

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

DHAKA THURSDAY AUGUST 13, 2026

REGD. NO. DA 781 | VOL. XXXVI NO. 198 | SRABAN 29, 1433 BS | www.thedailystar.net | SAFAR 29, 1448 HIJRI | 16 PAGES PLUS CAMPUS: TK 15.00



Lingering LNG crisis may drag power cut woes

Worried over public outrage, Palli Bidyut Association asks for protection for its offices, grid

ASIFUR RAHMAN

Bangladesh's energy crisis has deepened again as LNG supplies have fallen again amid rough weather in the Bay, pushing total gas availability to a three-week low and worsening the power shortage with prolonged outages in rural areas.

The country's total gas supply fell to around 2,100 million cubic feet per day (mmcfd) yesterday, against a daily demand of about 3,800 mmcfd, according to officials concerned.



Of the supply, domestic gas fields contributed around 1,630 mmcfd, while the two floating LNG terminals together supplied up to 410 mmcfd.

This is the lowest overall gas supply since the terminal operated by the US-owned Excelerate Energy faced an accident on July 21 and halted supply.

Although the terminal partly resumed operation on August 5 and increased overall LNG supply, the Summit-operated terminal started reducing supply since August 10 as they were unable to unload LNG from tankers.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Workers sit idle at a factory in the Ruhitpur BSCIC Industrial Estate in Dhaka's Keraniganj as frequent and prolonged power outages severely disrupt production. The photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: MEHEDI HASAN

Govt goes for long-term US LNG supply

Approves 12-yr deal with Gunvor for 117 cargoes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday approved a 12-year deal to import 117 LNG cargoes from US-based Gunvor USA LLC amid growing energy demand and supply uncertainty.

Under the agreement, Gunvor will deliver the cargoes between 2026 and 2038.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase chaired by Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

Success in school fails to carry girls forward

Females outperform males in SSC, HSC exams but lag in universities, employment

ABDULLAH HEL BUBUN

Girls have consistently outperformed boys in school examinations for nearly a decade, but that academic advantage fades as they move into higher education and the workforce.

Despite higher pass rates and more GPA-5s in public exams, women remain underrepresented in universities, formal employment, civil service recruitment and management positions, according to data from government agencies and international organisations.

The contrast is particularly stark in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2025, which ranked Bangladesh first in the world for female enrolment in primary and secondary education, but 125th for female enrolment in tertiary education.

In this year's Secondary School Certificate examinations, female students once again outperformed boys.

Girls recorded a higher pass rate than boys across the country's nine general education boards and also secured more

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



Fakhrul BNP's presidential candidate

Announcement today

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

The BNP is set to announce party Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir as its presidential candidate today after party Chairman and Prime Minister Tarique Rahman gave him the green light, according to party sources.

Fakhrul, who is also the LGRD minister, emerged as the party's final choice after Tarique discussed the issue with senior BNP leaders several times over the past 10 days and sought their views, the sources said.

Tarique will meet members of the BNP Standing Committee at the Secretariat today before the party formally announces the decision.

A party source said Tarique is likely to disclose the candidate's name at the meeting and consult senior leaders on selecting suitable figures to propose and second the presidential candidate.

"At the meeting, the prospective candidate's signature will be taken, and a delegation will be sent to

SEE PAGE 9 COL 2



MY DHAKA



PHOTO: JAWWAD SAMI NEOGI

Nouka baich returns to Nawab Bari pond

JAWWAD SAMI NEOGI

After a pause of more than three decades, Nawab Bari's pond, also known as Gol Talab, came alive once again with the return of a long-lost tradition. On August 6 and 7, thousands gathered around the historic pond near Ahsan Manzil, to witness the revival of Nouka Baich and a series of traditional water-based competitions.

Khawja Rashed, a member of the Nawab Bari family, said the event used to be held every August, with the last one taking place in August 1992. After nearly 35 years, the Nawab Bari Angling Committee has revived the tradition, bringing the event back to the pond and reconnecting it with its heritage and community traditions.

I visited the event on the second day, when the semi-finals and finals were taking place, and the atmosphere was overwhelming. The area around the pond was packed with people, with barely any space to move. Stalls lined the surroundings, selling everything from fuchka and traditional pitha



to tehari and other local favourites, alongside displays of traditional crafts. The air carried the aroma of food, lively gossip, and excitement.

