

India, Russia agree to boost trade ties

REUTERS, Moscow

India and Russia agreed to boost trade ties yesterday as their foreign ministers met in Moscow, giving little indication that US President Donald Trump's hefty tariffs on India for buying Russian oil would disrupt their relations.

Indian goods face additional US tariffs of up to 50%, among the highest imposed by Washington, due to New Delhi's increased purchases of Russian oil.

Western countries boycotting Russian crude say India's purchases are helping to fund Moscow's war in Ukraine. But New Delhi says its purchases are purely commercial transactions.

Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, after meeting with Russian FM Sergei Lavrov, said that ties between the two countries had been among the steadiest of major nations in the world since WWII.

The two countries reaffirmed their ambition to expand bilateral trade, including by increasing India's exports to Russia, Jaishankar said, according to a statement from India's foreign ministry.



Palestinian children jostle for food at a charity kitchen in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Study: Tourism polluting Antarctica

AFP, Santiago

Soaring numbers of tourists and expanding research projects are increasingly polluting Antarctica, scientists warned Wednesday, a fresh blow for one of Earth's most pristine environments already threatened by human-driven climate change.

In Antarctic areas where humans have been active, the concentration of fine particles containing heavy metals is 10 times higher than it was 40 years ago, the international team of researchers said in a new study.

That change has come as the number of annual tourists visiting the white continent has risen from 20,000 to 120,000 over the last two decades, according to the International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators.

"The increasing human presence in Antarctica raises concerns about pollutants from fossil fuel combustion, including those from ships, aircraft, vehicles and supporting infrastructure," the study in the journal Nature Sustainability said.

Suspended Thai PM defends herself in court

AFP, Bangkok

Thailand's suspended prime minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra testified on Thursday in a case seeking her removal from office over her handling of the kingdom's border row with Cambodia.

Paetongtarn, daughter of controversial but influential billionaire ex-prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra, is accused of failing in her duties by not standing up for the country properly in a call with former Cambodian leader Hun Sen, audio of which was leaked online.

The Constitutional Court will rule on Friday next week whether Paetongtarn should be thrown out of office.

The court suspended her from office last month and summoned her to answer questions in the case yesterday -- her 39th birthday.

Dressed in a black business suit, Paetongtarn answered judges' questions for around an hour and a half, but the court has issued an order banning any reporting of what was said during



the hearing.

The case centres around her call in June with Hun Sen, Cambodia's longtime ruler and father of its current premier, which focused on the two neighbours' then-brewing row over their disputed border.

In the call, Paetongtarn addressed Hun Sen as "uncle" and referred to a Thai military commander as her "opponent", sparking a furious reaction in Thailand.

Conservative lawmakers accused her of kowtowing to Cambodia and undermining the military -- a hugely powerful institution in Thailand.

The main partner in Paetongtarn's ruling coalition walked out in protest over her conduct in the leaked call, a move that almost collapsed her government.

A group of senators filed a petition with the Constitutional Court arguing Paetongtarn should be removed from office for breaching constitutional provisions that require "evident integrity" and "ethical standards" among ministers.

US sends warships near Venezuela

AFP, Washington

US President Donald Trump is deploying three warships off the coast of Venezuela as part of efforts to curb drug trafficking, a source familiar with the move said Wednesday.

The deployment comes as the Trump administration steps up pressure on Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro, doubling its bounty to \$50 million earlier this month on drug charges against the leftist strongman.

The three Aegis-class guided missile destroyers are heading to the waters off Venezuela, the US source told AFP on condition of anonymity. It is not clear how they will combat drug trafficking.

Washington was also planning to send 4,000 Marines to the region.

NORD STREAM BLASTS Ukrainian suspect arrested in Italy

AFP, Berlin

A Ukrainian suspect has been arrested in Italy over the sabotage of the Nord Stream underwater gas pipelines from Russia to Europe in 2022, German prosecutors said yesterday.

The suspect, identified as Serhii K., is accused of being part of a cell "who placed explosive devices on the Nord Stream 1 and Nord Stream 2 gas pipelines", they said.

He is "believed to have been one of the coordinators of the operation" in which a group allegedly hired a yacht in the German Baltic Sea port of Rostock to carry out the attacks.

