

Debt-laden Zeal Bangla begins another crushing season



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

Zeal Bangla Sugar Mills in Dewanganj upazila of Jamalpur has resumed production amid a mounting debt burden of Tk 656.75 crore, more than half of which comprises accrued bank interest.

The mill began this year's sugarcane crushing season on November 28.

According to mill officials, the target for this season is to crush 70,000 tonnes of sugarcane to produce 5,000 tonnes of sugar.

Established in 1957 with financial and technical assistance from the then Pakistan and New Zealand governments, the mill is one of the oldest and most iconic heavy industrial units in Jamalpur and one of the first three sugar mills in Bangladesh. It went into operation during the 1958-59 crushing season.

Its name was changed from Zeal Pak Sugar Mills Ltd to Zeal Bangla Sugar Mills Ltd after the independence of Bangladesh, and it was declared a state-owned enterprise in 1972.

The mill now operates under the Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation, with a daily crushing capacity of 1,016 tonnes of sugarcane

and a total production capacity of 10,150 tonnes of sugar.

Over the decades, the mill has completed 67 crushing seasons but recorded profits in only 18.

Local farmers have alleged mismanagement, syndicate influence, and various internal complications at the mill, which they say have caused losses year after year.

They also claimed that irregularities in procurement, price fixing, and delayed payments by the mill authorities have contributed to the decline in sugarcane cultivation in the region.

"There is no profit in cultivating sugarcane. The mill delays paying us, so I have reduced sugarcane production," said Manik Miah, a sugarcane farmer.

Another farmer, Samad, said, "If the mill authorities ensure proper support for us, sugarcane cultivation will rise again."

Tarikul Alam, managing director of the sugar mill, said the government and the Ministry of Industries have initiated a five-year roadmap for the mill's recovery.

He called for government initiatives to modernise the mill, diversify its production, and promote sugarcane cultivation to help return the mill to profitability.

Global airlines race to fix Airbus jets

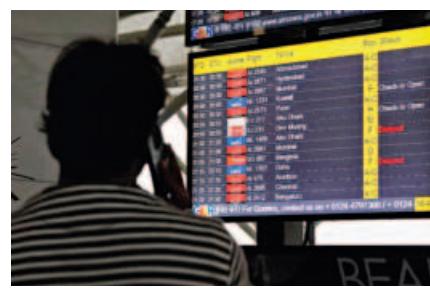
REUTERS, Tokyo/New Delhi/Paris

Global airlines scrambled to fix a software glitch on Airbus A320 jets on Saturday as a partial recall by the European planemaker halted hundreds of flights in Asia and Europe and threatened US travel over the busiest weekend of the year.

Airlines worked through the night after global regulators told them to remedy the problem before resuming flights.

Airlines that said they had completed or nearly finished all their software updates on Saturday included American Airlines, United Airlines, Air India, Delta Air Lines, Hungary's Wizz Air, Mexico's Volaris, Air Arabia, Saudi Arabia's Flyadeal, and Taiwan's carriers. Many reported no impact on operations.

The overnight effort by airlines appeared to help head off the worst-case scenario and capped the number of flight delays in Asia and Europe. In the United States, which will face high demand after the Thanksgiving holiday period,



Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy said that impacted US carriers "have reported great progress, and are on track to meet the deadline of this Sunday at midnight to complete the work."

He posted on X, that travellers "SHOULD NOT expect any major disruptions," although one US airline, JetBlue, later said it cancelled dozens of flights that had been scheduled for Sunday.

Asia-based aviation analyst Brendan Sobie said the update was "not as chaotic as some people might think," although "it does create some short-term headaches for operations."

Garment exports

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Hossain Zillur Rahman, executive chairman of the Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC) and former adviser to the Caretaker Government of Bangladesh.

"From 2016 to 2022, Bangladesh was caught in a triangle of vicious cycles. Economic growth did not create enough jobs, equity was ignored by policymakers, and governance was undermined by corruption and oligarchic influence," he added.

After 2022, a series of crises worsened the situation. "Now, the country's structural weaknesses have become clearly visible," Rahman said.

"Bangladesh has often been seen as a 'resilient state' with a strong economy. But the reality is that we are now stuck in an 'unhappy resilience trap,'" he added. "Resilience has been our strength, but it no longer brings comfort. We cannot escape the cycle of crisis management."

