

Bangladesh among worst-hit by lead pollution

Says experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh is among the countries worst affected by lead pollution, with millions of children exposed to hazardous levels, experts said at a workshop in a Dhaka hotel yesterday.

They said tests showed children living near such sites had blood lead levels as high as 47 micrograms per decilitre of blood, while the WHO recognises no safe level of lead in the blood.

They said lead levels in soil near disposal sites were as high as 70,000 ppm (parts per million), compared to the US EPA reference value of 200 ppm.

The remarks were made at a validation workshop on the Toxic Site Investigation Program (TSIP) Guideline and the Remediation and Risk Reduction Guideline for Lead-Contaminated Sites. The Department of Environment (DoE) organised the programme in collaboration with Pure Earth.

Mitali Das, country director of Pure Earth Bangladesh, emphasised prevention of improper disposal of used batteries.

Lara Crampe, programme director for Asia at Pure Earth USA, said Bangladesh has shown leadership in addressing lead pollution through high-level commitment.

Dr Fahmida Khanom, additional secretary of the environment ministry, and Dr Md Kamruzzaman, ndc, director general of the Department of Environment, also spoke.



Two rickshaws being towed for illegally plying a main road in Dhaka's Shahbagh yesterday. Riding one of the seized vehicles, a police officer is taking them to the dump yard near Shahbagh Police Station.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Ensure water justice in coastal region

Speakers tell Khulna convention

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Speakers at an event in Khulna yesterday stressed the urgent need for an integrated water management approach to address the myriad water-related crises affecting the coastal belt in Bangladesh's south-western region. They said ensuring water justice as a fundamental human right must be a state responsibility.

Amid rising salinity levels, communities are facing numerous water-related challenges, including an acute shortage of safe drinking water. In the absence of alternatives, people are forced to consume saline water, leading to various physical and mental health complications. The speakers made the remarks on the second day of the 3rd Coastal Water Convention, held at Ava Centre in Khulna city.

Shamim Arfeen, member secretary of the convention and executive director of An Organization for Socio-Economic Development, gave the welcome speech.

Professor Emeritus Dr Ainun Nishat of BRAC University, who presented the keynote paper, warned that within the next 50 years, water in Khulna city would become as saline as seawater.

Significant changes in biodiversity would occur in the Sundarbans, with

Goran trees thriving instead of Sundari and an increase in the population of salt-tolerant insects. Traditional crop production would decline by half, he said, stressing the need to increase the use of surface water.

"To save the people of this region, embankments must be repaired, and water sources must be protected from destruction," he said. Referring to a recent storm surge in Florida that reached a height of 17 feet, he warned, "If a similar storm surge hits Bangladesh, the water could reach as far as Faridpur."

He said while Wasa addresses water issues in metropolitan areas and DPHE in municipalities, there is no dedicated authority to resolve drinking water crises faced by marginalised communities. He stressed the need to maintain good relations with neighbouring countries to address transboundary water-related challenges.

Prof Dr Kazi Maruful Islam of Dhaka University, Prof Anwarul Kadir of Sundarbans Academy, Mohammad Zobair Hasan of DORP, and Abul Kalam Azad of ActionAid Bangladesh supplemented the keynote discussion. The event was attended by representatives of various national and international development organisations and experts.

Missing CIMMYT researcher found dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The body of a research and development coordinator at the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) was found three days after he went missing.

Shahidul Islam, 42, of Patuakhali, went missing on January 21 after visiting a bank on Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka. His cellphone was found switched off from noon that day.

His father-in-law, Abu Saleh Uddin Ahmed, filed a GD with Gulshan Police Station the same day.

On Saturday evening, police recovered an unidentified body from bushes near an underpass on the expressway adjacent to Surjyanagar Bazar in Madaripur, said Shibchar Police Station Officer-in-Charge Shahidul Islam.

Family members identified the body as Shahidul's yesterday.

"The exact cause of death cannot be determined without the post-mortem and viscera," said SI Ijrat Hossain of Dattapara Police Investigation Centre.

