



Vehicles ply this under-construction road in the capital's Hazaribagh area as work on the 8-lane Dhaka Inner Circular Ring Road project progresses rapidly. Stretching from Gabtoli to Postogola via Hazaribagh and Kamrangirchar, the mega project is expected to help ease Dhaka's chronic traffic congestion and improve the city's internal transport system once completed. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

DHAKA CATTLE MARKETS

BNP-linked bidders get lion's share

Leasing of 17 out of 26 temporary markets completed so far

HELEMUL ALAM and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

The two Dhaka city corporations have so far completed the leasing process for 17 makeshift cattle markets ahead of Eid-ul-Azha, with most leases going to BNP leaders or individuals linked to the party.

According to officials, 26 temporary cattle markets will be set up this year – 11 under Dhaka South City Corporation and 15 under Dhaka North City Corporation.

The tender process has already been completed for eight markets in DSCC and seven in DNCC. The permanent cattle market at Gabtoli



Preparations going on to set up cattle market at the capital's Gabtoli yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

- Two city corporations finalised leases for 17 of 26 makeshift markets
- DNCC completed leasing for 7 markets, while DSCC 8
- No bids received for 3 DNCC markets

will also remain operational.

In DNCC, leases for seven markets have been finalised, while no bids were received for markets in the Merul Badda kitchen market area, the open space near the Mohammadpur 40 feet road in Basila, and the open space adjoining the Bhatara Sutibhola canal.

Tender processes are ongoing

for four other markets, including Banarupa Housing, Swadesh Property in Badda, Mohakhali T&T playground, and Baro Beraid.

Meanwhile, the family of top-listed criminal Khandokar Nayeem Ahmed Titon, who was shot dead on April 28 near the Dhaka University area, alleged that he was killed over disputes related to the Basila-Mohammadpur cattle market tender.

Titon's elder brother, Khondaker Saeed Akhtar Ripon, said Titon had collected the tender schedule for the market through a friend four days before his death, and rival groups wanted to stop him from participating in the bidding process.

He also alleged that another

listed criminal, Imamul Hasan Helal alias Pichchi Helal, had collected a tender schedule through one of his associates.

The highest bidder so far in DNCC is Sheikh Farid Hossain, president of Dhaka North Jubo Dal, who secured the lease for Bouabazar cattle market adjacent to Uttara's Diabari through his company SF Corporation with a bid of Tk 14.15 crore against a base price of Tk 8.30 crore.

Farid told The Daily Star that although he is involved in politics, he is primarily a businessman. He said this was his first time leasing a cattle market at such a high price and admitted the final bid might have exceeded initial expectations.

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Man accused in terrorism case held in Moulvibazar

STAR REPORT

Police have arrested a dismissed member of the army from Barlekha upazila of Moulvibazar in connection with a case filed under the Anti-Terrorism Act in Dhaka.

The arrestee, Rahed Hossain Mahed, 23, of Bishwanath upazila in Sylhet, was among two individuals named in a recent Police Headquarters alert over possible attacks on key installations.

Barlekha Police Station Officer-in-Charge Moniruzzaman Khan told our Moulvibazar correspondent that Mahed had been in hiding since the issuance of the alert and was allegedly attempting to cross into India through the border area.

The Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit of Dhaka Metropolitan Police arrested Rahed in the Islamnagar area under Shahbazpur Union in a late-night operation around 1:50am early yesterday, DMP said in a press release.

According to the statement, Mahed was allegedly influenced by the ideology of the banned militant outfit "Dawlatul Islam Neo JMB".

Police said the case

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Tajuddin Park or Central Park?

The naming conundrum at Gulshan public space

DIPAN NANDY

Confusion has emerged over the identity of Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Memorial Park in Gulshan, Dhaka, after five new signboards reading "Gulshan Central Park and Sports Complex" were installed there.

Only one old signboard bearing the name "Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Memorial Park" remains, although the park has carried that name for four years.

The new signboards replaced those that previously displayed the name of Tajuddin Ahmad, the first prime minister of Bangladesh.

Dhaka North City Corporation says all formal procedures were followed five years ago when the park was named after the former prime minister and that the name remains unchanged.

According to the DNCC, no official renaming has taken place.

However, Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha insists the park's original name was Gulshan Central Park and that it remains under Rajuk's ownership.