Rahman stressed that the country needs a new growth strategy focused on employment and equity, backed by stronger governance, deeper human capital reforms, and a better understanding of labour market trends – especially for women.

Razzaque stressed that Bangladesh's next phase of development requires a new form of state activism focused on capabilities, competitiveness, and coordination. "This includes improving product

standards, supporting digital and green transitions, strengthening institutions, and implementing active labour-market interventions," he said.

He called for an employment-centred policy framework that redirects industrial, trade, and macroeconomic policies toward job creation.

"A key recommendation is that the upcoming ninth five-year plan should be explicitly designed as an employment-centred development strategy," Razzaque said. "It must be backed by adequate fiscal resources, strong coordination across ministries, and a significant strengthening of state capacity to implement coherent, capability-building reforms."

He also urged strategic industrial and trade policies that support diversification, harness digitalisation and green industrialisation for inclusive jobs, and scale up investment in human capital, skills, and the care economy.

"Gender-responsive and climate-resilient employment must be at the core of this approach," he added.

The event was chaired by Md Sanwar Jahan Bhuiyan, secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Employment. Max Tuñón, ILO country director for Bangladesh, and Saeyma Haque Bidisha, vice-chancellor of Dhaka University, spoke as special guests. Abu Eusuf, also a professor at Dhaka University, moderated the discussion.

BB board clears winding up

FROM PAGE B1

8.98 lakh. He met with the top officials at the NBFI but all his attempts have turned futile.

A patient with high blood pressure and diabetes, he said the long delay has made it difficult to pay for treatment. "I need the money urgently to pay my dues and bear the cost of treatment."

BB data shows Tk 15,370 crore in deposits, belonging to both individuals and institutions, remain locked in the nine NBFI. Of this, Tk 3,525 crore belongs to individuals and Tk 11,845 crore to banks and corporate depositors.

People's Leasing holds the largest volume of unreleased individual deposits at Tk 1,405 crore, followed by Aviva Finance with Tk 809 crore, International Leasing Tk 645 crore, Prime Finance Tk 328 crore and FAS Finance Tk 105 crore.

Industry insiders say the problems in the NBFI sector have deep roots. Unlike banks, non-banks were not subject to equally rigorous supervision, allowing scams and governance failures to accumulate over the years.

Several institutions continued reporting inflated assets and understated losses, masking their worsening condition until the impact became impossible to

contain.

Earlier this year, the central bank's Financial Institutions Department shortlisted the nine NBFI for closure and sent the names to the Bank Resolution Department. The decision followed an assessment 10 months ago, when BB identified 20 NBFI with critically weak financial health, including high defaulted loans and

depleted capital, and placed them in the "red" category.

The remaining 11 NBFI are: CVC Finance, Bay Leasing, Islamic Finance, Meridian Finance, Hajj Finance, National Finance, IIDFC, Uttara Finance, Phoenix Finance, First Finance and Union Capital.

The BB has asked them to present viable recovery strategies.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer
Education Engineering Department
Cumilla
Website: eed.moe.gov.bd

Invitation for e-Tender

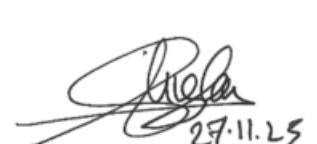
Tender Notice No. 34/e-GP/EED/CUM/09 COLLEGE/FOSEPC/2025-2026

Date: 27.11.2025

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender 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 (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents of following Package from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches up to the following Date & Time.

