

## Shaheen Anam

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says a statement of the UK High Commission.

The UK has maintained a longstanding partnership with the Manusher Jonno Foundation for over two decades, working collaboratively to advance human rights and empower marginalised communities across the country.

Through this partnership, the UK government has supported over 460 grassroots organisations, enabling

transformative work that promotes dignity, inclusion, and justice for all.

In the statement, Sarah Cooke said, "I am delighted to present this award to Ms Shaheen Anam on behalf of His Majesty The King."

"Her tireless dedication and commitment to human rights, social justice and gender equality have made a lasting impact in Bangladesh, reflecting the shared values and enduring partnership between our two countries."

## Classes begin

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Bulbul said. Earlier on August 3, Milestone School and College reopened on a limited scale after 12-day closure, aiming to support students' mental well-being in the wake of the plane crash that left the campus into mourning.

"The entire campus has been grieving since the July 21 plane crash. At this moment, our priority is the

psychological recovery of our students and bringing them back to regular life," Principal Mohammad Ziaul Alam had said after reopening the institution.

At least 34 persons, mostly students, were killed and more than 150 others injured after an Air Force jet crashed on the campus on July 21. Following the tragic crash, the authorities had announced the closure of the institution.

## Daylong traffic chaos

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demonstration outside the Indian High Commission in Gulshan, while another group protested in Shahbagh, he added.

"Due to all these programmes, traffic movement slowed in several parts of the city," he said.

Around 12:45pm, students of the seven colleges affiliated with Dhaka University blocked the busy Science Lab intersection as part of a protest.

Vehicular movement came to a halt in the area, causing tailbacks on nearby roads. Police later intervened, and the students cleared the intersection after about 30 minutes.

Around 2:00pm, job seekers who passed the written test of the 18th Teacher Registration Examination demonstrated in front of the Non-Government Teachers' Registration and Certification Authority (NTRCA) office in Eskaton.

They demanded a re-evaluation of viva results and approval for candidates with valid certificates and

documents.

"I went to Aziz Super Market in Shahbagh around 1:00pm and then returned to Labaid Hospital in Dhanmondi. From there, I came to Kalabagan," said Kader Ali, a trader.

"There was severe gridlock on most streets and alleyways, which caused a much longer delay than usual," he added.

In the afternoon, traffic conditions worsened further as BNP held its scheduled "Victory Rally" to mark the first anniversary of the July uprising. The rally began at 3:00pm in front of the party's central office in Nayapaltan.

As a result, traffic congestion intensified in Nayapaltan, Bijoynagar, Shantinagar, and around the Purana Paltan intersection. Vehicular movement in these areas remained suspended for nearly two hours.

"I left for Gulistan around 3:30pm, but even after an hour, I couldn't reach Paltan intersection," said Rajib, a commuter. "So I started

walking. All vehicles were at a standstill."

Elsewhere in the capital, leaders and activists of the Jatiya Ganatantrik Party (JAGPA) blocked a road in Badda, demanding that ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina be sent back to Bangladesh from India. The protest was part of the party's previously announced programme to besiege the Indian High Commission.

The demonstration caused severe congestion in Badda, Badda Kitchen Market, Hossain Market, Merul Badda, and Rampura, leading to gridlocks and suffering for commuters.

On the Traffic Alert group on Facebook, social media users warned others about which roads to avoid and shared photos and videos of gridlocks from across the city.

As of 8:15pm, when this report was filed, severe congestion was still seen in both directions between Shahbagh and Farmgate, with vehicles moving at a snail's pace.

## Man, 2 others

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Kishoreganj Court Public Prosecutor Md Jalal Uddin.

According to the case statement, Anwarul, a resident of Bhatia Jahirkona in Karimgani, had a land dispute with one Abu Bakar Siddique in the same area. To frame Abu Bakar, Anwarul, his brother, and nephew stabbed his daughter Mira Akhter Asma to death on August 10, 2016, and dumped the body behind their house.

The next day, Anwarul filed a murder case with Karimgani Police Station against Abu Bakar and 16 others. Later, during investigation of the case, the police found Anwarul and the others' involvement in the murder.

## Inadequate

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been completely damaged, the department reports.

The district's Aman cultivation target is 93,270 hectares, but as of August 2, only about 5 percent has been planted.

Md Nazrul Islam, deputy director of the Agriculture Extension Department in Khulna, said, "Waterlogging is the biggest challenge for farmers here. The limited number of sluice gates, many of which are inoperable, prevents timely drainage of excess water. These gates need to be urgently repaired and more gates must be constructed after consultation with local farmers."

He said major rivers such as the Hari, Hamkura, Salta, Bhadra, and Sholmari should be dredged to address the persistent flooding in the beel areas.

Ashrafur Islam, executive engineer of the Khulna Water Development Board, said, "We have informed higher authorities about the need to repair non-functional sluice gates. Many gate mouths are silted up, so simply fixing the gates won't be enough – we also need proper channels to restore water flow."

