

KURIGRAM–CHILMARI Passengers suffer as rail project stalls

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

The 29 kilometre rail link between Kurigram Sadar and Chilmari's Ramna has long been in a dilapidated state, forcing trains to move slowly and causing frequent delays.

The journey, which should take 40 minutes, now takes nearly two and a half hours, with trains running at only 10 to 15 kilometres per hour.

The route, covering five stations – Kurigram, Panchpir, Ulipur, Balabari and Ramna – has become almost defunct, though hundreds still wait at Ramna station daily for irregular trains.

"Ramna used to be a busy station with three pairs of trains daily. Now only one runs irregularly, but we still wait as it's safer and cheaper," said passenger Nazu Mia, 60.

Alzal Hossain, a teacher from Balabari, said the flood-prone area depends on trains for affordable transport, but the poor condition of the tracks has made travel miserable.

Kurigram–Chilmari Rail Rehabilitation and Modernisation Project began in 2023 with two parts – a 19km Kurigram–Ulipur link for Tk 29 crore and a 10km Ramna–Ulipur link for Tk 33.7 crore. Work started in November 2023, with deadlines extended from January to December 2025. Project work is now stalled amid fund crisis.

"The authorities still owe us nearly half our payment,"



said Rubel Islam, project manager of Bishwas Construction Ltd, adding that 80 percent of the Kurigram–Ulipur and 25 percent of the Ramna–Ulipur segments are complete.

Lalmonirhat Railway Division engineer Shipon Islam said letters have been sent to higher authorities seeking bill approvals. "Once complete, the trains will run faster and we plan to add more services," he said.

JASHORE SADAR UPAZILA

28 years on, locals still wait for bridge over Bhairab river



PHOTO: STAR

MOHSIN MILON, Benapole

For the past 28 years, residents of Purba Barandipara area in Jashore Sadar upazila have been waiting for a concrete bridge over the Bhairab river.

With every passing year, their patience wears thin, but the bridge never gets built.

For years, locals have relied on a makeshift bamboo bridge to cross the river. It often gets damaged and has to be repaired repeatedly, mostly through self-initiative.

Every day, hundreds of people from the area, including around 200 students of Sheikhhati Shafiur Rahman Model Academy,

risk their lives crossing the fragile structure to commute.

"The bamboo bridge was built by the locals mainly to help children reach school by crossing the river," said Rezaul Islam, headteacher of the school.

"After the first bridge collapsed, the school authority built another one. Students still use it daily to attend classes and return home. However, a permanent, concrete bridge is essential for their safety."

Murad Hossain, a local resident, said a request had already been submitted to the authorities concerned for the construction of a permanent bridge, but no progress had been made so far.

During a recent meeting of the District River Protection Committee at the Jashore Collectorate, Palash Kumar Banerjee, executive engineer of Water Development Board in Jashore, proposed the construction of a bridge over the Bhairab river in front of the school.

"The proposal has been included in a new project submitted for approval. Once approved, construction of the bridge will begin," said Chowdhury Mohammad Asif Reza, upazila officer of the Local Government Engineering Department in Jashore Sadar.

4 more die of dengue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four more deaths were reported from dengue in 24 hours till yesterday morning, raising the number of fatalities from the mosquito-borne disease to 292 this year.

During the period, 1,101 more patients were hospitalised with the viral fever, raising the total infected case to 73, 923 this year, according to the DGHS.

Last year, dengue claimed 575 lives.



Government to

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management company, has announced plans to bring Zakir Naik to Bangladesh for a lecture series later this month.

Shahadat Hawlader, manager of the company, told The Daily Star that they will soon announce details of the tour.

A senior official of the Special Branch of police, requesting anonymity, told The Daily Star they had not yet received any instruction regarding his visit.

The meeting also discussed training for the armed forces members deployed in the field.

A source present at the meeting said, "Members of the armed forces have been deployed nationwide since before the August 5 mass uprising, with officers later given magistracy powers."

"Amid this situation, the meeting discussed the need for training for the

armed forces members. However, the Armed Forces Division will decide how and when such training will be provided."

Several other issues were also discussed at the meeting.

After the meeting, Home Adviser Jahangir Alam briefed reporters at the secretariat. He said the meeting focused on preparations for ensuring a peaceful and credible election.

Responding to a question about possible police bias, Jahangir Alam said, "The election must be free, fair, credible, and festive. If any police member is found favouring a particular candidate or party, they will immediately be brought under the law."

He also said officials who were involved in the 2014, 2018, and 2024 elections would be reviewed before deployment this time.

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Bangladesh Red Crescent Society

National Headquarters
684-686, Red Crescent Sarak, Bara Moghbazar, Dhaka-1217

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) invites application from the suitable professional candidates for the position of **Deputy Secretary General** on contractual basis based in Dhaka.

