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SECOND EDITION

THE DAILY

Star

ON FRIDAY



DHAKA FRIDAY NOVEMBER 28, 2025

REGD. No. DA 781

VOL. XXXV No. 306

AGRAHAYAN 13, 1432 BS

www.thedailystar.net

JAMADIUS SANI 6, 1447 HJRI

16 PAGES: Tk 15.00

PURBACHAL PLOT SCAM

Hasina gets 21yrs in 3 graft cases

Court also jails Joy and Putul for five years in one case each



EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

A special court yesterday convicted deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and her two children on corruption charges, handing them different jail terms in three cases filed over plots in

for herself and her family members by "abusing her position and authority", despite their ineligibility.

The jail terms of 78-year-old Hasina will run consecutively, Judge Mohammad Abdullah Al Mamun of the Special Judge's Court-5 of Dhaka said in a packed



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Workers renovating Dhaka University's Haji Muhammad Mohsin Hall, one of the old and vulnerable halls that underwent a post-earthquake inspection, yesterday. An engineering team led by Buet Professor Ishtiaq Ahmed began inspecting risky DU halls on Sunday. Other such halls are also expected to undergo renovation.

5 quakes in a week worry Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five earthquakes in a week, all originating in Narsingdi, a district near Dhaka, have rattled residents of the capital and surrounding areas.

On Friday, a 5.7-magnitude quake jolted Dhaka and parts of Bangladesh, killing 10 people. Since then, four tremors have been felt in the region.

The latest struck Narsingdi and nearby areas yesterday afternoon.

"We have never seen anything like this since we began monitoring earthquakes in 1954. Though most of the quakes were minor, we have never recorded five earthquakes originating

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

HASINA'S CONVICTION GROUNDS

- Abused authority to secure 6 Purbachal plots for herself, family
- Facilitated illegal allotment of another 50 kathas of Rajuk land
- Violated regulations and concentrated state resources in one family

Dhaka's Purbachal.

Hasina was sentenced to 21 years' rigorous imprisonment -- seven years in each of the three cases filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission this year. Her son, Sajeeb Wazed Joy, and daughter, Saima Wazed Putul, were co-accused in separate cases -- one each -- and were given five years' imprisonment.

The court found Hasina, who is now in India, guilty of illegally securing plots

courtroom while delivering the verdicts in the absence of the three accused.

He began delivering the verdicts at 11:23am amid heightened security in the court area.

Hasina's sentences came 10 days after the International Crimes Tribunal-1 handed her a death sentence for crimes against humanity committed during last year's July uprising.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

RESHUFFLE IN POLICE, ADMIN

BNP questions the govt's intention

'Officials loyal to certain party given priority'

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

BNP has questioned the transparency, timing, and motives behind the government's recent reshuffles of field-level officers, including superintendents of police, deputy commissioners, and upazila nirbahi officers, ahead of the national election.

Senior BNP leaders said the reshuffle, carried out even before the election schedule was announced, is unusual

and demanded explanations from the government.

On Wednesday, the government appointed or transferred SPs to all 64 districts through what it described as a "manual lottery". It also appointed new UNOs to 166 upazilas and recently posted 50 new DCs.

BNP leaders allege the lottery was "for show", claiming officers with "special

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

ACC to have five commissioners, up from three

Govt okays 4 ordinances

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Advisory Council yesterday approved the final draft of the Anti-Corruption Commission Ordinance 2025 that aims to strengthen and enhance the commission's effectiveness in combating corruption and make it "a more effective organisation".

According to the new draft law, the ACC will publish its work report online every six months, while the ACC officers directly involved in anti-corruption investigations must submit their asset statements to their authorities,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

TOMORROW

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Analysed/Pureit/2025

Death toll in HK fire rises to 83

REUTERS, Hong Kong

Hong Kong firefighters yesterday brought under control a huge blaze in an apartment complex that killed at least 83 and left nearly 300 missing, while police said its cause could have been a “grossly negligent” construction firm using unsafe materials.

Rescuers battled intense heat and thick smoke for more than a day after the blaze erupted as they fought to reach residents feared trapped on the upper floors of the Wang Fuk Court housing complex in the northern district of Tai Po.

A firefighter was among the dead, while dozens in hospital were in critical condition, authorities said. About 279 people have yet to be traced.

The eight blocks of the tightly packed complex have 2,000 apartments home to more than 4,600 people in the financial hub struggling to overcome chronic shortages of affordable housing.

Yesterday, police officers searched the building maintenance company responsible for the housing estate, seizing documents that mentioned it, media said. The company did not immediately respond to requests for comment.



Rescuers wade through floodwaters with a rope to evacuate residents trapped in their homes in Padang, West Sumatra province, Indonesia, yesterday. The nationwide flood death toll has risen to 61.

PHOTO: AFP

Brazil approves world’s first single-dose dengue vaccine

AFP, Rio De Janeiro

Brazilian authorities on Wednesday approved the world’s first single-dose dengue vaccine, which they hailed as a “historic” achievement as cases of the mosquito-borne disease soar globally due to rising temperatures.

Dengue, known for intense flu-like symptoms, crushing fatigue and body aches, reached record global levels in 2024 and researchers have attributed its spread to climate change.

Brazil’s health regulatory agency ANVISA authorised the use of Butantan-IV, developed by the Butantan Institute in São Paulo, for people aged 12 to 59.

Currently, the only dengue vaccine available worldwide is TAK-003, which requires two doses administered three months apart, according to the WHO.

5 quakes in a week worry Dhaka

FROM PAGE 1

near Dhaka within such a short span of time,” said Rubayet Kabir, in-charge of the Earthquake Monitoring Centre at the Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD).

He said yesterday’s 3.6-magnitude tremor occurred at 4:15pm. Its epicentre was in Ghorashal, Narsingdi, about 28km northeast of the BMD Seismic Centre in Dhaka’s Agargaon.

Earlier yesterday morning, people in Sylhet also felt a jolt, which Kabir said originated in Manipur, around 300km outside Bangladesh territory.

On November 22, a light quake measuring 4.3 on the Richter scale was felt seven and a half hours after a 3.3-magnitude tremor recorded that afternoon. A third tremor, measuring 3.7 and centred in Palash upazila of Narsingdi, followed at 6:06pm, according to a Met office bulletin.

“We now think all these are aftershocks of the first earthquake,” Kabir said, adding that such sequences are not unusual and that other countries experiencing major quakes have also recorded similar aftershocks.

Asked about the situation, Prof Dr Badruddoza Mia, chairman of the geology department at Dhaka University, said, “It seems these are aftershocks. So people need not panic. But they should take precautions.”

However, some experts note that Dhaka lies close to the Indo-Burma subduction zone, where the Indian plate dives beneath the Burma plate along Bangladesh’s eastern margin. For nearly two decades, experts have warned that living near such a zone means sitting atop a seismic time bomb.

“The real concern is whether the energy accumulating in a subduction zone can trigger a major quake,” said Prof Akhter Humayun, a former Dhaka University faculty member who has studied earthquakes for 40 years.

After the three consecutive quakes on November 22, Dhaka University authorities decided to close the university for two weeks to assess tremor risks and carry out necessary renovations of residential halls.

The government has also decided to review safety in other vulnerable structures in Dhaka. The Chief Adviser’s Office has formed a task force and directed it to submit recommendations.

On November 24, Rajuk Chairman Riazul Islam said approximately 300 buildings – both large and small – in Dhaka have been identified as vulnerable following the recent quakes.

“Both Rajuk and building owners share responsibility for constructions that violate rules and approved designs. However, the main responsibility lies with the building owners,” he added.

Hasina gets 21yrs in 3 graft cases

FROM PAGE 1

In addition to yesterday’s jail terms, the Awami League chief was also fined Tk 3 lakh in three cases, in default of which she will have to serve an additional 18 months in jail.

The court also fined Joy and Putul Tk 1 lakh each in their respective cases. The trials of the three cases concluded after 13 hearings, according to the prosecution.

There are 20 other accused in the cases, including a former minister, two former secretaries, and the former Rajuk chairman and officials. Nineteen of them were sentenced to jail terms ranging from one to 18 years, while one was acquitted.

The ACC lodged six separate cases between January 12 and 14 with its Dhaka Integrated District Office-1 on charges of irregularities in the allocation of plots under the Purbachal New Town project.

The anti-graft body alleged that Hasina, in collusion with senior Rajuk officials, unlawfully secured six plots – each measuring 10 kathas – in the diplomatic zone of Sector 27 of the project for herself, Joy, Putul, her sister Sheikh Rehana, nephew Radwan Mujib Siddiq Bobby, and niece Azmina Siddiq, despite their ineligibility under existing regulations.

“The allotments were processed and approved in a manner inconsistent with lawful administrative practices, thereby conferring undue benefits upon her relatives,” said the judgment.

“The conduct of a premier, who used her long-held political authority to obtain 60 kathas of Rajuk land for herself, her son, daughter, sister, and her sister’s children, demonstrates a persistent corrupt mindset rooted in entitlement, unchecked power, and a greedy eye for public property.”

In the verdicts, Judge Mamun also said that despite serving four terms as a prime minister, she disregarded the allotment rules meant to ensure fairness and prevent the concentration of state resources within one family.

He added that she treated public land as if it were her private asset, exploiting state resources and manipulating official procedures to benefit herself and her close relatives.

“Such conduct reflects a deliberate abuse of public office and reveals a

belief that high political power places one above the law. These actions erode public trust and undermine the principles of integrity and accountable governance.”

Accordingly, the judge said, exemplary punishment is warranted, and justice will be served by imposing seven years’ imprisonment on Hasina, the maximum penalty under section 5(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947.

After the verdict, Sajeeb Wazed Joy, on his verified Facebook page, wrote, “My family and I each purchased 1/6 of an acre of land, in an undeveloped area on the outskirts of Dhaka, for 30 lakh Taka each. We paid for it with our own money. None of us has ever purchased property in Bangladesh before. The only property we have is inherited.

“... We received no communications, were not allowed to hire lawyers and there was absolutely no due process. The aim of this verdict was to prevent any of us from running for elections.”

Hasina was ousted on August 5 last year in the face of a student-led mass uprising. Currently, she is accused in over 550 cases filed with different police stations and courts across the country.

OTHER CONVICTS

The court sentenced former housing and public works state minister Sharif Ahmed and former secretaries Shahid Ullah Khandaker and Kazi Washi Uddin to 18 years’ rigorous imprisonment and fined Tk 3 lakh each in three cases.

The ministry’s former senior assistant secretary Purabi Golder was sentenced to three years’ simple imprisonment and fined Tk 20,000 in the same cases.

Rajuk’s former chairman Anisur Rahman Miah was handed down 15 years in jail and a fine of Tk 1.5 lakh, while its former members Mohammad Nasir Uddin and Shamsuddin Ahmod Chowdhury were each given a nine years’ imprisonment and a fine of Tk 60,000. Former member Mohammad Khurshid Alam was sentenced to three years in jail. All of them were convicted in all three cases.

Prime Minister’s Office’s former secretary Mohammad Salahuddin was handed a jail sentence of 12 years and a fine of Tk 2 lakh, while Rajuk’s former members Tanmoy Das and Nurul Islam were handed down six years in jail and

and asset seizure of suspected traffickers.

The government also approved the RAJUK Ordinance 2025, which aims to solve urban planning problems in Dhaka.

As RAJUK’s responsibilities have increased, the new ordinance introduces stricter rules on construction, land use and urban development, he said, adding that it also addresses concerns about the illegal occupation of playgrounds, wetlands and natural water reservoirs.

There will be penalties for unauthorised buildings and unsafe construction.

RAJUK officials will not be allowed to hold shares or financial interests in any development project under RAJUK’s authority.

Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus has also asked the Ministry of Public Works to consider creating a national body to approve building plans across all districts so that safety standards are followed everywhere, Shafiqul said.

Many unapproved buildings have been discovered across the country and this shows how weak the previous monitoring system was.

No building in Bangladesh should be constructed without proper approval and the government is strengthening building regulations in all city corporations.

The National Human Rights Commission Amendment Ordinance 2025 was also approved.

a fine of Tk 40,000 each in two cases. Nayeab Ali Sharif, a former deputy director of Rajuk, was sentenced to two years’ imprisonment and fined Tk 10,000 in two cases.

Rajuk’s former members Shafi Ul Haque and Kabir Al Asad, and its former director Sheikh Shahinul Islam and incumbent Kamrul Islam were sentenced to three years in jail and a fine of Tk 20,000 each in one case. Its former deputy directors Hafizur Rahman and Habibur Rahman Sobuj, and former assistant director Mazharul Islam were sentenced to one year imprisonment and a fine of Tk 5,000 each in one case.

The court acquitted the housing and public works ministry’s former administrative officer Saiful Islam Sarkar of the three cases as the prosecution failed to prove the charges against him.

During the verdict, only former Rajuk member Khurshid was present in the courtroom.

Speaking to reporters on the court premises, ACC Public Prosecutor Khan Md Moinul Hasan Lipon said the commission was not satisfied with the verdicts.

“After talking to the ACC, further steps will be taken challenging the verdicts,” he told The Daily Star.

The Special Judge’s Court-4 of Dhaka is scheduled to announce the verdict in a separate corruption case, filed against 17 people including Hasina, her sister Rehana and niece Tulip Siddiq, on December 1.

The trial of two other graft cases filed against 21 people, including Hasina, her nieces Azmina and Tulip, and nephew Radwan, is now pending at the same court, said the prosecution.

According to ACC officials, Tulip, who stands accused in the three cases, used her power as a British MP to get plots for Rehana, Bobby and Azmina.

On March 25, the ACC filed six charge sheets with the Metropolitan Senior Special Judge’s Court in Dhaka, in which Hasina was named as a common accused in all six cases, including the three in which the verdict was announced yesterday.

On July 31, charges were framed against 29 people, including Hasina, Rehana, Joy, Putul, Bobby, Tulip and Azmina, in their respective cases.

The amendment strengthens the NHRC’s role in preventing torture and inhuman treatment.

The NHRC will serve as the National Preventive Mechanism under the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and this will allow the commission to conduct independent inspections of detention centres and other facilities.

The ordinance also gives the NHRC authority to monitor detention places and ensure human rights standards are maintained, Shafiqul said, adding that the commission will receive the financial and institutional support it needs to perform its duties.

On the Rohingya crisis, Shafiqul said the issue had lost global attention during the previous government.

Deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina focused more on promoting her image as the Mother of Humanity instead of addressing the real causes of the crisis.

The current administration has brought the issue back into international discussions through active diplomacy and engagement.

In response to a question, Shafiqul said Yunus had earlier expressed hope that Rohingyas might return home around Eid. However, diplomatic efforts take time and results may not appear immediately.

He also confirmed that the meeting did not include any discussion about elections or any advisers planning to take part in future polls.

Trump tells Japan PM not to aggravate China dispute: sources

REUTERS, Tokyo

US President Donald Trump asked Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi not to further escalate a dispute with China during talks this week, sources with knowledge of the matter said, as he tries to preserve a fragile trade war truce with Beijing.

Takaichi touched off the biggest diplomatic dispute with Beijing in years when she told parliament this month that a hypothetical Chinese attack on Taiwan that threatened Japan could justify a military response.

Her remark enraged Beijing, prompting it to warn its citizens against travel to its East Asian neighbour.

In Tuesday’s telephone call with Takaichi, Trump said he did not want to see further escalation, said the two Japanese government sources, who sought anonymity as the matter is a sensitive one.

Trump made no specific demands of Takaichi, however, one of the sources said, suggesting that he did not echo Beijing’s call for a retraction. Japan has said her remarks reflect longstanding government policy.

At a regular press briefing on Thursday, its Chief Cabinet Secretary Minoru Kihara declined to comment on the details of the “diplomatic exchange”.

That telephone conversation came after Trump spoke to Chinese President Xi Jinping, who told the US leader Taiwan’s return to China was central to Beijing’s vision for the world order, the official Xinhua news agency said.

Democratically governed Taiwan rejects Beijing’s sovereignty claim.

Trump, who plans to travel to

LIFE-TERM FOR HASINA, KAMAL

ICT prosecution to seek death penalty

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The prosecution is preparing to appeal to the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court seeking to upgrade the International Crimes Tribunal-1’s life sentences for deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal to death in a crimes-against-humanity case linked to the July uprising.

On November 17, the ICT-1 sentenced the two to death on one charge and to imprisonment until natural death on another.

“We have been reviewing the judgement and primarily decided to seek enhancement of the life terms to death penalty,” Prosecutor Gazi Monawar Hossain Tamim told reporters yesterday.

Meanwhile, the ICT-2 yesterday heard a review petition filed by Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal leader Hasanul Haq Inu challenging the charge-framing order against him without any defence lawyer present.

During the hearing, Chief Prosecutor Tajul Islam requested the court to dismiss the petition.

Contacted, Inu’s lawyer Md Munsurul Hoque Chowdhury told The Daily Star that such matters are usually heard on scheduled dates and that neither he nor his juniors were informed of the early hearing.

Tajul later told reporters that the application not only questioned the legality of the July uprising

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

Beijing in April, has not commented publicly on whether the talks featured Taiwan, saying instead that the world’s two biggest economies have “extremely strong” ties and are close to finalising a broad trade deal.

