

Cost of housing, food mount on top

FROM PAGE 16

They are also being asked to pay Tk 4,000-5,000 per day for hotel accommodation and meals.

Unable to bear the mounting costs of the extended stay, many stranded passengers are approaching the Bangladesh Hajj Mission in Saudi Arabia for assistance.

Officials at the mission said they are contacting travel agencies and requesting them to provide tickets at lower prices.

Some passengers are also trying to return through alternative routes, including flying with IndiGo via Kolkata and then travelling onward to Dhaka or Chattogram.

Naimul Karim, a resident of Rangpur, said he had bought a ticket for a March 3 Air Arabia flight to return to Dhaka via Sharjah 560 riyals

(Tk 18,480). However, the flight was cancelled after the conflict erupted.

"I eventually paid 1,580 riyals [Tk 52,140], nearly three times the original price and secured a seat on a SalamAir flight," he said.

Many Bangladeshi migrants and umrah pilgrims have faced similar hardship as most flights through Middle Eastern hubs remain suspended.

Abdur Razzak of Feni said he remained stranded in Makkah for six days before buying a new SalamAir ticket for Tk 62,000 to return home.

He had originally been scheduled to fly back on March 3, but the suspension of Air Arabia flights left him and 13 others stranded.

The disruption has also pushed up airfares on routes beyond the Middle East.

Airfare to destinations in Europe and North America has also increased by around 30 percent, Abdus Salam Aref, immediate past president of ATAB, told The Daily Star.

He said a one-way ticket from Dhaka to London now costs around Tk 90,708, compared with about Tk 65,000 during normal times. Fares to Rome and Toronto have also risen by Tk 40,000 to Tk 45,000.

Farid Ahmed Majumder, secretary general of HAAB, urged the government to arrange additional flights by Biman, Saudia and Flynas to bring back the stranded Bangladeshis from Saudi Arabia.

Contacted, Munshi Alauddin Al Azad, secretary of the religious affairs ministry, said the authorities were trying to address the problems when specific cases were reported.

Rana, Tanzid shine

FROM PAGE 16

Mohammad Wasim Junior in the 14th over after a 33-ball 27-run knock but Tanzid remained not out on 67 off 42 balls as Bangladesh reached 115 for two in 15.1 overs to go 1-0 up in the series.

It is Bangladesh's first win over Pakistan in this format since 2018. They reached home with 209 balls to spare, their third joint biggest win in terms of balls remaining.

Pakistan had earlier made a steady start through a 41-run opening stand between Sahibzada Farhan and Maaz Sadaqat -- two of the four Pakistani debutants in the match -- before Rana triggered a dramatic collapse.

He broke the partnership on the final ball of the first Powerplay when Farhan (27) edged to point, where Afif Hossain took a regulatory catch.

Another debutant, Shamily Hussain, became Rana's second victim after top-edging a short delivery to wicketkeeper Litton for four. Hussain had earlier been dropped on two by Tanzid at long-on. Sadaqat then departed for 18

before Rana dismissed Mohammad Rizwan (10) and Salman Ali Agha (5) in quick succession to complete his maiden ODI fiver and became only the second Bangladeshi bowler to take a five-wicket haul against Pakistan in this format after Mustafizur Rahman in the 2019 World Cup.

The 23-year-old had previously played five ODIs and had taken five wickets in total. His previous appearance in the format had come against Afghanistan in Abu Dhabi in last year's October.

Skipper Mehidy Hasan Miraz (3-29) then tightened Bangladesh's grip by removing debutant Abdul Samad (0), Hussain Talat (4), and Shaheen Shah Afridi (4) in quick succession. Taskin Ahmed also dismissed Mohammad Wasim Jr (0) as Pakistan slumped to 82 for nine and looked destined to be bowled out for under 100.

However, Faheem Ashraf struck 37 off 47 balls to push the total past the 100-run mark before Mustafizur Rahman dismissed him in the 31st over. The second match of the series will be held at the same venue on Friday.

No legal bar to journo Anis

FROM PAGE 16

Tk 4.25 crore, while his net assets declared in his latest income tax return amount to Tk 57.99 lakh. Investigators allege that he amassed nearly Tk 3.68 crore beyond known sources of income and concealed the information in his wealth statement.

On December 14 last year, Anis was picked up from a gym in Dhaka's Dhanmondi and taken to the Detective Branch office on Minto Road.

The following day, Arian Ahmed, a central organiser of the July Revolutionary Alliance, filed a case with Uttara West Police Station against Anis along with actress Meher Afroz Shaon, Maria Kispotta and Imtu Ratish under the Anti-Terrorism Act, 2009.

On March 5 this year, a High Court bench granted him bail in that case.

Anis previously worked at several media outlets in both print and electronic media and was known for his active presence on television talk shows before his arrest.