The pond, enclosed by metal fences, saw crowds climbing up for a better view as the competitions intensified. And when the Nouka Baich began, the energy peaked. Cheers erupted from all sides, echoing across the water. What is usually a calm and peaceful place transformed into a vibrant atmosphere of celebration, creating an experience unlike anything I had witnessed before.

Gol Talab is one of the few ponds in Dhaka that still carries traces of the city's past. Located in the busy area of Islampur, the oval-shaped pond offers a rare sense of calm among the crowded surroundings. Locals still use the pond for bathing, while some visit to fish for a small fee. Beyond its everyday use, the pond holds a long and fascinating history.

There are different stories about how the pond was created. The exact date of the excavation is unknown, but some members of the Nawab family believe it dates back around 400 years. Now, it is owned by the beneficiaries of Moulvi Khwaja Abdullah Welfare Trust and managed by the Nawab Bari Angling Committee.

Alongside Nouka Baich, there were competitions such as swimming, bar-crossing, water polo, and the duck-hand game. Interestingly, only members of the Nawab Bari lineage through the daughter's side were allowed to compete, preserving a unique family tradition that has been maintained over generations.

As the boats raced across Gol Talab and crowds gathered around its banks, the revival brought a forgotten tradition back to life. More than just a sporting event, it offered a chance to celebrate Nawab Bari's heritage and keep a part of Old Dhaka's history alive for future generations.

Couple, house help murdered in Sylhet home

Suspect detained

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Sylhet*



An elderly couple and their house help were killed at their home in the Sylhet city's Raynagar area yesterday.

Police recovered the bodies of MA Sattar, 82, his wife Suraiya Begum, 72, and their house help Tahmina, 15, around 11:00am, said Md Monjurul Alam, additional deputy commissioner (media) of Sylhet Metropolitan Police (SMP).

The victims had their throats slit.

Sattar, a businessman, was a member of the Sylhet Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The couple's four children live abroad.

Meanwhile, police detained a man in connection with the killings.

SMP Commissioner Sarwar Murshed Shamim said the detainee, Babul Miah, a former painter at the building, primarily admitted that he had committed the offence.

He added that he had a relationship with the house help while working as a painter at the building. He entered the house in the morning with her assistance, according to the commissioner.

Quoting him, the commissioner said that over some reasons, Babul started arguing with the maid and at one point, he slit her throat. Hearing her screams, the couple came, and Babul also killed them and fled through the balcony.

Filing of a case in this connection was underway, he said.

Munna Miah, the couple's nephew, said he had spoken to them around 9:00am and it was presumed that they were killed sometime after that.

Asked about any enmity, he said, "A tenant of the building was recently evicted after my uncle sought arbitration to a local club as they did not paid rent for long. Besides, we don't know about any other feud."

The house help's uncle, Rahim Miah, said her family lives in Sunamganj's Dowarabazar upazila and that she started working for the family after last Eid to support her family.

While visiting the spot, Abdur Razzak, BNP's central microcredit affairs secretary, said, "This family owns property in front of Madan Mohan College, which is valuable land, and as far as I am informed, there is an ongoing legal dispute over the land. This might also be an issue."

Lingering LNG crisis may drag power cut woes

FROM PAGE 1

"We don't want to run out of the existing stock in the Summit-run terminal, which is why it reduced supply," said a Petrobangla official, wishing anonymity.

The vessels are ready to offload, but due to rough weather at sea, it is not possible. The situation can deteriorate further if Summit cannot receive LNG by today, he said.

The loss of that LNG supply is now being felt in the power sector.

Inadequate gas supply is one of the main reasons gas-fired power plants are unable to generate as per demand, said Anindya Islam Amit, state minister for power, energy and mineral resources.

The Excelerate terminal is still not operating at full capacity, he said, adding that domestic gas production could not be increased overnight.

A day earlier, Amit said one boiler of the Excelerate-run terminal is being repaired while the other is out of operation. Restarting the second boiler will require the operating boiler to be shut down for at least 72 hours, causing another temporary disruption, he said.

Yesterday, a Petrobangla official told The Daily Star that there is no chance of resuming this boiler this week. "Rather, we will try once the Summit one can operate fully," he said.

The government adopted a new strategy from last evening, so some improvement in the electricity situation is expected, according to Amit.

In a directive last evening, the power division said shopping malls, markets and shops can remain open from 11:00am to 8:00pm, instead of the previous closing time of 9:00pm.

