

Media leaders call for self-regulation to protect press freedom

CITY DESK

The news media industry must take the lead in establishing a structured, industry-driven system for self-regulation to safeguard press freedom, strengthen accountability, rebuild public trust, and uphold high journalistic standards, said speakers at a consultation.

The issue was raised during three meetings organised by the Media Resources Development Initiative (MRDI), engaging stakeholders from across the country, according to a press release.

Editors, newsroom leaders, journalists, union and association leaders, media development practitioners, academia, and civil society representatives attended the consultations on “Media self-regulation in Bangladesh: Legal frameworks, global practices and pathways to accountability” held on October 8 and 15, 2025, in Dhaka.

They called on news organisations to formally adopt ethical and operational standards and emphasised that self-regulation must be adopted as the central framework guiding the news media industry.

44 AL men arrested in Cumilla

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

Police have arrested 44 leaders and activists of the Awami League and its associate bodies from Cumilla.

Among them, 29 were arrested from the Tomsom Bridge, Jhautola and Badurtala areas of the city along with sharp weapons, including machetes, hand bombs and crude bombs around 6:00am yesterday, said Mahinul Islam, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Model Police Station.

According to police, the group had gathered to mobilise for a protest scheduled for today centring the verdict in a case against ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

The OC said Cumilla District Police remained on alert, similar to the rest of the country, to prevent sabotage, arson and vandalism.

In separate operations elsewhere in the district, police arrested 15 AL leaders and activists on Saturday night, the OC said.



Passengers remain stranded at Nathullabad Bus Terminal in Barishal yesterday, while others resort to three-wheelers and pay extra fare to reach their destinations. Bus services stayed suspended in the city after a clash between students and transport workers on Saturday over half fare.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Groundwater depleting fast in Cox’s Bazar

MOKAMMEL SHUVO, Cox’s Bazar

Groundwater levels are depleting rapidly across almost all upazilas in Cox’s Bazar, raising fears of an acute water crisis in the near future.

According to the Department of Public Health Engineering, the situation is most severe in Cox’s Bazar municipality, Ukhiya, and Teknaf.

Uncontrolled extraction and unplanned management have caused groundwater levels in Cox’s Bazar municipality to drop by 6–14 feet annually, says a DPHE report. In areas like Kolatoli and Tekpara, water is now found at depths of 90–110 feet.

Severe water shortages persist in Wards 3, 4, 5, and 6 of the municipality. Many residents are forced to collect water from distant areas or buy it. Tube-well water has high salinity and is suitable only for bathing and household chores, while residents complain that water supplied by the municipality is of poor quality and has a foul smell.

DPHE officials estimate that around 30,000 deep and shallow tube-wells are operational across the district.

Usain Chi, 60, of Boro Bazar, said, “After the 1991 cyclone, the groundwater here became saline, and it has worsened since then. Finding fresh water is now our biggest challenge.”

Mang Su Prue, owner of a five-storey building in the same area, said, “Even after drilling 400 feet deep, I couldn’t find fresh water. The municipal water supply smells bad and isn’t fit for drinking.”

The situation in Ukhiya and Teknaf, near the Rohingya camps, is even more alarming due to excessive extraction. In parts



Many in Cox’s Bazar are now forced to purchase bottled water due to groundwater depletion.

PHOTO: STAR

of Rajapalong and Palongkhali unions of Ukhiya, water is now found at depths of 100–110 feet, dropping 8–14 feet annually, said Md Ibne Mayaz Pramanik, executive engineer of DPHE in Cox’s Bazar.

Water is now found at 40–60 feet in Jhilongja and Bharuakhali in Sadar upazila, 25–45 feet in Eidgaon, 20–28 feet in Ramu,

groundwater recharge initiatives, are needed urgently to prevent future crisis,” he warned.

Due to the alarming depletion, Cox’s Bazar’s water supply system is under severe strain.

Rubel Barua, assistant engineer of the municipality, said, “Our nine pump houses were set up in 2011–12. Since then, the water table has kept falling. Earlier we could find water at 150–200 feet, but now even at 1,200–1,500 feet it’s difficult.”

“The water we get is of poor quality, foul-smelling, and unfit for use. Most private tube wells no longer work, which puts strain on municipal supply. We’re now trying to supply water twice a day from the few pumps that still work,” he said.

As a long-term solution, the municipality is turning to surface water treatment.

“The surface water treatment plant on the Bankkhali river will become the main source of safe water in future. Its commissioning work is underway and it’s expected to be fully operational by late December or early January,” said Barua.

Abul Mansur, assistant engineer of DPHE in Cox’s Bazar, said the plant would be able to treat around 10 lakh litres of water hourly.

“We hope that once it becomes operational, it alone can meet up to 55 percent of the municipality’s water demand,” he added.

Clash over half fare halts bus operations in Barishal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal



Bus operations on all routes, including those to Dhaka, remained suspended from Barishal’s Nathullabad Bus Terminal yesterday following a clash between transport workers and students over half fare.

The suspension began on Saturday evening and was still continuing till last reported yesterday evening.

The sudden halt caused immense suffering as hundreds of passengers were left stranded at the terminal since morning.

“No buses left the terminal for any destination since morning,” said Hira Paik, a transport worker. Only a few BRTC buses were seen operating.

On Saturday evening, a violent clash broke out at the terminal between students and transport workers over a fare dispute, leaving at least 50 people from both sides injured. More than 50 buses and several ticket counters were vandalised.