“The United States’ relationship with China is very good, and that’s also very good for Japan, who is our dear and close ally,” Trump said in a statement issued by the White House in response to questions from Reuters.

“We signed wonderful trade deals with Japan, China, South Korea, and many other nations, and the world is at peace. Let’s keep it that way!”

In Tokyo, some officials have long worried that Trump may be prepared to soften support for Taiwan in pursuit of a trade accord with China, a move they fear will embolden Beijing and spark conflict in an increasingly militarised East Asia.

“For Trump, what matters most is US-China relations,” said Kazuhiro Maejima, a professor of US politics at Sophia University. “Japan has always been treated as a tool or a card to manage that relationship.”

Trump’s public silence on Japan’s escalating dispute with China has further frayed nerves in Tokyo.

Washington’s envoy to Tokyo has said the United States supports Japan in the face of China’s “coercion”, but two senior ruling party lawmakers told Reuters they had hoped for more full-throated support from their top security ally.

Japan hosts the largest overseas concentration of US military, including an aircraft carrier strike group and a US Marine amphibious force that hem in China’s military ambitions.

BNP questions govt intention

FROM PAGE 1

loyalty” had already been chosen during the list-making process. They said officials loyal to “a certain political party or ideology” were given priority.

In national elections, DCs serve as returning officers, and many UNOs serve as assistant returning officers. However, the Election Commission has not yet announced who will serve as returning officers this time.

Referring to the lottery, BNP Standing Committee member Salahuddin Ahmed said, “A party made this demand a few days ago; the government may have done it based on their demand. Whether this decision was well-considered and fair deserves to be reviewed.”

Four Standing Committee members told The Daily Star that neutrality in the administration is essential ahead of the polls, and that field-level officers must be appointed based on merit, experience, and impartiality, not political considerations. To protect people’s voting rights, they said, administrative processes must remain free from controversy.

“For such an important process, a lottery is not the right way to ensure real transparency,” said a senior BNP leader.

On November 19, a Jamaat-e-Islami leader had proposed a lottery-based system for transferring administrative officials during an Election Commission dialogue.

A BNP Standing Committee member, seeking anonymity, warned that a lottery could lead to unprepared officers being posted to constituencies with risky polling centres: “It will increase risks in the upcoming polls.”

BNP leaders said the reshuffles of DCs, UNOs, and SPs are “part of a pre-planned strategy”. They noted that

during earlier meetings with the chief adviser, BNP delegations stressed that officials responsible for election duties must remain neutral.

Changing officers who directly handle poll responsibilities just before the schedule is announced is “not only unusual but has created new questions” about the election environment, they said. Another Standing Committee member cautioned that politically motivated appointments could make the administration biased “even before voting begins”.

Three Standing Committee members also said officers with questionable past actions or political leanings have been posted in many districts, further deepening doubts about election-time neutrality.

BNP believes the government is reorganising field administration in favour of a party as part of that party’s election preparations.

They added that election security, administration, polling-centre management, and enforcement of the code of conduct all depend on SPs, DCs, and UNOs. “If questionable appointments are made, political controversy over the election results may increase,” said a senior BNP leader.

Two Standing Committee members demanded that the government clearly explain these transfers and appointments. They said the government must publish the reasons, standards, and procedures behind the reshuffle to ensure genuine transparency. Otherwise, public distrust in the Election Commission will grow.

“We will raise this issue at our party meeting to take an initiative on this matter,” said a Standing Committee member.



Seven more die of dengue, 567 get hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least seven dengue patients died while 567 others were hospitalised in the 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services, among the deaths, three were reported from Dhaka South City Corporation area, two from Mymensingh division and one each from Chattogram division and Dhaka North City Corporation.

With the new deaths and cases, the total number of dengue-related deaths this year rose to 377, while total cases rose to 92,785.

Currently, 2,189 dengue patients are undergoing treatment at different hospitals across the country.

ACC probing corruption allegations against DNCC administrator

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-Corruption Commission has launched a preliminary inquiry into allegations of abuse of power, irregularities, corruption, and bribery against Dhaka North City Corporation Administrator Mohammad Azaz.

The probe officially began yesterday, according to a letter signed by ACC Director Shita Rony, confirming that the agency has authorised the initial investigation.

A senior ACC official, seeking anonymity, also confirmed the development to The Daily Star.

ACC sources said the commission decided to look into the allegations after receiving multiple complaints.

Azaz was appointed administrator of DNCC by the interim government on February 12 this year for a one-year term.

Meanwhile, Local Government Adviser Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuiyan said the government would take action if the ACC finds evidence of wrongdoing.

He was speaking to reporters at the Secretariat.

Azaz told The Daily Star, "I have not received any official letter regarding the investigation yet. However, I welcome it. We will extend full cooperation during the investigation."

Proper, timely nutrition key to healthier pregnancies

Prof Keith P West tells icddr's seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Early nutritional support may play a decisive role in improving pregnancy outcomes in settings where micronutrient deficiencies remain widespread, said Prof Keith P West of Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health of USA, yesterday.

He emphasised that improving women's nutrition before conception is essential for healthier pregnancies and stronger infant outcomes.

Prof West was speaking at a seminar at icddr's Mohakhali office, marking the institution's 65th establishment anniversary. The seminar titled "A Half-Century's Journey of Nutritional Pursuit across Southern Asia" reflects on decades of scientific discovery and public health

SEE PAGE 9 COL 3



Pedestrians use this footbridge in the capital's Shahbagh area unaware of the dangerous hole on its walkway. Although some people have tried to cover or block it, the gap still poses a serious risk to anyone who might step into it. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

PURBACHAL PLOT SCAM

'Blatant disregard for legal provisions'

Court slams Rajuk, housing ministry for unlawful plot allotments

EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

A Dhaka court has strongly criticised Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) and the Ministry of Housing and Public Works for continuous unlawful practices in public land allotment.

Judge Mohammad Abdullah Al Mamun of the Special Judge's Court-5 made the observations yesterday while delivering verdicts in three cases filed against 23 people, including deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina, over irregularities in Purbachal plot allocation.

In its findings, the court said Rajuk had "persistently and wilfully" violated statutory rules and procedures for allotting public land.

"The chairman and senior officials knowingly disregarded mandatory requirements, failed to follow procedural safeguards, and processed applications in a manner designed to favour privileged individuals," said the judge.

The court noted that allotments consistently favoured the then prime minister and her family members, officials of the Prime Minister's Office, ministers, state ministers, MPs, senior ruling party leaders, bureaucrats, and other influential people.

"Such blatant disregard for binding legal provisions

undermines the Constitution, subverts lawful governance, and turns public resources into instruments of private advantage and political patronage," the judge added.

Addressing misuse of "special categories", the court said although the law recognises

OBSERVATIONS

» 'Special categories' misused to bypass scrutiny

» Ministry failed to supervise Rajuk, allowed irregularities

ORDERS

» Remove involved officials from decision-making roles

» Conduct forensic audit of all past allotments

» Introduce digital, transparent lottery system

» Recover illegally allotted plots, reallocate to landless citizens

certain limited exceptions, Rajuk repeatedly approved applications without proper documentation, scrutiny, or adherence to eligibility criteria.

These actions, it said, amounted to gross abuse of office and a betrayal of the constitutional trust

placed in the authority.

FAILURE OF MINISTRY OVERSIGHT

The court said the Housing and Public Works Ministry failed in its statutory duty to supervise, regulate, and ensure lawful functioning of Rajuk.

"By allowing irregularities to flourish, exercising only nominal oversight, and tacitly endorsing unlawful practices, the ministry directly contributed to systemic violations," Judge Mamun said.

The ministry also improperly influenced Rajuk's statutory processes by issuing recommendations for plot allotments under "special categories", enabling further procedural violations and perpetuating elite capture, the court added.

"This constitutes deliberate abandonment of lawful oversight and institutional dereliction of duty," the verdict said.

CORRECTIVE MEASURES ORDERED

The court also ordered that all officers involved in unlawful processing or approval of allotments be immediately removed from decision-making positions, pending departmental and criminal proceedings.

It directed a comprehensive forensic audit of all allotments from the relevant period, to be

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

BNP to hold 6-day programme from Dec 7

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday announced a six-day programme, titled "Plans to Build the Country", involving its wings and affiliated bodies, including Chhatra Dal, Krishak Dal, Ulama Dal, and Swachchhasebak Dal.

The programmes will run from December 7 to 13, with no event scheduled on December 12.

"Party acting chairman Tarique Rahman will join virtually as the chief guest at each of the six programmes," Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi told reporters at a press conference at the party's Nayapaltan central office while announcing the schedule.

Rizvi said the announcement is part of BNP's ongoing organisational activities, adding that leaders and activists at all levels have been assigned responsibilities to carry out the initiatives.

According to a press release, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir will inaugurate Chhatra Dal's programme on December 7.

The following day, Standing Committee member Salahuddin Ahmed will inaugurate another Chhatra Dal event.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 3

Strictly enforce electoral code of conduct

EC tells law enforcement agencies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) yesterday directed law enforcement agencies to strictly enforce the electoral code of conduct from the first day of the campaign.

Security forces will be deployed nationwide in three tiers – static security at polling centres, mobile patrols across electoral areas, and a central reserve force for emergencies.

Regarding army deployment, EC officials said its magistracy powers have been extended until February 28 next year. "They will continue to exercise those powers," EC Senior Secretary Akhtar Ahmed said after a meeting with top law enforcement officials at the commission office.

The meeting was held ahead of the upcoming national election and referendum, both scheduled for the first half of February. The EC plans to announce the election schedule in the first week of December.

Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin, four other commissioners, and senior officials from the home ministry, army, navy, air force, police, BGB, Ansar VDP, Coast Guard, Rab, and other agencies attended the meeting.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1



Make maternal survival a nat'l priority: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh must urgently address postpartum haemorrhage, convulsions, preterm labour and anaemia in pregnancy – the leading causes of maternal deaths – speakers said at a seminar in the capital yesterday.

They warned that without timely and accessible healthcare for all mothers, the country will struggle to reduce preventable maternal mortality.

Speakers said maternal survival must be treated as a national priority, calling for stronger health-system accountability, wider coverage of skilled birth attendance and guaranteed antenatal and postnatal care for every woman.

The seminar, titled "Media Orientation on Maternal and Newborn Health Situation in

RECOMMENDATIONS

» Strengthen accountability across health system

» Ensure availability of skilled birth attendants

» Guarantee full antenatal, postnatal care

» Expand access to timely emergency care

Bangladesh and Postpartum Haemorrhage, Pre-eclampsia and Leadership Development Initiative", was organised by the Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society of Bangladesh (OGSB) at the BMA Conference Bhaban in Dhaka.

Presenting the keynote, Prof Farhana Dewan, immediate past president of OGSB, said safe motherhood is a fundamental right. "Healthy mothers and healthy babies must remain our primary goal," she said.

Citing the Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey 2022-23, she said the country's total fertility rate is 2.3 and needs to fall to 1.7 by 2030. Contraceptive use stands at 64 percent, with a target of 70 percent. Neonatal and under-five mortality are at 20 and 33 per 1,000 live births, respectively.

With 35 percent of births still occurring

SEE PAGE 9 COL 6



The local administration re-excavates this illegally filled pond in Rajshahi city's Mollapara area to return it to its original state. A joint effort by the divisional commissioner, city corporation, Department of Environment, and police stopped the illegal activity.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

PAY-GRADE REFORM

Secondary, pry school teachers intensify protests

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Secondary teachers threatened a shutdown, while government primary teachers resumed a nationwide work abstention yesterday, as both groups pressed for long-pending pay-grade reforms.

Teachers under the Bangladesh Secondary Teachers' Association staged a sit-in at Shikkha Bhaban in the capital, warning of a full shutdown from Monday if their four-point demand is not met.

Their main demand is upgrading assistant teachers from the 10th to the 9th grade.

Protesting teachers said several government posts with "lesser responsibilities" had already been upgraded to Grade 9, but secondary-level assistant teachers were still being "overlooked".

Witnesses said many teachers gathered at the site yesterday morning, chanting slogans. They alleged long-standing discrimination and said previous movements had led to "no meaningful progress".

"This time, we will return to our institutions only after the demands are met," said one teacher.

PRIMARY TEACHERS RESUME ABSTENTION

Meanwhile, primary school assistant teachers resumed their work abstention yesterday to push for their three-point demand, including pay-scale upgradation.

"We will not go to classes or take part in examinations until the government issues a notification meeting our

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4



PHOTO: STAR

School ground occupied for fair without approval

MONG SING HAI MARMA, *Bandarban*

A 15-day craft and cottage industry fair is being organised on the playground of Mro Residential High School in Suwalak union under Bandarban Sadar upazila without permission from the school authorities and at a time when students' annual examinations are underway.

The organisers said the fair has been arranged under the banner of a group named Red July Movement in memory of the July uprising martyrs, with permission from the local authorities.

The school authorities, however, said no approval was given for using the school grounds.

During a visit on November 26, this correspondent found the playground fenced off with corrugated iron sheets, with numerous temporary stalls and exhibition booths inside.

According to school sources, the school is operated under the Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board, and currently has 298 residential students. The annual examinations began on November 20 and are ongoing. Primary-level annual examinations will start on December 1.

"After the annual exams, the students have sports competitions

and Victory Day events to prepare for, and they need the ground for practice as it is the only open space available. Due to the fair, they are unable to use the ground," said Md Shah Newaz, the school's sports teacher.

Asif Iqbal, district convener of Red July Movement, claimed the fair is being held on the school ground with the consent of the headteacher. "Since students are sitting for exams, we're running the fair from 2:00pm to 6:00pm daily. The Red July Movement is not directly involved with the fair, we only assisted in obtaining administrative clearances," he said.

"The organisers came to seek permission, but we did not grant permission considering the ongoing annual exams. They still organised the fair citing permission from local authorities. The matter has also been reported to the Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board," said headteacher Md Mohin Uddin.

Md Ramzan Ali, the fair's organiser, claimed, "We have obtained necessary approvals from the district administration and the superintendent of police in Bandarban."

He also said that since the school falls under Suwalak union, its chairman, Ukyanu Marma has been given responsibility for overall

supervision of the fair.

Ramzan declined to elaborate further and instead invited this correspondent for a "discussion over tea".

Contacted, Ukyanu Marma said he heard a 15-day fair is being held but denied any involvement.

According to the permission letter issued by Senior Assistant Commissioner (Judicial Munshi Branch) Md Fayzur Rahman, the organisers must comply with 16 conditions, failing which the authorities may shut down the fair without notice.

The third and fifth conditions state that the fair must not be held in areas inhabited by small ethnic communities and it must respectfully highlight local culture, traditions and artisanal work. Both conditions have been violated.

Contacted, Shamim Ara Rini, deputy commissioner of Bandarban, said, "Permission to the fair was granted based on the 16 conditions."

She acknowledged that the organisers did not obtain permission from the school authorities to use the ground.

Asked how the field could be approved while examinations are underway and without consent from the school, she said, "I will look into it," before hanging up.

Five students stabbed in clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Gazipur

Five students were stabbed during a clash between two groups in a madrasa in Gazipur's Sreepur upazila over a trivial matter yesterday.

The incident took place at Khaliya Dakhil Madrasa in Garran village of the upazila.

"A clash broke out between two groups of students over seating on a bench. Five students of class 10 were injured in the attack by the class 9 students. They were later treated at a hospital," said Sreepur Police Station Officer in Charge Mohammad Abdul Barik.

"No complaints have been received in connection with the incident," added the OC.

Gazipur District Officer Mohammad Al Mamun Talukder said, "I have asked the secondary education officer to take action..."

Prime Bank Foundation supports free eye care camp



PHOTO: COURTESY

CITY DESK

A daylong free eye treatment and follow-up service camp was organised on the Kulaura Girls' High School premises in Moulvibazar on November 22, with the support of Prime Bank Foundation (a sister concern of Prime Bank PLC), said a press release.

The initiative was led by the Bakhtunnesa Chowdhury Charitable Foundation, aiming to ensure essential eye care services for underprivileged communities.

A total of 363 people received free eye care services during the camp, among whom 62 individuals received free cataract surgeries at Prime Bank Eye Hospital. Colonel (ret'd) Liaquat Ali Khan, head of CSR, East Coast Group; Md Mohiuddin, UNO of Kulaura upazila; and Nasir Uddin Ahmed, head of the Kulaura Branch of Prime Bank PLC, were present at the inaugural event.

CHETTRA RIVER IN BRAHMANBARIA Locals suffer due to lack of concrete bridge

MASUK HRIDOY, *Brahmanbaria*

More than 1 lakh residents of around 15 villages in Sarail upazila of Brahmanbaria have long been facing difficulties with connectivity due to absence of a permanent concrete bridge over the Chettra River.

Since 1997, the locals have been using a 900-foot bamboo bridge to cross the river, which takes them a considerably long time to reach their destinations, especially those located in the upazila headquarters, around 15 kilometres away.

Villagers say their sufferings become unbearable in monsoon when the river swells and the bamboo bridge becomes risky, especially for students, women, the elderly and patients.

