



Children absorbed in a game of marbles at Ramkrishnapur village in Khulna yesterday. Amid the dominance of mobile games, such nostalgic play brings back warmth and a touch of childlike joy.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Hilsa catching, sale banned for 22 days from Oct 4

UNB, Dhaka

The government has announced a nationwide 22-day ban, effective from October 4 to 25 this year, on catching, transporting, marketing, and storing hilsa, aiming to protect brood fish during the peak spawning season.

Fisheries and Livestock Adviser Farida Akhter announced the decision at a press conference yesterday at the ministry.

Farida said the campaign will be enforced by fisheries officials along with the navy, air force, coast guard, river police and other law enforcement agencies.

To support affected fishermen, the government will distribute vulnerable group feeding (VGF) rice among 620,140 fishing households across 165 upazilas in 37 districts. Each family will receive 25kg of rice, requiring a total of 15,503.50 tonnes for the programme.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An icddr,b study has found that two in three female garment workers were married before turning 18, and nearly 65 percent had their first pregnancy before that age.

One-third of the participants reported at least one unintended pregnancy, while one in four had experienced abortion, icddr,b said in a press release.

The organisation presented the findings of its 24-month study on women working in Bangladesh's ready-made garment sector at a seminar at its auditorium yesterday.

The research was conducted between August 2022 and December 2024 in areas under icddr,b's Urban Health and Demographic Surveillance System, specifically in the Korail and Mirpur slums of Dhaka and a slum in Gazipur's Tongi.

Surveys were carried out every six months with 778 garment factory workers aged 15-27 years. The study was conducted by AdSearch of icddr,b with support from Global Affairs Canada, the press release said.

Ruchira Tabassum Naved,

emeritus scientist at icddr,b and principal investigator of the study, said, "Despite being relatively economically advanced, the sexual and reproductive health status of female workers in Bangladesh's garment industry is worse than that of other women."

- » Study surveyed 778 female workers (ages 15-27) over 24 months
- » 65% had first pregnancy before 18
- » One-third faced unintended pregnancy; one in 4 abortion
- » Violence by husbands remained very high
- » Most survivors of violence did not seek formal help

She stressed the need for detailed research and called on the government, development organisations, and partners to take collective initiative.

The study found a significant rise in awareness of long-acting family

planning methods among workers, from 49 percent at the start to 70 percent after two years.

Knowledge about emergency contraceptive pills also increased, from 15 percent to 39 percent, while positive attitudes towards gender equality in family planning rose from 54 percent to 71 percent, it also found.

However, the study revealed that violence by husbands against female workers was very high in the past 12 months, and all forms of violence – except sexual violence – increased over the two years.

The prevalence of psychological violence in the workplace also rose, from 48 percent of workers at the start to 55 percent after two years.

Meanwhile, almost none of the women who experienced violence sought formal help. Those who sought informal help from family or friends dropped from 35 percent to 21 percent in two years, said the study.

In cases of workplace violence, only one in five women reported incidents to authorities, a figure that did not change over time, it added.

**FEMALE RMG WORKERS**

## Two-thirds married before 18: icddr,b study

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**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

BNP senior leader Salahuddin Ahmed yesterday said people will politically reject those who are trying to delay or obstruct the national election.

Salahuddin, a BNP Standing Committee member, made the remarks while exchanging greetings with Hindu devotees at Dhakeshwari National Temple on the occasion of Durga Puja.

He also accused a quarter and a political party of trying to divide the nation and disrupt national unity on the basis of religion. He urged all to remain alert and speak out against such attempts.

Salahuddin said BNP rejects any division in the nation on the basis of religion. "We have never wanted to use religion as a political tool, nor do we want it now. We firmly oppose the politics of division based on religion."

**People will reject attempts to delay or obstruct polls**

**Says Salahuddin**

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## Calls grow for judicial

FROM PAGE 3

"We observe that tensions often flare up in the hill tracts, leading to loss of life and property. Since past incidents have not been properly investigated, it appears that such events are recurring," it added.

In a statement, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust said violence broke out between law enforcement agencies and demonstrators in Khagrachhari's Guimara during what had been a largely peaceful protest and urged immediate legal action against those responsible.

Both ASK and BLAST are members of HRFB.

Meanwhile, the Rape Law Reform Coalition

demanded immediate prosecution of those responsible for the rape of a schoolgirl, which sparked the protests in the hills.

