



A man drains leftover soybean and palm oil from used drums at Panchabati in Rajshahi city yesterday. After edible oil is sold at Shaheb Bazar, the empty drums are brought here before being sent to Dhaka and other districts for refilling. He said many like him collect around three to four litres of leftover oil from the drums daily and sell it to local shops to support their families.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

Mob beats 72-yr-old over rape attempt of child

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A 72-year-old man was beaten by a mob after he allegedly attempted to rape a 9-year-old girl in the Halishahar area of the port city yesterday evening.

The arrestee has been identified as Mohammed Hossen, confirmed CMP Deputy Commissioner (West Zone) Alamgir Hossen.

The incident took place near the B-block public school area in Halishahar. On information, police rushed to the scene, rescued the man from the mob and arrested him in connection with the alleged attempted rape, he added.

AD-DIN HOSPITAL

Probe report on six newborn deaths today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government-appointed probe committee is set to submit its investigation report today into the deaths of six newborns at Ad din Medical College Hospital, following the incident that occurred on May 27.

"We have completed almost all the work and hope to submit the probe report tomorrow," Joint Secretary to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Md Mohsin, who heads the committee, told The Daily Star.

The six newborns, aged between one and four days, died within a few hours of one another from 6:00am at the hospital in Dhaka's Moghbazar.

According to hospital authorities, two of the babies were brought dead to the neonatal intensive care unit from the delivery post-

operative room, while the remaining four died while undergoing treatment at the NICU.

The exact cause of the deaths has yet to be confirmed. However, officials of the DGHS and family members of the victims have blamed shortcomings in management and ventilation in the post-operative room.

The health ministry formed a three-member probe committee, led by Mohsin, on the day of the incident and instructed it to submit its findings within three days.

Later, four additional members were co-opted into the committee, and the deadline was extended to June 3, as investigators sought to record statements from the mothers of the deceased infants. The move came as neither post-mortem examinations nor inquest reports had been prepared in connection with the deaths.

Children's hospital sits idle for 2 years

Bureaucratic delays keep Tk 115cr Khulna facility shut

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

The Khulna Divisional Children's Hospital, built by the government at a cost of around Tk 115 crore to provide specialised treatment for child patients, has remained unused for around two years due to negligence, bureaucratic complications and lack of coordination between government agencies.

According to sources, the Khulna district administration acquired 4.8 acres of land in Krishnanagar area of Batiaghata upazila at Tk 52 crore in 2017 and handed it over to the Public Works Department for the hospital project.

PWD tasked contractor firm Raiti Enterprise with the Tk 26 crore first phase to construct the basement and ground floor, and the Tk 37 crore second phase to construct the second to fifth floors, a kitchen, sub-station, pump house, boundary wall, internal roads, drains and deep tube wells.

Both phases missed the 2023 deadlines, which were extended several times. Construction of

the hospital building was finally completed in June 2024.

However, health authorities have yet to take responsibility for the facility and launch its services, citing lack of security without boundary walls and a gate, and the need for land filling.

At present, the hospital building remains largely abandoned and insecure.

Meanwhile, other government-run and private facilities in the district are being overwhelmed with critically ill child patients, especially amid the ongoing measles outbreak.

Khulna Medical College Hospital operates only 48 paediatric beds and 44 SCANU beds, while Khulna General Hospital has merely six beds dedicated to child patients. There is no separate government-run children's hospital in the division.

KMCH Director Dr Kazi Ainul Islam said the hospital was struggling to cope with more than 200 child patients against its limited facilities.

Khulna Shishu Hospital, a 250-

bed privately run specialised facility for paediatric care, has to accommodate far more patients than its capacity, said its superintendent Dr Prodig Debnath.

Officials, however, blamed one another for the delay.

Kamrul Hasan, executive engineer of PWD-1 Khulna, said the original project did not include construction of the boundary walls and gate, or sand filling on adjacent land.

"We have repeatedly asked the civil surgeon's office to take over the building, but received no response," he said.

Contacted, Assistant Civil Surgeon Mizanur Rahman said they could not take over the hospital due to the existing lack of security.