PRAYER  
TIMING  
AUGUST 7

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-20 12-45 5-00 6-47 8-15

JAMAAT 4-55 1-15 5-15 6-50 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## Childhood laced with lead

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"Lead enters the body in multiple ways – through the air we breathe, the food we eat, contaminated soil or dust, and even during pregnancy through the placenta. That's why it's nearly impossible to avoid lead exposure unless we address the root causes in our environment, especially those we can manage and control," he said.

Dr Sarah Salway, senior director of Health Systems and Population Studies Division at icddr,b, said lead pollution is a major yet often overlooked public health issue in Bangladesh. Children living near polluting factories are among the worst affected.

### KEY FINDINGS

Jesmin Sultana said the study, conducted between 2022 and 2024, surveyed 500 children aged two to four in Dhaka. Every child had lead in their blood, and 98 percent had levels above 35 micrograms per litre, which is considered a concerning level.

Children living within one kilometre of battery manufacturing, recycling, or other lead-related industries had 43 percent higher BLLs than those living more than five kilometres away.

Those living within 1 to 2km had 24 percent higher levels than those living 5km away.

Spending over six hours outdoors daily

raised BLLs by 18 percent among children living within 2 km of such sites, said Sultana.

If household members smoked indoors, children had 12 percent higher lead levels. A 50 percent increase in household lead dust led to a 2 percent rise

### KEY FINDINGS

All 500 surveyed children had lead in their blood

Children in Dhaka south had higher BLLs than those in north

Living within 1km of lead-related industries increased BLLs by 43%

3.8m live within 2km of high-risk lead zones in Dhaka

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Relocate lead-related factories, cottage industries outside city areas

Reduce indoor smoking, household dust

Promote lead-free products including batteries, cookware, cosmetics

Encourage diets rich in iron, calcium, and vitamin C

in BLLs.

She also said children from the richest households had 17 percent lower BLLs than those from the poorest families.

Although everyone in Dhaka is at risk, around 3.8 million people living within 2km of battery-related or lead-smelting industrial sites face a higher risk, said Sultana.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

The study recommends relocating small cottage industries and larger factories that deal with lead-acid battery manufacturing or smelting outside Dhaka city.

It also suggests reducing smoking, especially indoors; regularly mopping indoor areas to reduce dust; and promoting the use of lead-free products like batteries, paint, cookware, jewellery, surma, and amulets.

Individually, people are advised to eat foods that are rich in iron, calcium, and vitamin C.

Citing a UNICEF report, Mahbubur Rahman, project coordinator at icddr,b, said Bangladesh ranks fourth globally in the number of children affected by lead, with an estimated 3.6 million affected.

He also noted a positive development: a sharp decline in lead contamination in turmeric following policy interventions.

After studies by Stanford and icddr,b confirmed turmeric as a major source of lead exposure for pregnant women, national actions followed, led by Bangladesh Food Safety Authority, which included awareness campaigns, regulations, and enforcement.

As a result, contaminated turmeric samples dropped from 47 percent in 2019 to nearly zero in 2021, he said.

## Media freedom hinges on political

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Their influence has gone underreported and underanalysed."

On media ownership, he said, "In Bangladesh, media outlets have not evolved as independent corporate entities solely pursuing journalistic interests. Most are embedded within larger business conglomerates with vested interests. As a result, the media often serves to protect broader financial or political goals."

He added, "Most people cannot name the owners of The New York Times, The Guardian, or Le Monde. But in Bangladesh, everyone knows who owns which newspaper, along with their political ambitions. That's a problem."

"As long as you identify newspaper owners by name and their business or political roles, true press freedom will remain elusive."

He also raised concerns about working conditions, "Many local journalists are handed an ID card and left to 'figure things out.' This is not how responsible journalism is sustained."

Turning to political divisions within journalist

unions, he said, "Our unions are split along party lines. They function neither as genuine trade unions nor as protectors of professional rights. This severely weakens their ability to advocate for journalists."

He questioned the integrity of journalists during key moments like the July uprising.

"When the then prime minister held meetings with journalists during the July protests, can we truly say those present were upholding journalistic principles – or were they part of political campaign machinery?"

Calling for self-reflection, he urged: "Now is the time for collective soul-searching. An interim government is in place – this is an opportunity to reflect, restructure, and renew our commitments."

"One full year has passed. Has any group – owners, editors, unions – come together to evaluate the media's role over the past 16 years? Why haven't we had that conversation?"

"We cannot sit around waiting for a commission, or an external actor, to come and save journalism. Institutions must be built from within, with a sense of

ownership and urgency."

"I am not here to attack anyone. These are my observations – offered with the hope that they are received with the seriousness they deserve."

Echoing similar concerns, Matiur Rahman Chowdhury, editor of Manabzamin, said, "To ensure true freedom of journalism and media, political freedom must come first. Without political freedom, journalism can never truly be free."

He also noted ongoing legal harassment of journalists and said, "In such a fragmented reality, how can we even talk about press freedom?"

He criticised political divisions in journalist associations.

"If the Editors' Council is issuing statements on behalf of journalists, then what is the role of journalist unions?"