This position will be responsible for assisting the Secretary General in implementing the decisions of the Managing Board and overseeing the Society's country-wide projects and programs. Key responsibilities include planning, budgeting, budgetary control, supervision, monitoring, evaluation, reporting, and human resource development and management. The ideal candidate should possess the ability to maintain effective relationships with the Government of Bangladesh, UN agencies, IFRC, ICRC, Partner National Societies, and other national and international organizations, particularly those involved in humanitarian activities.

The candidate should be between 50 and 62 years of age as of 16 November 2025. The incumbent must hold at least a postgraduate degree in any discipline and have a minimum of 20 years of professional experience, including at least 10 years in a senior management position within a reputed organization such as a Government, Semi-Government, Autonomous, UN, INGO, NGO, Humanitarian, or Development organization. Proficiency in computer applications, fluency in spoken English, and a high level of proficiency in written English are essential requirements. As the Red Crescent Society is a voluntary humanitarian organization, preference will be given to candidates with experience and knowledge in crisis management, disaster mitigation, participation in national and international conferences, and work experience in the humanitarian field.

Applications should be submitted with full CV mentioning two references, two recent passport size photographs and necessary documents to The Chairman, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, 684-686, Red Crescent Sarak, Bara Moghbazar, Dhaka-1217 by **16 November 2025**. Salary and other facilities are subject to negotiation.

Only short-listed candidates will be called for interview.
BDRCS is an equal opportunity employer.

Chairman

NATIONAL CREDIT AND COMMERCE BANK PLC.

COMMON SERVICES DIVISION
Head Office: NCC Bank Bhaban, 13/1-2, Toyenbee Circular Road
Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, Phone: 223390053
PABX: 223381901-4, 223383981-2, Ext-117

NOTICE OF INVITING QUOTATION

Sealed quotations are hereby invited by National Credit and Commerce Bank PLC. (the Bank) from reputed Companies/local Agents/Suppliers/Authorized Distributors/Service Providers for the below mentioned requirement under the terms and conditions mentioned detail in the Request for Quotation (RFQ) documents.

Service Description	Price of the Tender Document	Sale start date	Sale end date	Date and time for Tender Submission
RFQ for supplying & installing of Note Sorting Machine to NCC Bank PLC.	Tk. 2,000/- (Taka Two Thousand) only in the form of Payment Order (non-refundable) favoring National Credit and Commerce Bank PLC. by any scheduled bank of Bangladesh	November 05, 2025	November 19, 2025	November 20, 2025 on/before 11:00 AM

The schedule containing detailed Terms & Conditions may be collected from the Common Services Division, Level-5, NCC Bank PLC. Head Office, Dhaka and submit the same under sealed envelope to the Tender Box placed at Common Services Division (CSD). Manipulation or any kind of unusual approach or failure to submit offer within the stipulated time frame will be treated as "Disqualified" for the bidding. The Bank authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposal without assigning any reason whatsoever

Vice President & Head of Common Services Division

Halt DAP

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central Dhaka into vertical slums," he warned.

Though the plan mentions block-based development, increasing FAR and units will only worsen traffic congestion and overburden civic services, he said.

Several organisations, including WBB Trust, the Center for Atmospheric Pollution Studies, Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association and others, have submitted recommendations urging the government not to increase FAR and population density.

DTCA, UDD and IEB made similar suggestions, but the government has ignored them and yielded to pressure from real estate developers, speakers said.

Amirul Rajiv, coordinator of the Bangladesh Tree Protection Movement, said Dhaka is already struggling with shortages of open spaces, walkways, water bodies and basic utilities. "Managing the current population is already difficult. Increasing FAR will worsen the situation," he said.

Barrister Jyotirmoy Barua, Supreme Court lawyer and rights activist,

SC to promote

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sent a letter to the law ministry seeking her suspension and attachment to the ministry.

According to meeting sources, joint district judges will be promoted to additional district judges, senior assistant judges to joint district judges, and assistant judges to senior assistant judges. The law ministry will issue gazette notifications in this regard.

The full court did not take any decision on publishing

said real estate developers were acting as policymakers and harming the city by occupying natural drainage channels in the name of development.

"Development is not just about bricks and cement; preserving water bodies is equally essential," he said.

Environmental activist Ibnul Said Rana said proper and responsible urban planning is crucial for sustainable city development.

Citizen rights activist Mizanur Rahman from Jurain said many residents there lack basic amenities. "If this neglect continues, the crisis will only deepen," he warned.

The speakers also demanded a ban on development in agricultural, wetland and flood flow zones; legal action against encroachers; reduced FAR in elite neighbourhoods; proper setback distances to ensure air and light; and a maximum height limit for residential buildings.

Firoz Ahmed, writer and member of the Constitution Reform Commission; Gaus Piari, director of WBB Trust; and Syed Shahriar Amin, vice president of BIP, also spoke.

the Supreme Court calendar for 2026, as the government's annual calendar has not yet been released.

Meanwhile, the government yesterday appointed 41 new deputy attorneys general and 67 assistant attorneys general to represent the state in the Appellate and High Court Divisions.

