

SYLHET-AKHAURA ROUTE

Commuters suffer for suspension of trains

MINTU DESHWARA

Thousands of low-income passengers and small-scale traders in the Sylhet region are suffering from a prolonged disruption in three local train services along the Sylhet-Akhaura railway route, with only one train in operation.

For daily wage earners, vegetable vendors, and fish traders, the absence of reliable rail transport has increased travel costs and put livelihoods at risk, forcing many to depend on expensive and overcrowded road transport.

The once-busy route is now served only by the Surma Mail, which itself runs irregularly with just three coaches, one of which is reserved for the postal department.

At one time, the Sylhet-Akhaura

route was served by multiple local and intercity trains, including the Jalalabad Express on the Sylhet-Chattogram line, the Kushiara Express and a DEMU train – all now inactive. The Jalalabad Express was suspended during the pandemic, the DEMU was discontinued in 2019 due to mechanical issues, and the Kushiara Express has not run for nearly four years.

The three local trains remain suspended due to a shortage of engines, coaches, and manpower, said Kulaura Junction Station Master Roman Ahmed.

Gias Uddin, a fish importer from Sylhet, said they used to bring Chandpuri hilsa and sea fish from Chattogram by train at a much lower cost. “The closure of the Jalalabad Express has hit us hard.

Road transport is expensive and less reliable,” said Gias.

Regular commuters such as Sipon Khan of Langla, Fakhr Uddin of Monu and Nazrul Islam Belal of Bhatera said road travel has increased both costs and travel time, particularly affecting day labourers and working-class families.

“Earlier we could travel for Tk 30-40. Now it costs over Tk 100, not to mention the delays,” said Sipon.

Contacted, Sylhet-Akhaura Railway Traffic Inspector Shahjahan Patwary said the delay in restarting local trains is due to a shortage of engines, coaches, and drivers.

“Several letters have been sent to the higher authorities in this regard. Hopefully, they will take action soon,” he said.

418 people died

Promote sustainability

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as well as drivers’ physical or mental health issues.

Other reasons included the movement of slow vehicles on highways, reckless motorcycle riding by young people, lack of awareness about traffic laws among road users, and weak traffic management, it said.

The foundation made 10 recommendations to reduce accidents and deaths. These include producing skilled drivers, fixing drivers’ salaries and working hours, enhancing the capacity of the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority, properly enforcing traffic laws, removing slow-moving vehicles from highways, building separate service roads for them, and fully implementing the Road Transport Act-2018.

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Speakers said the Grand Bargain commitment was adopted in Istanbul in May 2016 at the World Humanitarian Summit and signed by around 70 parties, including donor countries, UN agencies, and INGOs, to advance humanitarian action.

Its objectives include localisation of aid, quality funding for local national actors, and accountability to affected populations – issues that are more important than ever, as USAID fund cuts have already affected the developing world, speakers also said.

With Bangladesh set to graduate from LDC status, its access to soft loans and trade privileges from developed countries will be curtailed, they added.

Md Iqbal Uddin of COAST Foundation said while Grand Bargain 3.0 is set to conclude in 2026, progress remains limited.

He urged donors and aid organisations to fulfil their commitments by ensuring at least 25 percent direct funding to local actors, providing multi-year and flexible funding, ensuring mutual accountability, and supporting local leadership.

Shaneen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation, said accountability and transparency apply equally to donors and implementing organisations, underscoring the importance of ensuring that aid reaches the right beneficiaries.

Gawher Nayeem Wahra of Disaster Forum stressed that localisation is not only about funding but also about the localisation of resources.

Referring to a study, Sudhanshu S Singh of Humanitarian Aid International in India said only 6 percent of funding

SC continues

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acquitted all 49 accused, including Tarique and Babar, scrapping the trial court verdicts that had earlier convicted and sentenced them in connection with the grenade attack on an Awami League rally in 2004.

The acquittal came following hearings on death references and appeals filed by several convicts.

Later the state filed the appeals with the Appellate Division seeking to overturn the HC decision.

MJF expresses outrage

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Among these fatalities, 133 women were killed by their husbands, 42 by in-laws, and 33 by their own family members.

Shaheen Anam, executive director of MJF, highlighted the lack of justice in society, where perpetrators commit such crimes with impunity.

Many cases of domestic violence go unreported,

and even in extreme cases, legal action is rarely pursued, she said.