Illuminated billboards must be switched off by 7:00pm, while decorative lighting will remain off.

Fairs, trade fairs, and cultural programmes will also have to end by 8:00pm. Restaurants, hospitals and pharmacies are exempt.

As of 8:00pm yesterday, the country faced an average 2,745MW shortfall every hour, which means the power distribution companies needed to conduct outages for extensive hours.

The latest deterioration follows a brief improvement earlier this month. The average hourly load-shedding fell to 335MW on August 6 and 740MW on August 7, but then rose to more than 2,000MW on the following days.

The renewed power shortage is particularly severe in rural areas, where distribution companies are receiving substantially less electricity than demand.

In a letter to the inspector general of police yesterday, the Bangladesh Palli Bidyut Association, representing all 80 Palli Bidyut Samities (PBSs), sought security for their grids, substations and offices amid growing public anger over prolonged power cuts.

According to the letter, the combined demand of the 80 PBSs had averaged 8,000MW-9,000MW over the past several days, against allocations of only 5,000MW-6,000MW. This indicates most of the outages have been outside cities.

The PBSs supply electricity to around 80 percent of the country's consumers, or nearly four crore customers.

Some areas are experiencing eight, 10 or even 12 hours of load shedding a day, the association said.

Some substations and offices had been attacked and vandalised, leaving officials and employees feeling insecure.

The association asked the IGP to instruct local law enforcement agencies to strengthen security.

In Netrokona, the local Palli Bidyut Samity sought security from the district administration on Monday after officials allegedly received hostile phone calls and threats to besiege and vandalise its offices.

The samity also said its officials and employees had faced attacks and assaults while conducting drives to collect outstanding electricity bills. Its data showed the supply of 50MW-60MW against the demand of 120MW.

Residents of several upazilas said they are getting electricity for only three to five hours in a 24-hour period, often in short spells.

In Gopalganj, the West Zone Power Distribution Company sought police patrols around its offices and 33/11kV substations, citing concerns over possible attacks and sabotage.

The supply there was 9MW against a demand of 15MW yesterday morning, said Moinuddin Ahmed, executive engineer of the Gopalganj Electricity Supply Division. At noon, demand rose to 17MW while supply remained at 9MW.

The division had been experiencing around eight hours of load shedding a day on average over the previous week, he said, adding that the situation had worsened over the last two days.

In Gaibandha, the local PBS said demand across seven upazilas was 65–75MW, while it was receiving 25–30 percent less electricity than required, forcing six to seven hours of load shedding during the day and night.

The impact is also visible in urban areas outside Dhaka.

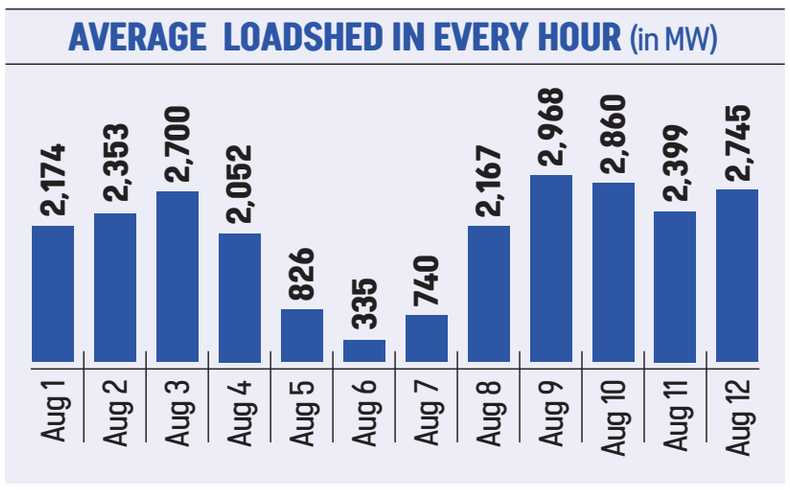
In Sylhet, Bangladesh Power Development Board data show load shedding reached 68MW at 8:00pm on August 10, the highest recorded during the period from August 5 to 11. The repeated outages have hit small businesses, including shops dependent on refrigeration and printing services.

In Narayanganj, 30 of the district's 33 CNG filling stations have stopped operating because of extremely low gas pressure, according to the Bangladesh CNG Owners' Association.

At Mas CNG Workers in Sastapur, engineer Kazi Rakibul Islam said the station needed at least 15 pounds per square inch (PSI) of pressure to operate its machines but was receiving less than 1 PSI.