Rajuk handed the park over to DNCC for modernisation, but the authority maintains that its official name is still "Central Park".

On May 8, Tajuddin Ahmad's son and former state minister Sohail Taj wrote on Facebook, "The city corporation has decided to change the name of 'Shaheed Tajuddin Memorial Park' in Gulshan, named after Bangladesh's first prime minister. I would now request the government to also change the name of Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Avenue in Tejgaon."

He added, "After successfully leading the Liberation War and securing Bangladesh's independence, Tajuddin Ahmad had said, 'Let my name disappear; let Bangladesh live on.'"

SM Shafikur Rahman, convener of DNCC's naming committee and chief urban planner, said DNCC renamed the park Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Memorial Park.

"But I have no information about any name change. I have not heard that the name has been altered. A park in Banani was renamed because it had previously been named after a member of Sheikh Hasina's family. As far as I know, Tajuddin Park's name has not been changed," he said.

Sources said the park is owned by Rajuk, which later handed it over to DNCC for maintenance.

DNCC officially named the park after Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad in 2020.

The project, which developed the remaining portion of the 8.34-acre site after accounting for the five acres occupied by Gulshan Youth Club Limited, cost DNCC around Tk 8.5 crore.

The park was inaugurated on December 19, 2022, by the then DNCC mayor Atiqul Islam.

Rajuk Chairman Riazul Islam told The Daily Star, "There is no park officially named after Tajuddin Ahmad. The park belongs to Rajuk. Rajuk has signed an agreement with Gulshan Youth Club, and now they will manage the park. They may have removed the signboards. However, since Tajuddin Ahmad is a national figure, we may consider naming the park after him."

A recent visit to the park found that five of the six signboards carrying Tajuddin Ahmad's name had been removed.

The new signs state that the park is "Managed, Maintained and Operated by Gulshan Youth Club Limited".



Gulshan Youth Club office secretary Mizanur Rahman said they installed the new signboards with Rajuk's permission.

Meanwhile, the citizens' platform "Movement for Reclaiming Fields, Parks and Water Bodies" has written to Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, alleging that Rajuk violated government laws by handing over management to Gulshan Youth Club.

Ibrahim Khalil, member (public relations) of the organisation, said, "Gulshan Youth Club has started constructing new structures in violation of the approved master plan of the field and has announced fees for using the playground. As a result, ordinary children, teenagers and citizens are effectively losing free access to the field."

In response, Mizanur said, "We are going to begin renovation work at the park, but no decision has yet been made regarding new structures. As for the issue of charging fees, certain services had already been subject to charges previously."



Act against criminals regardless of affiliation

Top officials direct cops during Police Week 2026

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Top police officials instructed field-level officers not to spare anyone involved in drugs or extortion because of political links, officials said.

They also directed officers to make police stations more citizen-friendly by ensuring people are not harassed while filing general diaries or cases or seeking services.

The instructions were among the key issues discussed during Police Week 2026, which ended on May 13, according to officials who attended the sessions.

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman inaugurated the four-day event at Rajarbagh Police Lines on May 10.

At least one deputy inspector general (DIG) and three superintendents of police (SPs) said senior officials repeatedly instructed them not to consider political identity during anti-drug and anti-extortion drives.

"The ongoing drive against extortionists will continue, and political identity will not be considered in these operations," a deputy commissioner told The Daily Star, quoting Inspector General of Police



(IGP) Md Ali Hossain Fakir, who made the remark during an internal discussion.

While addressing the event, Tarique also told senior police officers to treat criminals as criminals regardless of political identity and said police are protectors of law, not any political party.

Several officers said rebuilding public trust in police was one of the main topics discussed during the week.

Police stations were instructed to become more service-oriented, as many people judge the government by the treatment they receive at local police stations.

"To establish zero-complaint police stations, officers have been asked to monitor service delivery more closely," an SP from southern Bangladesh told The Daily Star.

"Police are the government's ambassadors. They must work professionally and stay above partisan influence," he added.

Internal discipline was also discussed.

A DIG said the IGP expressed dissatisfaction over irregularities, lobbying and alleged financial dealings involving transfers and postings.

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Dust engulfs a road in the capital's Gabtoli area, almost resembling a smoke screen. Every passing vehicle stirs up more dust into the air, creating a hazardous environment for commuters and residents alike. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS