

ELEVATED EXPRESSWAY Stop building ramp at Hatirjheel, Panthakunja Park Demand speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent citizens yesterday demanded an immediate halt to the construction of an elevated expressway ramp at Panthakunja Park and the Hatirjheel reservoir, calling the project "anti-people" and "nature destroying".

At a press conference organised by the Bangladesh Tree Protection Movement at the Dhaka Reporters Unity, they said recent development activities were carried out without a valid environmental clearance, which expired in December 2023.

They noted that the ramp -- being built from the Bangladesh Film Development Corporation to Palashi near Buet -- defies a court order and has already damaged the park and reservoir. Its continuation, they warned, would damage the environment of Dhaka University, Buet, Kathalbagan, Kataban, and Nilkhet areas.

Eminent economist Amit Muhammed said the interim government has continued the previous government's projects instead of reviewing them. "The interim government came to office as a result of the uprising but

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July Museum

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of Sheikh Hasina's 16 years of misrule, including the Pilkhana killings, enforced disappearances, murders, "Aynagar", the Shapla Chittar massacre, and vote rigging, according to officials.

The Museum Construction Authority shared updates about the museum with Prof Yunus yesterday during a meeting at Jamuna.

Cultural Affairs Adviser Mostafa Sarwar Farooki informed the chief adviser that the museum is expected to be completed by October 31, 2025, and inaugurated in the first week of November.

Farooki also said the museum has obtained several audio recordings of orders for enforced disappearances and murders. "These audios will be preserved in the museum. Visitors will also see how Sheikh Hasina personally called families of the disappeared to offer false reassurances," he added.

Chief Curator of the museum Tanjim Wahab said, "We believe this will be a unique institution. The stories of 16 years of misrule will be presented sequentially, allowing visitors to understand how Sheikh Hasina governed the country," Wahab said.

The museum will feature a screening centre with facilities to show documentaries on both the 16 years of misrule and the July uprising.

PATUAHKHALI EPZ PROJECT Bribery allegations surface over land acquisition

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Marginal farmers in Auliapur union under Patuakhali Sadar upazila have alleged that they are being forced to pay bribes to officials and brokers at the land acquisition office to receive compensation for land taken for the Export Processing Zone (EPZ).

Md Bellal, a farmer of Pachakorolia village, said 10.75 decimals of his land were acquired for the project, for which he received Tk 5.07 lakh as compensation.

"But I had to pay 6 percent of the total amount, about Tk 30,000, just to get my rightful money," he told this correspondent.

Bellal further alleged that his family's ancestral land -- over 3 acres -- was also acquired, for which they received Tk 1.34 crore in compensation, but the family had to pay Tk 8.40 lakh as "processing cost" to secure the payment.

Another villager, Md Shahabuddin, said the government acquired 3.50 of his 8.60 decimals of land.

"I have not received any compensation yet. They are demanding money first. Since I refused to pay, I have been told repeatedly to come back after a week," he alleged.

The Patuakhali EPZ Project, undertaken by the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority, was approved by the Executive



Committee of the National Economic Council on August 29, 2023.

A total of 410.78 acres of land has been acquired in Pachakorolia village, of which around 300 acres are already filled with sand for site preparation.

Work on internal roads and boundary walls is ongoing, and rehabilitation of 154 affected families is also in progress.

Affected villagers said the land acquisition office at the Patuakhali deputy commissioner's compound has turned into a hub of harassment and corruption.

According to them, a syndicate of officials and brokers is demanding between 6 and 12 percent in bribes to release compensation cheques. Those who refuse are allegedly subjected to deliberate delays, false objections, or fabricated paperwork to block their payments.

Contacted, Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) Md Masudul Alam acknowledged receiving complaints.

"The newly appointed deputy commissioner has been informed of the matter, and necessary steps will be taken," he said.

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Application Process

Eligible candidates are invited to submit their applications along with a pay-order of Tk. 1500 only in favor of "MPHRM Program, A/C No: 4405701023392" (The pay-order must be submitted before October 23, 2025, Thursday) or through bKash of Tk. 1520 to bKash merchant no: +8801735463490 (Transaction ID must be provided when filling the application form).

Admission Requirements

- A bachelor degree in any discipline with a minimum CGPA of 2.50 on a scale of 4.00 or second class division.
- Minimum one-year work experiences is required.
- Work experience is exempted for the members of professional bodies like DCCI, BGMEA, DMS Mgt HR Professionals Network, BIM, and different associations of Management and HRM.
- Work experience in Banks and Financial Institutions shall be given preference.

Last Date of Application : October 23 (Thursday), 2025

Admission Test Schedule : October 24 (Friday), 2025, at 03:00pm - 04:00pm
Viva Voc: 4:30pm - 6:00pmAdmission Test Syllabus : MCQ Test: English, General Knowledge, Basic Management and HR Concepts.
Written Test: Paragraph writing.Form submission : Online (<https://managementdu.ac.bd/mphrm-application-form/>)
Or
Executive MBA Office (03:00 pm - 08:00 pm, MBA Building, Room No. 1003, Faculty of Business Studies University of Dhaka).

If you're sure

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of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh.

Salahuddin, a BNP Standing Committee member, also accused Jamaat of showing "double standards", saying the people are noticing who Jamaat has joined in its simultaneous movement for various demands, including introducing a PR system and banning the 14-party alliance and JP.

"Among the seven parties (in Jamaat's movement alliance), one is now fully that took part in the sham election on January 7, 2024," he said without mentioning the party's name.

"If they are deemed innocent just because they are with you, then what about the 28 others who took part in the dummy election with Awami League? Are they sinners? To suggest that joining you in the simultaneous movement absolves one of past wrongs, while siding with others makes them sinners -- this principle is not right," said Salahuddin.

Salahuddin said differences of opinion are part of democracy and any party can take to the streets to realise its demands by exercising democratic rights.

"But we have been saying that these issues are still awaiting settlement at the negotiation table. So, are you taking to the streets to

apply extra pressure? If you do, we will also have to go to the streets to counter it. Is that what we want now? We want these matters resolved at the negotiation table," he said.

Salahuddin said political parties need to remain united on national issues, including the country's interests, independence, sovereignty and democracy.

"In democratic practice, there will be debates, differences of opinion and pluralism, but the settlement must come at the dialogue table. If both dialogue and street movement are carried out on the same issue, that is a contradiction," he observed.

The BNP leader said some parties are talking about proportional representation (PR), but it is the people who will decide that.

He urged political parties to include their demands in their election manifestos and contest the polls. "If the people give their verdict in your favour, you can implement them. That is the democratic way,"

"We want to transform the campus into a better environment with rapid changes. That is why we have included students with diverse involvement, including visually impaired students," he added.

The preliminary list of candidates will be published today, with the final list due on September 25. Voting will take place on October 12.

Two new panels

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primarily to blame. An hour later, Chhatra Odhikar Parishad and Islami Chhatra Majlis jointly announced a 24-member panel under the banner "Sarbojonin Shikkharthi Sangsad".

The joint panel features Chhatra Odhikar Parishad convener Tamjid Uddin, a master's student of the EEE department, as vice-president candidate, while Islami Chhatra Majlis CU president Sakib Mahmud Rumi will contest for general secretary. Romon Rahman of Chhatra Odhikar Parishad has been nominated for assistant general secretary.

Earlier, Chhatra Odhikar had informally announced a standalone panel under the banner "Cucusu for Rapid Change", which has now been dissolved.

The BNP leader said some parties are talking about proportional representation (PR), but it is the people who will decide that.

Speaking on behalf of the coalition, GS candidate Rumi said his panel members will work above political or ideological differences for the greater interest of the students.

"We want to transform the campus into a better environment with rapid changes. That is why we have included students with diverse involvement, including visually impaired students," he added.

The preliminary list of candidates will be published today, with the final list due on September 25. Voting will take place on October 12.

PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 21

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-40 12-45 4-30 6-05 7-30
JAMAAT 5-15 1-15 4-45 6-10 8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Traders bring bamboo by floating it down the Atai river to a weekly market at Abhaynagar in Jashore. Held every Wednesday, the market sells bamboo at wholesale prices ranging from Tk 150 to Tk 600 per pole. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN



2 bridges collapse in Chuadanga

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Heavy rainfall and intense river currents have led to the collapse of two bridges in Chuadanga's Jibannagar upazila, cutting off communication for several villages and severely affecting local businesses.

One of the bridges, located over the Bhairab river in Santoshpur village, collapsed on Thursday night after the embankment in neighbouring Singnagar village gave way.

The structure had served as the only link between Santoshpur and neighbouring areas. As a result, villagers, including students, traders and farmers, are facing immense hardship.

Residents of Santoshpur, Manikpur, Rajapur, Ratrimampur, Singnagar, Dhopakhali, and Madhabkhali villages have been particularly affected.

Farmers are unable to transport agricultural

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Lightning strikes kill 2 in Kushtia

UNB, Kushtia

Two people, including a schoolboy, were killed in separate lightning strikes in Daulatpur upazila of Kushtia yesterday afternoon.

The victims were identified as Saif Hossain Toha, 10, a class four student from Shitlai Para in Rilavetpur union, and Jamat Ali, 25, from Bilgathua village in Pragpur union.

Solaiman Sheikh, officer-in-charge (OC) of Daulatpur Police Station, said Toha was fishing near his home when he was struck by lightning. He was rushed to Daulatpur Upazila Health Complex.

Jamat Ali was sitting on a bamboo platform in Bilgathua when he was fatally struck by lightning.

Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer Dr Tuhin confirmed that both victims had already died when brought to the Daulatpur hospital.

29 districts vulnerable ahead of Durga Puja

Claims civic platform Sampriti Jatra

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A civic platform, Sampriti Jatra, has identified 29 districts across the country as vulnerable ahead of the upcoming Durga Puja celebrations, citing a decade-long pattern of "communal unrest" and "targeted violence".

At a press conference yesterday at the Dhaka Reporters Unity, the organisation shared findings on media reports and human rights documentation over the past ten years.

The analysis focused on attacks on puja mandaps, processions, and homes of minority communities.

Of the 29 districts flagged, five -- Dhaka, Rangpur, Jashore, Chandpur, and Noakhali -- were categorised as high risk.

Twenty-four others -- Gazipur, Faridpur, Manikganj, Rajbari, Chattogram, Bandarban, Cumilla, Brahmanbaria, Lakshmipur, Feni, Pabna, Chapainawabganj, Natore, Lalmonirhat, Dinajpur, Gaibandha, Satkhira, Bagerhat, Khulna, Kushtia, Sunamganj, Barisal, Patuakhali, and Netrakona -- were marked moderately vulnerable. The remaining 35 districts were assessed as low risk.

In a written statement, author and researcher Mir Hojaiya Al Mamud said religious sites beyond Hindu temples are increasingly under threat.

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