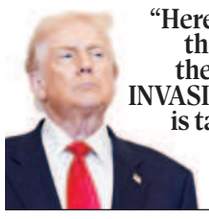
DHAKA SATURDAY NOVEMBER 14, 2026



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TRUMP on migrant caravans from Mexico

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Party ties, family links, 'bribery' taint fertiliser dealership

SUKANTA HALDER

Allegations of political favouritism, nepotism, and bribery have clouded the appointment of fertiliser dealers across the country.

Party leaders, their relatives, and people who have little or no experience in the trade and warehouses of the required capacity have secured dealerships while many established traders were left out in many cases.

The allegations have emerged amid reports of fertiliser shortages in several districts, ahead of the Boro paddy season, which runs from January to June, and the ongoing winter vegetable season.

In parts of Rangpur division, unsuccessful applicants and party activists have alleged that bribes of up to 20 lakh were paid to secure appointments.



4,503 dealers appointed from 47,000 applicants

Many established traders reportedly left out

Warehouse eligibility under scrutiny

Agri minister promises investigation

More than 47,000 applications were submitted for around 5,000 dealership positions nationwide. Of these, 4,503 have been awarded, while 238 remain pending, according to the agriculture ministry.

Agricultural economist Jahangir Alam Khan warned that dealerships secured through nepotism or financial transactions could undermine efficiency, encourage corruption and keep qualified traders out of the business.

"Unsuitable or inexperienced dealers could worsen fertiliser shortages and threaten food security when global supply chain disruptions have already added to uncertainty," he said.

He called for a fresh investigation and the replacement of dealers found to have secured appointments through nepotism or bribery.

Agriculture Minister Mohammed Aminur Rashid said the government had followed a systematic, multi-level verification process.

"All complaints will be investigated and officials responsible for improper verification will be held accountable," he told The Daily Star.

'BRIBERY'

In Rangpur division, 567 dealerships were appointed across 536 unions and 31 municipalities in eight districts.

In Gangachara upazila, the wives of upazila BNP President Chand Sarkar and General Secretary Ayub Ali secured dealerships in Barabil and Gangachara Sadar unions.

Mizanur Rahman Lulu, the upazila BNP organising secretary, said he applied but was not recommended.

"For reasons unknown, my name was not recommended. Large sums of money changed hands in connection with the dealer appointments, and nepotism was widespread," he said, adding that dealers paid Tk 18 lakh to Tk 20 lakh for contracts.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



An aerial view shows the nearly completed Kamalapur Metro Rail Station. With the viaduct connecting Motijheel and Kamalapur now in place, workers are putting the finishing touches on the station expected to open in July next year. The project marks a major step in extending the capital's Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) network to one of its busiest commercial and transport hubs. PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Delhi sticks to legal route on Hasina extradition

Avoids comment on reported return conditions

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

India has reiterated that Sheikh Hasina's extradition will be dealt with through legal channels, declining to comment on a BBC Bangla report that New Delhi has set two conditions for her return to Bangladesh.

According to the report published on Thursday, Indian officials have indicated that Bangladesh must arrange for the former prime minister's return through its military.

As Hasina arrived in India aboard a Bangladesh military aircraft on August 5, 2024, the Bangladesh Army would have to take her back, either by sending an aircraft to Delhi or receiving her at a designated point along the land border. India is prepared to make the necessary logistical arrangements, the report said.

The second condition is that Bangladesh must guarantee Hasina the opportunity

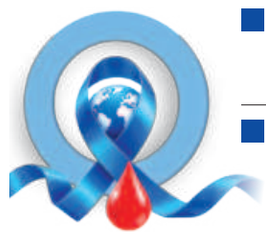
SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

7 in 10 with diabetes unaware of condition

Experts urge early detection amid rising cases

UNDIAGNOSED DIABETES

- **In 2022**
  67% of women and 72% of men had high blood glucose but were unaware of it
- **In 2017-18**
  59% of women and 61% of men were unaware



AWARENESS AND BLOOD GLUCOSE CONTROL – BDHS 2022

- **6%** of women and **5%** of men knew they had diabetes, kept their blood glucose levels under control
- **4%** of women and **5%** of men were aware of their elevated blood glucose levels but were not taking medication

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Shaheen Ahmed, who works at a private organisation, had never checked his blood sugar levels, believing that his daily long walks made him unlikely to develop diabetes.

However, in September 2020, he was surprised to learn that he had diabetes when a medical test revealed the condition before he underwent a major medical procedure. As a result, the procedure was delayed for several days.

"Although my parents had diabetes, I never checked my blood sugar levels because I never felt the need. I only came to know about it at a critical time," Shaheen, 54, told The Daily Star recently.

This is not an isolated case. It reflects a wider situation in Bangladesh, where around 70 percent

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

Eight sued over fire at Nusrat's Kushtia home

Attempted murder case filed; probe team inspects site

STAR REPORT



The home ministry probe team visited the fire-damaged ancestral home of lawmaker Nusrat Tabassum in Kushtia yesterday.

The fire incident took place early Thursday, which Nusrat described as a "premeditated act of arson".

The lawmaker filed an attempted murder case against eight leaders of banned Chhatra League and affiliated organisations of Awami League, whose political activities are now banned, and 25-30 others unnamed.

The committee visited the house in Bagowan village of Daulatpur upazila in the afternoon, inspected different rooms, and spoke to locals.

Ahmed Mahbub-ul-Islam, deputy director (local government) of Kushtia and head of the committee, said, "We have found some clues and fragmented pieces of information. We have yet to find anything conclusive."

The four-member committee, which was formed on Thursday, has been asked to complete the probe within three days.

Other members are Maj Mohammad Asrarul Haque, additional director (operations) of BGB's Kushtia sector; Delwar Hossain, additional superintendent of police (Bheramara circle); and Wadud Hossain, assistant director of Kushtia Fire Service and Civil Defence.

On Thursday night, Nusrat, joint convener of National Citizen Party and lawmaker from the reserved seat for women, lodged the case with Daulatpur Police Station, accusing eight leaders of Jubo League, Swechchhasebak League, and BCL and 25 to 30 unidentified people of setting fire to the house and attempting to kill her family members.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

