

## POWER SUPPLY INTERRUPTION Nasrul Hamid blames it on trees

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Power Nasrul Hamid yesterday in parliament blamed the excessive number of trees in rural areas for hindering uninterrupted power supply.

Responding to a tabled question of Jatiya Party MP Rustam Ali Farazi, the junior minister said, "There is no deficit of power production, when the country's demand is taken into account. As a result, there is no load-shedding due to any deficit."

In response to a query from Awami League MP Mahfuzur Rahman, Hamid said before 2009, only 47 percent of citizens could avail facilities that use electricity.

He said work is underway to bring 100 percent of people under electrification in areas under Bangladesh Power Development Board. "That work is expected to be completed by June 2023."

Meanwhile, replying to a question from ruling party MP M Abdul Latif, Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun said 4,095 tonnes of paper produced by Karnaphuli Paper Mills remained unsold.

## 4 killed, 4 hurt in road accidents

STAR REPORT

Four people were killed and four injured in road accidents in three districts yesterday, according to reports from our correspondents.

In Chattogram, two people were killed and two injured in a collision between a truck and a rickshaw in Mirasari upazila.

Mohammed Rubel (30) and rickshaw-puller Md Yousuf (40) died on the spot, said Sufal Chandra, sub-inspector of Zoraganj Police Station.

In Patuakhali, a UP member was killed and another injured as a motorcycle they were riding fell on a road in Sadar upazila. The accident took place on Patuakhali-Kuakata highway after the rider lost control over the vehicle while he was trying to save a pedestrian, said witnesses.

Hanif Gazi (52), member of ward-2 of Amkhola in Galachipa, died on the spot.

In Panchagarh, a motorcyclist was killed and his son injured in a collision with a truck. Jahurul Islam (50) died instantly. His son Anamul Haque (35) was undergoing treatment at a hospital.

## Scale up Rohingya repatriation efforts Bangladesh urges UN

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has urged the UN to scale up its programme and create conducive conditions in the Rakhine State of Myanmar for Rohingya repatriation, arguing that the efforts on Bangladesh's side alone will not bring about any lasting solution to the problem.

"Actions and programmes are needed in Myanmar, to create the conditions conducive for the return of this population, in dignity, to their homes. And that is the most desired durable solution and the aspiration of the Rohingyas themselves," said Bangladesh's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Rabab Fatima.

She was addressing the UN General Assembly in New York yesterday following the briefing by Dr Noeleen Heyzer, the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary General on Myanmar.

Besides, at the fifth meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) on the repatriation of Rohingyas held virtually yesterday, Bangladesh also stressed on ensuring security, livelihood and wellbeing of the returnees.

Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen led Bangladesh side and Myanmar's Foreign Ministry Permanent Secretary U Chan Aye led the Myanmar side in the meeting.

"Both sides agreed to work on addressing verification related problems and holding regular meetings of the Joint Working Group (JWG) and Technical Working Group for early commencement of repatriation," according to a statement of the foreign ministry.



Women lay out files of incense sticks, made out of charcoal powder and perfume, to let them dry. For this task, these workers get paid Tk 200 per day. This picture was taken from Khulna's Zero Point area yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

## DARSHANA-MEHERPUR VIA MUJIBNAGAR

# Tk 2,000cr needed for new rail link

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Bangladesh Railway (BR) will have to spend over Tk 2,000 crore to build a rail line from Darshana to Meherpur via Mujibnagar, the historic place where the first Bangladesh government took oath in 1971.

Construction of a 34.5 km main line along with a 10 km loop line would cost Tk 2,058.51 crore, according to the recently completed feasibility study.

There would be six stations along the line -- at Darshana, Bastopur, Kanaidanga, Mujibnagar, Monakhali and Meherpur.

The information came to light as project officials made an elaborate presentation on the scheme at a meeting on Saturday at a city hotel, where BR Director General Dharendra Nath Mazumder and other top officials were present.

"We've completed the feasibility study and detailed designs for the line and hope to submit a full report soon," Project Director Ariful Islam told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said the feasibility study found the project "economically viable", but the government has to give subsidies to make the project "financially viable".

"Now the higher authorities will take a decision on whether an investment project would be taken to build the line," he added.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in April 2011 gave an announcement to build a rail line to connect Meherpur with Darshana, which did not see any visible progress till 2018.

In September 2018, BR took up a project for conducting a feasibility study and preparing a detailed design for the line at a cost of Tk 12.48 crore.

Although the project's deadline was in August 2020, authorities in March 2020 signed a contract with an Australia-Bangladesh joint-venture company for the job.

The authorities had to spend a long time to finalise the alignment of the line following a dispute raised by local representatives, BR sources said.

Besides, the pandemic delayed preparatory works.

The revised deadline for the feasibility study

project is June this year.

### DARSHANA-MEHERPUR RAIL LINK

As per the study, 56 km of rail tracks have to be installed, of which 34.5 km would be the main line, 10 km the loop line and 3.5 km the side lines.