Locals say the bamboo bridge was first constructed in 1997 by Rahmat Ali and Mozor Mia from Ranidia village at a cost of Tk 2 lakh. Since then, villages have been

voluntarily contributing with funds and manual labour to repair it once every year in the Bangla month of Kartik.

"Before every national election, local candidates promise to construct a permanent bridge over the river, but none ever kept their promise," said Md Iqbal Hossain Mridha, principal of Aruail Abdus Sattar Degree College.

Aruail UP chairman Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan said the villagers have never received any government assistance for the repair or reconstruction of the bamboo bridge.

Md Ibrahim Khalil, executive engineer of LGED in Brahmanbaria, said a proposal for a bridge over the river had been sent earlier and received approval in principle. "Feasibility studies have been conducted, and soil tests will follow before design work begins. Hopefully it will receive full approval in the upcoming pre-Ecne session," he added.





পল্লী কর্ম-সহায়ক ফাউন্ডেশন (পিকেএসএফ)

পিকেএসএফ ভবন-১, প্লট: ই-৪/বি, আগারগাঁও প্রশাসনিক এলাকা, শেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭
ফোন: ৮৮-০২-২২২২১৮৩৩১-৩৩, ০২-২২২২১৮৩৩৫-৩৯; ওয়েবসাইট: <https://www.pksf.org.bd>

স্মারক নং-৫৩, ২৩.০০০০.০১৮.১৫.০৬৪.২৫-৭২৬৮ তারিখ: ২৮ নভেম্বর ২০২৫

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

কর্মসংস্থানের মাধ্যমে দারিদ্র্য বিমোচনের লক্ষ্যে বাংলাদেশ সরকার কর্তৃক প্রতিষ্ঠিত পল্লী কর্ম-সহায়ক ফাউন্ডেশন (পিকেএসএফ)-এর নিম্নোক্ত স্থায়ী পদে কর্মকর্তা নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে অনলাইনে আবেদন গ্রহণ করা হচ্ছে:

পদের নাম ও সংখ্যা : জুনিয়র অফিসার মান-২ (ইলেকট্রিক্যাল): ০২টি

বেতন-ভাতা ও অন্যান্য সুবিধা: পিকেএসএফ-এর 'বেতন-ভাতা কাঠামো ২০১৮' অনুযায়ী মূল বেতন ৩০,০০০/- টাকা। এছাড়া বার্ষিক বেতনবৃদ্ধি, বাড়ি ভাড়া ভাতা (৬০%), চিকিৎসা ভাতা ও সুবিধা, যাতায়াত ভাতা, ভবিষ্যৎ তহবিল, আনুতোষিক, উৎসব ভাতা, বাংলা নববর্ষ ভাতা, গোষ্ঠী বীমা সুবিধা, দেশে শিক্ষারত সন্তানের শিক্ষা ভাতা, গৃহ নির্মাণ ঋণ, অর্জিত ছুটি নগদায়নসহ বিধিমালা মোতাবেক অন্যান্য সুযোগ-সুবিধা।

আগ্রহী প্রার্থীগণকে উল্লিখিত পদের Terms of Reference (ToR) দেখার জন্য পিকেএসএফ ওয়েবসাইট (www.pksf.org.bd) ভিজিট করার অনুরোধ করা হলো। প্রার্থীগণকে আগামী ১৮ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৫ তারিখের মধ্যে পিকেএসএফ ওয়েবসাইটের মাধ্যমে অনলাইনে আবেদন করতে হবে।

পিকেএসএফ যেকোনো প্রকার তদবির নিরুৎসাহিত করে। কেবলমাত্র বাছাইকৃত প্রার্থীদের নিয়োগ প্রক্রিয়ায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য আমন্ত্রণ জানানো হবে। নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত যেকোনো বিষয়ে পিকেএসএফ-এর সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে বিবেচিত হবে।

মহাব্যবস্থাপক (জনবল)



পল্লী কর্ম-সহায়ক ফাউন্ডেশন (পিকেএসএফ)

পিকেএসএফ ভবন-১, প্লট: ই-৪/বি, আগারগাঁও প্রশাসনিক এলাকা, শেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭
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স্মারক নং-৫৩, ২৩.০০০০.০১৮.১৫.০৬৪.২৫-৭২৬৭ তারিখ: ২৮ নভেম্বর ২০২৫

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

কর্মসংস্থানের মাধ্যমে দারিদ্র্য বিমোচনের লক্ষ্যে বাংলাদেশ সরকার কর্তৃক প্রতিষ্ঠিত পল্লী কর্ম-সহায়ক ফাউন্ডেশন (পিকেএসএফ)-এর নিম্নোক্ত পদে চুক্তিভিত্তিক কর্মকর্তা নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে অনলাইনে আবেদন গ্রহণ করা হচ্ছে:

পদের নাম ও সংখ্যা : Training & Digital Learning Specialist: ০১টি

বেতন-ভাতা ও অন্যান্য সুবিধা: মাসিক থোক বেতন ২,৬০,০০০/- (দুই লক্ষ শাট হাজার) টাকা। এছাড়া বার্ষিক বেতনবৃদ্ধি, গোষ্ঠী বীমা সুবিধা, Severance Allowance, উৎসব ভাতা, বাংলা নববর্ষ ভাতা এবং বিধি মোতাবেক অন্যান্য সুযোগ-সুবিধা।

আগ্রহী প্রার্থীগণকে উল্লিখিত পদের Terms of Reference (ToR) দেখার জন্য পিকেএসএফ ওয়েবসাইট (www.pksf.org.bd) ভিজিট করার অনুরোধ করা হলো। প্রার্থীগণকে আগামী ১৮ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৫ তারিখের মধ্যে পিকেএসএফ ওয়েবসাইটের মাধ্যমে অনলাইনে আবেদন করতে হবে।

পিকেএসএফ যেকোনো প্রকার তদবির নিরুৎসাহিত করে। কেবলমাত্র বাছাইকৃত প্রার্থীদের নিয়োগ প্রক্রিয়ায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য আমন্ত্রণ জানানো হবে। নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত যেকোনো বিষয়ে পিকেএসএফ-এর সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে বিবেচিত হবে।

মহাব্যবস্থাপক (জনবল)



খুলনা প্রকৌশল ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

১ম বর্ষ বি.এস-সি. ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং, বিইউআরপি ও বিআর প্রোগ্রামে ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

শিক্ষাবর্ষ: ২০২৫-২০২৬

খুলনা প্রকৌশল ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে ২০২৫-২০২৬ শিক্ষাবর্ষে ১ম বর্ষ বি.এস-সি. ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং, বিইউআরপি ও বিআর প্রোগ্রামে ভর্তি হতে ইচ্ছুক প্রার্থীদের নিম্নে ভর্তি পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণের জন্য অনলাইনে আবেদন করা যাবে। নির্দিষ্ট ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং, ইলেক্ট্রিক্যাল এবং ইন্সট্রুমেন্ট ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং এবং মেকানিক্যাল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং অনুষদসমূহে ১৬টি বিভাগে সর্বমোট ১০৬৫টি আসনে নির্ধারিত নিয়মাবলী শিক্ষার্থী ভর্তি করা হবে।

১। বাংলাদেশী শিক্ষার্থীদের জন্য ভর্তি পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণের যোগ্যতা:

- প্রার্থীকে অবশ্যই বাংলাদেশের নাগরিক হতে হবে।
- প্রার্থীকে বাংলাদেশের যে কোন মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা বোর্ড/মাদ্রাসা শিক্ষা বোর্ড থেকে ২০২২ইং অথবা ২০২৩ইং সালের মাধ্যমিক বা সমমানের পরীক্ষার কমপক্ষে জিপিএ ৪.০০ অথবা সমমানের পরীক্ষার কমপক্ষে সমতুল্য গ্রেড পেয়ে উত্তীর্ণ হতে হবে।
- প্রার্থীকে ২০২৫ইং সালে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক বা তার সমমানের পরীক্ষার পাশ হতে হবে অথবা ২০২৪ইং সালের নভেম্বর বা তারপরে 'A' গ্রেডের সার্টিফিকেট গ্রাউ হতে হবে।
- প্রার্থীকে বাংলাদেশের যে কোন মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চমাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা বোর্ড/মাদ্রাসা শিক্ষাবোর্ড থেকে উচ্চমাধ্যমিক/আলী/সমমানের পরীক্ষার গণিত, পদার্থবিদ্যা, রসায়ন ও ইংরেজী এ চার বিষয়ে কমপক্ষে মোট জিপি ১৮.০০ (আঠারো) অথবা বিদেশী শিক্ষাবোর্ড থেকে সমমানের পরীক্ষার উচ্চ বিদ্যালয়ে কমপক্ষে সমতুল্য গ্রেড পেয়ে পাশ হতে হবে। এছাড়া বায়োমেডিকেল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিভাগে ভর্তি হতে হলে অগ্রাধীকৃত উচ্চমাধ্যমিক বা সমমানের পরীক্ষার জীববিজ্ঞানে কমপক্ষে জিপি ৪.০০ থাকতে হবে।
- গ্রাউ GCE 'O' গ্রেডের এবং 'A' গ্রেডের পাশ করে থাকলে তার ক্ষেত্রে ভর্তি পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণের জন্য GCE 'O' গ্রেডের পরীক্ষার কমপক্ষে পাঁচটি বিষয়ে ন্যূনতম 'B' গ্রেড পেয়ে পাশ হতে হবে। GCE 'A' গ্রেডের পরীক্ষার পদার্থবিদ্যা, রসায়ন ও গণিতে পূর্বক পৃথকভাবে কমপক্ষে 'B' গ্রেড পেয়ে পাশ হতে হবে। এছাড়া বায়োমেডিকেল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিভাগে ভর্তি হতে হলে সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ প্রার্থীকে GCE 'A' গ্রেডের পরীক্ষার জীববিজ্ঞানে কমপক্ষে 'B' গ্রেড পেয়ে পাশ হতে হবে।
- কমপক্ষে ১২ শিক্ষাবর্ষ অধ্যয়নকাল থাকা সাপেক্ষে বিদেশী শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান থেকে ২০২৪ইং সালের উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক/সমমানের পরীক্ষার উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীর ক্ষেত্রে গণিত, পদার্থবিদ্যা, রসায়ন ও ইংরেজী বিষয়ের প্রত্যেকটিতে আনুমানিকভাবে কমপক্ষে ৭৫% নম্বর বা সমমানের গ্রেড পেতে হবে। সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ প্রার্থীকে মাধ্যমিক/সমমানের পরীক্ষার গণিতে কমপক্ষে ৭০% নম্বর বা সমমানের গ্রেড পেতে হবে।

২। ভর্তি পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণকারী নির্বাচন:

নির্দিষ্ট সময়ে মধ্য রাতে সকল বৈধ আবেদনপত্রের মধ্য থেকে উচ্চমাধ্যমিক পরীক্ষার গণিত, পদার্থবিদ্যা, রসায়ন ও ইংরেজী-এ চার বিষয়ে গ্রেড মোট গ্রেড পর্যায়ে ভিত্তিতে ১২,০০০ জনের একটি মোতামাদিকা তৈরী করা হবে। তবে ১২,০০০তম প্রার্থী একাধিক হলে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক পরীক্ষার পৃথকভাবে গণিত, পদার্থবিদ্যা, রসায়ন ও ইংরেজীতে গ্রেড নম্বরের ভিত্তিতে ১২,০০০তম প্রার্থীর মধ্য থেকে ন্যূনতম সংখ্যক প্রার্থীকে ভর্তি পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণের সুযোগ দেয়া হবে।

৩। ভর্তি সক্রান্ত সময়সীমা:

ক) আবেদনপত্র অনলাইনে পূরণ ও Submission শুরু	০৩ ডিসেম্বর, ২০২৪ইং পুণবার, সকাল ১০-০০বি.
খ) আবেদনপত্র অনলাইনে পূরণ ও Submission শেষ	১৩ ডিসেম্বর, ২০২৪ইং শনিবার, রাত ১১-৫৮বি.
গ) টাকা জমা দেয়ার শেষ সময় (১ম ধাপ, আবেদনপত্র যাচাই ও বাছাই এর জন্য)	১৪ ডিসেম্বর, ২০২৪ইং রবিবার, বিকাল ৫-০০বি.
ঘ) ভর্তি পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণের যোগ্য প্রার্থীদের নামের তালিকা প্রকাশ	২০ ডিসেম্বর, ২০২৪ইং শনিবার
টাকা জমা দেয়ার শেষ সময় (২য় ধাপ, ভর্তি পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণের জন্য)	৩০ ডিসেম্বর, ২০২৪ইং
ড) প্রবেশপত্র ডাউনলোড শুরু	০৫ জানুয়ারী, ২০২৫
ছ) ভর্তি পরীক্ষার তারিখ ও সময়	১০ জানুয়ারী, ২০২৫ইং, পুণ:শনিবার সকাল ৯-০০বি. হতে পুণ: ১২-০০বি. পর্যন্ত। মুভব্বর সকাল ১২-৪৫ থেকে পুণ: ১-৪৫ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত ০১ ফেব্রুয়ারী, ২০২৫ইং, রবিবার
জ) ভর্তি পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণকারী প্রার্থীদের মোতায়েন তালিকা প্রকাশ, বিভাগ পছন্দ প্রকাশের নির্দেশনা, ভর্তি নিয়মাবলী ও ভর্তির তারিখ ঘোষণা	

৪। ভর্তি পরীক্ষার বিষয়সমূহ ও নির্ধারিত নম্বর:

বিভাগ	মোট নম্বর	সর্বমোট নম্বর
গণিত	১৫০	৫০০
পদার্থবিদ্যা	১৫০	
রসায়ন	১৫০	
ইংরেজী	৫০	
মুক্তকল্প অঙ্কন (বিআর)	১০০	১০০

৫। প্রবেশপত্রটি প্রদত্ত নির্দেশনা মোতাবেক অনলাইনে আবেদন স্বাক্ষর পূরণ ও সফটিক ফি:

ক্রম	বিভাগ	ভর্তি পরীক্ষার বাবদ প্রদেয় ফি (পার্সনাল চার্জ ব্যতীত)
ক) ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ও ইউআরপি	৫০০ টাকা (১ম ধাপ)	
খ) ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং, ইউআরপি ও আর্কিটেকচার	৮০০ টাকা (২য় ধাপ)	

৬। ভর্তি পরীক্ষার বিষয়সমূহ ও নির্ধারিত নম্বর:

২০২৪ইং সালের উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক পরীক্ষার গণিত, পদার্থবিদ্যা ও রসায়নে যে পাঠ্যসূচী ছিল প্রধানতঃ তার উপর এবং Functional English-এর উপর ভিত্তি করে ৩ ঘণ্টা ব্যাপী সর্বমোট ৫০০ নম্বরের লিখিত পরীক্ষা অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। উল্লেখ্য, ১ম বর্ষ বি.এস-সি. ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং, বিইউআরপি ও বিআর প্রোগ্রামের ভর্তি পরীক্ষা একই প্রোগ্রামের অন্তর্ভুক্ত হবে।

বিআর প্রোগ্রামের ভর্তিফি, প্রার্থীদেরকে লিখিত পরীক্ষা ছাড়াও একই দিনে ১ ঘণ্টার ১০০ নম্বরের মুক্তকল্প অঙ্কন পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণ করতে হবে।

বিষয় ভিত্তিক নম্বরের নিম্নলিখিত নিয়মাবলী:

বিষয়	মোট নম্বর	সর্বমোট নম্বর
গণিত	১৫০	৫০০
পদার্থবিদ্যা	১৫০	
রসায়ন	১৫০	
ইংরেজী	৫০	
মুক্তকল্প অঙ্কন (বিআর)	১০০	১০০

ভর্তি সক্রান্ত সকল তথ্যাবলী admission.kuet.ac.bd ওয়েবসাইটে ও বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের নোটিশ বোর্ডে পাওয়া যাবে। Online Form পূরণ করার ক্ষেত্রে কোন সময়সীমা 01799273655/ 01714087284/ 01714087339 নম্বরে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে (সকাল ৯-০০ থেকে বিকাল ৫-০০টা পর্যন্ত) যোগাযোগ করা যাবে। ভর্তি পরীক্ষা সক্রান্ত যে কোন প্রয়োজনে admission@kuet.ac.bd তে e-mail করা যেতে পারে।


 প্রফেসর ড. মুহাম্মদ হাকিমুর রশীদ
 সভাপতি, ভর্তি কমিটি, ১ম বর্ষ বি.এস-সি. ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং, বিইউআরপি ও বিআর প্রোগ্রামে
 ও
 জীন, নির্দিষ্ট ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং অনুষদ
 খুলনা প্রকৌশল ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
 খুলনা-১২০৩, বাংলাদেশ

ওয়েবসাইট admission.kuet.ac.bd

GD-2569

রাজশাহী প্রকৌশল ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
১ম বর্ষ বি.এসসি. ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং, বিইউআরপি ও বি.আর্ক. কোর্সে ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি
শিকার্ঘ্য: ২০২৫-২০২৬