She also urged the authorities to take swift and decisive measures, review all reported cases to ensure that survivors receive justice, and ensure proper trials.

“Many women from low-income families are left trapped in violent marriages, as their parents fear social stigma and lack

July victims

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angered the families of the martyrs. However, the Ministry of Law has no involvement with this bail.”

He added, “The High Court or the higher judiciary does not fall under the jurisdiction of the law ministry. Therefore, the ministry has no connection with bail or any other decision of the High Court.”

The adviser further said, “The High Court’s decisions are not beyond question. The Attorney General’s Office has therefore appealed against the bail order. A decision on this may come tomorrow [today]. If the bail is cancelled, the police will arrest the accused mentioned above.”

Once abundant

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“I gave up fishing two years ago and now drive a battery-run auto-rickshaw,” said Binod Chandra Das, 55, from Aditmari Jelepura in Lalmonirhat. “It pains me to leave my ancestral profession, but I had no choice.”

“It costs more to repair nets and boats than what we earn from fishing,” said Kamlakanto Das, 60, from Rajarhat Jelepura in Kurigram.

Sulekha Das, 45, of the same village, said, “We used to eat fish every day. Now, sometimes not even once a week.”

Abdul Khalek, 65, who has spent 40 years fishing in the Teesta, fears the worst.

“In monsoon I earn Tk 600-700 a day, but in the dry season, barely Tk 300. If the Teesta dies, the fish

EU to provide

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timeline in early 2026,” he added.

Asked about the election environment in Bangladesh, Miller said, “Well, I can see that there is an awful lot of media attention on the preparation of elections and an awful lot of political attention of course on the preparation of elections.”

“.... As the EU, we are determined to empower our partner Bangladesh and of course the Election Commission as it conducts these elections,” he added.

PRAYER TIMING

AUGUST 20

Fazr

Zohr

Asr

Maghrib

Esha

AZAN 4-25

12-45

4-45

6-38

8-00

JAMAAT 5-00

1-15

5-00

6-41

8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

B-R Powergen Ltd.

(A Government Owned Power Generation Company)

IEB Bhaban (8th Floor), 8/A, Ramna, Dhaka-1000

Memo No. 27.31.0000.005.23.013.25.326

Date: 19.08.2025

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

B-R Powergen Limited (BRPL), a Government Owned Power Generation Company under Power Division, Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources is inviting applications for the post of Managing Director from qualified professionals with strong leadership skills and the ability to drive a large organization.

Job Description

Report to the Chairman and the Board of Directors of the company and accountable for the company's entire day-to-day operations, profitability and growth. The Managing Director is the Chief Executive of the company. Subject to the supervision and approval of the board, the Managing Director will be responsible for overall management, e.g. administration, corporate planning, business development and ensuring the compliances of law, rules and regulations and for good governance. He is also responsible for supervision of all technical, financial & welfare aspects, negotiation for project financing issues with donors/development partners, government. Moreover, also responsible for listing the company in the stock exchanges and comply all formalities with stock exchanges and securities regulators.

Forge strong relationships with internal and external stakeholders of the company to win support for the company's growth initiatives.

Educational Qualification and Requirements

a. Graduation degree in Civil/Mechanical/Electrical Engineering or post-graduation degree in Business Administration/Economics/Management/Finance from reputed universities;

b. Candidates passed in the grading system must possess at least CGPA 3.5 on a scale of 5.0 and CGPA 2.5 on a scale of 4.0. Candidates passed in the conventional system (Class/Division) must possess at least 2nd class/division. No third Division/Class at any stage of the academic career shall be acceptable;

c. In case of Public Sector (GoB/SOE's/Autonomous Bodies), the candidate should have at least 20 years of experience of which at least 3 years in a senior management position (National Pay scales substantive grade 4 & above) in power sector;

d. In case of State-Owned Companies (SOC's) of the power sector, the candidate should have at least 20 years of experience, of which at least 3 years in a senior management position (Chief Engineer or equivalent & above) in power sector;

e. In case of private sector, the candidate should have at least 20 years of experience, of which at least 3 years in senior management/leadership position in well reputed organizations in power sector. Moreover, the candidate's experience certificate must include detailed job responsibilities authorized by competent authority;

f. Must be able to demonstrate knowledge about relevant Govt. rules & regulations.

g. Must be able to demonstrate knowledge in company law, labor law, Total Quality Management (TQM), Total Productive Maintenance (TPM), Corporate Governance, etc.;

h. Must demonstrate strong participatory leadership ability and possess adequate knowledge in corporate Management;

i. Able to express information, in both English and Bangla, to individuals or groups effectively; make clear and convincing presentations, write concisely, and convincingly for the intended audience;

j. In-depth knowledge of the electricity industry, including regulatory requirements, market dynamics and technical advancements.

k. Strong business acumen with a deep understanding of financial management, Procurement, strategic planning, and operational management.

l. Proficiency in project management, including planning, execution and evaluation of large-scale projects. Project Management Professional (PMP) certification will be an advantage.

m. Excellent negotiation skills with government agencies, development partners and private investors will be an advantage.

