

DHAKA-MYMENSINGH
Derailment halts
rail link for 15 hours,
sabotage suspected

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Rail communication on the Dhaka-Mymensingh route was suspended for around 15 hours after the Dhaka-bound Agniveena Express derailed in Gafargaon, Mymensingh, early yesterday due to a cut in the railway line.

Police and railway officials said the train derailed around 5:00am following an act of sabotage.

Gafargaon Police Station Officer-in-Charge AFM Atiqur Rahman said miscreants had cut about 15 feet of the railway track, forcing authorities to suspend all train services on the route.

Sreepur Railway Station Officer Shamima confirmed that the line was cut in the Gafargaon area.

Station Master Mohammad Shamim said train services were halted from around 5:00am but no passenger trains were stranded at Sreepur station. Rail services on the route were restored around 8:00pm after repair work, he added.



The teachers concerned collect newly printed secondary-level textbooks from the Upazila Education Office in Godagari, Rajshahi for distribution to their respective schools, ahead of the January 1 nationwide textbook distribution for class I-IX students. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

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In a written statement, Sayeed Ahmed Khan, spokesperson of the organisation, said the inquiry commission submitted its report to the chief adviser on November 30.

He referred to recent media statements by commission head Major General (ret'd) ALM Fazlur Rahman, who claimed the carnage was a "pre-planned killing" orchestrated by then prime minister Sheikh Hasina with the direct backing of India, which had long been portrayed as a "BDR mutiny".

Md Faizul Alam, president of the organisation, said, "They added Section 2(a) in the commission's gazette, which legitimised the controversial trial. We objected to it."

"Even after 11 months of investigation and submission of the report, we still do not know what is in it. We demand immediate publication of the full report," he added.

Speakers at the briefing alleged that although no violent incidents took place in units outside Pilkhana on February 25 and 26, 2009, and jawans there followed army officers' commands, thousands were dismissed and imprisoned through special courts on charges of staging a "sepoys mutiny".

The BDR Kalyan Parishad placed a three-point demand: publication of the full investigation report; reinstatement of 18,519 members dismissed from Pilkhana and units across the country with compensation; release of innocent members currently in jail; and bringing the real culprits identified by the commission to justice.

Earlier, families of the officers killed in the 2009 carnage also urged the authorities to make the full report public and demanded immediate prosecution of those named in it.

BRACU launches semiconductor

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national semiconductor virtual hub, which will be developed and led by the Military Institute of Science and Technology (MIST).

In a video message, MIST Commandant Major General Nasim Parvez outlined the institute's role in structured workforce development, national training infrastructure and execution-oriented delivery.

Harish Balan, director at Synopsys, reaffirmed the company's support for Bangladesh's academic ecosystem through global-standard design tools and collaborative research.

Professor Muhammad

Mustafa Hussain of Purdue University, USA, said Bangladesh's transformation would be driven not by population size, but by impactful ideas, focused execution and the ability to build world-class technology brands.

The ceremony announced the inaugural CREST Fellowship, supporting eight graduate and two undergraduate students. It also recognised the winners of the BEAR Summit Competition, celebrating innovation among students and young professionals. The BSLA awarded Tk 5,000 to each winning individual or team.

Prof Upama Kabir, dean of the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Dhaka, acknowledged the collective effort of the government, industry and the diaspora in making CREST a reality, stressing the significance of mentorship in nurturing the next generation of researchers.

CREST has been established as a national research hub focused on advanced semiconductor technologies, including AI-centric chip design, VLSI systems, robotics, materials, packaging, testing and next-generation hardware platforms, said a press release.

Yunus vows free, fair and peaceful

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yesterday at the state guest house Jamuna.

During the meeting, they discussed the upcoming February parliamentary elections and referendum, as well as trade, civil aviation, labour reforms initiated by the interim government, and overall bilateral relations between the two countries.

Jacobson, who is returning home after an eventful year in Bangladesh,

appreciated the leadership of the chief adviser over the past 17 months and reiterated the support of the US government for the February elections, said the Chief Adviser's press wing yesterday.

They also discussed funding for Rohingya humanitarian assistance.

The chief adviser thanked the US for its continued support for the Rohingyas.

He also thanked the US chargé d'affaires for her "critical work" during her year-long tenure and for being a "friend to Bangladesh", and extended an invitation to her to visit in future.

National Security Adviser Dr Khalilur Rahman and SDGs Affairs Principal Coordinator and Senior Secretary Lamiya Morshed were also present at the meeting.

First-ever JnU student union

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Jannatul Maua Lisa, a student of Anthropology, said, "A single vote could shape the future of Jagannath University, and we want to entrust the university's future to those who can safeguard this responsibility," she said.