রাজশাহী প্রকৌশল ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে ২০২৫-২০২৬ শিক্ষাবর্ষে বি.এসসি. ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং, বিইউআরপি ও বি.আর্ক. কোর্সে ভর্তি হতে ইচ্ছুক প্রার্থীদের নিকট হতে ভর্তি পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণের জন্য অনলাইনে অংশগ্রহণের আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। প্রকৌশল, তত্ত্ব ও কম্পিউটার কৌশল এবং প্রকৌশল অনুষদসমূহের ১৪ টি বিভাগে সর্বমোট ১২০৬ (১২ টি সংরক্ষিত আসন সহ) টি আসনে নিম্নলিখিত মিয়াদসূচী শিক্ষার্থী ভর্তি করা হবে।

১। বাংলাদেশী শিক্ষার্থীদের জন্য ভর্তি পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণের যোগ্যতা:

ক) প্রার্থীকে অবশ্যই বাংলাদেশের নাগরিক হতে হবে।

খ) প্রার্থীকে বাংলাদেশের যে কোন মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা বোর্ড/মাদ্রাসা শিক্ষা বোর্ড/কারিগরি শিক্ষা বোর্ড থেকে ২০২২ খ্রি. অথবা ২০২৩ খ্রি. এর মাধ্যমিক বা সমমানের পরীক্ষার কমপক্ষে গড় ৪.০০ (চার) অথবা সমতুল্য গ্রেড পেয়ে উত্তীর্ণ হতে হবে।

গ) প্রার্থীকে বাংলাদেশের যে কোন মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা বোর্ড/মাদ্রাসা শিক্ষা বোর্ড/কারিগরি শিক্ষা বোর্ড থেকে ২০২২ খ্রি. এর উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক বা সমমানের পরীক্ষার উত্তরতঃ গণিত, পদার্থবিদ্যা ও রসায়ন বিষয়ে মোট দুইনম্বর লিখিত ১৪.০০ (চৌদ্দ) পেতে হবে।

ঘ) প্রার্থী GCE 'O' সেলেস এবং 'A' সেলেস পরীক্ষার পাশ করে থাকলে তার ক্ষেত্রে ভর্তি পরীক্ষার অংশ গ্রহণের জন্য GCE 'O' সেলেস পরীক্ষার কমপক্ষে পাঁচটি (পাঁচ) গণিত, পদার্থবিদ্যা, রসায়ন ও ইংরেজি সহ) বিষয়ে দুইনম্বর 'B' গ্রেড পেয়ে পাশ করতে হবে। GCE 'A' সেলেস পরীক্ষার গণিত, পদার্থবিদ্যা ও রসায়ন বিষয়ে দুইনম্বর কমপক্ষে 'B' গ্রেড পেয়ে পাশ করতে হবে। উল্লেখ্য, প্রার্থীকে ২০২৪ খ্রি. এর নত্বের বা তার পরে 'A' সেলেস সার্টিফিকেট গ্রহণ হতে হবে।

ঙ) কমপক্ষে ১২ শিক্ষাবর্ষে অধ্যয়নকাল ধাকা সাপেক্ষে বিদেশী শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান থেকে ২০২৫ খ্রি. এর উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক বা সমমানের পরীক্ষার উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীর ক্ষেত্রে গণিত, পদার্থবিদ্যা, রসায়ন ও ইংরেজি বিষয়ে গ্রেডে/ক্যাটেগরি আলাদাভাবে ৮০% নম্বর বা সমমানের গ্রেড পেতে হবে। সমগ্রিত বিষয়ে মাধ্যমিক বা সমমানের পরীক্ষার গড় কমপক্ষে ৭০% নম্বর বা সমমানের গ্রেড পেতে হবে।

২। ভর্তি পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণকারী নির্বাচন:

(ক) নির্দিষ্ট সময়ে প্রাপ্ত প্রাপ্তি এবং আবেদনপত্রের মধ্যে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক বা সমমানের পরীক্ষার উত্তরতঃ গণিত, পদার্থবিদ্যা ও রসায়ন এই তিন বিষয়ে গ্রেড মোট গ্রেড হেডের গড়িত্তে মোট তালিকা করা হবে। আবেদনকারী শিক্ষার্থীর মধ্যে মোট প্রথম ১৬,০০০ (ষোল হাজার) জন প্রার্থীকে ভর্তি পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণের সুযোগ দেয়া হবে। প্রথম ১৬,০০০ (ষোল হাজার)-তম প্রার্থী একটিক হলে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক বা সমমানের পরীক্ষার অধ্যয়ন উত্তরতঃ গণিত, পদার্থবিদ্যা ও রসায়ন এই তিন বিষয়ে সর্বকৃৎসক প্রাপ্তি নম্বরের ভিত্তিতে ভর্তি পরীক্ষার অংশ গ্রহণের জন্য প্রার্থী সংখ্যা হ্রাস করা হবে।

(খ) উল্লেখিত সর্বাধীন পূর্ণ সাপেক্ষে ভর্তি পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণের জন্য যোগ্য প্রার্থীদের পরীক্ষা করা হবে।

(গ) পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণের জন্য যোগ্য বিবেচিত আবেদনকারীদের তালিকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েবসাইটে (<https://admission.ruet.ac.bd>) প্রকাশ করা হবে।

৩। ভর্তি সংক্রান্ত সমতথ্য:

ক)	আবেদনপত্র অনলাইনে পূরণ ও জামানার ফর্ম	০২ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৫ সপ্তক ১০:০০ ঘটিকা
খ)	আবেদনপত্র অনলাইনে পূরণ ও জামানার শেষ	১০ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৫ বিকাল ০৫:০০ ঘটিকা
গ)	আবেদন ফি জমা দেওয়ার শেষ সময়	১৫ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৫ দুপুর ১২:০০ ঘটিকা
ঘ)	ভর্তি পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণের জন্য যোগ্য আবেদনকারীদের নামের তালিকা প্রকাশের সম্ভাব্য তারিখ	০৩ জানুয়ারি ২০২৬ বিকাল ০৫:০০ ঘটিকা
ঙ)	ভর্তি পরীক্ষার জন্য আসন বিতরণ প্রকাশ	০৬ জানুয়ারি ২০২৬ বিকাল ০৫:০০ ঘটিকা
চ)	প্রবেশপত্র ডাউনলোড শুরু	১০ জানুয়ারি ২০২৬ বিকাল ০৫:০০ ঘটিকা
ছ)	এক্স-ক	২২ জানুয়ারি ২০২৬ সকাল ৯:০০ হতে দুপুর ১২:০০ ঘটিকা
	এক্স-খ	২২ জানুয়ারি ২০২৬ দুপুর ১২:০৫-০১:০৫ ঘটিকা
জ)	ভর্তি পরীক্ষার ফলাফল প্রকাশের সম্ভাব্য তারিখ	০৬ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২৬

** OMR শীট পূরণের ক্ষেত্রে শুধুমাত্র কালার কালি ব্লক দিয়েই পেন ব্যবহার করা যাবে।

** প্রতিটি প্রশ্নের ক্রম উত্তরের জন্য প্রশ্ন বরাবরকৃত নম্বরের ২৫ শতাংশ নম্বর কর্তব্য হবে।

ভর্তি সংক্রান্ত যে কোন তথ্য সংঘাতের ০১০২৬৭৭০৪৯৯ অথবা ০১০২৬৭৭০৪০৮ নম্বর অফিস ল্যান্ডলাইন সময়ে (সপ্তক ৯:০০ ঘটিকা থেকে বিকাল ৫:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত) যোগাযোগ করা যাবে
অথবা
গ্রহণযোগ্য support.ugadmission@ruet.ac.bd এই ইমেইল e-mail করা যাবে।
বিশেষ নথি: ১। ভর্তি সংক্রান্ত যে কোন বিষয়ে ভর্তি কমিটির সিদ্ধান্ত ইচ্ছুক বসে বিবেচিত হবে।
ভর্তি পরীক্ষার প্রবেশ সাইট: https://admission.ruet.ac.bd

৪। অনুমূল ভিত্তিক বিভিন্ন বিভাগের নাম, কোড ও আসন বিতরণ:

বিভাগ	কোড	আসন
পূরকৌশল অনুষদ		
১। নির্ভুল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং	CE	১৮০
২। অর্থনৈতিক ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং প্রোগ্রাম	URP	১৮০
৩। অর্কিটেকচার	Arch	৩০
৪। নির্ভুল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং এবং কনস্ট্রাকশন ম্যানেজমেন্ট	BECM	৩০
তত্ত্ব ও কম্পিউটার কৌশল অনুষদ		
১। ইলেকট্রনিক্স এবং টেলিকমিউনিকেশন ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং	EEE	১৮০
২। কম্পিউটার সায়েন্স এবং ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং	CSE	১৮০
৩। ইলেকট্রনিক্স এবং টেলিকমিউনিকেশন ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং	ETE	৬০
৪। ইলেকট্রনিক্স এবং কম্পিউটার ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং	ECE	৬০
মেকানিক্যাল অনুষদ		
১। মেকানিক্যাল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং	ME	১৮০
২। ইন্ডাস্ট্রিয়াল এবং প্রকৌশল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং	IPE	৬০
৩। নির্মাণ এবং মেটালার্জিক্যাল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং	CME	৬০
৪। মেকানিক্যাল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং	MTE	৬০
৫। মেকানিক্যাল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং	ChE	৩০
৬। ম্যাটেরিয়াল সায়েন্স এবং ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং	MSE	৬০
মোট		১২০০
সংরক্ষিত আসন (বাং		

Dhaka’s rapid growth worsening liveability

Make it sustainable or prepare for the day to abandon it

A new report by the United Nations has ranked Dhaka as the world's second most populous city after Jakarta, pushing Tokyo to third place. According to its projections, Dhaka and Shanghai are expected to experience the fastest growth among the 10 largest cities of 2025. By mid-century, Dhaka is projected to overtake Jakarta as the world's largest city, while Shanghai is expected to rise from fifth to third. It is a paradox that a city ranked third from the bottom in the Economist Intelligence Unit's Global Liveability Index 2025 continues to expand at such a pace.

The numbers are both startling and alarming, as they are almost three and a half times higher than our official estimates. The UN puts Dhaka's population at 36.6 million, whereas the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics' 2022 Population and Housing Census records a population of just 10.2 million. This vast discrepancy is deeply concerning because population data directly influence nearly every aspect of urban planning, ranging from infrastructure and public services to the supply of essentials and economic activities.

Recent devastating fires in Kuril, Mirpur, or near the airport, along with natural hazards such as the recent series of tremors, serve as stark reminders of how overstretched our emergency and essential services have become. With severe land scarcity, Dhaka has expanded upwards in a highly unbalanced manner, resulting in grossly inadequate ratios of roads and basic civic services. The consequences are evident: traffic gridlocks lasting hours, households unable or struggling to cook for days, water rationing due to unreliable supply of safe drinking water, widespread air pollution, electricity outages causing heat-related illnesses, and an absence of many essential services. Open spaces, playgrounds, water bodies, and greenery have virtually disappeared. These shortcomings have turned Dhaka into one of the most unliveable cities in the world.

The UN report identifies faster urban population growth compared to national averages as a global trend. However, it does not account for Dhaka's exponential expansion, which is likely driven by uneven national development. Experts cite both "push" and "pull" factors. In a highly centralised governance system, the capital becomes the focal point for administrative and planning decisions, drawing people from across the country in search of opportunity. Conversely, the lack of jobs, limited economic activity, and climate vulnerability in other regions also push people towards Dhaka, resulting in a relentless flow of internal migration that overwhelms the city.

Sustainable development demands integrated planning that treats cities, towns, and rural areas as interconnected and interdependent. The UN report emphasises the need for national policies that coordinate housing, land use, mobility, and basic services across regions—measures that can ease pressure on megacities and promote a more balanced development.

In Bangladesh, past attempts at decentralisation have failed due to a lack of sincerity and commitment from political leaders and bureaucrats accustomed to the comforts of urban centrality and reluctant to relinquish them. But decentralisation is no longer optional; it has become imperative. We have reached a point where we either act to make Dhaka sustainable or prepare for the day when this unliveable megacity forces its residents to abandon it or suffer the consequences.

Slum fire survivors need urgent support

Address the structural flaws behind Korail's vulnerability to such hazards

We are shocked by yet another devastating fire in the Korail slum, the fourth major one in just two years. Home to nearly 1.5 lakh people, Korail has always been vulnerable to fire hazards. However, the latest incident exposed how unprepared we still are to handle them. The fire revealed structural flaws that have remained unaddressed for years. As flames ripped through 1,338 tightly packed shanties on November 25, around 6,000 residents lost their homes overnight. The scenes the next morning were painfully familiar—families rummaging through charred ruins and children holding the few things they managed to save.

This tragedy highlighted the deadly structural weaknesses that make Korail so vulnerable. The slum has one entry point, which is so narrow that even two rickshaws cannot pass at once. It took firefighters 35 minutes just to reach the scene, while large engines could not enter at all. Crews had to drag hoses from a distance as flames fed on wooden frames, garbage, and tangled electrical wires.

The human cost of the fire cannot be overstated. Among the victims was Minara Begum, still searching for her mother, Hosne Ara. Elsewhere, Rima Akter stood with her eight-month-old son, recalling how a suspected electrical short circuit near her home triggered explosions of a chain of gas cylinders, forcing her to flee with her children. This was the third fire for 50-year-old Mohammad Ismail, who wandered through the ruins with a single suitcase containing the last pieces of his belongings. He had rebuilt twice before, only to watch his possessions turn to ashes again.

Hundreds are now living under the open sky in nearby fields and schoolyards. They need shelter, warm clothes, food, and financial aid to meet daily needs. The government has been providing emergency relief, but that is not enough. It must implement a well-coordinated plan so they can rebuild their lives. Private organisations should also step forward. Wealthy citizens must not forget the workforce that provides them with services at homes and offices every day.

Equally importantly, the structural flaws that make firefighting so difficult in Korail must be addressed urgently. Experts have repeatedly mentioned crucial reforms: accessible roads, safer construction materials, proper electrical maintenance, and, most importantly, community-based first-response teams trained and equipped to act before fires spread. These recommendations must be implemented without fail. At the same time, the causes behind the frequent blazes must be investigated and addressed efficiently. Such devastating fires must not be repeated.



FILE PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

A picture that lays bare the decay of our education system

Why have we failed to give quality education to schoolgoers?



THE THIRD VIEW

Mahfuz Anam
is the editor and publisher of
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MAHFUZ ANAM

On November 19, we published a picture of a classroom of a government primary school in Dumuria, Khulna. All the benches, made of steel to ensure durability, have been huddled together to create an elevated base on which about 15 primary-level students are squatting and studying with the teacher at the back. Why are the students sitting on an elevated platform instead of on the benches made for them? Because the floor is under ankle-deep water. How long has this situation persisted? Five months. Why? Because the nearby Shoalmari River is choked with siltation. When will these students get back to their normal schools? Given our history of handling river siltation, it is likely to take a long time. So, for the foreseeable future, this is how these students will experience their school life, unless, of course, they fall victim to waterborne diseases. In that case, can we pause for a moment to consider what health facilities are available for them?

One has to admire the commitment of the teachers, and especially of the students and their parents, to continue school in such adverse circumstances. The tragedy is that this “adversity” has been normalised for the last five months and practically for every monsoon season.

Our reporter from Khulna says that students from at least 22 villages are commuting to school on boats every day and attending classes, as seen in the photo. During the coming winter chill, many may have to wade through waist-deep water to reach their classes, exposing themselves to cold, fever, skin infection, and other diseases.

How will these primary school students perform in the final primary school examination to be held from December 1? The same concern applies for the students of secondary schools in Dumuria and other upazilas where exams have already started, as well as for the students scheduled to take the SSC test examination. According to local officials, 45 educational institutions in Dumuria alone, including 18 secondary schools and one college, are currently affected by waterlogging.

Yet the project to clear the siltation is stuck in a bureaucratic maze, and no one knows how long locals will have to suffer before it is resolved. What is certain, however, is that primary and secondary school students of the upazila will have lost some invaluable time and opportunities in their academic life.

What we have pointed out above is the situation of schools in one upazila. What is the state of schools in general in terms of their physical condition? According to Department of Primary Education officials, as of July 2024,

out of 1.07 lakh primary educational institutions in the country, 49,656 were new, in good condition, and functional, while 18,271 school buildings were old, 16,998 repairable, 11,613 in dilapidated conditions, 5,252 risky, 3,307 abandoned, and 1,348 non-usable.

If we put together the schools identified as dilapidated, risky, abandoned, and non-usable (the difference between the last two categories is not clear), then we have around 22,000 schools that are not safe for our children. If we add the schools that become flooded and non-functional due to seasonal heavy rain, river siltation, storms, and cyclones, then we end up with a far larger number of schools unable to carry out their function as planned. This affects several lakh students every year.

