

## Daylong bus strike enforced in Cumilla

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

The Cumilla District Bus Owners' Association yesterday observed a daylong strike by suspending bus services from Jangalia, Shashangchha, and Chawk Bazar bus terminals.

The strike was called following a dispute between two transport operators on the Cumilla-Chandpur route, causing much inconvenience to commuters on 40 routes across the district, including Cumilla-Dhaka, Cumilla-Chittogram, Cumilla-Sylhet, Cumilla-Chandpur, and Cumilla-Noakhali routes.

According to transport leaders, the strike was called demanding that Aidi Paribahan be barred from operating on the Cumilla-Chandpur route via the Jangalia bus terminal.

Md Tajul Islam, executive president of the association, said although Aidi Paribahan has permission from the Chandpur district administration, it has not obtained a route permit from Cumilla.

Without permission, some Aidi Paribahan buses were suddenly brought in to the terminal on Victory Day, and started operating from Wednesday, he added.

Aidi Paribahan chairman Mir Parvez Alam said they began operating buses on Cumilla-Chandpur route in 2023 after receiving permission from the Chandpur Deputy Commissioner's office.

However, from the very beginning, a syndicate within the Cumilla bus owners' group obstructed their operations. As a result, the Cumilla district administration did not issue a route permit, he alleged.

## Existing system failing

FROM PAGE 3 manipulated or AI-generated photos -- particularly of girls -- through platforms such as Facebook and Instagram.

Child marriage was also identified as a persistent problem, with children describing it as a form of sexual abuse rather than a family matter.

Many said early marriage is often imposed to protect family honour following harassment, rumours, or the spread of intimate images online.

The research highlighted serious barriers to justice, noting that reporting mechanisms often fail children. Many were unaware of helplines or found them inaccessible, while school complaint systems were seen as ineffective.

Fear of stigma, disbelief, and victim-blaming discourages reporting, the study said.

The findings also pointed to severe psychological impacts, including trauma, social isolation, and suicide attempts.

The study recommended establishing functional harassment complaint committees in schools, strengthening support centres, ensuring safer public transport, and enabling meaningful child participation in policymaking.

Attending as chief guest, NGO Affairs Bureau Director (Joint Secretary) Anwar Hossain said insights drawn from children's own experiences help policymakers better understand ground realities.

"Moving away from emotion-based responses to evidence-based decisions, and ensuring coordination between government and non-government actors, can make child protection initiatives more effective," he said.

He also stressed the need

## ACC initiates

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plots through abuse of power. His son Sajeeb Wazed Joy, daughter Saima Wazed Putul, sister Sheikh Rehana, and Rehana's daughter Tulip Siddiq, also a British lawmaker, were also handed varying prison terms in the same cases.

Akhtar Hossain also informed that ACC has submitted a charge sheet against Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, his wife Lutfun Tahmina Khan, and their two children -- Shafi Moddassir Khan Jyoti and Shafiq Tasnim Khan.

Kamal allegedly amassed assets worth Tk 22.58 crore beyond his known income sources during his tenure as home minister, while transactions amounting to Tk 87.46 crore were made through nine bank accounts in his name. The commission alleges that the funds were laundered to conceal their illegal origins.

His wife and children have been accused of assisting in concealing Tk 15.45 crore by constructing houses and operating businesses under their names.

In a separate development, the ACC also filed a case against former deputy speaker of parliament Shamsul Haque Tuku for acquiring Tk 3.59 crore illegally.

## Govt okays ordinance

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The council also gave approval to the draft of the Bangladesh Haor and Wetland Conservation Ordinance 2025, specifying the responsibilities, authority, and jurisdiction of the Bangladesh Haor and Wetland Development Department.

It also included provisions for issuing protection orders to conserve biodiversity, the environment, ecology, and ecosystems of haor and wetland areas.

It includes provisions for declaring protected haor and wetland areas to ensure their conservation.

In addition, the ordinance specifies prohibited activities in haor and wetland areas, declares such (prohibited) activities as offences if committed, and provides for penalties for those offences.

Meanwhile, a proposal to establish a new Bangladesh embassy in Bern, the capital of Switzerland, was also approved.

## NCP leader found dead

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the Awami League in Dhanmondi-32, Rumi expressed deep sorrow and concern, saying before her death, Rumi faced prolonged cyberbullying, death threats, and psychological harassment allegedly by Awami League-affiliated criminals.

Following these events, Rumi received repeated rape and death threats from multiple phone numbers, including threats against her family and property, some originating from abroad, NCP leaders said.

Samantha Sharmin,

senior joint convener of NCP, visiting Rumi's family at the DMC morgue, said, "Just as the bullet that pierced Osman Hadi's brain shattered us, we now mourn the tragic death of our colleague Rumi."

"Women are falling victim to cyberbullying, yet the government has taken no action. Without ensuring women's safety, building a new Bangladesh is impossible," she said.