Tender ID	Lot/Package Location (Name of Institution)	Procurement method	Publication date & time or e-GP System published date	Tender document last selling/date & time	Tender closing date & time
1180479	Supply & Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 04 Nos. 10 Stops 1600 Kg Capacity Passenger Lift with Related Accessories for Female Hostel Building at Cumilla Govt. Women's College, Adarsha Sadar, Cumilla.	NCT (OTM)	04/12/25 (22.00)		As per e-GP Tender Notice
1180480	Supply & Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 01 No. 10 Stops 1250 Kg Capacity Passenger Lift with Related Accessories for Academic Cum Multipurpose Building at Cumilla Govt. Women's College, Adarsha Sadar, Cumilla.	NCT (OTM)	04/12/25 (22.00)		As per e-GP Tender Notice
1180481	Supply & Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 02 Nos. 06 Stops 1600 Kg Capacity Passenger Lift with Related Accessories for Academic Cum Administrative Building at Govt. Teachers Training College Sadar, South, Cumilla.	NCT (OTM)	04/12/25 (22.00)		As per e-GP Tender Notice
1180482	Supply & Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 02 Nos. 06 Stops 1600 Kg Capacity Passenger Lift with Related Accessories for Academic Cum Administrative Building at Nawab Faizunnessa Govt. College, Laksam, Cumilla.	NCT (OTM)	04/12/25 (22.00)		As per e-GP Tender Notice
1185518	Supply & Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 01 No. 6 Stops 1000 Kg Capacity Passenger Lift with Related Accessories to College Building at Cumilla Govt. Women's College, Adarsha Sadar, Cumilla. GD-C3L-64-1	NCT (OTM)	04/12/25 (22.00)		As per e-GP Tender Notice

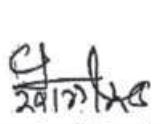
The Provisions laid down in the "PPA-2006 & PPR-2025 including latest all amendment" and STD will be followed. Further information, amendment and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).


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 বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড নির্বাচিত প্রকৌশলীর দলের, ভোলা পত্র বিভাগ-১, বাপ্পাটোরো, ভোলা					
ফোনঃ ০২-৪৯৮৯৩০১৯ (অফিস) ই-মেইলঃ xen.bhola1@gmail.com					
Memo No. T-2/664 e-Tender Notice No. 05/2025-26					
<small>Date: 30-11-2025</small>					
<small>An e-Tender has been invited in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of following works:</small>					
Sl. No.	Tender ID	Package No. & description	Location of the works/supply	Tender document last selling date & time	Opening date & time
1	1185105.	Precautionary River Bank Protection Work along the Right Bank of Meghna River from km 15.450 to km 15.508 – 58m at Shilpuri area in Bhola Sadar upazila under Bhola WD Division-I, BWDB, Bhola during the year 2025-2026. (NDR/BHL-1/25-26/W-6)	Bhola District	18-Dec-2025 14.00:00	16.00:00
2	1185104.	Precautionary River Bank Protection Work along the Right Bank of Meghna River from km 16.200 to km 16.315 – 115m at Shilpuri area in Bhola Sadar Upazila under Bhola WD Division-I, BWDB, Bhola during the year 2025-2026. (NDR/BHL-1/25-26/W-5)	Bhola District	18-Dec-2025 14.00:00	16.00:00

 বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড Bangladesh Power Development Board			
প্রকল্প পরিচালনের দলের বিদ্যুৎ বিভাগ ব্যবস্থা উন্নয়ন প্রকল্প সিলেক্ট বিভাগ, বিভাগো, সিলেক্ট ১নং আদুল পাব রোড, বিদ্যুৎ ভবন, নিচ তলা, ঢাকা তারিখঃ ২৭/১১/২০২৫ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ			
e-GP দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি			
<small>"বিদ্যুৎ বিভাগ ব্যবস্থা উন্নয়ন প্রকল্প" শীর্ষক প্রকল্পের আওতায় নিম্নোক্ত বর্ণিত প্রকল্পের প্রকল্পে পাওয়া যাবে। e-GP Portal এর নির্বাচিত যে কোন অঞ্চলীয় ব্যক্তি/সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানকে বিস্তারিত তথ্যের জন্য উক্ত ওয়েবসাইটে www.eprocure.gov.bd ভিজিট করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।</small>			
Procurement title Tender publication date & time Tender last selling date & time Tender opening date & time			
Package: WD-37 Internal Transportation for Works against Project Director, Power Distribution System Development Project, Sylhet Division.			
1158342	01/12/2025 11:00 BST	14/12/2025 18.00 BST	15/12/2025 11.45 BST

বিদ্যুৎ/জন-৩৩১(২)/৩০/১১/২৫  Md. Zia Uddin Arif Executive Engineer Bhola WD Division I BWDB, Bhola	
প্রকল্প পরিচালক প্রকল্প পরিচালক ফোনঃ ০২-৪৯১২০১৮ ই-মেইলঃ pd.pdsdp.sd@gmail.com	

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