Age

Between 50-62 years of age as on 09/09/2025.

Tenure of Appointment

The initial contract will be for 3 years subject to the maximum age limit of 65 years; it can be extended for two more terms of 3 years subject to the maximum age limit of 65 years in case of competent candidate.

Salary and Allowances

Basic pay Tk. 1,75,000/- (one lac seventy-five thousand) only per month plus house rent 50% of basic pay, 2 (two) festivals bonus. Boishakhi allowance (20% of basic) per year, gratuity, contributory Provident Fund, group insurance, leave encashment, reimbursement of medical expenses and other fringe benefits will be admissible as per provisions of the company. He/She will also be entitled to a full-time transport with fuel and driver. Income tax shall be paid by the incumbent.

Submission of Application

a) Candidates should apply through specific application form (available at www.brpowergen.gov.bd) with 3 copies of passport size photographs, national ID, photocopies of all educational certificates and professional/job experience certificates;

b) Original copies of all educational and professional/job experience certificates shall be verified during the Viva-voce.

c) Candidates still serving in GoB/SOE's/Autonomous bodies/SOCs should attach an NOC (No Objection Certificate) from the authority.

d) Application (hard copy) must be submitted on or before 09-09-2025 within office hour to the Company Secretary, B-R Powergen Limited (BRPL), IEB Bhaban (8th Floor), 8/A, Ramna, Dhaka-1000.

Please note that only short-listed candidates will be called for interview. No fee is required for submitting this application. No TA/DA will be given to participate in the interviews.

The authority of BRPL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the applications without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

Md. Zahangir Alam, FCS

Company Secretary

Email: cs@brpowergen.gov.bd

Phone: 01710-895094

GD-1829

Bangladesh Bank, Head Office

Website: <https://www.bb.org.bd>

Request for Expression of Interest

1	Procuring entity name	Bangladesh Bank
2	Procuring entity district	Dhaka
3	Invitation for	Actuarial Valuation of Pension Fund and Gratuity Fund for the employees of Bangladesh Bank
4	Invitation Ref No.	CSD-1/GP/2025-1
5	Date	20/08/2025
KEY INFORMATION		
6	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method
FUNDING INFORMATION		
7	Budget and source of funds	Own source
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
8	Tender closing date and time	Date: 12/09/2025 Time: 03:00pm
9	Tender opening date and time	Date: 12/09/2025 Time: 03:15pm
10	Name & address of the office(s)	Address: - Receiving tender document: Information/documents have to be submitted at Bangladesh Bank website e-tender link https://etender.bb.org.bd - Opening tender document: Common Services Department-1, 6th Floor, Annex-2 Building, Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka.
11	Pre-tender meeting	Date: 03/09/2025 Time: 11:30am
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER		
12	Brief eligibility of tenderer	1) Minimum eight years business experience 2) At least 5 years experience in the same type (Banks/Financial Institution) of assignments in Bangladesh and having minimum 3 successful assignments to be completed. 3) The bidder must have minimum one qualified actuary value. Details (Name, Date of incorporation, type of bidder i.e. Pub, Ltd/Pvt, Ltd/partnership/proprietary, Registration No. and date of registration, Address of Registered Office and Experience) of the actuary should be clearly indicated in the bid documents. 4) Financially solvent.
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
13	Name of official inviting tender	Swapan Kumar Goswami
14	Designation of official inviting tender	Director
15	Address of official inviting tender	Common Services Department-1, Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka.
16	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel: 9530148 E-mail: swapan.goswami@bb.org.bd
17	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all Tenders or annul the Tender proceedings.	

DCP: 48/2025-2168

Date: 19-08-2025

ব্যাবহিক ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হযরানির শিকার হলে কিংবা কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২০৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

Swapan Kumar Goswami

Director

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