The platform also called for security for the survivor and her family, adequate compensation, and stronger measures to prevent the recurrence of such violence.

Workers Party Bangladesh also condemned the violence in Guimara. In a statement, the party's politburo criticised the "irresponsibility of the local administration and law enforcement agencies".

It demanded that the perpetrators be brought to justice and that the government ensure peace in the hills and the security of indigenous communities.

## EU plans 150 observers for February polls

UK reaffirms support for free, fair elections

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A youth was stabbed to death by a group of unidentified miscreants in Dhaka's Mirpur yesterday while his father was injured while attempting to save him.

The victim, Rifat Khan, 21, and family lives in D Block of Mirpur 12.

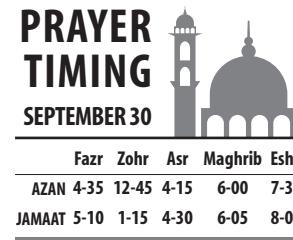
The attack occurred around 1:45pm on Road-9 of C Block near the old Mirpur 12 police station, according to police.

Rifat's father Sagar Khan said his son, a former RMG worker, was heading to Shewrapara when 15-20 men intercepted him.

"When I rushed to the spot after receiving a call, the men said they had disputes with Rifat over financial matters. Soon after, two motorcycles arrived and some men stabbed him in the chest. When I tried to save him, they stabbed me in the back before fleeing," he said.

Rifat was declared dead at DMCH.

Inspector Md Faruk, in charge of DMCH police outpost, said the body was kept at the morgue for autopsy.



SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Two toddlers drowned in a pond in Mathabanga village of Godagari upazila in Rajshahi yesterday.

The deceased are Karima Khatun, 2, daughter of Ruhul Amin, and Md Rafi, 2, son of Md Rabbul.

Locals said the children accidentally fell into a pond near their homes while playing. They were later found floating in the water. They were declared dead at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital, said Moazzem Hossain, inspector (Investigation) of Godagari Model Police Station.

## 2 toddlers drown in Rajshahi

UNB, Rajshahi

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## বাংলাদেশ পানি উন্নয়ন বোর্ড

নির্বাচিত প্রক্রিয়ালয় কার্যালয়  
সুনামগঞ্জ পানি উন্নয়ন বিভাগ-১  
বাল্পুরে, সুনামগঞ্জ। ফোন: ০২-৫২-৫২২১২১৮  
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Office of the Executive Engineer  
Sunamganj WD Division-1  
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Memo No. EE/Sunam-1/T-3/475

Date: 29/09/2025

### Tender Notice

A tender has been invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following (Works).

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Package No. & Description	Location of the service / supply	Tender/ proposal documents last selling date & time	Tender/ proposal closing & opening date & time
1	1158548	Re-excavation of Gazaria Khal from km 0.000 to km 0.65 m & from Km 0.077 to Km 0.868= 0.856 km Upazila-Jamalganj, District-Sunamganj under Sunamganj WD Division-01, BWDB, Sunamganj during the FY 2025-26. (Package No. Suman-1/2025-26/NDR/OTM/W-01)	Upazilla-Jamalganj, District-Sunamganj	14-10-2025 & 17.00	15-10-2025 & 12:00

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 (<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 17:00 hours on 14/10/2025. Tender publishing date in e-GP System on 30/09/2025, 02:00pm. 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)) (0176265528-31) (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

Signed/-

Md. Mamun Howlader  
Executive Engineer  
Sunamganj WD Division-1  
BWDB, Sunamganj

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh		
Ministry of Home Affairs		
Office of the Directorate of Logistics		
Bangladesh Coast Guard Headquarters		
Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207		

### Invitation for Tender

For Director Logistics e-GP Invitation No. 44.08.2680.060.50.004.25.1311 Date: 22 September 2025

### To be Read:

Director Logistics e-GP Invitation No. 44.08.2680.060.50.004.25.1353 Date: 29 September 2025

### e-Tender Notice

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

Ser	Tender ID	Package name	Method	Date & Time		
				Publication	Last selling	Closing and opening
1.	1158237	Purchase of 01 lot various black & white printer cartridge (11 line) tender samples need to be submitted before tender opening time (as per TDS)	OTM	30-09-2025 10:00am	14-10-2025 15:00pm	15-10-2025 12:30pm

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). For more details, please contact support desk contact numbers.

Documents can be downloaded till deadline of Tender/Application/Proposal submission.

