

KU takes action against 19 students

They were expelled, suspended over ragging, assault

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Khulna University has taken action against 19 students for ragging, assault, blasphemy, and drug-related offences. The decisions were approved at the university's 27th disciplinary board meeting held on October 9, according to the Office of the Director of Students' Affairs. Mobarak Hossain Noman of the Bangla discipline was expelled and banned from entering the campus for life for allegedly assaulting a teacher. For drug use, purchase, and sale, Hasan Hawlader of Economics and Aminul Islam of Journalism were expelled. In a separate case of physical violence, Md Zahidul Islam of Law was also expelled. Meheraf Hossain Rabbi and Aminul Ehsan were warned and required to submit written undertakings with their guardians. For ragging, KM Rauful Alam Ornob of Mathematics was suspended for six months, while Md Rimon Mia, Ahsan Habib, and Md Salman Hossain were fined Tk 5,000 each and ordered to submit undertakings. Md Umar Faruk and Sadman Ud Doula of Education were suspended for the current term for fighting on campus, while Moniruzzaman Riad of Business Administration and Ziad Al Sams of Education were fined Tk 5,000 each. Three Mathematics students -- Babul Akter Durjoy, Rashed Khan Menon, and Bandhan Roy -- were suspended for six months for using abusive language and issuing death threats to teachers.



As winter approaches, Md Liton Hawlader spends his days making cotton-filled quilts. Working from morning till evening, he earns around Tk 1,000–1,500 per day. The photo was taken at Pirtala Bazar in Dumki upazila of Patuakhali.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

3-day Lalon Utshab begins today

BSS, Kushtia

The Lalon Smaron Utshab (Lalon Memorial Festival) will be celebrated nationally for the first time, marking the 135th death anniversary of mystic saint Lalon Shah. The three-day festival begins today with the slogan "Manush Bhojle Sonar Manush Hobir" (If you love people, you will become a worthy person). The event will unite devotees, bauls, and musicians from across the country for a celebration of Lalon's life, music, and philosophy. In Cheuria, Kushtia -- home to the revered Lalon Akhra -- the festival will transform the shrine into a vibrant gathering of faith, music, and reflection, as it has since the Bengali year 1297 following the death of Lalon. From dawn to dusk, the grounds will resonate with bhaav-geeti, soulful baul performances, and philosophical discussions celebrating Lalon's vision of spiritual freedom and human unity. The government on September 4 announced that October 17 would be observed every year as the death anniversary of Lalon Shah under the "Ka" category national day, directing all ministries, divisions, and relevant agencies to take necessary measures in this regard.



Tk 27 lakh for constructing a tinshed room!

WDB faces graft allegations over office renovation in Kurigram

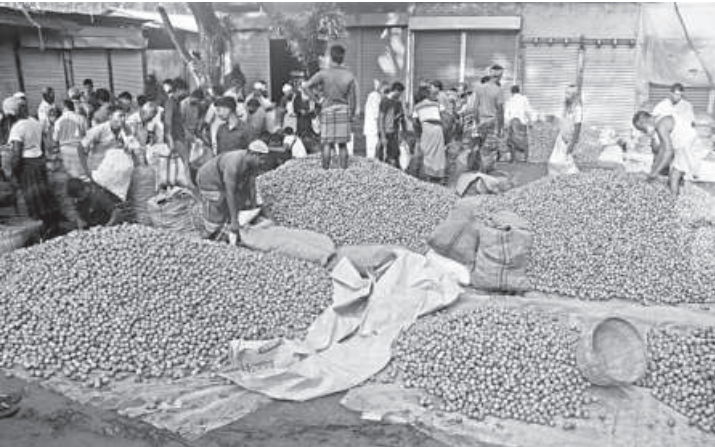
S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Allegations of corruption have surfaced against officials of the Water Development Board over the renovation of its branch office in Nageshwari upazila of Kurigram. A total of Tk 27 lakh was allocated for renovating the office building. However, instead of carrying out the renovation, WDB authorities reportedly constructed a 30-square-foot tinshed room through a contractor and claimed the entire bill. The work was executed by contractor Belal Hossain.



Sources at the WDB office said the Nageshwari branch office building had been in a dilapidated state for years and was unsuitable for occupancy. Although Tk 27 lakh was allocated for renovation, the authorities claimed that the amount was insufficient for proper repairs -- hence, a tinshed room was built beside the building. During a site visit, it was observed that the old building remains in a ramshackle condition, while the newly constructed tinshed room stands beside it. The structure of the shed combines wood and iron angles. Local carpenters and masons said the maximum cost of constructing the tinshed room would not exceed Tk 5 lakh. Contacted, contractor Belal Hossain declined to comment on the matter. Sub-divisional engineer of Kurigram WDB, Munna Haque, said, "The branch office building was not suitable for renovation. Due to insufficient allocation for a new building, the tinshed room was constructed. Apart from the shed, a washroom and kitchen were also included in the construction." However, Kurigram WDB's executive engineer Rakibul Hasan said, "I was not aware of this issue. I can provide information after a detailed inquiry."