Dr Md Mujibur Rahman, acting divisional director of the health department, said PWD had sought an additional Tk 12 crore to complete the remaining work.

"Once these are completed, we will take over the hospital and submit proposals for recruitment and other necessities," he said.



Detained Russia-linked tanker arrives in France

AFP, Crozon

An oil tanker believed to be part of Russia's "shadow fleet" sailed into a French harbour yesterday, an AFP reporter said, after the French navy detained it on suspicion of flying a false flag.

It is the fourth such ship that France has seized since September last year on suspicions of belonging to the "shadow fleet," which Russia is believed to use to circumvent Western sanctions.

The French navy boarded the Tagor on Sunday morning in international waters with the help of Britain, after its Russian captain refused to comply with orders, French authorities said.

The Kremlin likened the seizure to "international piracy".

The Tagor sailed into the Bay of Douarnenez in western France's region of Brittany yesterday morning, the AFP reporter said.

Four Pakistani farm workers murdered in Italy

AFP, Rome

Italian police have arrested two Pakistani nationals for the murder of four Pakistani farm workers found dead in a burnt-out minivan in southern Italy, Corriere della Sera daily reported yesterday.

The burnt-out vehicle was found at a petrol station near the village of Amendolara in a vast farming area in the Calabria region.

CCTV images from the petrol station showed two people blocking the van's doors from the outside and throwing liquid inside, Corriere della Sera reported citing law enforcement sources.

The images showed a fire breaking out and the two people running away, the report said.

UN body backs Bangladesh's

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An extension of the preparatory period would provide Bangladesh with more time to better assess the implications of the current global situation, identify priority actions and prepare adequately for the post-graduation landscape, including the loss of certain market preferences and international support measures.

Bangladesh formally requested the CDP to extend the preparatory period on February 18, with Prime Minister Tarique Rahman writing to the UN Secretary-General seeking his personal support on the matter.

The extension could be approved at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in September.

The UN CDP's positive note on the extension of the graduation of Bangladesh will be sent to the UNGA through the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC) for its final approval by the member countries.

The UN CDP's positive recommendations made Bangladesh's plea of extension morally strong in the pathway for the UNGA's final approval, said Mohammad Abdur Razzaque, chairman of the Research and Policy Integration for

Development (RAPID).

Now, Bangladesh will have to maintain better engagement with the major trading partners such as India, China and the EU so that the extension is approved by the member countries in the upcoming UNGA.

The reason being Bangladesh is the highest user of the LDC benefits given by the developed and developing nations.

Bangladesh alone utilises 67 percent of the benefits given to all 44 LDCs by the other countries and 73 percent of its exports export is LDC induced, he said.

Different studies suggest that Bangladesh may lose \$17.5 billion in export earnings in a year because of LDC graduation.

If Bangladesh gets the final approval at the UNGA, the country will enjoy the preferential trade benefits for three more years.

The CDP's recommendation is a positive sign for Bangladesh, said Mostafa Abid Khan, a former member of the Bangladesh Trade and Tariff Commission.

However, CDP Chair José Antonio Ocampo emphasised that Bangladesh would need to make significant progress in implementing key domestic reforms

to address its existing structural vulnerabilities during this extended period.

In its report, the CDP underscored the importance of continued support from the international community for Bangladesh during both the preparatory period and the post-graduation phase.

Such support includes concessional financing, appropriate extension of LDC specific International Support Measures, technical assistance and enhanced capacity for trade negotiations.

The report highlighted the importance of domestic reforms, particularly in ensuring financial sector stability, increasing tax revenue, strengthening domestic resource mobilisation, enhancing productive capacities, promoting economic diversification and preparing the private sector for graduation.

The government firmly believes that, with the support of the international community and the successful implementation of ongoing reforms, Bangladesh will be able to achieve a smooth, sustainable and successful graduation from the LDC category, said a statement from the Economic Relations Division.

Don't forget

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affect households.

"The situation is more acute for vulnerable groups, including women and girls, people with disabilities, and older people, and some 150,000 new arrivals who fled renewed violence in Rakhine State since early 2024," he added.

