

Youth turns village library into cultural hub

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

In remote Tipar Bazar village under Lalmonirhat's Aditmari upazila, evenings that were once quiet and dark are now filled with poetry recitations, songs and lively discussions.

At the centre of this change is Sarpukur Jubo Forum Pathagar, which has grown from a modest library room into a vibrant centre of cultural and social activities.

The transformation has been led by Jamal Hossain, 23, a postgraduate student in Dhaka. He started the library with a few friends in 2014 with just 10 books in a tin-roofed room furnished with old chairs and tables.

Over the years, the collection has grown to more than 15,000 books.

In 2020, Jamal also launched an initiative to encourage reading by placing books in barbershops in his village.

"Our Barbershop Library initiative has now spread across the country. Readers' response has been overwhelming, and the demand for new books keeps growing," Jamal said.

For promoting reading habits and community engagement, Jamal received the National Youth Award last year. He has also received several national and local honours.

The library has also undergone renovation, carried out at a cost of Tk 30 lakh. It now runs in a concrete building equipped with bookshelves, computers, laptops, lighting and space for cultural programmes.

Shaheen Hussain, director of Robin

Printing and Package Limited in Dhaka, contributed nearly 90 percent of the renovation cost after learning about the initiative through a report published in The Daily Star. The local administration also provided support.

The library now hosts regular cultural programmes, including poetry recitations, debates, music sessions and reading circles. Young people also receive training in music, art and computer skills.

College student Niramoy Kumar Roy said the library has become an important part of students' lives.

"We have access to different books and newspapers here. We also practise music, art and computers, and organise debates ourselves. It's helping us grow intellectually," he said.

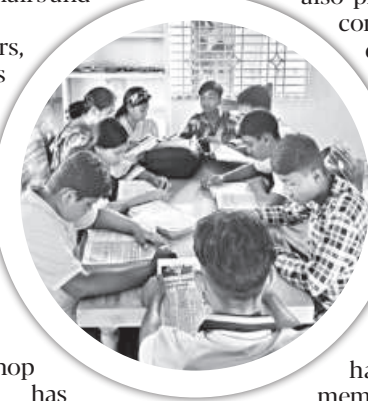
Schoolgoer Asha Akter and retired college teacher Sunil Kumar Sutradhar echoed the same sentiment.

The library now has several hundred members and attracts visitors from different walks of life, including students, farmers and homemakers.

Farmer Abdul Kader said he often reads books on agriculture at the library to learn modern farming techniques.

Jamal said his goal remains simple: to spread reading habits in rural communities and transform Tipar Bazar and nearby villages into "reading villages" with bookshelves in every home.

"Books free us from darkness," Jamal said. "I want every boy and girl in this village to read for at least some time every day."



A city corporation worker conducts fogging in Khulna city to curb dengue and other mosquito-borne diseases amid rising mosquito infestation during the rainy season. The photo was taken in the Bastuhara area yesterday. PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

HEALTH COMPLEX IN JASHORE New hospital building stuck in approval delay

MOHSIN MILON, Benapole

A newly-built Tk 38 crore facility at Chowgachha Upazila Health Complex in Jashore remains largely unused for lack of approval, even as patients continue to crowd the corridors of the existing 50-bed hospital.

Although a six-storey building expanded the health complex from 50 to 100 beds in 2023, the authorities have yet to receive official approval to operate it fully.

Around 1,000 to 1,250 patients receive treatment at the outpatient department every day. Many of them come from neighbouring upazilas, including Moheshpur, Jhikargachha, Kotchandpur, Kaliganj, Sharsha, and Jashore Sadar.

Hospital authorities said staff shortages, inadequate infrastructure and lack of rest facilities for them are affecting healthcare services.

Only 24 of the 32 sanctioned doctor posts are currently filled. Several key posts, including ENT specialist, dermatologist, orthopaedic surgeon, assistant surgeon and pathologist, have remained vacant for years. There is no ultrasonologist, while many health assistant posts also remain vacant.

Of the 221 sanctioned posts for officials and employees, only 134 are filled. The post of resident medical officer is vacant, while only one midwife is working against eight approved posts. All four medical technologist (pharmacist) posts are also vacant.

As a result, many patients leave without proper treatment, while others are referred to Jashore General Hospital. The understaffed pathology department also forces many patients to rely on private diagnostic centres for tests.

Mozammel Haque from Singhuli village said he had been waiting for over two hours for his blood test report.

"I cannot afford to get the test done at a private clinic," he said.

Dr Suraiya Parvin, an emergency medical officer, said she handles



gynaecology and obstetrics cases while also performing ultrasonography.

Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer Dr Md Ahsanul Mizan Rumi said the facility had repeatedly sought approval from the relevant authorities but received no response.

"Without administrative approval, there is no allocation for furniture, staff or budget," he said.

Jashore Civil Surgeon Masud Khan said they recently wrote to the ministry about the shortages and were seeking approval to begin operations.

