

NEWS

Four burnt in Gazipur gas cylinder blast

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Four people were injured in a fire caused by a gas cylinder explosion at a workshop in Kaliakair, Gazipur, on Wednesday night.

The injured persons have been identified as the workshop owner, Motaleb Hossain, 40, workers Ali Hossain, 28, Shamim Hossain, 25, and Shafiqur Rahman, 35.

Three of the injured were rushed to the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital, while one received initial treatment at a local hospital.

Kaliakair Fire Service Station Officer Iftekhar Raihan said locals managed to bring the fire under control before the firefighting units arrived.

Bhutan PM

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minister will call on the president and the chief adviser, senior government officials and members of the business community.

He will also interact with the Bhutanese community residing in Bangladesh.

The Bhutanese Foreign Ministry said the visit is expected to further consolidate the longstanding ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries and create new avenues for partnership and collaboration.

Tobgay is expected to depart Dhaka on Monday.

Armed Forces

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The chief adviser will host a reception and meet the family members of the Bir Shresthas and other gallantry award-winning freedom fighters at the Army Multipurpose Complex.

He will distribute peace awards to armed forces personnel.

Programmes have also been arranged at all army garrisons, naval ships and establishments and air force bases throughout the country.

PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 21

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-05 12-30 3-45 5-21 7-00
JAMAAT 5-40 1-15 4-00 5-24 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



A farmer harvests ripe Aman paddy and carries it home from his field. With the Bangla month of Agrahayan beginning, farmers are cutting and preparing Aman paddy for threshing. It will later be winnowed and dried before going to market. The photo was taken yesterday in Barta village of Uzirpur upazila in Barishal.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

E-waste mismanagement puts Khulna at risk

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

Khulna city's poor handling of electronic waste has become a serious threat to public health and the environment.

E-waste, unlike organic waste, does not decompose naturally and often contains hazardous substances that can harm both ecosystems and human health. The city generates around five tonnes of such waste every day, from discarded televisions, refrigerators, computers, laptops, washing machines, microwave ovens, electric toys, CD and DVD players, air conditioners, cameras, mobile phones and CFL lights.

Yet Khulna City Corporation has no full-fledged e-waste management system and has long struggled to cope with this mounting challenge.

Expired batteries from around 25,000 battery-run rickshaws and 45,000 battery-run easy-bikes add to the burden by producing more toxic waste.

KCC data show the city produces 1,200 to 1,400 tonnes



of waste daily. Of this, 800 to 950 tonnes are collected and dumped at designated sites, while the remaining 400 to 500 tonnes are left unmanaged, often clogging drains and canals or piling up in open spaces.

Among this daily waste, about five tonnes are e-waste.

Some of it ends up at dumping sites where hazardous components can leach into the environment. E-waste was also found scattered in the open

scrap markets in Noyabati Sheikhpura, Bastuhar, Gallamary and Rupsha.

"I burn wires to take out the copper, and throw out the rest. In doing so over the years, I've developed rashes in my hands," he said.

Dr SM Farid Uz Zaman, former assistant professor at the Psychiatry Department of Khulna Medical College Hospital, said e-waste contains toxic substances including lead, cadmium and mercury.

"Lead exposure can severely impact the nervous systems of newborns and children, while mercury can damage the brain and reduce cognitive functions. The health risks are exacerbated for those handling e-waste without proper protective gear," he said.

Sadhan Chandra Swarnokar, assistant professor at the Department of Environmental Sciences of Khulna University, said toxic materials from e-waste can enter the environment through various channels, harming soil and water quality and threatening flora and fauna.

Contacted, Kohinur Jahan, executive magistrate and chief conservancy officer of KCC, said a Tk 52.70 crore project is under way under the Local Government Engineering Department.

DHAKA FRIDAY NOVEMBER 21, 2025
AGRAHAYAN 6, 1432 BS
The Daily Star 5

JOWARI IN COX'S BAZAR 5 years on, bridge still unfinished

MOKAMMEL SHUVO, Cox's Bazar

An unfinished bridge over the nine-kilometre Jowari Canal has left nearly 50,000 residents of Varuakhalii union in Cox's Bazar Sadar struggling to cross the area for almost five years.