Add to the above the revelation of the latest Multiple Indicator Cluster survey—covering 63,000 households countrywide, and conducted by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) and Unicef—that only 44 percent of students complete secondary level education, while 56 percent, or more than half, do not.

If an education system leads to the failure of more than half of the student body, then what sort of system is it? Yes, there are many socio-economic realities, such as child marriage, which is cited as one of the main reasons for this situation. But then, what are the related ministries, like women and children's affairs, doing about it? If there were accountability in our system, we wouldn't be here.

According to the latest figures, the positions of 34,106 primary school head teachers and 24,536 assistant teachers are vacant. Not that recruiting them all would solve many of the problems, as there would definitely have been political influence and corruption in teacher recruitment. It is a reality we have allowed for decades. But that said, why should the relevant ministry sit on these appointments? Again, no accountability.

The question we want to raise is why, after 54 years of independence, our primary and secondary education is still in such a miserable state. Why are we continuing to produce mediocre students? We have seen improvement in enrolment, but we have failed to properly develop students' ability to learn and absorb knowledge, and cultivate a curious mind. Shouldn't the July charter, especially since it was heralded by student activists, have addressed this particular issue as it directly affects the future of students?

After independence, we have had a total of eight education commissions: i) Qudrat-e-Khuda Education Commission of 1972; ii)

Interim Education Policy under Kazi Zafar Ahmad, 1978; ii) Mazid Khan Education Commission of 1983; iv) Mofiz Uddin Education Commission of 1988; v) Shamsul Haque Education Commission, 1997; vi) MA Bari Education Commission, 2002; vii) Mohammad Moniruzzaman Mia Education Commission, 2003; and viii) Education Policy Formulation Committee headed by Kabir Chowdhury in 2009. In addition, there were additional committees and policy-formulating bodies during the last 54 years.

The point to note is that the above education commissions worked under different regimes, both political and military. Yet hardly any of their recommendations were implemented; not even a few substantive ones saw the light of day despite so much work and resources expended.

To us, this failure is demonstrative of how frivolously we have treated education in general, and primary and secondary education in particular, for the half-century of our existence as a sovereign country.

In our view, the education commissions, like most other things, were seen through political lenses and never as institutional ones because no attempt was made to ensure they appeared non-partisan and neutral. When forming a new commission, the governments of the day did not take the opposition into confidence and allow a consensus to emerge so that, with a change of government, the commission's relevance would continue. The attitude of the new regime was never to implement the ideas but to reverse them. And so, recommendations got buried each time with the change of regime. It was politics that determined the views for education reforms, never the needs of our children or those of the nation.

All through the last 54 years, there was also an absence of a strong and independent implementation authority. Educational reforms are fundamentally long-term. They cannot be subject to frequent changes tied to election results. An implementation authority established on a non-partisan basis with the participation of the political opposition is what Bangladesh needed—but it's something that we never even tried for.

Political division has cost us tremendously in most aspects of our lives. But its most damaging impact has been in the education sector. Very few, if any, countries have seen the formation of eight education commissions in 54 years of their life. If the commissions were building on the gains of the previous ones, it could have been a different story. Over the years, our education system has never received the consistent support that it needed. As with everything else, partisanship played havoc.

And of course, there were powerful, well-entrenched groups who resisted any change. Teachers' bodies were among the most consistent lobbies that resisted any form of change, as it would have required new skills and new qualifications. Bureaucracy was devoid of any commitment, mostly for the same reasons. At the moment,

we have two ministries looking after education, namely the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education and the Ministry of Education. Neither of them has the necessary expertise, motivation, or infrastructure to push for innovation and modernisation.

Take the case of the use of technology in modernising our education. Which department will take the lead in this area? Any change or innovation to penetrate into the maze of bureaucracy has to come in the form of a “project” to be funded by a donor or the World Bank, etc. The biggest shortcoming of a project is that it is time bound and once that time expires, it stands abandoned unless there is a “new” project with additional resources. To their credit, donors, especially the WB, have shown flexibility here and funded education projects that had multiple phases. Even in such cases—with continuity assured—we lacked the vision, commitment and motivation to vigorously move towards our goals. One reason for it was the frequent transfer of bureaucratic leadership, many of whom, well aware of their limited tenure, made the best use of it often through frequent foreign trips, expensive and high-end transport, and future consultancies, if they were on the verge of retirement.

Why do we need an external donor for something that is a long-term need and most essential for us? Whatever it takes, education, health, agriculture, and food, when necessary, should be funded by us and adequately so. Shortage of funding has been a chronic failure on our part. We are among the lowest funders for education in the world as well as in the South Asian region, even lower than Nepal, whose resource constraints are far more severe than ours.

A lot of hue and cry was made as to why Prof Yunus's government did not set up a special commission for the education sector as a whole. What we should have done instead—and we had a rare opportunity (and perhaps still do) in that aspect—was to examine the recommendations of the past eight education commissions, pick up the most relevant and doable ones, make them part of our “consensus dialogue”, and get us that convergent policy directive that we so badly need. Or, as this government has done in some other cases, it could have issued an ordinance on the most urgent, relevant, and widely acceptable education reforms.

At the root of the success of all modern nations lies education, which must be periodically modernised to make citizens efficient, innovative, contemporary, and prosperous. This allows a nation to take full advantage of innovations that science, technology, social sciences, and modern administrative and business practices offer. Not reforming education is like holding a nation static and preventing it from advancing. The Golden Era of Islam, especially the Abbasid period (eighth to 13th century), the Meiji period in Japan (1968-1912), and the modern period in China—to cite some relevant examples—should guide us well as to the role of education in moving a civilisation forward.

Dhaka needs a mayor who can deliver real change



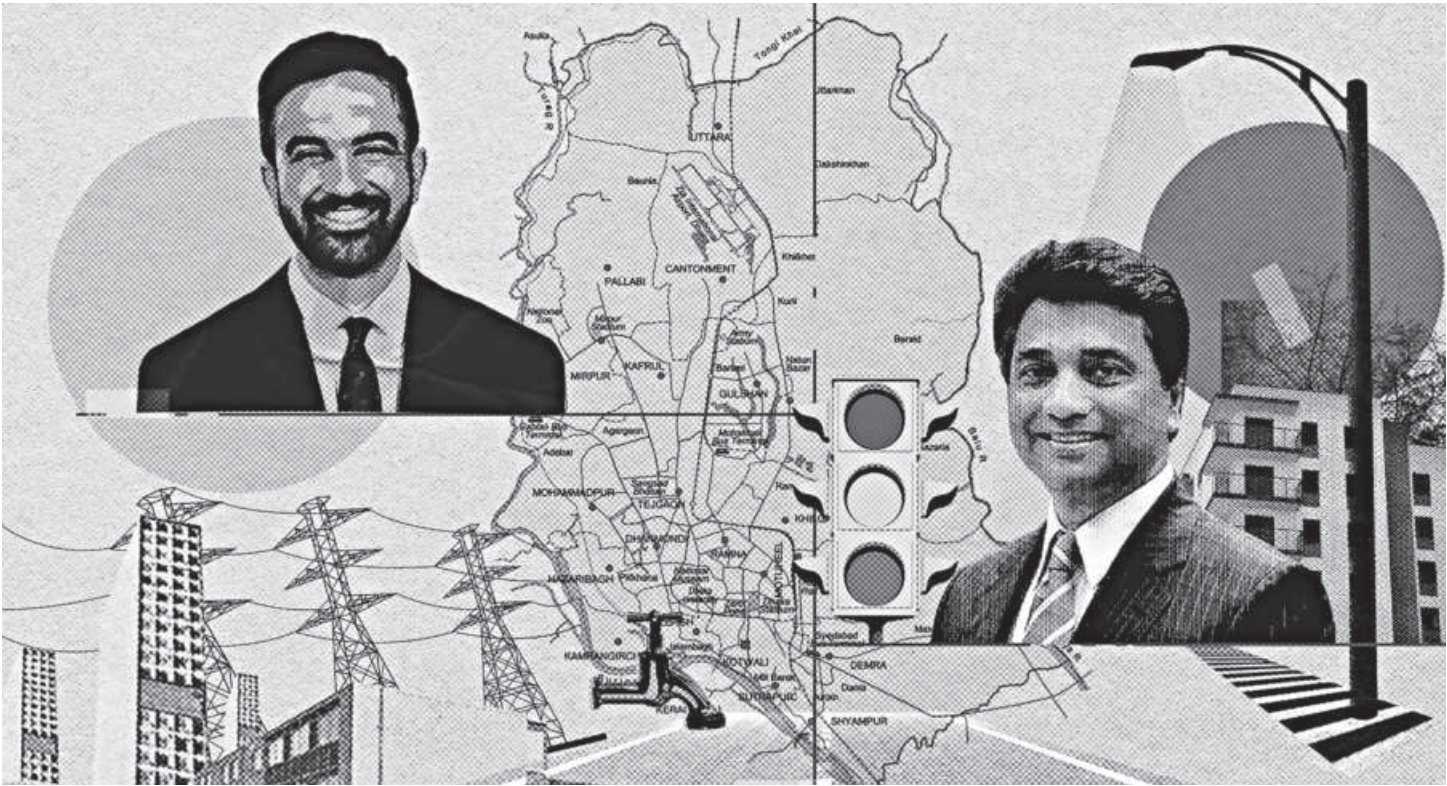
Dhaka has a new crush, his name is Zohran Mamdani, and he has somehow become the internet's latest fantasy for Bangladeshis. A few interviews, a few viral clips, a few thoughtful soundbites, and suddenly, he is being adored across timelines as if he is the long-lost protagonist of our political romance. It is charming and chaotic in equal measure. However, it is also the perfect moment to turn our gaze inward and ask ourselves a simple question that we seem to avoid every monsoon, every traffic jam, and every dengue season. How is a mayor supposed to be?

A mayor is the head of a city's local government. That sounds straightforward, but the role is the backbone of urban daily life. A mayor oversees sanitation, solid waste management, community healthcare initiatives, streetlights, drainage system, footpath management, market regulation, building permissions, and the overall civic environment that influences how a city feels to live in. They are the closest elected authority for citizens. While national leaders shape policy and strategy, a mayor influences the everyday experiences of ordinary people who want clean roads, reliable lighting, functioning drains, and a neighbourhood that does not feel like a test of character.

Dhaka's two city corporations, North and South, are enormous civic engines consisting of councillors, engineers, inspectors, planners, and frontline workers who handle everything from garbage collection to health campaigns. A mayor sits at the centre of this machinery. But the job is not about heroic gestures or dramatic announcements. The real work lies in coordination. A functional city is a choreography of many bodies moving together. One department clears waste, one repairs roads, another manages markets, another supervises building compliance, and another handles disease control. A mayor's effectiveness depends on whether these parts communicate, complement, and

MIND THE GAP
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NOSHIN NAWAL



VISUAL: ANWAR SOHEL

support each other.

This conversation inevitably reminds us of the late Annisul Huq, who offered a glimpse of what an empowered, modern, and deeply humane mayor could look like. His tenure showed how energy, discipline, and a willingness to confront entrenched interests could shift a city's mood, even if only briefly. His work remains a powerful reminder of what is possible when leadership meets vision.

Yet Dhaka's challenges persist because responsibility is spread across many authorities. Urban drainage involves city engineers and national-level water agencies. Traffic depends on the city corporation, but

failure; it is fragmentation.

And nothing has made this clearer than the recent earthquake, when a few seconds of shaking reminded us how fragile this megacity truly is. Our city corporations have been warning Rajuk for years about unsafe buildings, unchecked construction, and the urgent need for responsible enforcement. Rajuk has its own demands and delays, and the corporations have their own limitations, but the lack of cooperation among these bodies is how a city becomes vulnerable. If these agencies cannot sit together to approve a Detailed Area Plan (DAP) that does not put twenty million people at risk, then no mayor, no matter how charismatic, can

not as a ceremonial extension of national power. A city of more than one crore people cannot function through improvisation. It requires systems, not last-minute reactions. And those systems cannot exist unless the mayor's office is allowed to lead them with clarity and authority.

This brings us to another important point. Dhaka needs to think carefully about what kind of person should hold the mayoral offices. Not celebrity figures. Not political placeholders. A mayor must be someone who understands how cities breathe. Ideally, this is a person with a grasp of the problems Dhaka faces every single day. A mayor should understand how waste systems are

modernised, how digital data can improve city management, how community health programmes work, how commercial areas grow and how public spaces can be made safe and accessible. They must know how and when to negotiate for the best of the city and its dwellers.

But technical knowledge alone is not enough. Dhaka also needs mayors who can lead with empathy. People do not experience a city through official reports. They experience it through frustration on a flooded street, fatigue in traffic, relief when a lane is finally cleared, and gratitude when a mosquito fogging drive makes a difference. A mayor must be someone who listens to these stories, understands the human side of urban governance, and responds with a sense of responsibility rather than routine.

This is why the Mamdani trend is such an interesting cultural moment. Not because Mamdani has commented on Bangladesh. He has not. But because our fascination with him reveals something about our emotional landscape. When people feel unseen locally, they project their hopes onto figures abroad. It is sweet, but it also says something important. Perhaps it is time to channel that energy towards strengthening our own city leadership instead of waiting for symbolic heroes. If we can invest so much attention into a foreign legislator's charisma, we can certainly invest the same enthusiasm into demanding a more functional, empowered, and modern local governance system at home.

Dhaka does not need a mayor who promises miracles. It needs one who knows how urban problems are solved and can turn many small improvements into a meaningful shift in how the city works. Clean streets, smoother mobility, faster responses, safer neighbourhoods—none of these changes is glamorous. But they are the foundations of dignity in daily life.

So, the next time the city is waterlogged, or the roads are chaotic, or the neighbourhood feels neglected, instead of simply asking where the mayor is, we should ask whether the city has given its mayors the support and structure needed to act. A mayor cannot build a city alone. They can only lead if the city allows them to lead. Dhaka deserves mayors with skill, vision, and humanity. And those mayors deserve a system that lets them shape the city we proudly claim as home.

Oxygen for all: Why measurement matters as much as availability



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ANIQA TASNIM HOSSAIN

Medical oxygen is not merely a clinical supply; it is a lifeline that sustains patients every minute in hospitals and their homes. Bangladesh has expanded oxygen plants, concentrators, and hospital pipelines in recent years. However, due to a lack of measurement, we are in the dark about whether oxygen is being used appropriately.

Oxygen is indispensable in saving lives from acute medical emergencies such as pneumonia, sepsis, obstetric complications, and trauma. The Lancet Commission on Medical Oxygen Security estimates that over 105 million people globally need oxygen for acute medical care each year, most of them in low- and middle-income countries, including about two million in Bangladesh. For surgical procedures, around five million, and for chronic respiratory diseases such as COPD, nearly 0.2 million people in Bangladesh rely on oxygen therapy every year. These numbers tell us that oxygen need is not rare, yet it remains poorly documented in the systems meant to manage it.

To understand oxygen coverage, we need to know how many patients required oxygen and how many actually received it. A multi-country study conducted in Bangladesh, Nepal and Tanzania, published in the *Journal of Global Health* in 2022, illustrated this problem. In two large Bangladeshi hospitals, oxygen was administered to almost half of the newborns treated for infection, yet very few had oxygen saturation documented in their case notes. Without pulse oximetry data, it is impossible to tell whether the therapy was appropriate or wasteful. Poor documentation could mask both under-treatment and overuse. This is not a technical oversight; it is a system-wide blind spot. The cost of this lack of documentation is substantial. In private hospitals, the cost of oxygen therapy can result in high out-of-pocket payments for the patients. For public hospitals, oxygen generation and delivery can

consume a large part of total operating costs.

When oxygen is used without a clear clinical indication or documentation, both patients and facilities face unnecessary economic strain. An article published in *The Daily Star* during the pandemic shared the financial struggles of people due to the high cost of oxygen therapy. Jannatul, a 45-year-old woman, was admitted to a hospital in Chattogram with breathing difficulties and required oxygen support for 10 straight days. When the time came for discharge, her family received an oxygen-only bill of over Tk 3 lakh, while the total hospital bill exceeded Tk 6 lakh. They pointed out that hospitals had to source oxygen from private suppliers

Oxygen sustains life, but the absence of data on its use keeps health systems blind. Creation of a real-time oxygen measurement system that connects patient needs to oxygen delivery is as important as building new oxygen plants.

at inflated market rates. In other cases, some facilities explained that their billing systems were not designed to differentiate oxygen consumption by duration or flow rate, so fixed or estimated charges were applied to cover overall maintenance. Others emphasised that without government subsidies or price ceilings, private hospitals had little flexibility to absorb the increased costs of oxygen procurement and logistics. The scenario emphasises the necessity to ensure oxygen is given only when it is needed, and to do that, addressing the measurement gap is obligatory. When oxygen use is not measured, it not only

clouds clinical judgment but also opens the door to uncontrolled costs and inequity. Therefore, both overuse and underuse stem from the same problem: lack of measurement.