Gas supply had been completely suspended for at least five hours the previous night. Although pressure increased in the morning, it fell again by noon, he said.

[Our correspondents in Netrokona, Pabna, Bogura, Sylhet, Gopalganj and Narayanganj contributed to the report]



Success in school fails to carry girls forward

FROM PAGE 1

GPA-5s. They achieved a pass rate more than eight percentage points above that of their male counterparts. Among GPA-5 achievers, girls outnumbered boys by 11,401.

Data from the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics show that girls have consistently recorded higher SSC pass rates than boys since 2017.

They have also outnumbered boys among SSC GPA-5 achievers every year since 2018. That year, 317 more girls achieved the highest grade than boys. Since then, the gap has steadily widened.

From 2020 onwards, girls have also consistently outnumbered boys among HSC GPA-5 achievers. In 2025, for example, 5,097 more girls obtained GPA-5 than boys.

Md Solayman Kabir, an associate professor at RAJUK Uttara Model College, said his years of teaching have consistently shown girls performing better academically than boys. "Girls are generally more attentive, hardworking and disciplined. They take their studies more seriously."

The contrast is striking, given that girls outnumber boys in enrolment at the primary, secondary and higher secondary levels.

However, despite their academic success at the secondary and higher secondary levels, women account for just over one-third of enrolment in the country's public, private and international universities, according to the University Grants Commission's Annual Report 2022.

The disparity is also evident in the gross enrolment ratio (GER) at the tertiary level. Fewer than one in six university-age women pursue tertiary education, compared with nearly one in four men, according to Bangladesh Education Statistics 2024.

The World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2025 also found that science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) degrees -- often associated with higher-paying careers and better employment prospects -- are more common among male graduates than female graduates. Around 12.34 percent of male graduates hold STEM qualifications, compared with 8.04 percent of female graduates.

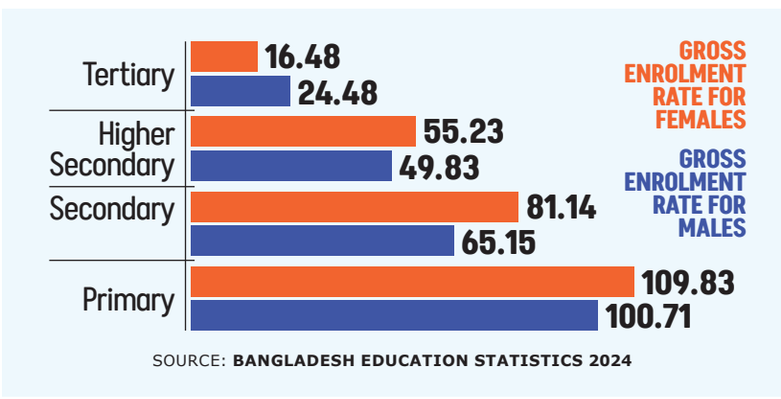
The gap widens in the labour market.

According to the Labour Force Survey 2024, nearly half (47.13 percent) of men who have completed tertiary education are formally employed. Among women with the same level of education, the figure is just 29.88 percent.

A similar imbalance is evident in government recruitment.

According to the Bangladesh Public Service Commission's Annual Report 2025, women accounted for only 21.03 percent of candidates recommended for appointment through the 45th BCS.

Across the 41st, 42nd, 43rd and 45th BCS examinations, women made up around one-fifth of successful candidates, with their share falling from 26.71 percent in the 41st BCS to 19.46 percent in the 43rd BCS.



World Bank data show that women held only 7.22 percent of middle and senior management positions in Bangladesh in 2024. The figure was 8.73 percent in 2023 and 7.52 percent in 2022.

Gender experts point to a combination of early marriage, unequal household responsibilities and deeply entrenched social norms as key reasons why women's academic success often does not translate into higher education and professional advancement.

According to the Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey 2022, around 80 percent of women aged 20 to 24 are married, an age range that typically coincides with university studies and the early stages of professional life.

Even among women who married at 21 or older, roughly two-thirds did not continue their education after marriage. Only 7.2 percent continued for another three to four years, while 2.8 percent studied for five years or more, the survey showed.

Married women in Bangladesh also shoulder a disproportionate share of unpaid domestic and care work.

They spend an average of 5.16 hours a day on unpaid domestic labour, compared with just 38 minutes for married men, according to the Bangladesh Time Use Survey 2021.