"We will vote for those who have worked in the past and are willing to work to resolve the long-standing issues faced by the university," she added.

Four panels are contesting the JnU central union election -- the JCD-backed Oikoboddho Nirbhik Joban, the Chhatra Shakti-backed Oikoboddho Joban, the

Socialist Students' Front-backed Maulana Bhashani Brigade, and the Islami Chhatra Shibir supported Odommo Joban Oikko panel.

In the hall union elections, three panels are competing -- the Socialist Students' Front-backed Rokeya Parishad, the Shibir-supported Odommo Joban Oikko, and the Chhatra Dal-backed Oporajitar Ogrojatra panel.

Ahead of the election, CCTV cameras have been installed at every centre, and the entire vote-counting process will be broadcast live, according to the JnU Election Commission.

To maintain law and

order, extensive security measures have been put in place, with members of the army, police, Rab, Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), and Ansar deployed both inside and outside the campus.

Volunteers from BNCC, Rover Scouts and the Ranger Unit are also assisting in maintaining discipline.

JnU Proctor Prof Dr Tazammol Hoque said all necessary preparations had been taken to ensure a peaceful and fair election.

"Law enforcement agencies are on duty to maintain order. We hope to deliver a smooth, participatory and credible election," he said.

Country saw

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change," he said, citing Brazil, where dengue cases rose to 6.5 million by 2024.

"Our situation could worsen even faster due to our high population density," he said.

He said this year saw no effective control mechanism, such as proper insecticides, routine investigations, systematic source reduction, sustained awareness campaigns or community involvement -- apart from sporadic fogging.

"We could have involved school students, mobilised the public on designated days, and motivated people to participate -- but none of this happened due to a lack of leadership and motivation," Saifur said.

"We failed to think nationally. Fragmented efforts in a few areas cannot provide protection," he added.

HM Nazmul Ahsan, associate professor at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital, said widespread sero-surveillance is needed to identify dominant dengue serotypes, noting that serotype 2 is linked to more severe illness.

Delayed hospital admission remains a major cause of death, he said, urging immediate admission for high-risk groups such as pregnant women, obese individuals, and those with multiple comorbidities.

Nazmul highlighted a severe shortage of nurses, citing dengue wards with 100 patients staffed by only two or three nurses.

"Nurses are crucial for early detection of deterioration. Specialised training is essential," he said, referring to Sri Lanka as an example.

He also stressed the need for better logistics, including adequate fluids beyond normal saline and access to bedside ultrasound, haematocrit machines and CBC analysers in health facilities.

Nazmul added that doctors need further training, noting that some private hospitals fail to follow protocols, resulting in higher mortality despite better facilities.

Public health expert Mohammad Mushtuq Hussain said early detection and decentralised care are key to reducing deaths.

"If affordable dengue testing were available closer to people, like during COVID, cases could be detected earlier," he said.

He stressed the need for decentralisation, saying Dhaka lacks primary and secondary care while rural facilities are poorly equipped.

"If healthcare services are strengthened equally across the country, dengue mortality will drop significantly," he added.

50 homes gutted in
Rohingya camp fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

At least 50 homes were gutted in a fire at Leda Rohingya refugee camp (Camp 24) in Hnila union of Teknaf upazila, Cox's Bazar on Sunday night.

The fire broke out around 10:00pm, and four firefighting units brought it under control around 1:00am, officials said.

Mohammad Alam, chairman of the Leda camp, said around 70,000 Rohingyas live in the camp.

The shelters, made of bamboo and tarpaulin, are built close to one another, allowing the fire to spread rapidly.

He said the blaze was initially suspected to have originated from a cooking stove.

Syed Md Morshed Hossain, deputy assistant director of Cox's Bazar fire service, said there were no reports of casualties.

Muhammad Kausar Sikder, commander of Teknaf 16 Armed Police Battalion, said the cause of the fire is being investigated.

Khanjada Shahriar Bin Mannan, camp-in-charge of the Leda camp under the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner's office, said a full assessment of the damage had not yet been completed.



Law enforcers failed to arrest

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Parash, chairman of Jubo League; Moinul Hossain Nikhil, its general secretary; and Saddam Hussain and Sheikh Wali Asif Enan, president and general secretary of Chhatra League, respectively.

According to the formal charge, Quader was accused on three counts of issuing directives, instigation and provocation

that allegedly led to attacks on and killings of unarmed protesters.

Senior leaders, particularly Bahauddin Nasim and Mohammad Ali Arafat, were also directly involved in facilitating the violence through planning and organisational support, while the others were charged due to their leadership positions and command roles within their

respective organisations, the prosecution said.

Meanwhile, the investigation officer (IO) resumed his deposition for the third day in the crimes against humanity case filed over the killing of Begum Rokeya University student Abu Sayed during last year's July uprising.