Female candidates

FROM PAGE 12

According to the Jucus Election Commission, only 128 nominations came from 10 female halls compared to 289 from 11 male halls. Several women's dormitories did not receive enough candidates to fill all 15 posts. At the central level, out of 276 nominations for 25 Jucus posts, only 57 are from women -- five times fewer than men.

Participation is especially low for top posts. Two women are running for general secretary, 10 for the reserved assistant general secretary seat, but none for vice president. Most panels have fielded women only in reserved positions.

Nawab Faizunnesa Hall and Female Student Hall Number - 13 each saw only six nominations, Begum Sufia Kamal Hall 10, Begum Khaleda Zia Hall 11 and Pritilata Hall 13. Only a few halls, including Fazilatunnesa Hall with 15 candidates, Jahanara Imam Hall with 16, Rokeya Hall with 17 and Bir Protik Taramon Bibi Hall with 17, managed to secure nominations close to or above the required number. This leaves many posts uncontested in women's dormitories.

Panel-wise, the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal-backed slate has six women, all in reserved positions; Gonotantrik Chhatra Sangshad has seven, six of them for reserved posts; Islami Chhatra Shibir has six, also all for reserved posts; Jahangirnagar Theatre and a Chhatra Union faction two; while the Sanskritik Jote and Chhatra Union supported panel fielded at least 10, the highest among the groups.

Some 26 more women are expected to contest independently.

Several female students who played leading roles in last year's mass uprising are absent from the ballot. Among them is Shrabani Zaman Jyoti, a student from the English department, who told The Daily Star that women's contributions in movements have never been valued properly.

"Cyberbullying and harassment also discouraged us," she said.

Faiza Mehrazbin Priontee, president of Jahangirnagar Sanskritik Jote, said women are losing interest in politics in the absence of a supportive and inclusive environment on campus.

"There's been a noticeable erosion of women-friendly political and social spaces, and in the aftermath of the mass uprising, we haven't seen a decisive stance from the administration. Each time women have lodged complaints about abuse on campus, impunity has prevailed, and the perpetrators have continued to assert their dominance with arrogance."

Rezwana Karim Singdha, an associate professor of anthropology at JU, said the decades-long absence of Jucus elections meant many students never understood their importance. She said since last August, women in politics have faced widespread online harassment, making students more hesitant.

JU's women have been bold in protests but not equally active in campus politics. A lack of recognition and a sense of insecurity have fuelled their apathy, Rezwana said.

Jamaat, NCP deny involvement

FROM PAGE 2

Sylhet city BNP's acting president Rezaul Hasan Koyel Ludhi said, "We are challenging the authenticity of the report; [if the allegations are not proved], the newspaper [that cited it] should apologise. It's the Awami League who has been behind stone looting for the past 15 years. We're being accused so the real culprits can hide."

For over a year, stones in different areas across Sylhet have been looted. The situation escalated recently after stones worth

hundreds of crores of taka were looted from popular tourist destination Sada Pathor in Companiganj upazila, sparking nationwide criticism.

Responding to the situation, the ACC on August 13 visited the Sada Pathor area and later submitted a preliminary report with names of offices, officers and others involved.

The ACC report included names of Rezaul Hasan Koyel Ludhi, acting president of Sylhet city BNP, and its General Secretary Emdad Hossain

Chowdhury; Md Fakhrul Islam, Ameer of Sylhet city Jamaat, and its secretary Joynal Abedin; Nazim Uddin, chief coordinator of Sylhet district NCP; and Abu Sadek Mohammad Khairul Islam Chowdhury, chief coordinator of NCP's Sylhet city unit; and 36 others.

The Daily Star has seen a copy of the ACC's authentic report.

Meanwhile, newly appointed Deputy Commissioner for Sylhet Sarower Alam vowed stern action to stop illegal stone extraction.

Within a few hours of joining office yesterday, he visited the Sada Pathor area in the afternoon.

Briefing journalists there, he said, "I'll ensure that not a single stone can be removed from here and will restore Sada Pathor's beauty."

"Who was involved in the looting and how the stones were looted will be evaluated properly. I am not under any pressure as the people are my power and they stood against the stone looters."