Gulshan Police Station OC Rakibul Hasan said CCTV footage showed Shahidul boarding a Turag Paribahan bus from Badda and travelling towards Ekuria in Keraniganj, after which no further trace of his movements was found.

Shahidul's wife, Shammi Akter, said, "He would never consume food offered by strangers. The post-mortem report will help us understand the reason behind his death." Shahidul lived in Barishal with his wife and two sons.

40 hurt in pre-polls violence

FROM PAGE 12

Additional law enforcers were deployed to prevent further violence.

Both candidates could not be reached for comment.

In Lalmonirhat, at least 11 people were injured as supporters of BNP and Jamaat clashed in Kasaitari village in Hatibandha upazila in the afternoon.

According to police and locals, Jamaat female activists were conducting door-to-door campaigns for the Lalmonirhat-1 candidate when locals questioned their identity, triggering an altercation that led to a clash.

Shahin Mohammad Amanullah, officer-in-charge of Hatibandha Police Station, said

police brought the situation under control. Afrin Haque, assistant returning officer and Hatibandha upazila nirbahi officer, said 10 to 12 injured people were hospitalised.

District Returning Officer and Lalmonirhat Deputy Commissioner HM Raqib Hayder said he visited the area, spoke to both sides, and urged them to maintain peace.

In another incident, at least nine people were injured in a clash between BNP and Jamaat supporters in Alamdanga upazila of Chuadanga in the afternoon.

Confirming the incident, Md Bani Israil, officer-in-charge of Alamdanga Police Station, said the situation is now

calm, with additional police and army personnel deployed.

UNO Panna Akter said Jamaat alleged that their female activists were obstructed and assaulted by BNP supporters during campaigning in Jugirhuda village. At the same time, BNP claimed Jamaat supporters were asking people to take oaths to vote for the party by touching the holy Quran.

Doctor Afrina Islam of Chuadanga Sadar Hospital said the injured were brought to the hospital after 5:00pm.

[Our correspondents from Mymensingh, Lalmonirhat, and Kushtia contributed to this report.]

Noab did not provide journals

FROM PAGE 12

The remarks came during the handover ceremony of a Journalist Support Desk, jointly organised by Somosti and the DRU with support from UNESCO's Global Media Defence Fund (GDMF).

The desk, established under the project "Enhancing Legal Support System to Strengthen Media Protection", will now be operated by the DRU.

The programme was chaired by Dr Susan Vize, UNESCO representative to Bangladesh, and moderated by Riaz Ahmed, editor of the Dhaka Tribune.

Speaking at the event, Dr Vize said the Journalist Support Desk is a timely and important initiative that will help journalists carry out their duties safely and professionally.

DRU President Abu Saleh Akon emphasised

unity among journalists, saying they must stand against any form of oppression or harassment targeting them and rise above narrow divisions to support colleagues in need.

GDMF representative Lena Fox said journalists around the world are facing growing legal harassment and security risks, and journalist support desks have emerged as an effective model to address such challenges.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Moulvibazar
www.rhd.portal.gov.bd

Memo No. 35.01.5800.446.07.002.26-165 Date: 25-01-2026

e-Tender Notice (OTM)
This is to notify all concern that the following tender have published through e-GP Portal.

Tender ID, Package No. & date of publishing	Name of work	Procurement method	Last selling date	Closing and opening date & time
1218909 PMP-Road-Major-04/ Re-Tendered/EE/ MRD/OTM/2025-2026 25-01-2026	Periodic Maintenance Programme Providing with DBSWC at Ch. 20+050 (Motigon) to 25+100, Ch. 26+100 to Ch. 33+350, Ch. 33+850 to Ch. 34+500 & Ch. 35+137 to Ch. 39+000 (Mokambazar), Partial Strengthening Work at Ch. 20+050 to Ch. 20+200, Ch. 21+175 to Ch. 21+375, Ch. 22+200 to Ch. 22+350, Ch. 32+550 to Ch. 32+700, Ch. 36+300 to Ch. 36+360 & Ch. 37+200 to Ch. 37+300 and Sign-Signal, km Post etc. of Mirpur-Sreemongal-Moulvibazar-Sherpur (N-207) Road under Road Division, Moulvibazar during the year 2025-2026.	OTM	11-02-2026, up to 17:00	12-02-2026, at 12:30

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). e-Tenders are invited in e-GP System Portal by Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Moulvibazar. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk: www.eprocure.gov.bd).