Their only alternative is a 36 kilometre detour through Ramu, which takes around two hours and requires two to three vehicle changes.

"Many residents often fall victim to robberies at Ramu's Rashidnagar point at night," said Fazlul Haque, ward 9 member of Varuakhalii union.

According to the Local Government Engineering Department, the 392-metre Varuakhalii-Khurushkul bridge got Ecnec approval in 2017 and construction began in 2020.

After two rounds of tender invitations, Toma Construction and MA Zaher Ltd (JV) secured the contract.



LGED signed an agreement with the contractors on January 12, 2020, to build the bridge at a cost of Tk 36.28 crore. Construction was scheduled to be completed in January 2023.

Md Saiduzzaman Sadek, executive engineer of LGED in Cox's Bazar, said the contractor -- former Cumilla 5 MP MA Zaher -- has been untraceable since the fall of the Awami League government on August 5, 2024.

He said land acquisition is also pending, further slowing progress. He said eight spans on both ends of the bridge have been added, but the span work in the middle has yet to begin.

"The contractor has four to five labourers stationed, preventing LGED from legally cancelling the contract," he added.

PHQ seeks list

FROM PAGE 3

management, good ACRs and no political affiliation are also being considered.

CID chief Md Sibgat Ullah said they had been asked to send names of highly skilled inspectors. "The inspectors who demonstrate professionalism, have a strong job history, are capable in public management, and aspire to get the posts are being selected for the list," he said.

In July, PHQ issued another directive requiring scrutiny from inspector to DIG level, examining whether officers had political alignment and reviewing their roles in the last three national elections.

Meanwhile, about 15,000 officers, mostly constables, have been recruited, raising the total number of personnel to 1.93 lakh. Around 146,000 members were deployed in the 2024 election and 140,000 in the 2018 polls.

metropolitan police units, and 24 railway police stations. PCs play a key role in maintaining law and order during elections.

Restoring public confidence remains a major challenge for the police, whose morale was affected by the mass uprising that toppled the Awami League government.

The force also faces longstanding allegations of partisan roles and ballot stuffing in the past three parliamentary elections. Over 200 officers who held commanding positions in those polls have been made OSD or sent into forced retirement over the past year, according to the home ministry database.

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A scene from "Sultana Swopno", a Bangla adaptation of Begum Rokeya's iconic short story "Sultana's Dream", which imagines "Ladyland", a utopian society built on gender equality. IUB Theatre staged the play, its 24th production, at the Independent University, Bangladesh auditorium on Wednesday. The adaptation and direction were by Shopnil Sohel.

PHOTO: COURTESY

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Ref No: e-GP-36/CUCE-40/2025-26 Date: 20.11.2025

e-Tender Notice

This is an online tender, where only e-tenders will be accepted on the National e-GP Portal System (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-tenders, please register on the e-GP system portal. E-Tender has been invited on E-GP system portal by Office of Chief Engineer, University of Chittagong, Chittagong for procurement of following.

SL. No.	e-Tender ID & Package No.	Package Description
01	ID- 1162789, CE-e-GP(OTM)-150/CUCE-2713/ OBR-NRB/2025-26	150/CUCE-2713/ OBR-NRB/2025-26 Construction Works for 03 (Three) Storied Transport Complex at University of Chittagong.
02	ID- 1162791, CE-e-GP(OTM)-152/CUCE-2717/ OBR-RM/2025-26	152/CUCE-2717/ OBR-RM/2025-26 Construction Works for 03 (Three) Storied Teachers Association and Lounge Building at University of Chittagong.
03	ID- 1179660, CE-e-GP(OTM)-158/CUCE-2718/ OBR-RM/2025-26	158/CUCE-2718/ OBR-RM/2025-26 Renovation and Beautification works for old Arts & Humanities Faculty Building and Library Road frontage at the University of Chittagong.

e-Tender details can be downloaded from as stated above on e-GP system portal for purpose. The fees for downloading e-tender documents from the National e-GP system portal should be deposited online through any registered bank. The e-tenders will be accepted on the e-GP system portal within the specified date and time. Accepted tenders will be opened as per the date and time displayed online.

More information and guidance is available at the National e-GP Portal System and the e-GP Help Desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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