along with strengthening crop insurance for farmers under the microfinance programme, he added.

KAM Morshed, senior director (advocacy, communications and engagement), said accountability to citizens remains central to BRAC's work, adding that its annual report was a key part of that process.

AFM Shahidur Rahman, MEAL, risk management, safeguarding and social compliance director, said one in every seven citizens of Bangladesh receives BRAC's services in some capacity.

He further added that 3.12 lakh families had been

lifted out of extreme poverty in the past five years under its "Ultra Poor Graduation" programme, making around 11 lakh people self-reliant.

He also said that the average monthly income of participating households had increased more than fourfold, while in the health sector, 21 lakh mothers had received safe delivery services during the period.

According to BRAC's annual report, around 2.6 crore people received some form of support from the organisation in 2025, including 19 crore women. It also claimed a 17 percent reduction in institutional carbon emissions compared to 2019.

The organisation also said it is increasingly funding its operations through returns from social enterprises and reducing reliance on foreign donations.

Samakal Editor Shahed Mohammad Ali, Prothom Alo Executive Editor Sajjad Sharif, and Dhaka Tribune Editor Reaz Ahmad delivered the concluding remarks at the event.

## Boy or girl, the right

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updated database of diagnosis reports of unborn babies conducted by registered hospitals, diagnostic centres and other public and private entities within six months of receiving a copy of the judgement.

The judges also observed that Bangladesh, as a signatory to international human rights treaties, is obligated to ensure effective child protection systems, early intervention and monitoring mechanisms.

"Failure to implement these safeguards reflects a breach of constitutional commitments to uphold international law and protect vulnerable populations. Article 25 of the constitution requires respect for international

human rights obligations," the judgement said.

"This Court notes that under the Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council Act, 2010, medical professionals must follow ethical standards and lawful medical purposes. Using diagnostic tools for non-medical gender disclosure constitutes professional misconduct.

"Diagnostic imaging and ultrasonography are regulated activities requiring licensing and compliance with safety and ethical standards. Misuse for gender identification exceeds permissible medical objectives. Any act facilitating unlawful abortion or harm to life may attract criminal liability under the Penal Code," the judges observed.

## Unico Hospital holds event on valvular heart disease management



CITY DESK

Unico Hospital yesterday organised a roundtable titled "Updates in Management of Valvular Heart Disease: Enhancing Awareness and Care", aimed at updating healthcare professionals on the latest diagnostic approaches and treatment strategies for valvular heart disease.

The initiative focused on strengthening clinical decision-making, enhancing professional awareness, and improving patient care through expert discussions and collaborative learning, said a press release.

The keynote presentation was delivered by Prof Dr Md Faizus Sazzad of the Department of Cardiothoracic & Vascular Surgery, Unico Hospital.

The session was moderated by Dr Mustak Ibn Ayub, associate professor, Department of Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, Dhaka University. Prof Dr Md Zahirul Islam (Shakil), respiratory medicine specialist and secretary general of the Doctors Association of Bangladesh, attended as the chief guest.

Prof Dr Md Jahir Rayhan, head of the Department of Neurosurgery, Dhaka Medical College & additional director general (administration); Ardra Kurien, CEO, Unico Hospital; senior consultants and physicians from various departments; guests; and members of the hospital's senior management team were also present.

## Three years on

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Following a petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer Manoj Kumar Bhowmick, the High Court bench of Justice Farah Mahbub, who is now an SC judge, and Justice Muhammad Mahbub Ul Islam issued a rule on April 5, 2023, asking the government to explain why Jasmine's detention without a case should not be declared illegal and unconstitutional.

The HC at the time also asked them to explain why they should not be directed to take action against the Rab members who had detained her.

The HC bench also directed the cabinet secretary to form a high-powered committee to investigate the incident. The then government's probe body submitted its report on August 17, 2023, to the HC bench led by Justice Farah Mahbub.

On October 15, the same year, the bench termed the probe committee's report vague and unsatisfactory as it had failed to give any description of her arrest or any specific findings. It also fixed November 29, 2024, for the rule hearing.

However, the jurisdiction of the bench led by Justice Farah Mahbub was later reconstituted by the then chief justice Obaidul Hassan as "routine work". The HC is yet to hold the hearing on the rule and deliver its verdict, said Bhowmick.

Bhowmick said he would mention the matter before another HC bench at a convenient time for hearing and disposal of the rule.