The tribunal fixed January 6 for resuming the IO's testimony in the case.

Workers Party, JASAD opt out

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Sazzad Hossain, the party said the February election is unconstitutional and is being organised in a one-sided manner. It also claimed that the interim government is not neutral.

JASAD accused the Election Commission of acting only to fulfil the political wishes of the


government and turning the election into a mockery.

Meanwhile, the Workers Party said it decided not to take part in the election as the EC did not take any steps to ensure participation of all political parties.

In its statement, the party claimed it is being isolated through political pressure. The Workers Party said

that to restore a proper election environment, the government must keep the election process open to all sides and ensure everyone's participation.

"If the government fails to do this, the interim government will have to take responsibility for the situation," the statement said.



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NOTICE OF INVITING QUOTATION

Sealed quotations are hereby invited by National Credit and Commerce Bank PLC. (the Bank) from reputed Companies/local Agents/Suppliers/Authorized Distributors/Service Providers for the below mentioned requirements under the terms and conditions mentioned detail in the Request for Quotation (RFQ) documents.

Items Description	Price of the tender document	Sale start date	Sale end date	Date and time for Tender Submission
Item 1: RFQ for renewing & implementing of Endpoint Security Solution - Extended Detection and Response (XDR) for Workstations of NCC Bank PLC.	Tk. 2,000/- (Taka Two Thousand) only (for each item) in the form of Payment Order (non-refundable) favoring National Credit and Commerce Bank PLC. by any scheduled bank of Bangladesh	December 30, 2025	January 07, 2026	January 08, 2026 Time: on/before 11:00 AM
Item 2: RFQ for supplying, installing, commissioning & implementing of Server Security Solution (Trend Micro Deep Security) of NCC bank PLC		January 01, 2026	January 13, 2026	January 14, 2026 Time: on/before 11:00 AM
Item 3: RFQ for supplying, installing, commissioning & implementing of On-Line UPS Batteries (for Data Center-replacing batteries) of NCC bank PLC		January 01, 2026	January 19, 2026	January 20, 2026 Time: on/before 11:00 AM

The schedule containing detailed Terms & Conditions may be collected from the Common Services Division, Level-5, NCC Bank PLC. Head Office, Dhaka and submit the same under sealed envelope to the Tender Box placed at Common Services Division (CSD). Manipulation or any kind of unusual approach or failure to submit offer within the stipulated time frame will be treated as "Disqualified" for the bidding. The Bank authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposal without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Vice President & Head of Common Services Division



Office of the HEAT Sub Project
Project Name: Alor Dhara PIN-13600
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
North South University, Bashundhara, Dhaka-1229
Reference No.: NSU/PIN13600/2025-26/G-1
Date: 30 December 2025

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for procurement of the following package from HEAT-funded subproject (Project Identification Number: 13600):

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Name of works	Last Date and Time of Tender Security Submission	Tender Closing Date & Time
1	1200475	Procurement of Computers and Accessories (Laptop) for ASPM, members, researchers, and Accountant	21-Jan-2026 13:50	21-Jan-2026 14:50

These are online tenders, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted.
To submit e-Tenders, registration in the National e-GP 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 Banks' Branches.
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP Help Desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).



Office of the HEAT Sub Project
Project Name: Alor Dhara PIN-13600
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
North South University, Bashundhara, Dhaka-1229
Reference No.: NSU/PIN13600/2025-26/G-5
Date: 30 December 2025

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for procurement of the following package from HEAT-funded subproject (Project Identification Number: 13600):

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Name of works	Last Date and Time of Tender Security Submission	Tender Closing Date & Time
1	1201851	Procurement of server computer and high-performance PC for large data analysis	21-Jan-2026 13:32	21-Jan-2026 14:32

These are online tenders, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted.
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Election of Associate Fellows (AF) of BAS 2025

Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (BAS) announces the Election of Associate Fellows (AF) 2025 as below:

Young scientists who are below 45 (forty five) years of age on 31 December 2025 having Ph.D/D.Sc./FCPS/FRCS/MRCP/MRCVS/MD/MS/MPhil or equivalent degree in science streams and are of exceptional talent and promise, and have contributed to science and technology in recognized field, are eligible for election as Associate Fellows (AF) of BAS.

Application/nomination for the above Associate Fellows, with CV mentioning academic and professional record must reach the Secretary of the Academy by **31 January 2026** at the latest. Nomination of young scientist for election as Associate Fellows (AF) can also be made by the Fellows of the Academy before the deadline.

Kindly note that applications in Physical Sciences, Chemical Sciences, and Engineering Sciences are not required, as these fields have already been filled.

Prof. Dr. Yearul Kabir
Secretary