Traffic on the Dhaka-Barishal-Kuakata highway near the terminal remained halted for about two hours until army personnel intervened to bring the situation under control and resume vehicular movement.

With no buses leaving the terminal, many passengers resorted to smaller vehicles such as three-wheelers, paying higher fares to reach their destinations.

Farida Begum, who came to the terminal with her husband and child to travel to Faridpur, said, “We have been waiting since 9:00am. We didn’t know the buses wouldn’t run.” Abdur Rahman, a Dhaka-bound passenger, said he waited at the terminal for two hours before returning home.

Students said the clash erupted after an argument with a bus supervisor over half fare, leaving several students injured. They denied the allegation of vandalism.

Bus Owners’ Group President Mir Mosharraf Hossain claimed nearly 100 buses were damaged, causing losses of Tk 3–4 crore, while around 50 ticket counters were vandalised and at least 50 workers injured.

Order on S Alam’s renunciation of Bangladeshi citizenship stayed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday stayed a government decision that accepted the renunciation application of Bangladeshi nationality of S Alam Group owner Mohammed Saiful Alam on July 19, 2020.

The HC order means that Saiful Alam is a Bangladeshi citizen.

The court also issued a rule asking the government to explain why it should not be directed to take necessary steps through diplomatic means for extradition of Saiful Alam from Singapore and/or elsewhere for compelling him to repay liabilities of the banks and also to face pending criminal charges.

In the rule, the court asked the government to show cause why their inaction to bring him (Saiful) back to Bangladesh to compel him to repay liabilities of the banks and also to face criminal charges should not be declared illegal.

The bench of Justice Sikder Mahmudur Razi and Justice Raziuddin Ahmed came up with the order and rule following a writ petition filed by Islami

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Upazila Health & Family Planning Officer

Dakshin Surma Upazila Health Complex

Email: southsurma@uhfpo.dghs.gov.bd

Ref No. UHC/Surma/e-Tender/2025-26/785

Date: 16-11-2025

Re-Tender Notice

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 portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). For more details, please contract support desk contract numbers.

e-Tender are invited in e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Dr. MD. SALAHUDDIN MIA, UH&FPO, Dakshin Surma Upazila Health Complex, Sylhet. for the Procurement of;

Tender Id	Name of Goods	Tender/Proposal Last Selling Date & Time	Tender/Proposal Closing/Opening Date & Time
1177699	Procurement of Medicine (Non EDCL) for the F.Y 2025-2026 at Dakshin Surma Upazila Health Complex, Sylhet.	24-Nov-2025 11:00	24-Nov-2025 14:00
1177702	Procurement of Medical Equipment for the F.Y 2025-2026 at Dakshin Surma Upazila Health Complex, Sylhet.	24-Nov-2025 11:00	24-Nov-2025 14:00

e-Tender details can be downloaded on e-GP system portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for pursuer. re-Tender will be accepted only as stated in above list; accepted tenders will be opened online immediate as stated in above list.

(Dr. MD. SALAHUDDIN MIA)
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e-Tenders are the invited through e-GP portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Principal, Dhaka Mohila Polytechnic Institute under the Directorate of Technical Education for the procurement of following package Which will be available at e-GP website (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) from date and time as follows:

Tender Id Package no	Description	Publication date Closing Date
1170210, DMPI/OTM/2025-26/e-GP_1/192	Supply of Books	18-Nov-2025 10:00:00 , 03-Dec-2025 12:00:00
1170212, DMPI/OTM/2025-26/e-GP_2/193	Computer Accessories	18-Nov-2025 10:00:00 , 03-Dec-2025 12:00:00
1170214, DMPI/OTM/2025-26/e-GP_3/194	Supply of Office stationary	18-Nov-2025 10:00:00 , 03-Dec-2025 12:00:00
1170215, DMPI/OTM/2025-26/e-GP_4/195	Supply of Raw Materials	18-Nov-2025 10:00:00 , 03-Dec-2025 12:00:00
1170218, DMPI/OTM/2025-26/e-GP_5/196	Supply of Sports Materials	18-Nov-2025 10:00:00 , 03-Dec-2025 12:00:00
1170220, DMPI/OTM/2025-26/e-GP_6/197	Supply of Engineering and other equipment for Multipurpose Workshop	18-Nov-2025 10:00:00 , 09-Dec-2025 12:00:00
1170221, DMPI/OTM/2025-26/e-GP_7/198	Supply of Engineering and other equipment for Animation Visualization lab.	8-Nov-2025 10:00:00 , 09-Dec-2025 12:00:00
1170223, DMPI/OTM/2025-26/e-GP_8/199	Supply of Engineering and other equipment for digital Electronics Lab.	18-Nov-2025 10:00:00 , 09-Dec-2025 12:00:00
1170226, DMPI/OTM/2025-26/e-GP_9/200	Supply of Office Equipment	18-Nov-2025 10:00:00 , 03-Dec-2025 12:00:00
1170228, DMPI/OTM/2025-26/e-GP_10/201	Supply of Educational and learning Aides.	18-Nov-2025 10:00:00 , 03-Dec-2025 12:00:00
1170230, DMPI/OTM/2025-26/e-GP_11/202	Supply of Furniture	18-Nov-2025 10:00:00 , 09-Dec-2025 12:00:00

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender 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 portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

(Md. Khorshed Alam)
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GD-2457