A similar gap is evident in unpaid care work.

Zobaida Nasreen, professor of anthropology at Dhaka University, said the popular belief that "women can do everything" has become a double-edged sword, placing the burden of balancing careers and household responsibilities on women without adequate support.

"As a result, many leave the workforce due to exhaustion. Others leave because of their in-laws' disapproval."

(Tamanna Yesmin Maria contributed to this report.)

Colombia declares three days mourning for quake victims

AFP, *Bogotá*

Colombia on Wednesday declared three days of mourning for victims of an earthquake that demolished buildings in the west of the country, killing more than 200 people.

At 7.4 magnitude, Monday's quake was the strongest to hit Colombia in a century.

The government said flags would be lowered to half-staff on official buildings, as well as at Colombian embassies around the world, "in honor of all the dead."

Frantic attempts to find survivors continued, as authorities revised the death toll down to 216 after local officials in Cali corrected earlier figures.

In Pereira and in Cali, emergency crews used cranes, dogs and heavy machinery to search ruined buildings while volunteers formed human chains to clear debris by hand, hoping to reach people still trapped beneath collapsed structures.



Restore media access to SC courtrooms

Demand journos at sit-in

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of different journalists' organisations yesterday demanded the immediate restoration of journalists' access to Supreme Court courtrooms to collect information, warning that they will launch a broader coordinated programme if the restriction is not withdrawn.

Journalists have been barred from entering the SC courtrooms and various High Court benches since January 7.

"The media had stood by the judiciary whenever previous governments attempted to undermine the courts or suppress judicial independence. When the same media faces obstacles from the highest court while performing its duty, questions arise about the democratic mindset of the judiciary's leadership," said Editors' Council President and New Age Editor Nurul Kabir.

He was speaking at a sit-in organised by the Law Reporters' Forum (LRF) in front of the SC.

"If there is any practical problem with journalists entering courtrooms, it can be resolved through

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



PHOTO: STAR

Journalists stage a protest in front of the Supreme Court yesterday, demanding immediate restoration of their access to SC courtrooms to collect information.

Barriers to recognition leave many behind

Speakers call for access to basic services for marginalised groups

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A large number of people from marginalised communities, including hijras and the manta population, remain without National Identity (NID) cards, leaving many unable to access education, healthcare and government social safety-net programmes, speakers said yesterday.

The hijra community was officially recognised in 2013, but most members still lack proper documentation, said Ramisa Chowdhury, a paralegal at Bandhu Welfare Society.

While government statistics put the hijra population at around 12,000, the actual figure is close to 5 lakh, she said at a conference on the five-year strategic framework for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals held at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in Dhaka.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4

Working on 'accurate' list of freedom fighters

Says Liberation War affairs minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Policymakers yesterday stressed the need for accurate, impartial and error-free lists of martyrs, freedom fighters and Birangonas to establish the history of the Liberation War on a factual and universally accepted basis.

Speaking at a discussion organised by the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs in Dhaka, they called for a national database based on documentary evidence, official and military records, wartime archives, eyewitness accounts, local-level data and research, rather than emotion, assumptions or fragmented information.

They also stressed the need to preserve testimonies of eyewitnesses and people with direct wartime experience and

SEE PAGE 9 COL 5





200 trawlers stranded over ice shortage

Frequent load-shedding cuts production at local factories

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, *Patuakhali*

At the height of the hilsa season, when fishing trawlers should be crowding the Bay of Bengal, around 200 remain stranded at the Mahipur and Alipur fish landing centres in Patuakhali due to an acute shortage of ice caused by frequent load-shedding.

Production at local ice factories has fallen sharply, leaving supplies far short of demand. As fishermen need sufficient ice to preserve their catch during fishing trips, many trawlers have been unable to head out to sea for the past week.

"Only 85 megawatts of electricity were being received from the national grid against a daily demand of around 130 megawatts."

Fishermen preparing to leave from areas near Kuakata said a can of 50kg ice that used to cost Tk 150 is now selling for Tk 300. Even at the higher price, however, they cannot get the quantity they need.

The crisis is affecting fishermen, trawler owners and ice factory owners alike.

Md Fazlu Gazi, owner of Gazi Ice Plant in Mahipur, said load-shedding was occurring 10-12 times a day in the area.

"Freezing ice from water requires 12-14 hours of uninterrupted electricity. Frequent load-shedding disrupts the process. As a result, we are unable to produce and supply ice according to fishermen's demand," he said.