Contacted on May 8, Additional Attorney General Md Arshadur Rouf said he would enquire about the HC rule and then take necessary decision on the matter.

## China's Exim Bank

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technicalities and strategic issues. It will need more time and further discussion," he said.

The agreement on Teesta water sharing could not be signed despite all preparations in 2011 because of opposition from the then West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee.

The Indian government repeatedly said the state's permission was essential for signing the treaty.

With no progress on signing the deal, the Awami League government had

sought China's support in implementing the Teesta river management project.

China repeatedly said it was ready to provide support. However, India has reservations about China's involvement in a project close to India's Siliguri Corridor, known as the Chicken Neck, which connects India with its northeastern region.

Humain said as BJP is in power both at the Centre and in West Bengal, there are chances of progress on the Teesta water sharing deal.

**ভবন বিক্রয়**  
শ্যামলি রিং রোডে ১০০ ফুট রাস্তার সামনে ৪.৬৬ কাঠা জমিতে ৬ তলা কমার্শিয়াল ভবন জরুরি ভিত্তিতে বিক্রয়। ব্যবসা ও বিনিয়োগের জন্য দারুন লোকেশন ও সুযোগ।  
**যোগাযোগ**  
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**PRAYER TIMING**  
**MAY 12**  
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-10 12-45 5-00 6-36 8-00  
JAMAAT 4-45 1-15 5-15 6-40 8-30  
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

**INDEPENDENT UNIVERSITY, BANGLADESH (IUB)**  
**VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**  
**School of Business and Entrepreneurship**  
**Department of Management Information Systems**  
**Assistant Professor**  
**Application Deadline**  
**Monday, May 25, 2026**  
For detailed information and to apply, please visit: <http://iub.ac.bd/news-and-events/jobs-at-iub> or scan the QR code

**Tender Announcement**  
Advertisement Number# QCBD/Tender/03/2026 Date: 12/05/2026  
Qatar Charity Bangladesh Office invites bids for Tender No. QCBD/Tender/03/2026 for the Eye Camp Services - 2026 in Bangladesh and to be served at different areas in Bangladesh.

A brief statement of the required items, work or services	Quantity	Order classification	Deadline for Tender Document Collection by email	Closing date
Eye Camp Services - 2026 in Bangladesh	Mentioned in Tender Schedule	Eye Camp Services - 2026 in Bangladesh	Date: 20/05/2026 Time: 09:00 AM to 05:00 PM	Date: 23/05/2026 Time: by 23:59 PM Bangladesh Standard Time

**Bidders will submit two folders (Technical and financial)**

- Tender documents can be obtained through e-mail [qcbangladesh@qcharity.org](mailto:qcbangladesh@qcharity.org) during official working hours.
- Bids submission to: Mentioned in the tender schedule.
- Bidders must mention the number and date of this tender as shown in the tender documents.
- Accept or reject of tender/bid: Qatar Charity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender/bid without assigning any reason and Qatar Charity is not bound to select lowest bidder at any cause.

**NB:** If any company asked for the tender schedule and didn't get it then it can complain to Qatar Charity tender committee through the [hr.bd@qcharity.org](mailto:hr.bd@qcharity.org)

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
**District Primary Education Office**  
Patuakhali  
<https://dpe.patuakhali.gov.bd>  
Memo No: Memo No. 810 Date: 11-05-2026  
**e-Tender Notice No. 2/2025-26**  
e-Tender is invited in the national e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following works

SL no	Name of Scheme	Tender ID No	Package No	Tender/Proposal Document Last Selling/downloading Date & Time	Tender/Proposal closing Date & Time	Remarks
1	Goods, Procurement of Furniture 169 set high-low benches, 56 chairs, 70 tables and 9 rakes for selected 25 gps of different upazila of Patuakhali district under Fourth Primary Education Development Program (PEDP 4) project of Kolapara, Golachipa, Dashmina, Patuakhali Sadar, Bauphal, Mirazagonj, Dumki and Rangabali in Patuakhali, District. FY-2025-2026	Re Tended ID: 1258141	GD 808.59	11-Apr-2026 16:00	25-May-2026 14:00	OTM

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no off line/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the national e-GP system portal (<http://eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for Tender/Proposal document to be deposited online through any registered Banks branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the national e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd))

Md. Masud Karim  
District Primary Education Officer  
Patuakhali