EC to add madrasa, advanced degrees to NID database

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) is set to introduce major changes to the education section of the National Identity (NID) registration form, allowing citizens to specify madrasa qualifications as well as advanced academic degrees.

Officials at the EC's NID wing said registrants currently can only select broad education levels such as secondary, higher secondary, bachelor's or master's. Under the proposed changes, madrasa qualifications including Dakhil, Alim, Fazil, Kamil and Dawrae Hadith will be recognised separately.

Advanced academic and professional qualifications such as BSc (Engineering), MBBS, MS/MD, MPhil and PhD will also be included in the database.

Md Saiful Islam, director (Operations) of the NID wing, said the move is aimed at reflecting citizens' educational and professional identities more accurately.

"A person spends years earning a degree, yet our database did not reflect it specifically. Now we plan to add higher education degrees in line with professional identity," he said.

He said the initiative, now at a preliminary stage, would be formalised through legal and regulatory processes.

**4-Bedroom
Ready Apartment
For Sale In Gulshan**
Built by a renowned developer.

Contact
01714039843, 01700714308

Four children drown in Noakhali in two days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Four children drowned in Hatiya and Kabirhat upazilas of Noakhali in the last two days.

Yesterday, two children, Niha, 3, and Jannat, 5, drowned in a rainwater-filled pit in Narottampur union of Kabirhat upazila.

Doctors declared them dead at Noakhali General Hospital, said Kabirhat Police Station OC Nizam Uddin Bhuiyan.

In Hatiya, Nusrat Begum Mariam, 5, of Charloitra village drowned in a pond beside her house. Family members recovered her body around 11:00am.

A day earlier, the body of Saimun, 4, of Sonadia union was found floating in a pond. Relatives said the child had been missing since Saturday.

Hatia Police Station OC Kabir Hossain said the incidents were accidental. Police visited the spots, but no complaints were filed by the families.

Heavy rain likely in 3 divisions: BMD

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) forecasted heavy to very heavy rainfall in Rangpur, Mymensingh, and Sylhet divisions over the next 72 hours from 10:00am yesterday.

Thundercloud formation is likely to continue across the country, which may trigger heavy to very heavy rainfall in parts of the three divisions during the period, according to a special bulletin issued by the BMD.

The weather office also warned that temporary waterlogging may occur in some areas of Sylhet division due to the expected rainfall.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
কাস্টমস, এক্সাইজ ও ভ্যাট
কক্সবাজার (দক্ষিণ) বিভাগ, কক্সবাজার।
অস্থায়ী কার্যালয়
হাসপাতাল রোড, কক্সবাজার।

বাড়ি ভাড়া গ্রহণের বিজ্ঞপ্তি

জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ডের নকস্ট কাস্টমস এক্সাইজ ও ভ্যাট কমিশনারেট, কক্সবাজার এর আওতাধীন কক্সবাজার দক্ষিণ বিভাগ এবং উক্ত বিভাগের অধীনস্থ দুইটি সার্কেলে যথাক্রমে: ইদানী সার্কেল, সৈকত-৩ সার্কেল এর অফিস হিসেবে ব্যবহারের জন্য কক্সবাজার লাবনী পয়েন্ট হতে হিমছড়ি ভিউ পয়েন্ট পর্যন্ত এবং উলফিন মোড় হতে কক্সবাজার কেন্দ্রীয় বাস টার্মিনাল পর্যন্ত রাস্তার ডান পাশ এলাকার মধ্যে ১২,০০০ বর্গফুট (কম/বেশি) আয়তন বিশিষ্ট বেসরকারি বাড়ি/তন ভাড়া আবশ্যিক।

উক্ত বাড়ি/তন নিম্নে বর্ণিত সুবিধাসমূহ থাকা আবশ্যিক:

