

"Talks with Oman [to reopen Starit of Hormuz] approaching the final stages."

Abbas Araghchi
Iranian Foreign Minister says US have to compensate for violating MoU

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FAMILY CARD

A cushion for those struggling to get by

Govt to take up Tk 2,400cr project for surveys, administrative costs

REJAUL KARIM BYRON, AHSAN HABIB *and* **SOHRAB HOSSAIN**

On a low-lying island in Patuakhali, 32-year-old Tanjila Begum's husband works irregularly as a day labourer in nearby watermelon fields, where seasonal tidal surges often destroy crops and wipe out daily earnings.

"We are a landless family. My husband works as a day labourer, and I also work in people's homes. But work is not always available, so we find it difficult to make ends meet," said Tanjila.

Now she receives Tk 2,500 every month directly into her digital account and sets aside Tk 500 as a reserve for periods when bad weather prevents outdoor work, using the rest to buy basic food and educational supplies for her young son.



- Tk 2,500 a month
- Women at the centre
- 1.61cr families by 2030
- AI-assisted verification

Tanjila is one of 808 initial recipients in a pilot project in Galachipa upazila under the government's nationwide Family Card programme.

"Most people in this coastal area live in poverty. They mainly depend on fishing and agriculture, particularly watermelon farming, for their livelihoods," said Abujar Md Ijajul Haq, upazila nirbahi officer of Galachhipa.

Building on experience from these remote and marginal communities, the government is now preparing to expand the mechanism nationwide, in what officials describe as the country's most comprehensive overhaul of its social welfare system in decades.

The Family Card programme seeks to bring Bangladesh's historically fragmented welfare schemes, often plagued by administrative leakages and political patronage, under a single digital safety net.

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PHOTO: MASUK HRIDOY

Locals block Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Ashuganj upazila of Brahmanbaria yesterday morning, demanding a stop to illegal sand lifting from the Meghna. The blockade in the Bahadurpur area triggered a 5km tailback on both sides of the busy highway. Demonstrators withdrew around two hours later as the local administration assured swift action.

Profiteers of fascism out to disrupt energy sector

Says Tarique

BSS, *Dhaka*

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman yesterday said beneficiaries of fascism remained active in the state, politics, governance and administration, and were trying to destabilise the country's power and energy sector by spreading misinformation.

"Those who have benefited from fascism are not sitting idle. This group is quite active in destabilising the country's energy and power sector in various ways. They were spreading misleading information about the sector," he said.

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Jamaat to join presidential race

Eyes 'befitting, acceptable' candidate; NCP undecided

MAMUNUR RASHID *and* **SHAMIMA RITA**

Jamaat-e-Islami has decided to contest the upcoming presidential election, with the 11-party alliance to finalise the candidate through discussions.

The announcement came last night shortly after a meeting of Jamaat's central executive council, where the decision was taken unanimously.

According to a press release, top leaders of the 11-party alliance will meet today to finalise the candidate.

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Govt may allow pvt firms to import fuel, sell in retail

Move comes after Bashundhara's proposal to bring in up to 33.5 lakh tonnes a yr; minister says it aims to introduce competition; BPC has 'reservations'

ASIFUR RAHMAN

The government is moving to create a framework for private companies to import and market refined petroleum products shortly after Bashundhara Group's proposal in this regard.

In a letter dated August 6, the Energy and Mineral Resources Division has instructed the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) to prepare a draft "Private-Sector Refined Fuel Import, Storage, Transportation, Distribution and Marketing Policy, 2026" by August 10.

The move could eventually allow private companies to participate in a market where the state-run BPC currently plays the central role in importing petroleum products. BPC's three subsidiaries, Padma Oil Company, Jamuna Oil Company and Meghna Petroleum, handle distribution and marketing.

The initiative comes after Bashundhara Oil and Gas Company Ltd and Anvir Bashundhara Group

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