Late last month, the Bangladesh government, the UN and its partners appealed for \$710.5 million to meet the most urgent needs of Rohingya refugees and local host communities.

DMP to hold drivers directly accountable

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driver's record before recruitment. The DMP official also disclosed plans to expand the capital's traffic surveillance infrastructure.

Around 900 cameras are currently operating under DMP, while several hundred more are managed by residential areas and private institutions across the city, he said.

He added that 80 traffic cameras had earlier been installed for traffic management, followed by 25 more recently. Four additional cameras have also been set up in the Mohakhali area.

Anisur said DMP plans to install semi-automated traffic signals at 120 key intersections in the capital within the next year, using artificial intelligence technology. It also plans to install AI-powered cameras at at least 500 strategic points across Dhaka.

Meanwhile, a court yesterday sentenced a motorcyclist to one month's imprisonment and fined him Tk 2,000 for deliberately concealing part of his motorcycle's number plate with white tape to avoid AI-based traffic surveillance.

The man, identified as Lablu Haque, 38, was arrested after CCTV

footage from different parts of the city was analysed and matched with his motorcycle and registration details.

Anisur said the case highlights the importance of modern surveillance systems and warned that strict legal action will continue against attempts to evade traffic enforcement.

He also said the DMP will soon launch a drive against vehicles with broken, obscured, or unreadable number plates, as clear and visible registration plates are mandatory under the law.



বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড
Bangladesh Power Development Board

Directorate of Purchase
Biddut Bhavan (12th Floor)
1 Abdul Goni Road
Dhaka-1000

Memo. No. 27.11.0000.304.26.228.26.3419

Date: 02-06-2026

Addendum 01

Subject: Amendment of BPDB'S International Tender No. 27.11.0000.304.26.228.26 dated 23.05.2026 for "Supply of 18 M, 15 M 650 daN, 15 M 550 daN and 12 M 450 daN Steel Pole" (Package GD-6)" for Extension of Power Distribution System Network in Three Hilly Districts [BAN-58371: Sustainable Energy Development and Empowering Communities in Chattogram Hill Tracts Project]

The subject mentioned tender is hereby amended as follows:

Description	Existing	Amended as
To obtain and review the Bidding Documents in English (Tender Notice SI.06)	1. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested eligible bidders upon Pay-Order (Non-refundable) of BDT 10,000.00 (Ten Thousand) for each Lot of the package only from any schedule bank in Bangladesh in favor of "Director, Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, Dhaka" up to the day before the submission deadline.	1. To obtain and review the Bidding Documents in English, eligible bidders should: a) Access the Bidding Document online at- https://misc.bpdh.gov.bd/tender/ref_id=&ref_no=27.11.0000.304.26.228.26&name= for information and preliminary review. However, interested bidders must formally purchase the Bidding Documents to be eligible to participate in the bidding process. b) To purchase the Bidding Documents, write to the address above requesting the Bidding Documents for each Lot of "Package No.: GD-6, Supply of 18 M, 15 M 650 daN, 15 M 550 daN and 12 M 450 daN Steel Pole" during normal office hours (9:00 am to 4:00 pm, BST) on all working days from the date of IFB publication up to one day before the bid submission deadline. c) Pay a non-refundable fee of BDT 10,000 (Ten Thousand) or equivalent US\$ 80 for each Lot. The method of payment will be Bank Draft or Pay Order in favor of "Director, Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, Dhaka".
	a) The bidder has to make a written application to purchase the Bidding Document for each Lot of "Package No.: GD-6, Supply of 18 M, 15 M 650 daN, 15 M 550 daN and 12 M 450 daN Steel Pole" to the address above during normal office hours (9:00 am to 4:00 pm) on all working days from the date of IFB publication up to one day before the bid submission deadline.	
	b) Bank will update the payment transactions only at the end of the day, so the tenderers should make sure the securities and other payments are made at least one day before the submission date	

All other terms & conditions remain unchanged



(Md. Shahedul Azim)
I.D. No. 1-01460
Director
Directorate of Purchase
BPDB, Dhaka

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GD-1262