



গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

তথ্য অধিদফতর



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

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**Newsbrief**

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman distributed 'Ekushey Padak-2026' among nine individuals and one music band in recognition of their outstanding contributions to various fields. The Premier handed over the Ekushey Padak, the second highest civilian award of the country, at a ceremony at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the capital yesterday on the occasion of the Amar Ekushey and the International Mother Language Day.

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman inaugurated the Amar Ekushey Book Fair 2026 at a function on Bangla Academy premises in Dhaka yesterday. Then along with his wife Dr. Zubaida Rahman and daughter Barrister Zaima Rahman and other guests, The Premier formally inaugurated the fair by cutting a ribbon. The Premier also visited different stalls on the Bangla Academy premises. Earlier, on the occasion, the Premier distributed the Bangla Academy Literary Award 2025 among eight recipients.

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman emphasized considering whether the Amar Ekushey Book Fair can be organized as an international fair in future, saying it would contribute to introducing citizens to world literature and encouraging interest in learning and understanding multiple languages and cultures. The Prime Minister made the remarks while addressing the inaugural ceremony of the Amar Ekushey Book Fair on the Bangla Academy premises in the capital yesterday.

At the instruction of the Prime Minister, the government has decided to waive agricultural loans of up to Tk 10,000, including accrued interest, benefiting 12 lakh farmers across the country. The decision was taken at a Cabinet meeting held yesterday at the Bangladesh Secretariat, chaired by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman.

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman said, the current government will work to establish a liberal democratic state system with moral standards and dignity so that the country can move forward in all branches of knowledge and science, including education, literature, arts, science and technology. The Prime Minister made the remarks while addressing the Ekushey Padak-2026 distribution ceremony at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the capital yesterday.

Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed said, the government will appoint 10,000 more constables alongside 180 police sergeants in the vacant posts at the quickest possible time. The Minister made the remarks while speaking to journalists after coming out of the Cabinet meeting in Bangladesh Secretariat yesterday.

Foreign Minister Dr. Khalilur Rahman held a series of bilateral meetings with key counterparts on the sidelines of the OIC Executive Meeting on Palestine in Jeddah yesterday, reaffirming Bangladesh's stance on Palestine and boosting diplomatic engagement. The Foreign Minister met Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar of Pakistan, Vice Foreign Minister Waleed A. Elkhreiji of Saudi Arabia, Deputy Foreign Minister of Turkey Musa Kulaklikaya, Foreign Minister Dr. Varsen Ohanes Vartan Aghabekian of Palestine and Foreign Minister Sering Modou Njie of Gambia, who chaired the Executive Meeting. The leaders congratulated Prime Minister Tarique Rahman on the Bangladesh Nationalist Party's electoral victory and his assumption of office, expressing confidence that Bangladesh would achieve political stability and accelerated development under his leadership. They commended Bangladesh's steadfast support for the Palestinian cause and expressed full backing for Bangladesh's candidature for the Presidency of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Myanmar Foreign Minister Than Swe has congratulated his newly appointed Bangladesh counterpart Dr. Khalilur Rahman. For the first time, Chairman of the United League of Arakan (also the head of the Arakan Army) Twan Mrat Naing also has sent a congratulatory letter to the Bangladesh Foreign Minister yesterday. Myanmar Foreign Minister has expressed firm commitment to enhancing bilateral relations and strengthening cooperation between Naypyidaw and Dhaka.

*Nawin Rahman*

Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Iqbal Hassan Mahmood said, the government has been implementing a series of measures to reduce system losses and maintain stable electricity tariffs. Addressing an installation ceremony of Forum for Energy Reporters Bangladesh executive committee at the Power and Energy Ministry's conference room, the Minister said that with transmission and distribution losses estimated around 10 percent, the power sector faces Taka 50 lakh for one percent system loss.

Cultural Minister Nitai Roy Chowdhury said, the 'Amar EkusheyBoi Mela' is not merely a marketplace for books but an integral part of the nation's tradition. The Minister told the inaugural ceremony of Amar Ekushey Book Fair 2026 at the Bangla Academy premises yesterday.

The government has announced plans to deploy local administration teams to monitor retail markets following widespread reports that 12kg liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinders are being sold at rates significantly higher than the state-fixed price. Commerce Minister Khandaker Abdul Muktadir issued the warning after a meeting with LPG importers and suppliers at the Secretariat yesterday, where the Minister addressed the ongoing supply and pricing crisis.

Road Transport and Bridges, Railways and Shipping Minister Sheikh Rabiul Alam said, the government has taken 26 decisions to ensure safe, smooth and comfortable travel for homebound passengers during the upcoming holy Eid-ul-Fitr. The Minister also said, coordinated initiatives in road, rail and waterways, along with strict monitoring by all relevant agencies, would make this year's Eid journey more comfortable and pleasant than ever before. The Minister made the remarks at a press conference held at conference room of the Shipping Ministry in the secretariat yesterday on overall management and security arrangements for Eid travel by road, rail and waterways.

The government has published a gazette notification reconstituting the 'Cabinet Committee on National Awards'. The committee has been formed to scrutinize and recommend proposals from various Ministries for the purpose of conferring national awards. Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir has been nominated as the convener of this 10-member committee. The notification issued by the Committee Affairs Branch of the Cabinet Division, signed by Additional Secretary (Committees and Finance) Md. Humayun Kabir, was published in the gazette the day before yesterday.

A court in Dhaka yesterday ordered issuance of a Red Notice through Interpol to arrest Tulip Siddiq, niece of ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in a case filed over allegedly taking a flat illegally from a private developer in the capital's Gulshan-2 area. Dhaka Metropolitan Senior Special Judge Md. Sabbir Faiz passed the order, allowing a petition filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission.

A group of 175 Bangladeshi nationals, who were stranded in Libya while attempting to reach Europe illegally, arrived at Shahjalal International Airport yesterday, according to a media statement from the Foreign Ministry.



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