European envoys push

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British High Commissioner Sarah Cooke reiterated the UK government's continued commitment to supporting Bangladesh's economic growth and its aspiration to become a

regional aviation hub.

German envoy Rüdiger Lotz said with Bangladesh's growing economy and emerging middle class, Biman needed modern, environmentally friendly

aircraft, and Airbus was well-positioned to provide them.

Rafael Gomez Noya, commercial sales director at Airbus, and Monal Shesh, head of marketing, also spoke.

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society

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684-686, Red Crescent Sarak, Bara Moghbazar, Dhaka 1217.
PABX: +88-02-48310188-9, Ext: 222, 258, Direct: +88-02-48316602, Web: www.bdracs.org

INVITATION FOR TENDER

1. Invitation Reference, Tender ID No, and Date	Ref. No. Pro-(Log.) 391/2025, Tender ID: 68/2025, 04/11/2025
2. Procuring Entity Name	Secretary General, BDRCS
3. Name of Requisition Department	DCRM Department, National Headquarters, BDRCS, 684-686 Red Crescent Road, Bara Moghbazar, Dhaka-1217.
4. Implementation by	DCRM and Estate Department, National Headquarters, BDRCS, 684-686 Red Crescent Road, Bara Moghbazar, Dhaka-1217.
5. Budget and Source of Funds	British Red Cross (BRC), CCA Project in Narayanganj District.
6. Invitation for	"Construction work (NBS Construction-Small Scale Mitigation Work) in Narayanganj District."
7. Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method, OTM (Two Envelope)
8. Detail	"Construction work (NBS Construction-Small Scale Mitigation Work) in Narayanganj District, DCRM Department", (1) Part-A: Site & Water Hyacinth Cleaning, Soil Development & Retaining Wall Work for Ghat-1. (2) Part-B: Pond Ghat. (3) Part-C: Tree Square, Seat Bench, Seat at Pond & Name Block Work. (4) Part-D: Site Cleaning, Soil Development & Retaining Wall Work For Ghat-2 at Shumilapara, Ward-06, Narayanganj District.
9. Purchase of Tender document	Tender documents and schedules with detailed information are available at the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) website: www.bdracs.org . Tender Schedule Download Link: https://bdracs.org/tender/ Important Details: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Interested bidders are requested to collect the tender documents within the stipulated timeframe from the mentioned link/BDRCS website.A Tender Schedule purchase fee of BDT 2000.00 (Two thousand taka only) is applicable. This fee is non-refundable.The purchase fee should be paid through bkash number 01894806393 (BDRCS Merchant Account).Please mention the bkash transaction reference number on top of the tender schedule.Failure to include the bkash transaction reference number may result in the disqualification of your bid.
10. Tender Schedule available from website/link	05-11-2025
11. Tender Closing Date and Time	20-11-2025 at 3:00 PM
12. Tender Opening Date and Time	20-11-2025 at 3:15 PM
13. Pre-bid Meeting Schedule	11-11-2025 at 10:00 AM at Logistics Dept. Meeting Room, NHQ, BDRCS
14. Price of Tender Document	BDT 2000.00 nonrefundable through bkash number 01894-806393 .
15. Tender Security Money	2.5 % of the Total quoted value.
16. Eligibility of Tenderer	As per tender documents.
17. Address of Tender Submission & Opening	Logistics Department Room, National Headquarters, BDRCS, 684-686 Red Crescent Road, Bara Moghbazar, Dhaka-1217.
18. Completion Time in months	As per tender documents.

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender or split the order without assigning any reason whatsoever and will not be bound to accept the lowest bid.

Dr. Kabir M. Ashraf Alam, ndc
Secretary General

AHSANULLAH UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

141-142 Love Road, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208.
Phone: 02 8870422 (Ext.-201) Web: www.aust.edu
Ref. No: AUST/Arch. & TE/OTM/Tender-08/2025-26

TENDER INVITATION

Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology (AUST) is inviting sealed bids from bona fide/ reputed organizations/ distributors/ business partners/agents for:

1. Procurement of AC (Qty- 05 nos.) for Architecture dept.
2. Supply & Installation of lab item (Washing Color Fastness Tester) for Textile Engineering (TE) dept.
3. Supply & Installation of lab item (Dyeing Machine) for TE dept.

The bidders must submit earnest money @ 2.5% of the quoted price in the form of Pay Order issued from any scheduled bank drawn in favor of "Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology" along with their offer. Interested bidders may collect schedule of tender from the Procurement Officer of AUST on all working days till Nov. 16, 2025 by 4 p.m. The sealed offer must be submitted on **Nov. 18, 2025 (Tuesday)** by 2.00 p.m. at the Treasurer office and the tenders will be opened at 02:30 p.m. on the same day (**Nov. 18, 2025**). Representatives of the participating bidders may remain present at the time of opening the tenders.

The AUST authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without showing any reason what-so-ever and is not bound to award the work order to the lowest bidder.

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