He lamented the loss of past unity over issues like the wage board: "That collective spirit is now missing. In pursuit of our own political interests, we have compromised the values of journalism."

"If we truly want to reap the benefits of the change we once fought for, we must show responsibility, courage, and unity."

Gono Forum Executive President Subrata Chowdhury said journalists are underpaid and lack benefits, making quality journalism difficult.

"Judicial independence and media freedom now seem like a golden bowl made of stone – an impossible paradox."

Dhaka University Prof SM Shameem Reza stressed that self-regulation shouldn't replace legal protections for journalists. "Will the injustices and pressures they face just be

ignored?"

CGS Executive Director Parvez Karim Abbasi said, "Constructive criticism often triggers pressure from social and political forces."

Rezwanul Haque Raja, editor-in-chief, Maasranga Television and chairman, Trustee Board, Broadcast Journalist Center; Reaz Ahmad, executive editor, Dhaka Tribune; Moudud Hossain Alamgir Pavel, convener, BNP Media Cell; Asif Bin Ali, PhD Candidate, Georgia State University, Atlanta, US; Mahbub Morshed, chief editor and managing director of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha; Mahmuda Habiba, member, BNP Media Cell and joint secretary general, Jatiyatabadi Krishak Dal; Kazi Jesin, freelance journalist; Manjurul Islam, executive editor, Bangladesh Pratidin; Zahid Nawaz Khan, senior journalist; and Shihab Uddin Khan, advocate, Supreme Court, also spoke at the event.

The session was moderated by the CGS President Zillur Rahman.

## DSCC

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own funds and Tk 1,469.24 crore from government and foreign aid.

Key allocations in the budget include Tk 365.11 crore for roads and traffic infrastructure, Tk 115 crore for canal development and waterlogging mitigation, and Tk 57.20 crore for waste management.

Additionally, Tk 57.44 crore have been designated for mosquito control and healthcare, Tk 5.26 crore for tree plantation and environmental development, and Tk 13.39 crore for welfare programmes.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH  
HIGH COURT DIVISION  
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)  
COMPANY MATTER No. 1368 of 2025

Most. Rimu Pervin **VERSUS** — Petitioner

The Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firm (RJSC) — Respondent

Notice is hereby given that an application under Section 81(2), Section 85(3) read with Section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994 for the condonation of delay in holding the 2nd, and 3rd AGM of **Qr Bangladesh Limited** was admitted by Mr. Justice Ahmed Sohel of the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh on 3rd August, 2025, after a preliminary hearing. Anyone wishing to oppose the matter may appear before the Hon'ble Court either personally or through an advocate. A copy of the petition will be provided to any member or creditor of the Company upon request and payment of the prescribed fee.

Barrister Md. Jakaria Habib  
Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh  
Room Number 354, Supreme Court Bar Association Main Building, Dhaka 1000.  
Mobile: 01750143400.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
Education Engineering Department  
Chapainawabganj

Memo No. 04/e-GP/EED/Chapai/4931/SHED/2025-26  
Date: 06-08-2025

**e-Tender Notice No. 04**

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following works under EED Chapainawabganj as mentioned below:

Tender ID	Name of works	Publication date/time	Closing date & opening date
1135947	Repair and renovation of floor with ceiling of old building at Shibganj Model Govt. High School, Shibganj, Chapainawabganj. (FY:2024-25)	06.08.2025 18:15pm	21.08.2025 11:00am
1135948	Repair of existing 10 Nos. old toilet at Shibganj Model Govt. High School, Shibganj, Chapainawabganj. (FY:2024-25)	06.08.2025 18:15pm	21.08.2025 11:00am
1135949	Repair and renovation of south side boundary wall at Shibganj Model Govt. High School, Shibganj, Chapainawabganj. (FY:2024-25)	06.08.2025 18:15pm	21.08.2025 11:00am

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be acceptable in the National e-GP System 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. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)). The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender(s) without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Md. Anwer Hossin  
Executive Engineer  
Education Engineering Department  
Chapainawabganj

GD-1739

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Local Government Engineering Department  
Office of the Upazila Engineer  
Harirampur, Manikganj  
Web: [www.lged.gov.bd](http://www.lged.gov.bd)

Memo No. 46.02.5628.000.18.556.24-418  
Dated: 06-08-2025

**e-Tender Notice**  
Invitation for Tender (Works) No. 01/2025-26

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

SL. No.	Tender ID No.	Package No. & name of scheme	Tender method	Last selling date & time	Last time for tender security submission	Closing & opening date & time
1.	1137168	Construction of Entry Gate of Upazila Complex under Harirampur, Manikganj District. Package No.: e-Tender/UPZ/25-26/01	NCT LTM	28 August, 2025 at 12:00am	28 August, 2025 at 1:00pm	28 August, 2025 at 4:00pm

These are online tenders, 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 (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal, e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)) also from email: [ue.harirampur@lged.gov.bd](mailto:ue.harirampur@lged.gov.bd). Interested persons can communicate with the undersigned during office hours.

Mazharul Haque Akand  
Upazila Engineer  
LGED  
Harirampur, Manikganj

GD-1740