Dhaka freezes plan to join Haiti peacekeeping

FROM PAGE 16

Madeline Diorio, stabilization officer at the US Department of State, acknowledging Bangladesh's correspondence accepting the stated deployment of the GSF.

"The Standing Group of Partners (SGP) looks forward to working together to ensure a timely deployment," Diorio wrote, noting that the SGP is working with the Government of Haiti and the UN Support Office in Haiti (UNSOH) to transmit pledge acceptances and initiate the Status of Personnel Agreement (SPA) process and other preparatory steps.

However, the communication clarified that countries listed as alternate contingents are not being requested to prepare for deployment at this stage.

It added that if the primary country selected to fulfil the mission requirements fails to do so, Bangladesh's pledge could then be accepted, and preparations for deployment would begin.

SCHEDULE TO DEPLOY FROM APRIL

This correspondent obtained a copy of a letter, prepared on January 28 by the armed forces division, outlining the potential deployment structure sought by the US Embassy in Dhaka

as part of the preparation process.

According to the document, the proposed Bangladesh Army contribution included three engineer companies, totalling 420 personnel, comprising one combat engineer company with an explosive ordnance disposal platoon and two multi-role construction companies.

The plan also included two multi-role logistics companies with 280 personnel, one military intelligence company with 125 personnel, and one signal company with 75 personnel.

In addition, the proposal considered the deployment of two small maritime detachments from the Bangladesh Navy, involving 200 personnel and 12 small boats.

For law enforcement support, the plan included three police companies under a Formed Police Unit, with 175 personnel in each company, totalling 525 police members.

The document noted that the first police company could potentially deploy in April, followed by another in May, while the third company would not be deployable for an additional six to eight months.

It also mentioned that one Bangladesh Army military police company could be ready to deploy in April, while the possibility of

deploying three military police companies in May could be considered if required.

However, officials said Bangladesh has now decided not to proceed with deployment at this time in view of the prevailing global circumstances.

Contacted, a high official at the Police Headquarters, requesting anonymity, told The Daily Star police authorities have, in the meantime, completed necessary preparation and training for the deployment of 525 police members for the mission.

3 civilians killed

FROM PAGE 16

artillery" along the border, causing civilian casualties. Two civilians were also injured in the eastern province of Khost on Tuesday, the spokesman added.

According to a report by the United Nations mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), 56 civilians have been killed in Afghanistan, including 24 children, by Pakistani military operations between February 26 and March 5.

About 115,000 people were forced to leave their homes, according to the UN refugee agency.

Govt moves to ensure power

FROM PAGE 16

both divisions of the ministry.

The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) and the hospital wing of the Health Services Division have been instructed to jointly prepare a risk-mitigation action plan within the next week.

Hospitals have also been asked to conserve electricity by disconnecting one of the two power phases while keeping the other operational.

In addition, meetings with heads

of directorates, offices and divisional health institutions will be held online to reduce power consumption.

The authorities have also been asked to explore alternative countries for sourcing Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs), which are essential for producing medicines.

Khorshed Alam, additional secretary (hospital wing) of the Health Services Division, said the meeting was held to determine how the sector could cope with a possible crisis while

saving energy.

He said instructions had already been issued to follow the Cabinet Division's directives on energy conservation.

Replying to a question, he said the ministry had decided to send a letter to the Energy and Mineral Resources Division requesting uninterrupted electricity supply to health facilities.

"But we haven't sent the letter yet. The situation seems better today. We will send it considering the situation," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

Dhaka seeks US waiver to buy Russian oil

FROM PAGE 1

buy Russian oil -- we have said that if such an opportunity is available for India, Bangladesh should also receive it," Finance and Planning Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury told reporters at his office after a meeting with US Ambassador Brent T Christensen.

The request will be conveyed to Washington, DC, he said.

Earlier in 2022, Bangladesh tried purchasing Russian crude but abandoned the plan after it was discovered that the country's lone refinery, Eastern Refinery, is not configured to process Urals.

Eastern Refinery is configured to process oils from the Middle East, which are comparatively lighter than the Russian Urals.

In December last year, a Tk 35,465 crore project was approved to modernise and expand the capacity of Eastern Refinery to process a wide range of crude oil, including the Russian Urals.

Khosru said the government is preparing for multiple scenarios to keep a steady energy supply.

"We are considering what will happen if the war is short-term, medium-term or long-term. These scenarios are under consideration and we will work accordingly," he said, while emphasising the need for support from all international partners.

Bangladesh is seeking international cooperation to bolster its energy sector. The Daily Star has learnt from people involved with the proceedings.

In a meeting yesterday with Indian High Commissioner Pranay Verma, Energy Minister Iqbal Hassan Mahmood Tuku formally asked the neighbouring country to increase the volume of fuel supply.

