

MORE THAN JUST A GRAVEYARD

Chattogram war cemetery stands as a place of reflection, history

ARUN BIKASH DEY

The Commonwealth War Cemetery in Chattogram has emerged as one of the city's most visited public sites, drawing hundreds of people every day.

Established in 1945, the seven-acre cemetery on Badshah Miah Chowdhury Road honours soldiers and civilians who died during World War II, and is maintained with care by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC).

Visitors are greeted by the Cross

Kamal Uddin, visiting with his eight-year-old daughter, said reading the epitaphs made her curious about the past.

"The setting helps us better understand the stories of Commonwealth soldiers who fought in World War II," said Ishita Dastidar of Chittagong College.

During the war, Chattogram served as a crucial British military base due to its proximity to the Burma front. Afterwards, burial grounds across the region were



PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

of Sacrifice at the centre, setting a solemn tone. Each of the 755 graves bears the name, nationality, age, and date of death of the deceased, often accompanied by a short epitaph.

The manicured lawns, flowerbeds, and quiet hillside surroundings give the cemetery a tranquil, almost park-like atmosphere.

For many families and students, the site has become a place to learn history beyond textbooks.

consolidated into two main CWGC cemeteries, including this one.

Hillol Sattar, CWGC's country manager in Bangladesh, said the cemetery holds 731 Commonwealth and 24 non-Commonwealth burials, including 19 Japanese soldiers. A five-member team maintains the grounds daily.

The cemetery is open to visitors from 7:00am to 12:00pm and 2:00pm to 5:00pm.

Workers rally in Ctg against leasing out port terminals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Several hundred workers under the banner of Bandar Rokkha Parishad brought out a torch procession in Chattogram city yesterday evening, demanding that the government refrains from leasing out any existing terminals of Chattogram port, including the New Mooring Container Terminal (NCT), to foreign operators.

The procession started from the Halishahar PDB Office area at 6:30pm and ended at the Boropole intersection.

Leaders of Gono Samhati Andolon, Chattogram Bandar Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal, Merchant Sramik Dal and Dock Sramik Dal also joined the procession.

Speakers at the rally warned of tougher movements if the government does not refrain from leasing out NCT to UAE-based firm DP World.

Elephant found dead in Ukhiya

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

An adult male wild elephant, aged around 40 years, was found dead yesterday in Ukhiya of Cox's Bazar.

Local union parishad member Syed Hamza said residents spotted the dead elephant yesterday morning and informed the Forest Department.

Forest Department personnel recovered the carcass from a farmland in Rajapalung union in the morning. They suspect that the elephant was caught in a live electric trap and died, said Abdul Mannan, Ukhiya range officer. Dochhari Beat Officer Emdadul Haque Rony said some farmers have been using illegal electric traps to ward off wild elephants and protect the croplands.

According to Forest Department, five elephants have died in Ukhiya and Teknaf since January this year.



PHOTO: STAR

NOAKHALI MEDICAL COLLEGE

Students suffer for teacher shortage, poor facilities

ANWARUL HAIDER, Noakhali

Academic activities at Noakhali Medical College have been severely hampered due to a shortage of teachers and poor infrastructure.

The college was established in 2008 to expand medical education in the greater Noakhali region (Feni, Lakshmipur and Noakhali), starting with 50 students in a few rooms of the 250-bed Noakhali General Hospital.

In 2012, academic and administrative activities were shifted to its permanent campus in Mirwarishpur of Begumganj.

Seventeen years on, the college is still struggling with significant challenges. At present, there is not a single teacher in the anatomy department, while other departments also face acute shortages.

Hostel conditions and campus security have also drawn criticism. Students reported broken toilet and bathroom doors, water shortages, and unsafe surroundings. "There is a crisis of accommodation and

security in the female hostel. There are not enough rooms, and sometimes there is no water," said Farhana Haque, a 4th year student.

Another student, Miskat Smaranika Meem, said rainwater leaks through the roof during monsoon.

The college now has 440 students, with around 100 admitted each year. However, there are not enough classrooms, no modern auditorium, no well-stocked library, and laboratories lack adequate facilities.

The college does not have its own hospital or nursing institute, forcing students to travel 12 kilometres to Noakhali General Hospital for practical learning.

Principal Dr Aminur Rahman said, "Construction of buildings to solve the student housing crisis is underway. We are also working to recruit new teachers."

Ashraf Uddin, executive engineer of Public Works Department in Noakhali, said a tender has been invited for constructing a 500-bed hospital and nursing institute on the college campus at a cost of Tk 254 crore.

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A solo run or alliance

FROM PAGE 3

position, it may reduce our chances of gaining seats in the parliament. Reforms cannot be achieved solely from the streets; a party must be positioned at the policymaking level," he added.

But Nusrat Tabassum,

a key leader of the July uprising and joint convenor of the NCP, firmly supports going alone.

She told The Daily Star, "NCP was born out of people's aspirations. The democratic state we promised can only be achieved through an independent electoral path. Contesting alone will prevent us from becoming a 'pocket organisation'."

Calling the path "bitter but true", she noted that the July uprising began with only six people.

"Gradually, others joined, and we succeeded. That gives me confidence about contesting independently."

District-level leaders also expressed strong grassroots support for a solo run, though opinions vary on forming alliances.

Shawkat Ali, coordinator of NCP's Narayanganj district committee, said many activists joined the party after leaving major political parties.

"If we now join an alliance, activists may question whether they should have stayed in their former parties," he said.

"Grassroots members know the road ahead

is tough, but they want the NCP to contest independently."

Advocate Monjila Jhuma, coordinator of the Khagrachari district committee, said not only grassroots leaders and activists but also the general public oppose an alliance with BNP or Jamaat or taking part under their banner.

She said people believe the NCP, as a party outside the mainstream political spectrum, has the potential to bring meaningful reforms.

"Although the journey may be long, the consensus is to continue independently rather than fall under the shadow of a major party," she added.

NCP Joint Convenor Sarwar Tushar told The Daily Star, "We are preparing for independent participation. Any future decision, whether alliance or seat-sharing, will be based on political interests and careful discussion."

"But regardless of the final approach, NCP will contest under its own electoral symbol," he said.

ISLAMIC RELIEF BANGLADESH

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Islamic Relief Bangladesh (IRB), an International Non-Government Organization (INGO) invites sealed offer from renowned audit firms for the following job.

Job Reference	Description
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The RFQ with detail specifications and conditions will be available on IR Bangladesh website: <http://islamicrelief.org.bd/tender> at free of cost.

Only those who have relevant experience with INGO can apply with global affiliation documents and other necessary business documents mentioned in the RFQ. The deadline for submitting the offer is **11:50 AM on November 27, 2025**.

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PRAYER TIMING

NOVEMBER 19

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
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Date: 18-11-2025 A.D.

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender will be invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for procurement of :

Tender ID No.	Package No.	Description	Online Notice Publication date and Time	Online Tender Closing date and Time
1176527	BTEB/GD/OTM/P2-2025	Supply of White Paper 23"× 36" and 26"× 40"	19-11-2025 10:00 A.M	11-12-2025 15:00 P.M

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Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd, +8809609112233, +8801762625528).

18.11.2025
(Md. Al Masud Karim)
Secretary
BTEB, Dhaka-1207

GD-2485