- কর্মকর্তা-কর্মচারী এবং সকল সেবা গ্রহীতার জন্য পর্যাপ্ত লিফট এবং সিঁড়ির সু-ব্যবস্থা থাকতে হবে;
- ন্যূনতম ২০ ফিট প্রশস্ত সড়কের পাশে অবস্থিত হতে হবে;
- গৌণ বৈদ্যুতিক সাব-স্টেশন ও জেনারেটরের ব্যবস্থা থাকতে হবে যাতে দাৈরিক কার্যক্রমে বিঘ্ন না ঘটে;
- বিদ্যুৎ, পানি, টেলিফোন ইত্যাদির সুব্যবস্থা থাকতে হবে;
- দিনের বেলায় প্রাকৃতিক আলো ও বাতাসের ব্যবস্থা থাকতে হবে;
- ন্যূনতম ৫ টি গাড়ি রাখার জন্য গ্যারেজ থাকতে হবে;
- ইন্টারনেট/নেটওয়ার্ক সংযোগের জন্য প্রয়োজনীয় অবকাঠামো থাকতে হবে;
- সার্বজনিক নিরাপত্তা গ্রহণীসহ পর্যাপ্ত নিরাপত্তা ব্যবস্থা থাকতে হবে;
- তনবন্টি মাফা-মোকদ্দমা মুক্ত হতে হবে;
- ফায়ার সেফটি সিস্টেম ও জরুরি বহিঃস্থ পথ/সিঁড়ি থাকতে হবে;
- ভবনে পর্যাপ্ত শৌচাগার, বিস্কু পানির ব্যবস্থা এবং পরিষ্কৃততা বজায় রাখার সুবিধা থাকতে হবে;
- প্রতি ঘন্টায় ন্যূনতম ৩০০ বর্গফুট স্পেস থাকতে হবে;
- ভবন মালিকের হালনাগাদ Proof of Submission of Returns (PSR) থাকতে হবে;
- জনকৃত মাফামাল সনেক্ষেপের জন্য পর্যাপ্ত স্থান থাকতে হবে;
- মালিক বা তার অনুমোদিত প্রতিনিধি দাৈরিক সময়ে সহজলভ্য থাকতে হবে;

২। উল্লিখিত অফিসের জন্য ভবন/অফিস ভাড়া দিতে আগ্রহী বাড়ির মালিককে আগামী ২০/০৫/২০২৬ খ্রি. তারিখ দুপুর ০২:০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে নিম্ন ঠিকানায় ভবন/অফিসের স্কেচ ম্যাপ, ভবনের মালিকানা সনেক্ষেপ কাগজপত্র, একাধিক মালিক থাকলে সকলের লিখিত সম্মতি/অনুমোদন এবং অন্যান্য প্রয়োজনীয় দলিলাদিসহ লিখিতভাবে ভাড়া প্রস্তাব (বিজ্ঞপ্তির বর্ণনাসহ) এ দপ্তরে লিখিত টেন্ডার বক্রে দাখিল করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো। উল্লেখ্য, উক্ত তারিখ বিকাল ০৩:০০ ঘটিকার সময় দরপত্রসমূহ উন্মুক্ত করা হবে। প্রয়োজন অনুযায়ী ও আলোচনা সাপেক্ষে কর্তৃপক্ষ উল্লিখিত শর্তাদির পরিবর্তন-পরিবর্তনের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

যোগাযোগের ঠিকানা:
কাস্টমস, এক্সাইজ ও ভ্যাট কমিশনারেট, কক্সবাজার
ই-মেইল: cevccox@gmail.com
অস্থায়ী কার্যালয়
হাসপাতাল রোড, কক্সবাজার।

(মোঃ মশিয়ার রহমান মন্ডল)
যুগ্ম কমিশনার ও বিভাগীয় কর্মকর্তা
কাস্টমস, এক্সাইজ ও ভ্যাট
কক্সবাজার (দক্ষিণ) বিভাগ, কক্সবাজার।
GD-1088

THE SECURITY PRINTING CORPORATION (BANGLADESH) LTD.
GAZIPUR-1703.
Local E-Tender.

Local e-Tender is invited in The Security Printing Corporation (Bangladesh) Ltd. (SPCBL)'s e-Tender site (<https://spcbltender.bb.org.bd>) for procurement of the following item for SPCBL as per e-Tender schedule.

Necessary information is given below:

Sl. No.	E-Tender No.	Name of Item.	Date of Publish	Last Date & time for submission of e-Tender	Date & time for Opening of e-Tender
01	24/2025-2026	Supply of 571 packets Green Card board, 197 packets Blue Card board and 2,726 packets White Card board.	12/05/2026	10/06/2026 upto 11:30 AM	10/06/2026 at 11:45 AM

For more details, Please visit/Contact the following:
Website : www.spcbl.portal.gov.bd
Cell : +88-01794-058505.
Telephone : 02-2233755560-67, (Ext: 173)
E-mail : info@spcbl.org.bd
e-Tender site : <https://spcbltender.bb.org.bd>

(Mohammad Faruk Mojumder)
General Manager (Incharge)
Local Purchase & Sales
Phone: 02-223375572.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Finance Division, Ministry of Finance
Skills for Industry Competitiveness and Innovation Program (SICIP)
Probashi Kalyan Bhaban (15th Floor)
71-72 Old Elephant Road Eskaton Garden, Dhaka-1000
www.sicip.gov.bd

Memo No: FD/SICIP/Proc./WD-105/92/2025/1502 Date: 11 May 2026

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following Works:

e-Tender ID No.	Package No.	Description of Works	Last Selling Date & Time	Closing & Opening Date & Time
1249043	WD-105	Construction of New EDC Building at BUTEX	17-Jun-2026 16:00	18-Jun-2026 12:00

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenders 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 (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is mandatory.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Mohammed Walid Hossain
(Additional Secretary)
Executive Program Director (EPD)
Finance Division, Ministry of Finance