01.01.2026
Md. Kayser Hamid
ID No. 602195
Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Moulvibazar
02-41110075
E-mail: ecemou@rhd.gov.bd

GD-180

July frontman takes

FROM PAGE 3

Nahid is carrying out mass outreach at mosques and markets, holding courtyard meetings, and running an active social media campaign.

Quayum, meanwhile, is organising street rallies and exchanging meetings while distributing his manifesto.

Although the two rivals have not faced each other directly on the campaign trail, they have both been long known as local figures.

Dhaka-II reflects mixed demographics. Areas such as Badda, Aftabnagar, Shahzadpur, and Rampura are home to educated middle and upper-middle-class professionals and businesspeople.

In contrast, North Badda, Satarikul, and Beraid are largely populated by lower-middle-class residents and small traders, alongside a sizable labour community.

Road development work has recently begun from Satarikul Bridge to Badda. However, the poor condition of this key route to central Dhaka has caused widespread suffering.

Traffic congestion, drug abuse, law-and-order issues, and waterlogging also remain major concerns.

In Bhatara's Hindu Para, home to around 400 families, gas and water shortages top the list of grievances.

Amrit Chandra Das, 40, who left a corporate job to start a business eight years ago, stressed the importance of peaceful coexistence.

Nahid told The Daily Star, "The response has been phenomenal, especially from youth and women."

"People couldn't vote for 16 years. Now the political equation has changed, and people are approaching us with their expectations. The election seems to have rekindled hope."

Representing the NCP under the Jamaat-e-Islami-led II-party alliance, Nahid said the organisational experience of Jamaat has been helpful. "We are campaigning in a coordinated way," he added.

If elected, he plans to bring youth into leadership roles and prioritise job creation, good governance, and public safety. He also promised infrastructure projects to address traffic,

waste management, healthcare, and education.

"I'm not saying everything will be solved in five years, but the reconstruction of this area will begin," he said.

Quayum is equally confident. "Although formal campaigning started recently, we've been working at the grassroots for over a month. I served as commissioner here for nearly two decades and ensured gas and water supply while establishing schools and colleges. People trust me," he said.

Citing crime, drugs, and extortion as key challenges, Quayum called on young people to stay engaged.

While Nahid said he has not faced direct obstruction, he expressed concern over the possible use of muscle power on election day. "We are briefing the administration and will be prepared to resist any interference," he said.

Quayum struck a conciliatory tone. "The environment is cordial. I have instructed my supporters to avoid past political hostility. Let the people decide."

Both candidates are confident of victory. Nahid believes the "youth wave" will favour the NCP alliance and its Shapla Koli (Water Lily Bud) symbol, and urged voters to cast a "Yes" vote in the referendum.

Quayum, meanwhile, appealed to voters to choose a "tested representative" with a proven service record.

Dhaka-II has 4,39,078 voters -- 2,22,877 men, 2,16,198 women, and three hijra voters.

Md Shahidul Islam Pannu's death anniv

CITY DESK

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Today is the 17th death anniversary of Md Shahidul Islam Pannu, director of Sara Advertising Ltd, said a press release.

His family members have requested all to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.