Bangladesh has made commendable progress in improving oxygen infrastructure and monitoring supply. The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) now publishes a daily update through its Oxygen Management Information System (OMIS), showing figures such as total oxygen availability and the number of hospital beds equipped with oxygen. These dashboards are an important step forward and demonstrate the government's commitment to data-driven decision-making. Yet, they describe only the supply side of oxygen, not who receives it. The system does not show how many patients were hypoxaemic, how many had their oxygen saturation measured, or how long oxygen therapy lasted. Without patient-level indicators, it is impossible to track coverage, identify inequities, or ensure rational use.

At the population level, surveys should include questions on hospitalisation, oxygen need, and whether oxygen was received during treatment. These additions would help capture how people access life-saving oxygen beyond facility records and highlight inequities across regions and socioeconomic groups. At the same time, facility-based systems must routinely document hypoxaemia, indication, and outcomes in real time. Linking population surveys with routine facility data will be essential to generate a complete picture of oxygen access and use in Bangladesh, as recommended by The Lancet Commission.

Oxygen sustains life, but the absence of data on its use keeps health systems blind. Creation of a real-time oxygen measurement system that connects patient needs to oxygen delivery is as important as building new oxygen plants. When we know how many patients were hypoxemic, how many received oxygen, and how long they were treated, we can allocate resources more equitably across regions and facility types. Data showing high oxygen use but low saturation monitoring in certain districts could trigger targeted training and supervision, while identifying hospitals with chronic undersupply would enable redistribution and timely procurement. Patient-level information would also improve efficiency by reducing unnecessary oxygen use, preventing wastage, and ensuring that

oxygen reaches those who truly need it first. Integrating these data streams into national health information systems would transform current dashboards from inventory trackers

into decision-making tools to plan, act, and save lives more effectively. When every breath counts, measurement ensures that no one is left struggling for air.



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গ্যাস জাতীয় সম্পদ, এর অপচয়
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"জ্বালানী নিরাপত্তা
সর্বোচ্চ অগ্রাধিকার"

Memo No. 28.14.0000.201.24.013.25/998

Date: 27.11.2025

e-Tender Notice

e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the following procurements:


SL. No.	Tender ID No.	Name of Work(s)	Tender Document last selling/ downloading Date and Time	Tender Closing Date and Time	Tender Opening Date and Time
01.	1183196	Civil Maintenance Works of Bibiana-Dhanua Pipeline Right of Way and Bogadia Valve Station, Mithamain, Kishoreganj. [28.14.0000.201.24.013.25]	07-Dec-2025 17:00	08-Dec-2025 11:00	08-Dec-2025 11:00
02.	1183890	Renovation and Ancillary Maintenance Works at GTCL Head Office Building, Agargaon, Dhaka. [28.14.0000.201.24.014.25]	07-Dec-2025 17:00	08-Dec-2025 11:00	08-Dec-2025 11:00

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank Branches.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)


(Engr. Shabeda Banu)
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GTPR-10/2025-26

GD-2576



Mosharraf Karim takes on stand-up comedian role in Chorki's 'Dimlight'

For the first time, popular actor Mosharraf Karim will be seen in the role of a stand-up comedian, earning his livelihood by making people laugh. He takes on this fresh and unconventional character in the Chorki Original film *Dimlight*, directed by Saraf Ahmed Zibon and produced under the banner of Chabial.

Dimlight is part of Chorki's **Ministry of Love** project, which explores different facets of relationships. Director Saraf Ahmed Zibon explained that the film symbolically portrays a midlife crisis as a 'Dimlight crisis,' with Karim playing the character experiencing it.

Alongside Mosharraf Karim, the web film also stars Tanzika Amin, Parsa Evana, and Saraf Ahmed Zibon in pivotal roles.

UNRAVELING SILENCE

Yasmin Jahan Nupur's exhibition showcases quiet resilience

Unraveling Silence brought together a body of work that reflects Yasmin Jahan Nupur's ongoing engagement with memory, displacement, and the quiet resilience embedded in everyday life. Through soft sculptures, textiles, and immersive installations—rooted deeply in the material and emotional histories of Jamdani—the exhibition unfolded with a delicate, contemplative rhythm. For Nupur, textiles are more than material; they are vessels of intimate and collective stories.

Across the exhibition, suspended weavings, layered fabric panels, and ghostlike garments created an atmosphere where absence felt palpably present, and silence emerged as an active, almost tactile force.

Jamdani, with its centuries-old legacy in Bangladesh, appeared throughout the exhibition not as ornamentation but as a conceptual anchor. Its slow, communal, labour-intensive weaving process echoed the emotional cadence of the works themselves.

Through it, Nupur explored questions of labour, identity, and the cultural memory held within



fragile materials long after histories begin to fade. Rather than guiding viewers toward a single conclusion, *Unraveling Silence* opened a space for reflection. The installations encouraged slow looking, inviting visitors to consider how silence functions in their own lives—whether as protection, erasure, resistance, or a gathering place for unspoken stories.

Curated by Tanzim Wahab and



PHOTOS: COURTESY

inaugurated at Bengal Shilpalay, the exhibition was deeply responsive to the venue's raw architectural setting. The works engaged with the space's unfinished textures, amplifying the tension between delicacy and solidity that runs through Nupur's practice.

Unraveling Silence is open to visitors at Bengal Shilpalay until November 29, 2025, from 4pm to 8pm daily.

Channel i Band Fest 2025 to kick off this December



Channel i will kick off the 12th edition of its annual Band Fest on December 1, continuing a legacy initiated by Ayub Bachchu to celebrate Bangladeshi band music. Over the years, the festival has turned December 1 into a special occasion for music fans, bringing leading bands together on one stage.

This year, 12 prominent bands will take part, with the official

lineup announced yesterday at a press conference held at the Channel i studio. Channel i's Director and Head of News Shykh Seraj, UMC Hospital Managing Director Dr Ashish Kumar Chakraborty, and noted band artistes attended the briefing. The participating bands are Uchcharon, Parthibo, Shironamhin, Torun, Mehreen, Obscure, Feedback, Nirjhor, Sterling, Symphony, Nova, and Different Touch.

NEWS

Anisul-led JP faction

FROM PAGE 12
factions appeared on the same stage and called for uniting the party under one umbrella. The event was organised by Pallibandhu Ershad Smriti Sangsad in the capital on the sixth death anniversary of JP founder and former president HM Ershad.

Monju joined the programme as the chief guest. Leaders of other factions were also present.

On August 9, another faction, led by Anisul, split from the JP.

Founded in 1986 by HM Ershad, the party has already split at least six times.

At least 20 hurt

FROM PAGE 12
"misleading" local residents.

Tensions escalated further as fresh clashes were reported in different parts of the upazila last night.

Abdun Nur, officer-in-charge of Ishwardi Police Station, said he did not receive phone calls in this regard.

He, however, told national daily Prothom Alo that the situation was under control and that additional police had been deployed in the area to maintain law and order. No case had been filed over the incident till the filing of this report around 10:00pm.

Locals said tension had been prevailing across the district due to a series of clashes in the past several days.

Meanwhile, Pabna's Jamaat unit brought out a rally on Abdul Hamid Road in the town, blaming BNP men for the "criminal attack" and demanding punishment for the

attackers.

In a statement issued last night, Jamaat-e-Islami condemned the attack.

Jamaat Secretary General Mia Golam Parwar in the statement alleged that supporters of BNP candidate Habibur Rahman Habib carried out the assault and that over 50 Jamaat activists, including Mondal, were injured and many vehicles were damaged.

He described the attack as a blatant attempt to disrupt a peaceful and participatory election and called on the authorities to arrest the attackers immediately and ensure exemplary punishment.

In response, BNP's Pabna-4 candidate Habibur Rahman Habib claimed Jamaat supporters attacked his workers, and that 15-20 of his people were injured in self-defense. He accused Mondal of leading the attack and denied Jamaat's allegations.

July martyrs, injured to get flats in Dhaka

FROM PAGE 12
tribute to their selfless sacrifices, helping them return to normal life," the project proposal said.

Each flat for the martyrs' families will be 1,355 square feet, while those for the injured families will be 1,250 square feet.

The first project will include six 14-storey buildings and twelve 10-storey buildings near the Police Lines area, while the second will have 15 buildings of 14 storeys each near the DOHS area.

Although the martyrs' housing project was submitted to Ecne last July, it was sent back for further verification and rationalisation of costs.

The revised Detailed Project Proposal allocates Tk 662 crore for building construction, with the rest to cover boundary walls, internal roads, drainage, lifts, electricity systems and other infrastructure.

Nearly 88 percent of the total cost of the second project will go towards building construction and land development.

Piecing back life after fire

FROM PAGE 12
The fire wiped out her income overnight. To recover, she said she will have to sell old furniture and scrap iron to restart her small business.

This is not the first time tragedy has struck. Fires in 2004 and 2017 destroyed her possessions, but each time she rebuilt.

BRAC has announced an initial support package of Tk 50 lakh for families affected by the fire, with staff assessing damage and delivering aid.

Some social and political organisations have also stepped in with food and clothing. Whenever fire victims see a new face, they rush to seek help.

"There's no place to cook, and most cannot afford to eat at restaurants," Asiya said, welcoming the food assistance.

Residents are also facing shortages of drinking water and toilet facilities, with many temporarily staying in nearby slums.

Five years on, culprits remain untouched

FROM PAGE 12
to be cleared. They also allege that the ACC has deliberately prolonged the probe to shield those involved.

Customs documents show that although the Clearance Permit explicitly barred the release of prohibited items, the then Dhaka Customs Commissioner Moazzem Hossain released it on March 1, 2020.

Despite his direct role, neither the ACC nor the NBR questioned him in the last five years.

Moazzem denied any wrongdoing. Mamun did not respond to our calls and text messages.

THE SEIZURE AND RELEASE

ON JUNE 11, 2016, officials at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport seized the memory cards from passenger Mamun Howlader. On January 16 next year, Dhaka Customs House confiscated the items under the Anti-Smuggling Act after Mamun admitted he had no clearance permit (CP) from the commerce ministry.

The issue dragged on for four years, and in January 2020, a court ordered the goods to be returned to Mamun on condition that he obtained the required CP.

The next month, Mamun managed to receive the clearance permit from the commerce ministry, but both the NBR and the ACC termed the adjudication order illegal.

A three-member NBR committee led by additional commissioner Md Mahbubur Rahman reported on September 14, 2020, that the permit and clearance order needed revision.

The report said the goods were "stock-lot" items, explicitly banned under the Import Policy Order. The report also blamed customs officials for releasing the goods.

The committee also found that Mamun removed the goods from the warehouse with the help of staff even before receiving the official release order.

Contacted, Moazzem Hossain said

he was unaware that the consignment had been imported as stock-lot. "The importer concealed this information, so none of us detected it at first. I only executed the court order."

Customs rules require duties to be calculated on the higher of the declared price or the official assessed value. But in this case, officials used the purchase invoice, resulting in revenue of only Tk 21 lakh instead of nearly Tk 3 crore. The penalty was set at just Tk 10 lakh, documents show.

Asked why the invoice's reference to "stock-lot" was ignored, Moazzem said the issue fell under the assessment group concerned. "The consignment had already been delayed for a long time, and with a court order in place, more detailed verification wasn't possible."

He said he himself later formed an inquiry committee, which confirmed the shipment contained prohibited items.

Govt orders arrest of those involved

FROM PAGE 12
in other areas where attacks took place are conducting operations. You will see the results very soon," he said.

On November 20, renowned baul singer Abul Sarkar was sent to jail in Manikganj after being arrested on charges of "hurting religious sentiments".

When bauls gathered in Manikganj to form a human chain on November 23 demanding his release, a group identifying itself as "Tawhidi Janata" attacked them.

Protests condemning Abul Sarkar's

arrest and the attacks on bauls have since spread across Dhaka and other districts.

Several political parties, along with social, cultural and human rights organisations, have issued statements demanding the arrest of the attackers and the immediate release of Abul Sarkar.

Meanwhile, a protest organised by the Ganatantrik Chhatra Jote in Khulna came under attack on Wednesday, allegedly by activists of Jamaat Shibir and Amar Bangladesh Party operating under the banner of

"Chhatra Janata".

During the event at the Shibbari intersection, leaders of the Democratic Students' Alliance said that in recent years, assaults on bauls, vandalism at shrines and khanqahs, and targeted violence against people of different faiths have been on the rise.

Besides, a group under the banner of Tawhidi Janata allegedly attacked bauls as they prepared to form a human chain in Thakurgaon on Wednesday, while a rally in Faridpur protesting recent attacks on bauls and shrines was foiled by a group.

ICT prosecution to seek death penalty

FROM PAGE 2
and the legitimacy of the interim government but also used language the prosecution deemed contemptuous.

He said the petition called the uprising "so-called" and claimed the interim government lacked authority to amend the ICT Act, the remarks he termed "reckless" and "tantamount to treason". He insisted that the government formed through an uprising holds full constitutional authority to legislate via presidential ordinances.

Tajul argued that the other

grounds raised, including whether the allegations amount to crimes against humanity, are matters for trial rather than review, and he accused the defence of delaying the trial.

The decision from the court will come later, said the prosecution.

The ICT-2 also completed testimony and cross-examination of the 21st prosecution witness in the Abu Sayed murder case. The tribunal set December 9 for the next hearing in the case.

In another development, the ICT-1 ended the investigation officer's

cross-examination in the case filed over the killings of six people in the capital's Chankharpul.

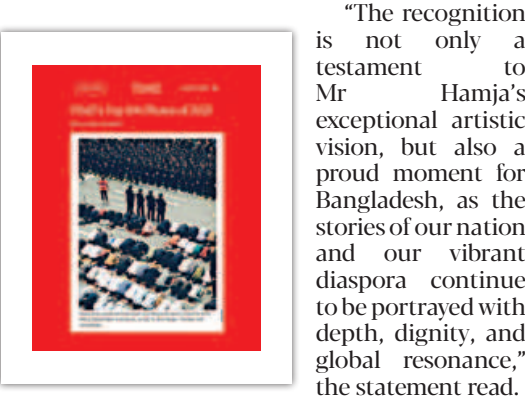
Defence counsel for accused Arshad Hossain yesterday filed a petition to produce three defence witnesses before the tribunal.

As the prosecution claimed that the application was not formally submitted and two members of the tribunal were absent, the presiding judge refused to hear it, said Prosecutor Mizanul Islam.

The tribunal also fixed November 30 to hear the defence plea, he added.

Amir Hamja's photo featured in TIME's '100 Photos of the Year'

The Ministry of Cultural Affairs has issued a statement congratulating photographer Amir Hamja, whose powerful image has been featured in TIME's '100 Photos of the Year'. His photograph, depicting the funeral prayers of Didarul Islam, was selected for its emotional depth and global impact.

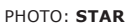


"The recognition is not only a testament to Mr Hamja's exceptional artistic vision, but also a proud moment for Bangladesh, as the stories of our nation and our vibrant diaspora continue to be portrayed with depth, dignity, and global resonance," the statement read. Highlighting photography's longstanding role as one of Bangladesh's most dynamic and influential art forms, the Ministry of Cultural Affairs also announced that the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy will introduce Photography as a dedicated department for the first time. This initiative reflects the government's commitment to nurturing creative talent, supporting artistic innovation, and ensuring that photography receives the institutional platform it deserves.

WHAT'S THE HAPS? 'Alexandre Herer Bombay Experience'

Bombay Experience unites the razor-sharp cadence of Carnatic rhythm with the insurgent pulse of Indian hip-hop. Led by Alexandre Herer, BC Manjunath and rapper-poet Manmeet Kaur, the ensemble crafts a sound where classical precision, jazz improvisation and socially charged lyricism collide—offering a rare, genre-defying musical conversation. **Date:** Wednesday | December 3, 2025 **Time:** 7 pm onwards **Venue:** Liberation War Museum Auditorium



S DILIP ROY, *Lalmonirhat*

In 2019, the government initiated a project to build a new broad-gauge

He also said the railway authorities have already sent proposals for approval and budget allocation.



PHOTO: **SHEIKH NASIR**

Law enforcers have been instructed to recover illegal arms, collect licensed weapons, increase surveillance, and take action against identified criminals. They will also provide security and support to returning officers for postal voting, said Akhtar.

Meanwhile, the EC yesterday suspended the registration of expatriate postal voters in Bahrain, Kuwait, Malaysia, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.

The process was halted because many applicants did not provide complete and accurate addresses required for delivering ballot papers. Further instructions will be issued later, the EC said in a statement.

The programmes of Jubo Dal and Krishak Dal on December 10 will be inaugurated by Standing Committee member Mirza Abbas. Fakhrul will again inaugurate the BNP's programme on December 11. The concluding day's event, on December 13, will be inaugurated by Standing Committee member Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury.

The event was moderated by Project Manager Dr Mahfuja Khanam.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

হাসপাতাল ও ক্লিনিকসমূহ

স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর

টিবি গেইট, মহাখালী, ঢাকা-১২১২।

স্মারক নং-স্বা:অধি:/হাস:/মে:বোর্ড/৪৮তম বিসিএস(বিশেষ)/২০২৫/১৮৫৩

তারিখ-২৬-১১-২০২৫ খ্রি.