India is considering Bangladesh's request for additional fuel supplies, Pranay told reporters after the meeting.

"Energy connectivity has become a strong pillar of economic cooperation

between our two countries. Cross-border power transmission and the fuel pipeline are important aspects of our economic cooperation," he said, referring to projects like the Bangladesh-India Friendship Pipeline.

Bangladesh has also sought cooperation from China to strengthen its energy sector amid global uncertainties.

Meanwhile, long queues at fuel stations are gradually easing. Visits to six pumps in Dhaka yesterday revealed shorter lines compared with last week.

The government has raised fuel supply in divisional cities by 10 percentage points to meet public demand amid the crisis. Instead of reducing the supply of octane and petrol in divisional cities by 25 percent from the average sales, it will now be reduced to 15 percent, and fuel will be supplied to filling stations according to the allocation chart, said the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation in a statement.

Depot superintendents, sales officials and dealers have been instructed to ensure proper distribution of the reduced allocation.

However, concerns remain among fuel sellers.

The Bangladesh Petroleum Dealers, Distributors, Agents, and Petrol Pump Owners Association has demanded the deployment of army personnel alongside police at filling stations to ensure security, warning that pumps may be forced to shut down if effective measures are not taken.

Speaking at a press conference in Dhaka, the association's President Mohammad Nazmul Haque criticised conflicting government statements that have eroded public confidence and triggered panic buying.

"As a result, people have been flocking to filling stations day and night to buy fuel."

He urged the government to restore normal allocations quickly, particularly for octane and petrol,

to avoid a severe crisis during the upcoming Eid travel rush.

In addition to security deployment, the association outlined seven other demands, including ensuring equal fuel supply for all motorcycles, halting mobile court drives and imposing strict punishment for illegal stockpiling.

The Bangladesh Bank has also issued directives urging banks to take precautionary measures to reduce electricity and fuel consumption in their offices.

The central bank called for strict energy-saving measures at head offices, branches and sub-branches.

UAE president pens poem for defenders

AFP, Abu Dhabi

The UAE President wrote a patriotic poem that was performed by the national orchestra, state media said yesterday, as his country faced the attacks unleashed by Iran after US-Israeli strikes.

"The UAE National Orchestra has released a special musical tribute, titled 'Men, by God, Truly Men', featuring the poem 'Rijal Wallah Rijal' written by President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, honouring those who dedicate themselves to protecting the nation," WAM said.

WAM shared a video of the performance, which kicked off with a recent interview in which Sheikh Mohamed said the UAE had "thick skin and bitter flesh. We are no easy prey".

Men dressed in dark kanduras, the traditional dress for men in the Gulf, and white headresses, then went on to sing, accompanied by an orchestra that included foreigners as well as women.

The footage was interspersed with shots of fighter jets.



বিদ্যুৎ, জ্বালানি ও খনিজ সম্পদ মন্ত্রণালয়
নর্দান ইলেকট্রিসিটি সার্ভাই পিএলসি
(বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ডের একটি প্রতিষ্ঠান)
কোম্পানি সচিব এর দপ্তর
প্রধান কার্যালয়: বিদ্যুৎ ভবন, হেটেম খাঁ, রাজশাহী-৬০০০
www.nesco.gov.bd



বিদ্যুৎ ব্যবহারে সশ্রমী হোন

Memo No: 27.29.0000.082.011.12.26.496 Date: 11/03/2026

Re-circular of Job Opportunity

1.0 Brief introduction to the Company
Northern Electricity Supply PLC (NESCO) is a State-Owned Company (SOC), responsible for distributing electricity across the distinctive parts of Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions, encompassing 16 districts. Established in August 2005 and commencing commercial operations since October 2016, NESCO has significantly contributed to the region's power distribution, ensuring reliable & uninterrupted electricity supply to its customers. Now, NESCO invites applications from eligible candidates from the bona fide citizens of Bangladesh for immediate appointment for the following post on a contractual basis:

| Sl. | Name of the Post | NESCO Pay Grade | Basic Salary | No. of Post | Age |
|-----|------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------|---|
| 01 | Executive Director (Finance) | Grade-II | Tk. 1,49,000/- | 01 | Between 45-60 years of age as on 22/10/2025 |

2.0 Job Description
The Executive Director (Finance) is the Chief Finance Officer of the Company reporting to the Managing Director. It is a strategic level post. The incumbent shall act as a member of the management team of the Company to assist the Managing Director for overall financial management, ensuring compliances of laws, rules and regulations for good governance including development of setup, systems and financial functions of the organization. He/She should formulate business strategies and financial plans that reflect the long-term corporate goals and priorities established by the company. He/She should implement Financial Module under Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) particularly with emphasis on software-based accounting system for all Regional Account Offices (RAOs). He/She should prepare annual budget and revised budget considering income, expenditure, load and consumer growth, investment possibilities as well as other relevant financial matters; Identify multiple sources of investment opportunities, making comparative statement of their advantages and disadvantages; Identify possible sources of increasing non-operating income and taking appropriate measures to that end; Prepare bi-monthly, quarterly, half-yearly, yearly accounts and cumulative accounts in comparison with similar accounts of preceding year and reporting to competent authority. He/She should supervise collection of online bill, new connection application fees, consumer security deposit, disconnection & reconnection fees and estimate money through all banks with the help of ICT department and other relative means. He/She should endeavor to raise capital from the Capital Markets if required.