পাওয়ার গ্রিড বাংলাদেশ পিএলসি
POWER GRID BANGLADESH PLC
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

Grid Bhaban, Avenue-3, Jahurul Islam City, Aftabnagar, Badda, Dhaka-1212 www.powergrid.gov.bd
স্মারক নং- ২৭.২১.০০০০.৬৮৪.০৭.০০১.২৬.৬৫ তারিখঃ ২১/০১/২০২৬খ্রিঃ

e-Tender বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পাওয়ার গ্রিডের জিএমডি, চট্টগ্রাম (সেন্ট্রাল) দপ্তরের আওতাধীন নিম্নলিখিত দরপত্র e-GP পোর্টালে প্রকাশিত হয়েছে।

ID	Reference	Title of Works	Closing Date and Time
1217099	27.21.0000.684.07.001.26.54; Date: 20/01/2026	Tower Painting work at 132kV Halishahar - Khulshi single Circuit Transmission Line under GMD Chattogram-Central, Power Grid.	12 Feb 2026 at 14:00

আগ্রহী ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানকে www.eprocure.gov.bd সাইটের মাধ্যমে দরপত্র অংশগ্রহণের জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

মোঃ মাহমুদুর রহমান
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, জিএমডি, চট্টগ্রাম (সেন্ট্রাল)

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
"Construction of Rail-cum-Road Bridge Across the River Karnaphuli at Kalurghat Point" Project
Bangladesh Railway, Chattogram
Reference No. PD/Kalurghat Rail-cum-Road Bridge/Outsourcing/13 Date: 22/01/2026

1st Amendment/Corrigendum e-Tender Notice (e-GP)
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of physical service mentioned in the table below:

Sl No.	Tender ID No.	Package No. & description	Previous tender last selling date & time	Previous tender closing date & time	Revised tender last selling date & time	Revised tender closing date & time
01	1204307	NCS Outsourcing of Manpower	29 Jan-2026 10.00	29 Jan-2026 12.00	05 Feb-2026 10.00	05 Feb-2026 12.00

1. 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.
2. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.
3. The fees for the downloading the e-Tender documents form the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank.
4. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).
5. "Construction of Rail-cum-Road Bridge Across the River Karnaphuli at Kalurghat Point" Project authority reserve the right to accept any tender or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.

এস (২৬) (১৬৪)
Md. Abul Kalam Chowdhury
Project Director
Construction of Rail-cum-Road Bridge Across the River Karnaphuli at Kalurghat Point
Bangladesh Railway, Chattogram

GD-186

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Project Director
Accelerating and Strengthening Skills for Economic Transformation (ASSET) Project
Directorate of Technical Education
Plot -F-4/B, Agargaon, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
www.asset-dte.gov.bd

Memo No: 57.03.0000.051.07.966.26-352 Date: 25 January, 2026

Corrigendum Notice

e-Tender ID & Package No.	Original Tender Document last selling / downloading Date and Time:	Revised Tender Document last selling / downloading Date and Time:	Original Tender Opening Date and Time:	Revised Tender Opening Date and Time:
1209467 (G73)	25-Jan-2026 17:00	01-Feb-2026 17:00	26-Jan-2026 15:00	02-Feb-2026 15:00

Reason for Corrigendum: Changes have been made in the Price Schedule for Goods (Form e-PG3A-4A). Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

25.01.2026
Mir Zahid Hasan
Project Director (Additional Secretary)
ASSET Project
Telephone: 880-02-41024953
E-mail: pd@asset-dte.gov.bd

GD-185

শাহজালাল ইসলামী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড

কর্পোরেট প্রধান কার্যালয়: শাহজালাল ইসলামী ব্যাংক টাওয়ার,
সাধারণ সেবা বিভাগ (৩য় তলা), প্লট-৪, ব্লক-সিডব্লিউএন(সি), গুলশান এভিনিউ,
গুলশান, ঢাকা-১২১২, বাংলাদেশ, ফোন: ০২-২২২২৮৩৪৫৭

গাড়ী বিক্রয়ের নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি

শাহজালাল ইসলামী ব্যাংক পিএলসি-এর মালিকানাধীন এবং ব্যবহৃত নয়টি গাড়ী বিক্রয়ের জন্য দরপত্র আহ্বান করা হচ্ছে। গাড়ীসমূহের ধরন ও বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে বিবরণ নিম্নে উপস্থাপন করা হলো:

