



গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

তথ্য অধিদফতর



PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
**Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**  
**Press Information Department.**  
**Dhaka.**

Most Urgent  
For: Bangladoot, All Missions  
MSG 183/2025-26  
Date: Friday, 02.01.2026

From: PIO, PID, Dhaka  
Fax: 55100553/55100026  
E-mail: [piddhaka@gmail.com](mailto:piddhaka@gmail.com)  
Web: [www.pressinform.gov.bd](http://www.pressinform.gov.bd)

**Newsbrief**

Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus said, 'the SAARC spirit is alive and well,' citing the strong presence and solidarity shown by South Asian nations at the funeral of former Prime Minister and BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia. The Chief Adviser said, he was deeply moved by the respect demonstrated by SAARC member states for the three-time Prime Minister of Bangladesh and the world's second female Muslim head of government. High-level delegations from across South Asia attended the funeral in Dhaka, including Speaker of the Pakistan National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq; India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar; Nepal's Foreign Minister Bala Nanda Sharma; Sri Lanka's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Employment and Tourism Vijitha Herath; and Maldives Minister of Higher Education and Labour Ali Haider Ahmed. Later, the Pakistan Parliamentary Speaker and Ministers from Nepal, Sri Lanka and the Maldives paid courtesy calls on the Chief Adviser at the State Guest House Jamuna in Dhaka yesterday, said the Chief Adviser's Press Wing.

The Council of Advisers, at its first meeting of the year, approved the draft National Urban Policy 2025 and decided to significantly reduce customs duties and overall tax incidence on mobile phone imports and local manufacturing. The government made the decisions aimed at boosting planned urban development and strengthens the domestic mobile industry and making handsets more affordable for consumers. Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus chaired the meeting at his office in the capital's Tejgaon area yesterday. Later, Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam briefed the media about the meeting at the Foreign Service Academy.

Foreign Adviser Md. Touhid Hossain said, Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's Dhaka visit should not be viewed through an inter-state or political lens, calling it a goodwill gesture linked to the funeral of former Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia. The Foreign Adviser told journalists at the Foreign Ministry in Dhaka yesterday.

Home Adviser Lieutenant General (Retd.) Md. Jahangir Alam Chowdhury has signed the condolence book on Wednesday evening at the Bangladesh Nationalist Party's (BNP) Gulshan office to pay tribute to the memory of BNP Chairperson and three-time former Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia. The condolence book was opened following her death on 30 December 2025. Foreign Envoys from several countries, including China, Pakistan, India and European nations, also signed the condolence book at the Gulshan office and over subsequent sessions, reflecting widespread respect for the veteran leader.

Road Transport and Bridges Adviser Dr. Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan said, some technical tests were required to be carried out overseas to ascertain what caused a metro rail accident in October killing a pedestrian in the capital. Pedestrian Abul Kalam Azad, 35, died when a bearing pad of metro rail station fell on him in Dhaka's Farmgate area on October 26. The Adviser told this at a press conference, held at his Ministry yesterday.

BNP Acting Chairman Tarique Rahman yesterday expressed his profound gratitude to the government's civilian and military institutions, law enforcers, public servants and media professionals for their professionalism, care and dedication in ensuring a peaceful and dignified final farewell to his late mother, former Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia. The BNP Acting Chairman gave this thanks in a heartfelt statement yesterday.

Primary and Mass Education Adviser Professor Bidhan Ranjan Roy Poddar said, primary-level students received 100 percent of textbooks on the first day of the New Year. The Adviser also said, it has been possible to distribute cent percent of textbooks among the students of every government primary school in Bangladesh at the beginning of the New Year. The Adviser said this while speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the textbook distribution programme at Abul Bashar Government Primary School in Dhaka yesterday.

*Nawrin Jahan*

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) has expressed deep shock and condolences over the death of former Prime Minister and BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia. The organization's Secretary General Md. Golam Sarwar said this in a condolence message that Bangladesh has lost an uncompromising and pro-democracy leader who left a lasting mark on the country's modern political history.

Biman Bangladesh Airlines has decided in principle to purchase 14 aircraft from Boeing, opting out of rival Airbus, in a major fleet expansion and modernization move. The decision was taken at the airline's Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday, chaired by Aviation and Tourism Adviser Sheikh Bashir Uddin, who is also Chairman of Biman's Board of Directors.

Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam expressed hope that the interim government would be able to hold one of the best credible elections in the country's history in a free, fair and participatory manner with record voter turnout. The Press Secretary said this while responding to a question from a journalist while briefing at the Foreign Service Academy in Dhaka yesterday.

Dhaka yesterday welcomed China's reaffirmation that the country's general election is its internal affair, appreciating Beijing's goodwill and confidence in Bangladesh's interim government and people to hold a smooth and orderly poll. In a statement yesterday, Foreign Ministry said, Dhaka deeply valued the cordial relations between the two countries, which have received further momentum under the interim government. Dhaka also reiterated its firm adherence to the 'One China Principle,' underscoring its consistent foreign policy position.

Additional Attorney General Mohammad Arshadur Rouf has been given the additional charge of the post of Attorney General. A notification signed by Law and Justice Division Secretary Liaquet Ali Molla yesterday.

Over 12 lakh voters have so far registered to cast their ballots through the postal voting system in the 13th Jatiya Sangsad election and referendum. According to the latest data available on the Election Commission website until yesterday.



02.01.2026

√ Principal Information Officer

Phone- 55100811