3.0 Educational Qualification and Requirements

- At least MBA/MCom in Finance/Accounting from any recognized university. Professional qualification such as ACA/ACMA will be counted as an added advantage;
- Candidates passed in the grading system must possess at least CGPA 3.5 on a scale of 5.0 and CGPA 2.5 on a scale of 4.0. Candidates passed in the conventional system (Class/Division) must possess at least 2nd class/division. No third Division/Class at any stage of the academic career shall be acceptable;
- In case of Public Sector (GoB/SOE's/ Autonomous Bodies), the candidate should have at least 18 years of experience of which at least 3 years in a senior management position (National Pay Scales substantive grade 4 & above);
- In case of State-owned companies (SOCs), the candidate should have at least 18 years of experience, of which at least 3 years in a senior management position (DGM or equivalent & above);
- In case of private sector, the candidate should have at least 18 years of experience, of which 3 years in senior management/leadership position in well reputed organization(s) in power sector. Moreover, the candidate's experience certificate must include detailed job responsibilities authorized by competent authority;
- Must be able to demonstrate knowledge about relevant Govt. rules & regulations, PPA and PPR, etc.
- Must be able to demonstrate knowledge in business laws, labor law, Tax/VAT Laws, Total Quality Management (TQM), Total Productive Management (TPM), Corporate Governance, Strategic Management, etc;
- Must demonstrate strong participatory leadership ability and possess adequate knowledge in corporate Management;
- Able to express information, in both English and Bangla, to individuals or groups effectively; make clear and convincing presentations, write concisely, and convincingly for the intended audience;
- Strong business acumen with a deep understanding of financial management, Procurement, strategic planning, and operational management.
- Excellent Negotiation skills with government agencies, development partners and private investors will be an advantage.

4.0 Age
Minimum: 45 years, Maximum: 60 years as on 22/10/2025.

5.0 Tenure of Appointment
The initial contract will be for 3 years subject to the maximum age limit of 65 years. It can be extended for two more terms of 3 years subject to the maximum age limit of 65 years in case of competent candidate.

6.0 Salary and Allowances
Basic pay Tk. 1,49,000/- (One lac forty-nine thousand) only per month plus house rent 40% of basic pay, 2 (two) festival bonus, Boishakhi allowance (20% of basic) per year, gratuity, contributory provident fund, group insurance, leave encashment, reimbursement of medical expenses and other fringe benefits will be admissible as per provisions of the company. He/She will also be entitled to a full-time transport with fuel and driver. Income tax shall be paid by the incumbent.

7.0 Submission of Application

- Interested candidates are requested to apply only through the 'Online Application Form' where in a scanned recent photograph, signature, NID, all academic certificates, transcripts and relevant experience certificates (Mentioning detailed job responsibilities authorized by competent authority for each position with duration of service) must be duly uploaded.
- Candidates still serving in GoB/SOE's/Autonomous bodies/SOC's must upload one additional document i.e., NOC from the Authority.
- The online application form will be available in NESCO career site <https://career.nesco.gov.bd>. Before filing up the application form please read the instructions carefully which will be available in the career section of NESCO website (<https://nesco.gov.bd>) along with notice section of career site (<https://career.nesco.gov.bd>). Online Application should be submitted from 12/03/2026 (9.00am) to 16/04/2026 (upto 5.00pm). Required updated information about this recruitment will be available in NESCO website and NESCO career site. Candidates are requested to collect relevant information about this recruitment from NESCO website and NESCO career site.

8.0 Please note that only short-listed candidates will be called for interview/recruitment test. Candidates applied for the post shall have to pay Tk.2000/- (Two Thousand) for submitting this application. No TA/DA will be given for participating in the interviews.

9.0 Candidates those who have applied earlier with reference to the Circular No. 27.29.0000.082.011.11.25.312 dated on 20/10/2025 and 27.29.0000.082.011.11.25.261 dated on 26/11/2025 needn't apply further.

10.0 The NESCO authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the applications without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

11.03.26

Most. Ismat Ara
Company Secretary
Email: cs@nesco.gov.bd
Phone: 01713-850768

GD-573