

SC halts construction at Hatirjheel, Panthakunja

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court chamber judge yesterday upheld, for the time being, a High Court order that barred authorities from carrying out any construction work at Panthakunja Park and the Hatirjheel waterbody in Dhaka.

Chamber Judge Justice Md Rezaul Haque of the Appellate Division of the SC, however, asked the government to file a leave to appeal petition against the HC order.

He passed the order after hearing a government petition filed seeking a stay on the HC order.

"The construction works for the elevated expressway at Panthakunja and Hatirjheel area will remain suspended following the SC chamber judge's order," Advocate Ripan Kumar

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2-year-old girl sexually assaulted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A two-year-old girl was sexually assaulted in Sylhet's Moglabazar area on the night of September 10 after being lured with biscuits, her family has said.

The incident surfaced after the child was taken to a Sylhet hospital on Monday, where doctors confirmed signs of sexual abuse during a preliminary examination.

The family filed a case yesterday with the Moglabazar Police Station, accusing a 13-year-old boy from the locality. They also alleged police negligence in responding to their emergency call to 999.

Officer-in-Charge Mostafizur Rahman said, "We are trying to arrest the accused..."

One dies of dengue, 665 get hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One dengue patient died while 665 others were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till yesterday morning.

With the latest figures, the total number of dengue-related deaths this year has risen to 156 while the number of reported cases has reached 39,192, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Of the total infected, 37,180 dengue patients have so far been released from hospitals. Currently, 1,856 dengue patients are undergoing treatment at different hospitals, 1,145 of whom are from outside Dhaka.

Nightmare on Khulna-Satkhira highway

Rebuilt at Tk 160cr five years ago, vital route is now a death trap of craters, dust, accidents

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

The Khulna-Satkhira highway, one of the most important trade routes in the country's southwest, now resembles a patchwork of broken bricks and gaping craters rather than a road.

In places, it looks more like a flooded paddy field than a national highway. For the thousands who travel this route every day, it has become a nightmare of dust, mud, accidents, and endless suffering.

Around 16,000 vehicles use the road daily, linking Khulna with Satkhira and connecting Mongla seaport and Bhomra land port.

Only five years ago, the 64-kilometre highway was fully reconstructed at a cost of Tk 160 crore. Widened from 18 to 36 feet, the work was completed in June 2020 by contractor Messrs Mozahar Enterprise.

The misery for travellers begins right at Khulna's Zero Point, where craters, broken bricks, and uneven surfaces force vehicles to swerve dangerously. From there to Dumuria's Chuknagar – a 33-kilometre stretch under Khulna Roads and Highways Department (RHD) – the road is riddled with hazards.

According to Khulna RHD, the widening and reconstruction began in 2018 and ended in June 2020.

The road was built with an average thickness of three feet, using sand, stone, and other materials. Officials say traffic volume has since increased significantly, particularly with goods transported from Bhomra land port to Dhaka.



PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN



This heavy load, they claim, has worsened the damage.

The Khulna-Satkhira road was long categorised as a regional highway, before being upgraded to national highway status on January 5, 2023. But at the time of its reconstruction, it was still a regional road.

During visits to stretches from Zero Point through Koia Bazar, Gutudia, Dumuria, Kharnia, Chuknagar, and Atharo Miles, this correspondent found long stretches in ruin.

The five kilometres from Zero Point to Koia were completely broken, riddled with potholes filled with rainwater. From Hogladanga to

Gutudia, the highway alternated between broken patches, scattered stones, and clouds of dust. Only in brief sections did the road appear usable before crumbling again.

Tk 160 crore was spent on the 33 kilometre Khulna portion of the road alone.

Md Shahin Molla, an easy-bike driver, said, "Every day rickshaws overturn, people break their arms and legs, and our vehicles are ruined. In rain, it is mud and water; in sun, it is choking dust. There is no way to travel safely."

Truck driver Rasel Sheikh added, "From Chuknagar to Khulna, the road is a disaster. They are just dumping bricks in the name of repair, but those break down in weeks."

"Travellers avoid this route now. Our income is falling, but expenses are rising because vehicles need constant repairs," said bus transport supervisor Nur Sheikh.

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RABNA IN TANGAIL
Land allocated, new bus terminal construction yet to start

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The construction of Tangail's modern bus terminal has yet to begin, three years after the government allocated land for the project in 2022.

The existing terminal, built around 45 years ago on both sides of the Tangail-Mymensingh highway between Deola and Kodalia in the municipal area, is now in a dilapidated condition and largely unfit to handle the heavy volume of passenger buses that pass through Tangail from 23 districts.

Because of space constraints and the rising number of buses, the terminal and its surrounding areas often suffer severe traffic congestion, causing immense suffering to commuters.

Patients of the Tangail 250-bed General Hospital and Tangail Medical College Hospital, both located next to the terminal, face the worst difficulties.

On July 4, 2022, Tangail Municipality signed a 30 year lease agreement for 4.94 acres of government land near the Rabna Town Bypass area at a cost of Tk 1 lakh to build a modern terminal. But despite the passage of three years, no progress has been made.

"There are 800 registered buses, coaches and minibuses in the district. Of those, 350-400 operate from the old terminal, while the rest run from upazila-level terminals. Since there is no separate stand for trucks, CNG-run auto-rickshaws and battery-run easy bikes, these vehicles also occupy space near the old terminal, worsening congestion and public suffering," said Khandaker

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Govt steps up manpower

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through the chief adviser's press secretary, which will be promoted through the chief adviser's official Facebook page.

Regarding the activities of the "Japan Desk" related to the Japanese labour market, the letter said Japan is a potential labour market for Bangladesh.

It is estimated that the working population deficit in Japan could reach 11 million by 2040, as mentioned in a Japan Times report dated March 30, 2024. Japan has the possibility of hiring foreign workers under various visa categories.

At the directive of Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus, the release said, a comprehensive action plan has been taken to provide training and ensure employment through agreements between the National Business Support Cooperative Federation, Japan Bangla Bridge Recruiting Agency Ltd, and Kaicom Dream Street BD

Co Ltd.

It said workers will be sent to Japan in the Specified Skilled Worker category under the National Business Support Cooperative Federation.

In this case, target-based workers have been identified and other organisations can also plan to recruit workers so that the export of skilled workers from Bangladesh can be increased and various major initiatives for the country's labour market can be implemented in the future, the release added.

For this purpose, it said, the "Japan Desk" has been launched with the support of various offices, including the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, the embassies of Bangladesh and Japan, and Business World.

The activities of the "Japan Desk" include assessing demand in the existing labour market in Japan, identifying and promoting employment

opportunities, providing language training to employees, digital testing and data collection, ensuring communication and coordination with different agencies in Japan and other foreign offices, and the activities of the ministry's QCS-17 Centre.

About the activities of the "Japan Desk", Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Adviser Prof Asif Nazrul said, "Our manpower export goal is to create new employment opportunities and reduce poverty. Through the 'Japan Desk', we believe we can achieve this target. Having Japanese officials directly involved in the 'Japan Desk' will further boost employment opportunities."

B a n g l a d e s h ' s ambassador to Japan said Japanese authorities are now focusing more on ensuring quality rather than quantity by monitoring the completion of all stages of the Japanese

Language Proficiency Test. For this, mechanical Japanese language training for trainees of the Technical Training Centre by Japanese language trainers and teachers for local technical trainers should also be arranged, the ambassador said.

Dhaka, Delhi

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beneficial relationship" with Bangladesh based on mutual respect and mutual sensitivity, with people of both countries as the main stakeholders in this partnership.

He spoke about India's foreign policy and development strategy, highlighting India's growing engagement with the world to promote international cooperation, reforms of global governance and interests of the Global South, as well as to serve India's quest for inclusive, sustainable and rapid national development.

The high commissioner highlighted the long term vision of India-Bangladesh relations under India's foreign policy priorities of "Neighbourhood First", "Act East Policy", the MAHASAGAR doctrine, as well as India's Indo-Pacific Vision.

Committed

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rights. "Keep reminding yourself that you are a citizen of this country, and you must be given the rights and dignity guaranteed by the Constitution."

Prof Yunus said he initially feared missing the joy of Durga Puja celebrations as he would be abroad. "I didn't want to be deprived of this joy, so I came here today," he said.