Besides, the existing 6.6 km line has to be replaced.

There would be three major bridges -- one over Mathabhanga river and two over the Bhairab river -- and 63 culverts along the line.

The authorities have to acquire around 421 acres of land to implement the project.

BR sources said funding may be a major challenge for the rail line's construction.

Although it will connect Mujibnagar, which is historically significant for Bangladesh, no financier has yet shown interest in the project, they said.

In that case, the government may build the line with its own fund, they added.

The Daily Star could not get in touch with BR director general for comments, despite repeated attempts over phone and texts.



PROJECT DETAILS

- » 56 km of rail tracks have to be installed, 34.5-km main line, 10-km loop line, 3.5-km side lines
- » 6 stations at Darshana, Bastopur, Kanaidanga, Mujibnagar, Monakhali, Meherpur
- » Existing 6.6-km line must be replaced
- » Authorities have to acquire 421 acres to implement project
- » BR sources said funding may challenge line's construction

## Cuet closed for 22 days

Amid unrest, univ  
authorities order  
students to vacate hall

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology (Cuet) has been closed for 22 days till yesterday due to the ongoing student unrest on campus over the last few days. The university announced the closure through a notice signed by its Registrar Prof Dr Farooq-uz-Zaman Chowdhury.

According to the notification, a meeting chaired by the vice chancellor announced that undergraduate academic activities will remain suspended till July 5. All examinations scheduled to be held during this period have been postponed and residential halls will remain closed also.

The male students have been asked to vacate the halls by 5pm today, while female students by 10:00am today (June 15, 2022).

## 'It's unethical' Say JP, BNP lawmakers on proposed budget; AL MPs term it pro-people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lawmakers from the opposition Jatiya Party and BNP yesterday termed the proposed 2022-23 budget unethical.

They were participating in the general discussion on the proposed budget at Jatiya Sangsad.

Joining the discussion, JP MP Shameem Haider Patwari said, "This is a business- and plastic-friendly budget. It is also tobacco company-friendly."

Slamming Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal, the JP MP said, "It is neither a problem-solving budget nor a people-oriented one. This budget will increase pressure on the middle

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## Physical adversity no obstacle UCBL, Star to honour orgs, individuals

STAR REPORT

UCBL-The Daily Star "Suborno (Special) Nagorik Award 2022" will be held in the last week of August this year to honour organisations and individuals working for people with disabilities.

Subarno Nagorik Foundation, organiser of the award, shared this information at a press conference at Gulshan yesterday, said a press release.

The application for the award can be submitted from June 20 to 10 July through the website: www.subornonagorik.org or Facebook page.

Jabed Iqbal, UCBL senior executive vice president and head of Brand Marketing & Corporate Affairs Division; Asif Iqbal Chowdhury, founder of Suborno; and Dr Shaikh Muhammad Allayear, director (in charge), students affairs office, Daffodil International University, attended the event.

বাংলাদেশ কৃষি গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট  
Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute  
সংগ্রহ ও ভান্ডার শাখা  
গাজীপুর।

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Memo no: 12.21.0000.043.01.693.21.6886 Date: 12 June 2022

**e-GP: Re-Tender Notice No.34(2021-2022)**

e-Tender is invited in the e-GP system Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following goods. Details are given below:

Sl No	Package no.	Tender ID & Ref No	Description of goods	Tender Documents Last selling (Date & Time)	Tender Closing date & Time	Tender Opening date & Time
1.	PN: GD-01	708605 & IRN : 893	Laboratory Equipment 08 items.	21.06.2022 17:00	22.06.2022 12:00	22.06.2022 12:00

The interested persons/firm may visit the website [www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) to get the details of the tender.

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the national e-GP portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, Registration in the National e-GP system portal is required.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and e-GP Help Desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

Project Name: "Assessment of Cropping Patterns for Sustainable Intensification in Drought and saline-prone Ecosystem using Remote sensing and Geospatial Modelling" Project.

(Md. Younus Ali)  
Deputy Director (In-Charge)  
On behalf of Director General

GD-1233

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
Education Engineering Department  
Chuadanga  
[www.eedmoe.gov.bd](http://www.eedmoe.gov.bd)

Memo No. 37.07.1800.009.00.001.21/817 Date: 13/06/2022 Eng.

**e-Tender Notice No. xen/eed/chu/03/Revenue(TMED-Madrassa)/2021-2022**

e-Tender (LTM) is invited in the e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following works details are given below.

Sl. No.	Package No.	Tender ID No.	Description of works	Tender document last selling/(date & time)	Tender closing (date & time)
01	EED-KUS-TMED-MAD-KCHSDM-07	710519	Repair and Renovation Works of Kunia Chandpur Siddikia Dakhil Madrassa at Damurhuda Upazilla under Chuadanga District.	29/06/2022 16.00	30/06/2022 15.00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to abovementioned date & time.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

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GD-1229