ক্রমঃ	রেজিস্ট্রেশন নং	ব্র্যান্ড	সিসি	ধরণ	মডেল	রং	মন্তব্য
০১	DM-Gha-13-0747	টয়োটা	১৮০০	জীপ (র‍্যাক-৪)	২০০৪	মেটালিক	-
০২	DM-Gha-13-3086	টয়োটা	১৮০০	জীপ (র‍্যাক-৪)	২০০৪	কালো	-
০৩	DM-Ga-17-5342	টয়োটা	১৫০০	কার (প্রিমিয়ারো)	২০০২	পার্ল	-
০৪	DM-Ga-17-5343	টয়োটা	১৫০০	কার (এলিয়োন)	২০০২	সিলভার	-
০৫	DM-Cha-53-1501	টয়োটা	১৮০০	মাইক্রোবাস (টাইউনস)	২০০৩	সাদা	সিঙ্গেল এসি
০৬	CM-Cha-51-1450	টয়োটা	১৮০০	মাইক্রোবাস (টাইউনস)	২০০৪	সাদা	-
০৭	DM-Cha-53-7621	টয়োটা	১৮০০	মাইক্রোবাস (টাইউনস)	২০০৭	পার্ল	ডুয়েল এসি
০৮	DM-Cha-53-7622	টয়োটা	১৮০০	মাইক্রোবাস (টাইউনস)	২০০৭	সিলভার	-
০৯	DM-Ga-35-8007	হুদাই	২০০০	কার (সোনাতা)	২০১২	কালো	-

ব্যাংকের নিজস্ব মালিকানাধীন উপরোক্ত নয়টি গাড়ী নিম্ন বর্ণিত শর্তানুযায়ী নিলামে বিক্রয় করা হবে।

শর্তাবলী

১। সিডিউল এর মূল্য ২,০০০/- (দুই হাজার) টাকা নগদ এবং অফেরতযোগ্য, ২। অর্নেস্ট মানি দাখিলকৃত দরপত্রে উল্লেখিত মোট মূল্যের উপর ৫% টাকা "শাহজালাল ইসলামী ব্যাংক পিএলসি"-এর অনুকূলে পে-অর্ডার (ফেরতযোগ্য) আকারে জমা দিতে হবে, ৩। সিডিউল ক্রয়ের সময় : ০১/০২/২০২৬খ্রিঃ তারিখ থেকে আগামী ২৪/০২/২০২৬খ্রিঃ তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় ৪। দরপত্র জমা দেওয়ার শেষ সময় : ২৪/০২/২০২৬খ্রিঃ তারিখ বেলা ১১:৩০ ঘটিকা ৫। গাড়ী প্রদর্শনের সময় : ০১/০২/২০২৬ খ্রিঃ তারিখ থেকে ২৩/০২/২০২৬খ্রিঃ তারিখ সকাল ১১:০০ ঘটিকা থেকে বিকাল ২:৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত (তদুন্নয়ন কর্ম নিবেশ প্রদর্শিত হবে) ৬। গাড়ী প্রদর্শনের স্থান: শাহজালাল ইসলামী ব্যাংক টাওয়ার, গুলশান, ঢাকা।

নিলামে আগ্রহী অংশগ্রহণকারীগণকে বিজ্ঞপ্তি অনুযায়ী নির্ধারিত সময়ের মধ্যে শাহজালাল ইসলামী ব্যাংক পিএলসি-এর প্রধান কার্যালয়ে রক্ষিত টেন্ডার বাস্তব দরপত্র জমা দেওয়ার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হল। দরপত্র আগামী ২৪/০২/২০২৬খ্রিঃ তারিখ বিকাল ২:০০ ঘটিকায় ব্যাংকের প্রধান কার্যালয়ে নিলামে অংশগ্রহণকারীগণের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন) খোলা হবে।

উল্লেখ্য যে, ব্যাংক কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন অথবা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা বাতিলের অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করে।

বিভাগীয় প্রধান, সাধারণ সেবা বিভাগ

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