PRAYER TIMING

SEPTEMBER 17

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-35 12-45 4-30 6-09 7-45

JAMAAT 5-10 1-15 4-45 6-12 8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

42 elected unopposed in RU

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Four posts across four female halls have, however, remained vacant due to the absence of candidates. These posts include the assistant debate and literary affairs secretary at Begum Khaleda Zia Hall, along with one executive member post each at Rokeya Hall, Rahmatunnesa Hall and July-36 Hall.

The CEC said the vacant positions would simply remain unfilled, with the respective unions continuing their activities without them.

The highest number of uncontested victories came at Begum Khaleda Zia Hall, where 10 posts were secured by candidates from the Shikkharthi Oikya Moncho panel.

Rokeya Hall followed with nine winners – all from the Sammlito Shikkharthi Parishad. One

executive member post there remains unfilled.

At Rahmatunnesa Hall, nine candidates were elected without contest.

In July-36 Hall, seven candidates were elected unopposed – six from the Sammlito Shikkharthi Parishad and one from the Chhatra Dal.

Elsewhere, three candidates from the Sammlito Shikkharthi Parishad were elected unopposed in Taposi Rabeya Hall, while Bijoy-24 Hall saw three Sammlito Shikkharthi Jote candidates secure seats.

At Mannujan Hall, the only uncontested winner was an independent candidate.

Meanwhile, the Rucsu Election Commission has finalised preparations for the Rucsu polls, with 990 booths to be set up across 17 centres in nine academic buildings.

Rucsu CEC Prof Nazrul said results will be announced on election day from Kazi Nazrul Islam Auditorium after vote counting at the Rajshahi University Central Students' Union (Rucsu) treasurer's office.

The entire counting process will be monitored through CCTV cameras to maintain transparency, he said.

Earlier in the day, RU Vice-Chancellor Prof Saleh Hasan Naqib inaugurated a media centre in front of the Kazi Nazrul Islam Auditorium to facilitate media coverage.

"Through the media, people will be able to see how the election is conducted and what the atmosphere is like. The media centre has been equipped with internet and other necessary facilities," the RU VC said.

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Memo No. MSR/Chemical Reagent/e-GP/2025-26/2969 Date: 16/09/2025

e-Tender Notice

An e-Tender has been invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following for the FY 2025-2026.

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Description of work & Package No.	Tender last selling (Date & Time)	Tender closing (Date & Time)	Tender opening (Date & Time)	Estimated cost (Tk)/Remarks
1.	1141082	Procurement of Chemical Reagent Part-1 for FY 2025-26	15-10-2025 10.00	15-10-2025 13.00	15-10-2025 13.00	OTM
2.	1141104	Procurement of Chemical Reagent Part-2 for FY 2025-26	09-10-2025 09.15	09-10-2025 13.00	09-10-2025 13.00	OTM
3.	1141107	Procurement of Chemical Reagent Part-3 for FY 2025-26	12-10-2025 09.30	12-10-2025 13.00	12-10-2025 13.00	OTM

This is 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 bank's branches up to banking hour specified in the online tender notice. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd) (01762625528-31) (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

GD-2020

Professor Dr. Md. Delwar Hossain
Director (In Charge)

North-West Power Generation Company Ltd.

ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015 & ISO 45001:2018 Certified
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

Office of the Plant Manager (Superintending Engineer)
Sirajganj 225 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant (Unit-1)
Soydabad, Sirajganj.

Ref: 27.28.8878.101.07.001.19.14.10 Date: 16/09/2025

e-Tender Notice

The following e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd):

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Brief Description of Tender	Publication Date	Last Selling Date & Time	Opening Date
1	1146294 (Re-Tender of TI-1121878)	Supply of Spare Parts for Different Pumps, Metal Gaskets and Others.	14/09/2025	28/09/2025, 15:45	29/09/2025
2	1138838	Supply of Spare Parts for ST Cooling Tower (Filling Stack, Drift Eliminator, Spray Nozzles)	16/09/2025	12/10/2025, 15:30	13/10/2025
3	1141227	Procurement of HCL and NaOH/25-26.	16/09/2025	08/10/2025, 16:00	09/10/2025

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 (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP Help Desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

Engr. Brojendra Kumar Sarker
Plant Manager (Superintending Engineer)
Sirajganj 225 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant (Unit-1)
NWPGL, Soydabad, Sirajganj.

GD-2021