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

Invitation for e-Tender
Tender Notice No. 04/e-GP/EED/ND/2025-2026, Dt: 21-08-2025

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

SL No.	Package No.	Tender ID No.	Name of tender	Last date and time for tender document selling	Last date and time for tender security submission	Last date and time for tender closing & opening
01	Noa/TMED/64/20-21/01	1141859	Repair and renovation of Academic Building and Administrative Building at Begumgonj Technical School and College, Begumgonj, Noakhali.	07-Sep-2025 15:00	07-Sep-2025 16:00	08-Sep-2025 12:00
02	Noa/TMED/64/20-21/02	1141860	Extension of boundary wall at Begumgonj Technical School and College, Begumgonj, Noakhali.	07-Sep-2025 15:00	07-Sep-2025 16:00	08-Sep-2025 12:00

To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

Nazul

21.08.25

Khandaker Nazrul Islam
Executive Engineer
Education Engineering Department
Noakhali District
E-mail: ee_noa@eedmoe.gov.bd

GD-1844

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Project Director
Integrated Livestock Development Project in 3 Hill Districts.
3 No. Jetty gate, Fakirhat, Chattogram-4100.

Memo No. 33.01.0000.842.04.007.25/15

Date: 19/08/2025

Invitation for Tender

1.	Ministry/Division	: Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock				
2.	Agency	: Department of Livestock Services				
3.	Procuring Entity Name	: Project Director				
4.	Procuring Entity Code	: 144-14404-224410400				
5.	Procuring Entity District	: Chattogram				
6.	Invitation for	: Vehicle Hiring (Along with Driver, Fuel and others)				
7.	Invitation Ref. No	: Memo No: 33.01.0000.842.04.007.25/15				
8.	Date	: 19/08/2025				
KEY INFORMATION :						
9.	Procurement Method	: Open Tendering Method (OTM) (Non-consulting Services)				
FUNDING INFORMATION						
10.	Budget and Source of Funds	: Development Budget GOB				
11.	Development Partner	: N/A				
PARTICULAR INFORMATION :						
12.	Project/program Name (if applicable)	: Integrated Livestock Development Project in 3 Hill Districts.				
13.	Tender Package No.	: SD-2				
14.	Tender package Name:	: Vehicle Hiring (Along with Driver, Fuel and others)				
15.	Tender Publication Date	: 20/08/2025				
16.	Tender Last Selling Date	: 17/09/2025 (up to 5pm)				
17.	Tender Closing Date & Time	: 18/09/2025, Time 12:00 (noon).				
18.	Tender Opening Date & Time (if different from 17)	: 18/09/2025, Time- 2 pm.				
19.	Name & Address of the Office(s)	:				
	- Selling Tender document	: Office of the Project Director, Integrated Livestock Development Project in 3 Hill Districts, 3 No. Jetty gate, Fakirhat, Chattogram-4100.				
	- Receiving Tender Document	: Do				
	- Opening Tender Document	: Do				
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER :						
20.	Eligibility of Tenderer	: As stated in RFP, ITT and GCC clauses of the tender document.				
21.	Brief Description of Services	: As stated in TOR in RFP.				
22.	Price of Tender document	: Tk. 500/= (Tk. Five Hundred only) (Nonrefundable)				
23.	Package No.	Lot No.	Identification of Package/Lot	Location	Tender Security Amount (Tk.)	Completion time in Days/Weeks/Months
	SD-1	-	Vehicle Hiring	Office of the Project director,	264000.00 (Two Lakh Sixty-Four Thousand only)	36 Months or Duration of the project.
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS:						
24.	Name of the Official Inviting Tender	: Dr. Md. Nazrul Islam				
25.	Designation of the official Inviting Tender	: Project Director				
26.	Address of the official Inviting Tender	: Office of the Project Director, Integrated Livestock Development Project in 3 Hill Districts, 3 No. Jetty gate, Fakirhat, Chattogram-4100.				
27.	Contact Details of the official Inviting Tender	: Cell: 01711316303, E-mail: pd.hilltracts.dls@gmail.com				
28.	Special instructions: a) Due to unavoidable circumstances, if the tender cannot be received and opened in the schedule date and time, the same will be shifted on the next working day. b) All other instructions are described in tender documents. c) The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject whole or part of any tender.					

(Dr. Md. Nazrul Islam)
Project Director
Integrated Livestock Development Project in 3 Hill Districts
3 No. Jetty gate, Fakirhat, Chattogram-4100

GD-1840