বিষয়:- ৪৮তম বিসিএস(বিশেষ) পরীক্ষা-২০২৫-এর ফলাফলের ভিত্তিতে বাংলাদেশ সিভিল সার্ভিসের বিসিএস (স্বাস্থ্য) এর সহকারী সার্জন এবং সহকারী ডেন্টাল সার্জন পদে সাময়িকভাবে মনোনীত ৪১৭(চারশত সত্তর) জন প্রার্থীদের স্বাস্থ্য পরীক্ষার সময়সূচি।

সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, ৪৮তম বিসিএস(বিশেষ) পরীক্ষা-২০২৫-এর ফলাফলের ভিত্তিতে বাংলাদেশ সিভিল সার্ভিসের বিসিএস (স্বাস্থ্য) এর সহকারী সার্জন এবং সহকারী ডেন্টাল সার্জন পদে সাময়িকভাবে মনোনীত প্রার্থীদের স্বাস্থ্য পরীক্ষার জন্য নিম্নোক্ত সময়সূচি অনুযায়ী স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর কর্তৃক গঠিত সংশ্লিষ্ট মেডিকেল বোর্ডের সম্মুখে উপস্থিত হতে হবে।

স্বাস্থ্য পরীক্ষার তারিখ ও সময়	৪৮তম বিসিএস(বিশেষ) পরীক্ষার ফলাফলের ভিত্তিতে সাময়িক ভাবে নির্বাচিত প্রার্থীদের রেজিস্ট্রেশন নম্বর	স্বাস্থ্য পরীক্ষা অনুষ্ঠিত হওয়ার স্থান
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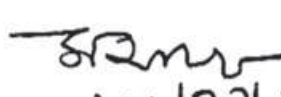
২। প্রার্থীদের জন্য নির্দেশিকা:-

ক) স্বাস্থ্য পরীক্ষার ফি বাবদ ৫০(পঞ্চাশ) টাকা অন লাইন চালানের (এ চালান) মাধ্যমে অন্যান্য আদায় (১৪৪১২৯৯) কোডে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক/সোনালী ব্যাংক পিএলসি বা যে কোন তফসিলি ব্যাংকে মহাপরিচালক, স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর, স্বাস্থ্য সেবা বিভাগ, স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়, ঢাকায় জমা দিয়ে তার মূল কপি এবং স্বাস্থ্য পরীক্ষার জন্য মেডিকেল বোর্ডের সদস্যদের ফি বাবদ অতিরিক্ত নগদ ৫০/- টাকা বোর্ডের নিকট দাখিল করতে হবে।

খ) যে তারিখে মেডিকেল বোর্ড অনুষ্ঠিত হবে সে তারিখের অব্যবহিত পূর্বের ০৫(পাঁচ) কর্মদিবসের মধ্যে নিম্নবর্ণিত স্বাস্থ্য পরীক্ষাসমূহ এক বা একাধিক সরকারি স্বাস্থ্য সেবা প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে করতে হবে এবং পরীক্ষাসমূহের রিপোর্ট ন্যূনতম মেডিকেল অফিসার কর্তৃক স্বাক্ষরিত হতে হবে।

i) CBC ii) FBS/RBS iii) ECG iv) HBsAg v) VDRL vi) HIV vii) CXR(P/A view) viii) Blood grouping & Rh typing ix) Ophthalmological test x) Urine R/E xi) Urine for Dope test.

গ) পিএসসি কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত প্রিলিমিনারী পরীক্ষার ছবিসহ প্রবেশপত্র সংগে আনতে হবে।


২৬/১১/২০২৫
(ডাঃ আর হোসেন মোঃ মঈনুল আহসান)
পরিচালক (হাসপাতাল ও ক্লিনিক সমূহ)
স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর, মহাখালী, ঢাকা।
Email: directorhospital@ld.dghs.gov.bd
ফোন : ০২-৫৫০৬১৫০ ফ্যাক্স নং-০২-৫৫০৬১৫১

GD-2571

Strengthening Maternal and Child Health in Bangladesh A Call to Build a Resilient Health System

A roundtable titled “Strengthening Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health in Bangladesh” was held on October 30, 2025, at The Daily Star Centre, Dhaka. Jointly organised by Concern Worldwide and The Daily Star, the dialogue brought together senior representatives from government agencies, development partners, and international and local organisations. Participants highlighted the persistent gaps in maternal, neonatal, and child health services in climate-vulnerable coastal districts and explored practical, collaborative solutions to build a more equitable and resilient health system.



Md. Akhtaruzzaman
Managing Director,
CCHST, Health
Services Division,
MoHFW

Bangladesh has 14,500 community clinics, one serving around 6,000 people, the largest health-sector reform in its history. For remote areas like haors, chars, and hill tracts, we plan clinics for every 2,000–3,000 people. The system has overemphasised curative care, neglecting promotion, prevention, hygiene, and childbirth preparedness. Challenges include doctor shortages, weak referral systems, and procurement issues. However, local engagement is the priority now. The community trust, having the Additional Secretary as the MD, also DCs and UNOs, has already been operationalised, needs to utilise the allotted fund properly to support the clinics financially and operationally. This is a scope for local engagement. By mobilising communities, individuals and institutions, alongside government efforts, we can strengthen primary healthcare, improve readiness, and ensure effective delivery of services across the country.



Dr. Prof. Iqbal Kabir
Director, Climate
Change Health
Promotion Unit
(CCHPU), Health
Services Division,
MoHFW

Based on my experience working in Patuakhali, particularly Golachipa and Rangabali, and after 30 years in government service, I want to propose four key solutions in terms of building a resilient health sector. Firstly, we must strengthen human resources, ensuring skilled midwives, specialists, and support staff. Then the supply chain should have separate plans for the dry season, monsoon, and emergencies. Thirdly, transport solutions like amphibian ambulances, mobile MNCH clinics, and emergency contingency funds for local managers are essential. Finally, climate-resilient, youth- and women-led community engagement is critical for sustainable health adaptation in the southern region.



Dr. Nasir Ahmed
Director (MCH -
Services), MCH -
Services Unit , DGFP

Barguna and Patuakhali highlight a national crisis in family planning and maternal health services as union-level Family Welfare Centres face severe manpower shortages and deteriorating infrastructure. Essential supplies such as DDS and delivery kits have been resumed despite the lack of fuel, transport maintenance, and operational funding, which is a positive sign. However, the number of trained Family Welfare Visitors is declining as recruitment has been halted, and many are retiring. Meanwhile, Family Welfare Assistants are unable to function effectively due to limited basic registers and field support. Digital MIS reporting and satellite clinics are suspended. With institutional deliveries already dropped by around 20,000, urgent action is needed to prevent the hard-won maternal and child health gains.



Dr. Mohammad Zakaria Rana
Assistant Director,
Planning and
Research, DGHS

Coastal and rural health facilities face continuous workforce shortages and infrastructure gaps. The transition from the fifth sectoral plan to a revenue-based system is underway, with a two-year DPP for essential drugs and CBC services pending finalisation. A five-year DPP focusing on primary healthcare and maternal, child, and adolescent health is also progressing. The government is restructuring the upazila and district-level health organogram and recruiting third and fourth grade staff. Community clinics continue to play a vital role, each serving around 6,000 people, but strengthening the referral system and ensuring sufficient staff, including HI and AHI, are needed. Development partners such as UNICEF and Save the Children support with manpower and operational needs. However, once the revenue-based DPP becomes operational, the full scope of



challenges and required investments will become more evident.



Manish Kumar Agrawal
Country Director,
Concern Worldwide

Locally led programming is essential for improvements in maternal, neonatal, and child health. While communities are vulnerable, they also possess valuable knowledge about their needs, capacities, and the barriers they face, insights that national-level actors may not fully grasp. Issues such as child marriage and early pregnancy cannot be effectively addressed without community engagement. Bringing together local government, civil society, and community actors ensures that development programs become context-appropriate, inclusive, and more sustainable. Moreover, local participation strengthens accountability, as communities are best positioned to monitor service delivery and mobilise beneficiaries. High out-of-pocket healthcare costs place a significant burden on families. Therefore, increased government investment and meaningful local involvement are crucial for the effectiveness of health programs.



Dr. Sheikh Shahed Rahman
Programme
Director, Concern
Worldwide (Keynote
Speaker)

Over the past two decades, Bangladesh has made notable progress in health and development, with increased life expectancy and a substantial reduction in maternal and child mortality, yet equitable healthcare access remains a challenge amid rising climate risks. Frequent Floods, cyclones, and disease outbreaks are common nowadays. Recognising these intersecting vulnerabilities, Concern Worldwide prioritises climate-affected districts such as Barishal, Patuakhali, and Barguna, where maternal and child health indicators persistently fall behind national averages. According to BDHS 2022, only 41 percent receive antenatal care in Barishal Division; postnatal care and institutional deliveries are also lagging. By focusing on these high-risk geographies, Concern aims to strengthen climate-resilient primary health care services, protect the health and well-being of vulnerable groups, and contribute to reducing preventable maternal, newborn, and child morbidity and mortality. Concern's resilience strategy integrates Health, Nutrition, and Livelihood programs, aligned with National Health and Nutrition Policy, and the National Adaptation Plan, and strengthens climate-resilient RMNCAH services through training health workers, infrastructure support, and improved local planning. However, health financing remains a challenge, with public spending under 1% of GDP. We now must advocate for increased and effective health financing, timely resource allocation, and integration of gender-responsive and climate-smart strategies across the health system.



Dr. Dewan Md Emdadul Hoque
Health Manager,
MNCAH, UNICEF

Firstly, allocated funds for HR are not being used, as 60% of the positions remain vacant. Secondly, due to the weak governance and accountability system, the challenges are not being addressed properly. Thirdly, national health facility surveys show persistent gaps in basic and emergency obstetric care at district and upazila levels. So, we are now advocating for the deployment of trained midwives, stronger primary care, community engagement in the community clinics and climate-resilient infrastructure. I think we should now focus on renovating existing facilities instead of building new ones.



Dr. Mohammad Shafiqul Islam
Health Advisor,
British High
Commission in
Dhaka (FCDO)

Bangladesh's climate commitments remain largely unfulfilled. Despite pledging at COP26 to build zero-carbon and climate-resilient health systems, no meaningful progress has occurred. I'm stressing that climate adaptation must be integrated into a national health plan, backed by evidence-based action. The health ministry's climate unit is understaffed and underfunded, reflecting poor coordination and accountability. To break this cycle of inaction, accountability is a must. The media can hold the government accountable for issues such as the drastic decline in institutional deliveries. Also, we should move beyond mere funding and instead leverage knowledge and technology from development partners to build effective, resilient systems.



Dr. Abu Sayed Md Hasan
SRHR Specialist,
UNFPA

A lack of proper planning during the transition from the sector-wide approach to DPPs has disrupted access to maternal and reproductive health services, causing a 20% drop in institutional deliveries over six months due to shortages of essential drugs and contraceptives, with 60% of facilities out of stock. This may increase maternal and newborn mortality. According to WHO and global evidence, Bangladesh must urgently increase health sector allocation to at least 5% of GDP. Stronger investment in primary healthcare and deployment of skilled midwives, about 25,000, nationwide to ensure quality, community-level SRHR services and reduce reliance on private facilities are also essential.



Accurate data is essential for effective planning in maternal and child health. Long-term research in Matlab and Chakoria shows rising salinity is linked to higher miscarriage rates, highlighting the need to consider climate impacts in policy. Despite challenges such as Cyclone Amphan and COVID-19, innovative solutions have shown success. For example, using a digital bangle that provides pregnancy-related voice messages doubled the NC rate; at the baseline, it was 23%, and at the end line, it was 44%, in climate-affected areas. Another program, Reaching Every Mother and Newborn (REM),

improved ANC, facility delivery, and postnatal care in several districts. These local data can be identified by engaging communities, which can help in proper planning and strengthening primary healthcare.



Md. Mahbub-Ul-Alam
Country Director,
Pathfinder

Although we rank seventh in climate vulnerability, our health sector remains unprepared for climate-induced disasters. In 2022, our assessment of 300 health facilities in five flood-prone districts revealed that 59% remained closed for 160 days during the flood in 2022. Besides, our health workers lack climate awareness; they are often unaware that maternal and adolescent health services in crises require trauma-sensitive approaches. Also, the logistical support supplied to clinics in flood-prone areas is inadequate. We need to act now by strengthening existing health facilities and building providers' capacity to ensure resilient healthcare in disaster-prone areas.



Dr. Sayed Rubayet
Country Director,
IPAS

The southern coastal region faces extreme climate impacts, yet our health system does not reflect this reality. With fragile infrastructure, high vacancies, poor budgets, and weak community awareness, health facilities remain largely non-functional. Centralised financial control and outdated management structures stand in the way of understanding the needs at the local level. As a result, the health system development programs have been shut which has worsened SRHR outcomes in adolescents, including unintended pregnancies and maternal and neonatal deaths in these regions. To address this growing fragility, we must strengthen local-level planning, empower communities, and design health services suited to coastal vulnerabilities.



Rahima Sultana Kazal
Executive Director,
Association of
Voluntary Actions
for Society (AVAS)

Our RMNCAH project in the southern coastal region supports pregnant mothers, newborns, children, and adolescents through close collaboration with the health sector and the Department of Family Planning. It builds capacity by training FWVs, FWC staff, clinic workers, and teachers using government developed modules. Working in disaster-prone areas such as Galachipa, Taltoli, and Amtali, the project promotes SRHR, safeguarding, and gender equality, with community engagement through union supervisors, field facilitators, and youth volunteers. We also work on facility improvements, immunisation support, and disaster preparedness efforts, jointly with public institutions.



Shahabuddin Panna
Executive Director,
Nazrul Smriti
Sangsad (N/S)

Despite limited resources, frontline officials of the Health and Family Planning Departments at the upazila and district levels continue to provide essential services. They face challenges including HR shortages,

infrastructural gaps, and supply chain issues, which are national problems, not just local ones. To address smaller, local challenges, we have been engaging the local government. Through continuous advocacy, the Health and Family Planning Committee's budget has increased, and we monitor both allocation and expenditure. Recent initiatives, such as allowing each union to propose small health projects, are helping resolve minor issues. Strengthening coordination with the local government can further improve accountability, service quality, and efficient medicine distribution.



Md. Shahidul Islam
DDFP, Patuakhali

In Patuakhali, coastal healthcare faces critical gaps, with two-thirds of technical posts and 17 of 21 doctor positions vacant. Redeploying midwives to Family Welfare Centres can optimise skills and improve deliveries. To address systemic issues, a zonal-based medicine supply chain with nodel warehouses could be utilised to replace the current uniform distribution. Strengthening referral systems linking clinics, health facilities, NGOs, and local governments and operationalising long-idle assets, such as trawlers for transporting pregnant women, are essential. Collaborative planning and coordinated action are essential to overcome the persistent healthcare challenges.



Dr. Md. Humaon Islam Sumon
Consultant
(Orthopaedic), UHC,
Amtali, Barguna

In coastal areas like Amtali, Taltali, and Galachipa, limited transport and remote geography create barriers to access to health services. Although data systems exist, the lack of coordination between the Health Service Division and the Family Planning Division prevents effective tracking of pregnant women and maternal and child health outcomes. Integrating these databases and strengthening formal collaboration at the upazila level would allow earlier identification and follow-up of mothers and children, which would help improve maternal and child health services in climate-vulnerable coastal regions.



Tanjim Ferdous
In-Charge, NGO's
and Foreign
Missions, The Daily
Star, (Moderator of
the session)

Bangladesh has reduced maternal and child mortality, yet major gaps in equitable healthcare persist, especially in climate-vulnerable coastal districts. These areas lack skilled health workers, essential supplies, and climate-resilient facilities. Recent UN data shows Bangladesh still has one of the highest stillbirth rates in South Asia, which is 63,000, and over 1 lakh under-five deaths annually. Concern Worldwide's assessments in Barguna and Patuakhali reveal insufficient water, sanitation, and basic medical equipment in community clinics, hindering care for mothers and newborns. Today's roundtable aimed to identify practical and evidence-based strategies to strengthen primary MNCH services and advance a more equitable, climate-responsive health system.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Improve Service Quality and Facility Readiness

Renovate existing facilities and ensure uninterrupted maternal and neonatal care supplies.

2. Strengthen Coordination & Referral Systems

Integrate health and family planning data, operationalise need-based supply planning, and restore effective referral pathways.

3. Climate-Responsive Health System Adaptation

Develop a climate-health adaptation plan, ensure transport support in coastal areas, and train providers for crisis-sensitive care.

4. Strengthen RMNCAH Workforce

Deploy trained midwives and resume FWV recruitment to prevent further collapse of maternal services.

5. Strengthen Community Engagement & Local Ownership

Empower local government to allocate and track budgets for RMNCAH services and engage communities in joint planning to meet local needs

6. Increase Health Financing & Efficient Use

Increase allocation to at least 5% of GDP, aligning with WHO guidance and ensure efficient local budget utilisation.

Ronaldo is the only foreign player worth what he earns because of the global exposure he brings to the league and the country

Former Saudi Sports Minister Prince Abdullah bin Mosaad said of Ronaldo whose annual salary has been estimated at \$211 million - \$4 million a week.



PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

TIGERS SERVE IRELAND FIRST T20I VICTORY THIS YEAR

Ireland had not won a single T20I this year -- losing four and two no-results -- until they faced Bangladesh in the first match of the ongoing three-game series in Chattogram yesterday. Capitalising on a lacklustre overall showing by Bangladesh, who have had their busiest year in the format with 28 T20Is played, Ireland cruised to a 39-run victory to take a 1-0 lead in the series -- the last for Bangladesh before their 2026 T20 World Cup campaign in India and Sri Lanka next February. [Inset] Led by Harry Tector's unbeaten 45-ball 69, Ireland posted 181 for four by punishing some wayward bowling. Bangladesh's batting fared even worse, with the top four, including skipper Litton Das, dismissed for single digits. Thanks to Towhid Hridoy's career-best score of 50-ball 83 not out, Bangladesh avoided utter humiliation to get to 142 for nine in 20 overs.

Paddlers fearful of future despite historic international success

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation (BTTF) is celebrating a historic achievement but the lack of financial support and facilities pose significant challenges in sustaining international success. Paddlers Javed Ahmed and Khoi Khoi Sai Chakma recently won the silver medal in the mixed doubles event at the 6th Islamic Solidarity Games in Saudi Arabia, surpassing the country's previous best performances of bronze medals in team events at the South Asian Games. At a press briefing held at the Bangladesh Olympic Association auditorium yesterday, BTTF officials and the medalists highlighted both their achievement and the on-going struggles of Bangladesh's table tennis scene, which has seen declining participation and limited infrastructure. Former national champion and coach Mostafa Billah said: "I think this achievement will act to revive the country's table tennis like what Bangladesh cricket did after winning the ICC Trophy in 1997."

**Read the full story on The Daily Star website

A puzzling auction list and unclear selection criteria

SAMSUL AREFIN KHAN

Last year, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) introduced the T20 iteration of the National Cricket League (NCL) to expose domestic players to competitive T20 cricket and help Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) franchises identify local talent.

As the tournament wrapped up its second edition on October 12, the competition appeared to have fulfilled its purpose to some extent with several new players delivering notable performances.

However, the list of local players for the upcoming BPL auction, scheduled for November 30, tells a different story.

BCB's national team selection panel prepared a list of 166 local cricketers, divided into six categories, and sent it to the six BPL franchises on November 26. However, several of the top performers from the recent NCL T20 failed to make the cut.

Among them, Chattogram division's off-spinner Mohammad Rubel stands out as the most glaring omission.

The 29-year-old was one of the tournament's standout bowlers, taking 10 wickets in eight matches at an economy rate of 5.20 -- finishing as the fifth-highest wicket-taker. His consistency earned him the Most Promising Player of the Tournament award. Yet Rubel did not find a place on the local players' list.

"I really don't know anything about it. Only the selectors know why I am not on the list," Rubel told The Daily Star yesterday.

"It's definitely very upsetting for me. In the NCL T20, I didn't bowl badly, rather, I bowled well and was named the most promising player. Naturally, I felt I might get a chance in the BPL. I hoped that maybe someone would pick me. Since I'm not even on the list, it feels bad," he added.

Rubel is not alone. Several other consistent performers across both editions of the NCL T20 were also overlooked, such as Chattogram's left-arm spinner Ashraful Hasan Rohan, and



pace duo of Ahmed Sharif and Fahad Hossain, Barishal division's batter Iftikhar Rahman Iti, as well as left-arm wrist-spinner Nuhayel Sandeed and leg-spinner Shadhin Islam. Many of these players have recently featured for Bangladesh 'A' or the High Performance Unit as well.

In stark contrast, players with little to no recent competitive cricket have made it into the auction list. Barishal's Monir Hossain Khan and Rangpur's Sanjit Saha Dip -- both absent from competitive cricket for the last year and a half -- were included. Shahriar Alam Mahim, out of action for three years, was also listed.

Concerns extend beyond mere selection. The categorisation of players into six salary brackets -- ranging from Tk 11-50 lakh -- has raised eyebrows as well.

Despite not being part of the regular national T20 setup, Mohammad Naim was

placed in Category A, while Tawhid Hridoy, Parvez Hossain Emon, Nasum Ahmed, and Jaker Ali Anik -- all of whom were part of Bangladesh's playing XI against Ireland in the first T20I on Thursday -- were placed in Category B.

Meanwhile, promising pacer Nahid Rana was slotted into Category C alongside established Test cricketers such as Mominul Haque, Shadman Islam, and Zakir Hasan. Habibur Rahman Sohan and Jishan Alam, who impressed in the Asia Cup Rising Stars and Top End T20 respectively, were placed in Category D.

Although the selectors still have two days to make additions to the auction list, the initial list begs the question of whether the players are truly being judged on merit or if the selectors are simply ticking boxes without proper assessment.

Crisis within: How will BFF respond?

ANISUR RAHMAN

Bangladesh's underwhelming performance in their 1-0 defeat to Malaysia in the opening match of the Tri-Nation Series, also involving Azerbaijan, has raised a serious concern -- whether the poor display stemmed from on-field lapses or from issues unfolding off the pitch.

These questions surfaced because of the points made by head coach Peter Butler during the post-match press conference at the National Stadium in Dhaka on Wednesday. Butler claimed there were "characters within the side who are trying to disrupt the camp."

Such comments carry weight, especially coming from the man who overcame significant odds and internal allegations to guide the



women in red and green to a historic first ever qualification for the AFC Women's Asian Cup last July. This is the same group of players who recently toppled strong opponents like Myanmar, Bahrain, and Turkmenistan to secure their place among Asia's elite -- but have since looked out of sorts and lacking confidence.

Their performance against Malaysia was a stark contrast to those qualifying displays. The team showed no urgency, cohesion, or understanding throughout the match.

Butler has excluded several senior influential players from the squad following a revolt in late January involving 16 players. Five senior players from that lot will not be called back to his team, Butler made it clear recently, after questions about reinstating them came up in recent media briefings.

This ongoing dispute has raised serious concerns about team unity and harmony, especially with preparations for the continental tournament having begun in late September. Recent friendly results have also delivered a harsh reality check. Bangladesh suffered heavy defeats to Thailand -- 3-0 and 5-1 -- in Bangkok, and their struggles continued in the Tri-Nation Series, part of the final build-up to the Women's Asian Cup.

Butler further claimed that some of his current players are "good friends" with those excluded and suggested he would not take "responsibility for people trying to upset the apple cart outside."

While tactical shortcomings -- including a high defensive line, failure to convert chances, and recurring defensive errors -- remain issues, Butler indicated that the deeper crisis is one of intention and discipline. These are areas the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) must address urgently.

BFF women's wing chairman Mahfuza Akter Kiron said she would "sit with players and the coach separately" to address the matter. If unresolved, such internal disruptions could severely damage the team's preparations, create factions within the squad, fracture trust, reduce commitment and motivation, and risk a complete collapse -- with the major Asian championship just three months away.



PHOTO: ARSENAL

Arsenal stayed perfect in the Champions League with another dominant performance, handing Bundesliga leaders Bayern Munich their first defeat of the season in a 3-1 win at the Emirates on Wednesday. Bayern's unblemished record was spoiled by goals from Jurrien Timber, Noni Madueke, and Gabriel Martinelli. Bayern drew level through 17-year-old midfielder Lennart Karl, but the Premier League leaders bounced back in style.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Finance Division, Ministry of Finance
Skills for Industry Competitiveness and Innovation Program (SICIP)
Probashi Kallyan Bhaban (14th & 15th Floor)
71-72 Eskaton Garden, Ramna, Dhaka-1000.
www.sicip.gov.bd

No. FD/SICIP/BPI-PIU/236/2025-2929Date: 27 November 2025

Recruitment Notice

Ministry/Division	:	Ministry of Finance
Agency	:	Finance Division
Program Name	:	Skills for Industry Competitiveness and Innovation Program (SICIP)
Scheme Name	:	Expansion of Skills for Employment and Socially Inclusive Training for Priority and Emerging Sectors
INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT		
Position	No.	Minimum Qualification and Experience
Program Implementation Unit (PIU) for SICIP-Bangladesh Petroleum Institute (BPI)		
Chief Coordinator	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Masters in any discipline or Bachelor of Science in Engineering.At least 15 years' working experience in relevant field.Experience in skills development fields will be preferred.Working experience as the head of the training institute/project implementation unit of any project will be an added advantage.Strong communication, interpersonal and computer skills.
Coordinator (Job placement & Database)	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Masters in any discipline or Bachelor of Science in Engineering.At least 10 years' working experience in relevant field.Experience in skills development fields will be preferred.Strong communication, interpersonal and computer skills.
Application Closing Date and Time	:	Applications shall be submitted to the office of the Executive Program Director on or before 3:00 pm by 15 December 2025 in sealed envelope clearly marked "Application for the Selection of (Name of Position)". Contact address with email and mobile number of the applicant should be written on the left side of the A4 Size Envelope. Necessary documents in support of educational qualifications, experiences and skills have to be submitted.
Name of Official Inviting Recruitment	:	Mohammed Walid Hossain
Designation of Official Inviting Recruitment	:	Executive Program Director
Address of official Inviting Recruitment	:	Probashi Kallyan Bhaban (15 th Floor), 71-72 Eskaton Garden, Ramna, Dhaka-1000.
Contact details of official Inviting Recruitment	:	Phone: +880255138753-5 Ext: 100 E-mail: epd.sicip@gmail.com
The recruitment entity reserves all the right to accept or reject any or all the Application without assigning any reasons whatsoever.		
Mohammed Walid Hossain Executive Program Director Skills for Industry Competitiveness and Innovation Program (SICIP) Finance Division, Ministry of Finance Probashi Kallyan Bhaban (15 th Floor) 71-72 Eskaton Garden, Ramna, Dhaka.		

GD-2577



At least 20 hurt in BNP-Jamaat campaign clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

At least 20 people were injured as BNP and Jamaat activists clashed over election campaigning at Char Gargari village in Shahpur union of Pabna's Ishwardi upazila yesterday.

Each side blamed the other for the attack. In protest, Jamaat men held a rally in the area last night.

Tension has been prevailing in Ishwardi as the two groups remained positioned against each other.

Police and locals said the clash broke out around 4:30pm when Jamaat-backed Pabna-4 candidate Abu Taleb Mondol went to Char Gargari for campaigning and BNP activists allegedly attacked them without warning, triggering an hour-long clash.

At least 20 people from both sides were injured, and seven were admitted to Ishwardi Upazila Health Complex.

Abu Taleb alleged that BNP men carried out the attack.

However, BNP-nominated candidate Habibur Rahman Habib told journalists that villagers chased the Jamaat men as they were

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1



After losing her home in the Korail slum fire, Minara Begum feeding bread to her grandchildren inside a makeshift shelter, stitched together with salvaged clothes, built exactly where their house once stood. With the children's mothers out working in people's homes, the family -- having lost everything -- is now trying to survive on whatever little they have left. The photo was taken yesterday.

KORAIL SLUM Piecing back life after fire

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and MUNTAKIM SAAD

As the afternoon sun beat down on the charred remains of Korail yesterday, one of Dhaka's largest and most crowded slums, Shukur Ali sat quietly with his wife, children and grandson amid the dust and twisted iron sheets that once sheltered their home.

The fire that tore through the settlement on Tuesday left them homeless.

More than 1,300 homes were reduced to ashes, leaving nearly 6,000 residents without shelter in a slum that is home to nearly 1.50 lakh people. The flames devoured everything in their path: homes, shops and part of a mosque.

For Shukur Ali, the loss is deeply personal. "I came here in 1992 with my parents," he said. "My father built two rooms and set up a small shop. This land is all we have. If we lose it, where will we go in our old age?"

He spent yesterday afternoon clearing debris. He said debt of around Tk 60,000 from a previous fire in 2017 still burdens him.

Meanwhile, aid has been limited. BRAC provided a small cash grant and warm clothing, while neighbours shared meals as families coped without kitchens or clean water.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



Khaleda Zia shifted to the CCU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson and former prime minister Khaleda Zia was shifted to the coronary care unit (CCU) at the capital's Evercare Hospital yesterday, where she is being treated for lung and heart infections.

"Pneumonia and lung infection are still in a stable condition. She was mainly shifted to the CCU so that if any other parameter goes up or down, proper care can be taken immediately. After moving her to the CCU, her physical condition has remained stable," Dr Rafiqul Islam, health affairs secretary of the BNP, told this newspaper last night.

He said Khaleda is receiving treatment there for closer monitoring and observation. "Doctors and nurses are providing round-the-clock care."

Party sources said Khaleda is under the supervision of a medical board that includes both local and foreign specialists. Since her admission, she had been receiving treatment in a cabin.

Khaleda, 80, has long suffered from multiple health complications, including heart, liver and kidney

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1



MEMORY CARD SCANDAL Five years on, culprits remain untouched

MOHAMMAD SUMAN, Chattogram

Five years after the Anti-Corruption Commission launched an investigation into the illegal release of banned memory cards, those responsible for importing and releasing the goods remain unaccountable.

officers of the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports (CCIE).

Case documents show that Mamun brought 2.1 lakh prohibited memory cards through Dhaka airport and later removed them from the warehouse, allegedly with support from two customs officials.

- » Banned goods worth Tk 6.32cr cleared for Tk 31.7 lakh
- » Then Dhaka customs commissioner released the items
- » ACC never questioned him
- » ACC dropped charges against 4 citing lack of evidence
- » Probe reopens to identify culprits



The stock-lot goods, valued at Tk 6.32 crore, were cleared through Dhaka Customs House for just Tk 31.7 lakh in duty and fine. But the real concern is not the money, but how the system was manipulated first to clear the banned products and then to shield the suspects.

In the last five years, three investigating officers have come and gone, yet the probe remains inconclusive. The current IO, ACC Deputy Director Md Asaduzzaman, took charge in October this year. He said he is unable to comment at this stage.

Earlier in 2023, the ACC pressed charges against seven individuals -- importer Mamun Howlader, two customs officials, and four

The four CCIE officials -- Assistant Controllers Mamun Iftikhar Rahman and Fatema Khatun, Deputy Controller Moniruzzaman Khan, and Controller Awlad Hossain -- were accused of issuing the clearance permit for the items.

But the immediate-past ACC investigation officer, Deputy Director Subel Ahmed, relieved the four from the case, citing a lack of evidence. However, the ACC rejected the report over "serious procedural flaws" because he failed to identify those responsible.

CCIE officials accused in the case say the ACC neither questioned nor investigated the customs officials who allowed the consignment

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

ATTACK ON BAULS Govt orders arrest of those involved Says CA's press secy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has ordered the immediate arrest of those involved in attacking baul singers in Manikganj and other districts, Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam said yesterday.

He made the comment while briefing reporters on the decisions of the advisory council meeting at the Foreign Service Academy.

A journalist had asked whether the council discussed issues outside its formal agenda, specifically the recent tension between the baul community and religious groups, and the upcoming national election.

In reply, the press secretary said the meeting did not discuss the election or the situation involving bauls.

"What I do know is that those who attacked the bauls have been ordered to be arrested without delay. Police in Manikganj are working accordingly. Police

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

July martyrs, injured to get flats in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Ministry of Housing and Public Works is set to undertake two projects to provide housing for families of the martyrs of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement and the injured protesters.

Both projects will be implemented on land owned by the National Housing Authority in the Mirpur Housing Estate.

- 2,364 flats for martyrs, injured
- NHA projects to cost Tk 2,105cr
- Flats to be built in Mirpur by 2029

Under the plans, 804 flats will be built for the martyrs' families and 1,560 flats for families of the injured. The proposals may be placed before the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council next week.

The two projects have been estimated to cost Tk 761.16 crore and Tk 1,344 crore. Both will be fully government-funded and are expected to be completed by 2029.

"These projects are being undertaken with the aim of providing dignified housing to the bereaved families of the fearless martyrs of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement and to the disabled heroes, as a minimum

SEE PAGE 8 COL 3



THE FOREST FORAGER

A slender Northern Palm Squirrel nibbles on a fig as it rests on a tree branch along Chattogram city's CRB road. Found across South Asia in gardens, orchards and evergreen forests, it feeds on fruits, nuts, seeds and the occasional insect, helping disperse seeds that keep woodlands alive. Females nest in tree hollows lined with leaves, raising litters of two to four young who venture out after a few weeks. Threatened mainly by habitat loss, this tiny forager remains a vital thread in the forest's tapestry.

Anisul-led JP faction moves to form new alliance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiya Party faction led by Anisul Islam Mahmud is likely to form a new political alliance, comprising several JP factions.

"Several other parties may also join us, as discussions are underway. But the Jatiya Party faction led by GM Quader will not be in the alliance," Presidium Member Masroor Mawla told The Daily Star.

Faction's Chairman Anisul said the name and details of the alliance will be announced within a week.

The factions led by Anwar Hossain Monju, Mostafa Jamal, and other political parties will join the new alliance, said Mujiburul Haque Chunnun, the party's executive chairman. "Everything will be clear in the first week of December as talks are going on with like-minded parties."

In mid-July, leaders of four JP

PHOTO: KOMOL DAS

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