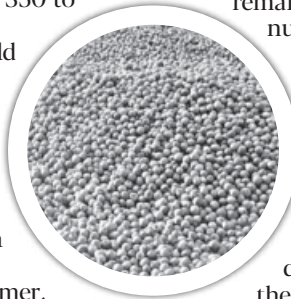
Betel nut prices drop in Pirojpur despite bumper yield



KM HABIBUR RAHMAN, Pirojpur

Farmers in Pirojpur are delighted with this year's bumper betel nut harvest but frustrated over the sharp fall in prices. Despite good yields, profits have dropped as buyers are paying far less than last year. The price of 210 betel nuts -- locally known as a kuri -- now ranges between Tk 250 and Tk 500 depending on quality and size, down from Tk 350 to Tk 650 last year. "Last year, we sold at Tk 600 per kuri, but this year the price has fallen by at least Tk 100 to Tk 150," said Md Alam Khan of Pattashii village in Indurkani upazila. Another farmer, Alamgir Sheikh, said production nearly doubled this season but prices fell short of expectations. Traditionally, wholesale buyers from Rangpur, Chattogram, and Dinajpur visit Pirojpur to buy betel nuts in bulk, but their presence is missing this year, he added. Some buyers usually store betel nuts by drying or keeping them

wet in water, but their interest is low this year as well. "The big buyers didn't come due to political uncertainty. They fear not getting good returns," said farmer Mizanur Rahman Howlader. "Betel nut has limited local demand -- we mostly rely on traders from other regions," said Abdul Kader, a small trader. "Their absence has hit our sales badly." Despite the slump, farmers remain interested in betel nut cultivation, as the crop requires little care and yields for many years once the trees mature -- typically five years after planting. Md Abdullah Al Mamun, additional deputy director of the Department of Agricultural Extension, said Pirojpur's weather is suitable for betel nut production. "We provide farmers with technical support to ensure better yields," he added. Betel nut orchards now cover around 4,669 hectares in Pirojpur Sadar and Mathbaria upazilas. Harvesting began two months ago and will continue for the next two months.



A farmer collects jute spinach (pat shak) from a field in Tetla, Paba upazila, Rajshahi. Having harvested jute from the same field a few days ago, farmers are now using the jute plants as a leafy vegetable, which they can sell in the market at a good price. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Export Promotion Bureau
TCB Building, 1, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215

Invitation for Tender

1	Ministry	Ministry of Commerce
2	Procuring entity name	Export Promotion Bureau (EPB)
3	Invitation for	Construction of Underground Fire Water Reservoir (Civil and Electro Mechanical works) in Bangladesh-China Friendship Exhibition Centre (BCFEC) at Purbachal, Rupganj, Narayanganj
4	Procuring entity code	N/A
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka
6	Invitation Ref No.	26.02.0000.006.26.748 (Part-4).23-1903
7	Date	October 16, 2025
KEY INFORMATION		
8	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)
FUNDING INFORMATION		
9	Budget and source of funds	Own fund
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
10	Tender package name	Construction of Underground Fire Water Reservoir (Civil and Electro Mechanical works) in Bangladesh-China Friendship Exhibition Centre (BCFEC) at Purbachal, Rupganj, Narayanganj
11	Tender publication date	October 17, 2025
12	Tender last selling date and time	October 29, 2025, up to 05:00pm
13	Tender closing date and time	October 30, 2025, Time: 12:00pm
14	Tender opening date and time	October 30, 2025, Time: 12:30pm
15	Place of selling/receiving/opening tender documents	Export Promotion Bureau Attention: Secretary, Export Promotion Bureau. Address: Export Promotion Bureau Telephone: +88-02-55013420 E-mail address: secy@epb.gov.bd
INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT		
16	Brief eligibility and qualification of tenderer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The minimum number of years of general experience of the Tenderer in the construction works shall be 5 years.The minimum specific experience in construction works of at least 01(one) contract of similar nature (Construction of Underground Fire Water Reservoir (Civil and Electro Mechanical works)) successfully completed within last 05 (five) years value minimum amount BDT 75,00,000.00 (seventy-five lac).The tenderer shall have updated trade license, updated income tax clearance certificate, VAT registration certificate, and TIN certificate.Must have an audit report of the last 03 years.The required average annual construction turnover shall be greater than Tk 1,50,00,000.00 (one crore fifty lac) over the last 5 (five) yearsThe minimum amount of liquid assets i.e. working capital or credit line(s) of the Tenderer shall be Tk 74,00,000.00 (seventy-four lac).Other eligibility and qualification criteria outlined in the tender documents.
17	Brief description of services	The Works consist of Construction, Site preparation work, Steel Sheet Pile, Centering & Shuttering, Reinforce Cement Concrete Works, Plastering, Sand filling, Earth cutting and filling, Bailing out Water, Steel, Chemical Admixture, Pump disconnect and reconnect, Dismantling Pump house room and remaking, pump installation, Cable connect, Water pipe disconnect and reconnect Water in and out Connect from pump, Painting Works, Fitting, Fixing, Fabrication Works, Epoxy Primer Works and Finally functional of underground Fire Water Reservoir etc.
18	Price of tender document	BDT 1000.00 (one thousand Taka) non-refundable
19	Tender security	The amount of the Tender Security shall be Tk. 4 lakh (four lac) only in the form of a Pay Order in favor of the "Export Promotion Bureau".
PROCURMENT ENTITIY DETAILS		
20	Designation of the official inviting tender	Secretary, Export Promotion Bureau.
21	Contact address of the official inviting tender	Export Promotion Bureau TCB Building, 1, Kawran Bazar, 4th Floor, Dhaka, Phone: +88-02-55013420, Email: secy@epb.gov.bd
The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any of the tenders or annul the tender proceedings.		

Tarafdar Sohel Rahman
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Export Promotion Bureau
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GD-2208