## Shortage

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intervention at the child and adolescent stage crucial.

Prof Md Faruq Alam, former director of NIMH, said around 10 percent of the country's mental health services are allocated to CAMH, even though nearly half of the population could potentially require such services.

He said with only 21 child and adolescent psychiatrists nationwide, authorities must take steps to produce more trained professionals.

Mahbubur Rahman, director of NIMH, said social stigma surrounding mental health remains a major challenge, and eliminating it would be difficult unless services are expanded and made widely accessible.

Noting that the number of psychiatrists cannot be increased overnight, he added that mental health services should be integrated into the existing preventive healthcare system.

Prof Md Shahinul Alam stressed the need to raise awareness about mental health and recommended incorporating the issue into the school curriculum, alongside strengthening relevant policies and programmes.

BMU Pro-Vice Chancellors Prof Md Abul Kalam Azad and Prof Md Mujibur Rahman Hawlader, among others, spoke at the programme.

## ICT-2 accepts charges

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Prosecutor Gazi Monawar Hossain Tamim read out the formal charges. Quader was accused on three counts of issuing directives, instigation and provocation that allegedly led to attacks on and killings of unarmed protesters. Separate charges were also read out against the other accused.

The GD was received by Sub-inspector Md Mahmudul Hasan Moral, while the then OC of Dhanmondi Police Station, Kyshinu, was directed to take action.

Confirming the matter, current OC Saiful Islam told The Daily Star, "After she filed the GD, the case was under investigation. We were trying to trace the accused, and the probe is still ongoing."

Members of NCP's Dhanmondi unit said on November 13, during a "lockdown" called by

responsibility, while the others were charged due to their leadership positions and command roles within their respective organisations.

According to the chief prosecutor, alongside police and other forces, the Awami League, Juba League and Chhatra League members acted as "auxiliary forces" during the violence, which had been "clearly established" during the investigation.

"They directly participated in attacks, brutally suppressed the student movement, carried out killings, tortured people, caused permanent injuries, unlawfully detained individuals and committed other crimes," he alleged.

Reiterating the government's commitment to ensuring justice, Tajul said investigations had been completed, reports submitted and charges filed.

Jalalabad Gas Transmission & Distribution System Ltd.

(A Company of Petrobangla)  
(Gas Bhaban, Mendibag, Sylhet-3100)

গ্যাস ব্যবহারে সশ্রদ্ধী হোন এবং  
সময়সমত গ্যাস বিল পরিশোধ করুন

বিনা কারণে গ্যাসের চুলা জালিয়ে রাখা  
আর বিপদকে ডাকা একই বিষয়

Dated: 18 December 2025

## e-Tender Notice

This is to notify all concern that the following tender have published through National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

Sl. No.	Tender ID, Package No. & date of publishing	Name of the work	Tender last selling and closing date & time
01	e -Tender Id: 1199013 Package No. JGTDSL.PL.PW-09 Date of publishing: 18 December 2025	"Modification of Lakkatura DRS and interconnection of DRS outlet with 60 Psig existing gas distribution pipeline in Sylhet City Corporation Area."	Last selling: 30-Dec-2025, 21:00 Closing date & time: 31-Dec-2025, 15:00 Opening date & time: 31-Dec-2025, 15:00

The interested persons/firms may visit the website <http://www.eprocure.gov.bd> to get the details of the tender. 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 Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal/e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

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Memo No:35.01.9395.474.07.001.25-1198

Date: 18-12-2025.

## e-Tender Notice

This is to notify for all concern that e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP system Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following Package.

Tender ID No.	Name of works/Package description	Tender Method	Last Selling & Closing date
1196176	Extra Widening by Flexible Pavement, Extra Widening by Rigid Pavement, Construction of 01 (One) Nos 44.02m (1 x 42.68m) Long P.C Girder Bridge (Kakraidi Bridge), Extention of 04 (Four) Nos Culvert & Necessary Sign-Signal of Madhupur-Mymensingh National Highway (N-401) under Tangail Road Division during the year 2025-2026 (WP-07)	OTM	18-01-2026 at 17.00 & 19-01-2026 at 12.00
1195635	Construction of RCC saucer Drain at 12th (p) km (Delduar Intersection) and Rigid Pavement at Ch. 0+000 to 0+ 0105 km of Tangail-Delduar Road (Z-4015) Under Tangail Road Division during the year 2025-2026.	OTM	28-12-2025 at 17.00 & 29-12-2025 at 12.00
1195634	Installation of Traffic Sign with Post, Reflecting Sheet on Guide Post, Reflecting Road Studs and Road Marking at Different Chainage of Joydebpur-Tangail-Jamalpur Road (N-4) Under Tangail Road Division during the year 2025-2026.	OTM	04-01-2026 at 17.00 & 05-01-2026 at 12.00

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To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)) (01715-777778, 017625528-31)

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নোব হাসান মাহিদ চৌধুরী  
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