Stakeholders demanded an uninterrupted power supply to resolve the crisis.

Sayed Mia, owner of fishing trawler FB Sonabanu, said the trawler had been docked at Mahipur Fish Landing Centre for five days.

"A trawler typically requires 150-200 cans of ice for a fishing trip. Several factories were willing to supply only 50-60 cans, that too at a much higher price than usual," he said.

He said it was not possible to go on a fishing trip with such a small quantity of ice.

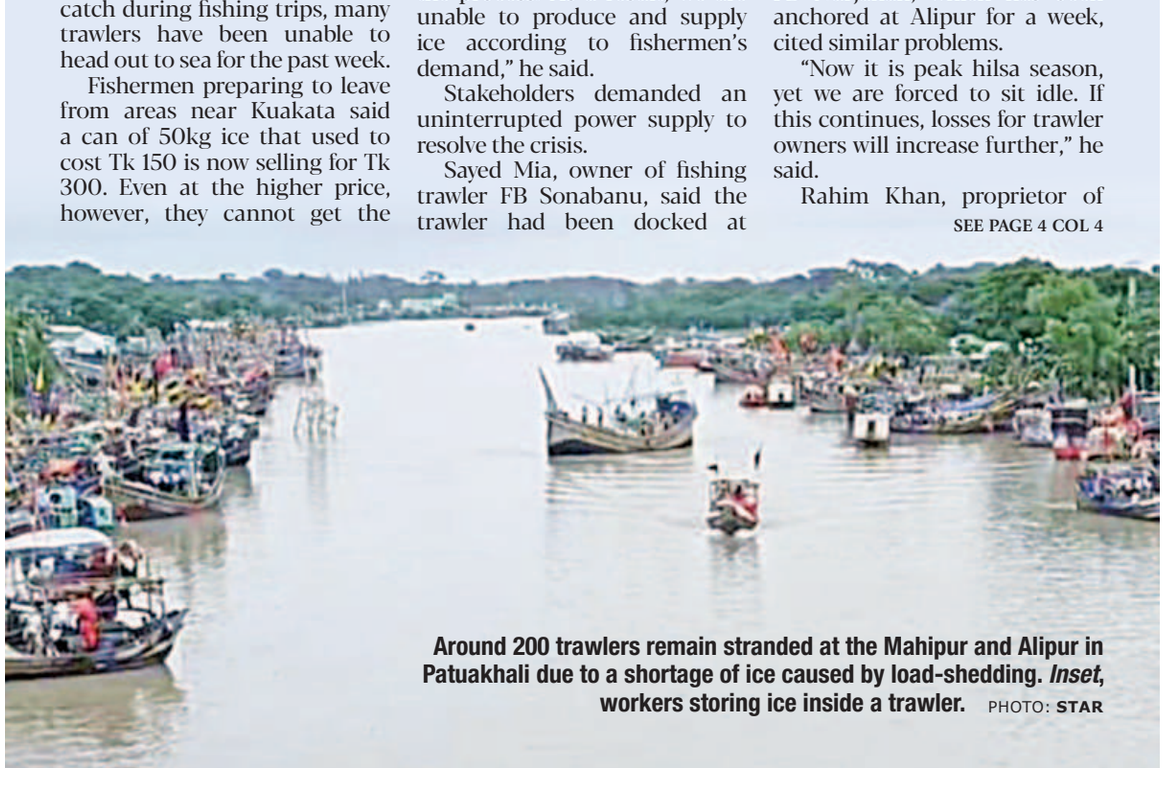
Mizan Hossain, owner of FB Nurjahan, which has been anchored at Alipur for a week, cited similar problems.

"Now it is peak hilsa season, yet we are forced to sit idle. If this continues, losses for trawler owners will increase further," he said.

Rahim Khan, proprietor of

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4





Around 200 trawlers remain stranded at the Mahipur and Alipur in Patuakhali due to a shortage of ice caused by load-shedding. *Inset*, workers storing ice inside a trawler. PHOTO: STAR



Five more die from measles, symptoms

Death toll now 885

UNB, *Dhaka*

Five more patients died with measles and measles-like symptoms in the 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, bringing the country's combined tally of confirmed and suspected measles-related deaths to 885 this year.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), one was a confirmed measles death, while the remaining four were classified as suspected deaths.

With this, the total number of confirmed deaths from measles has risen to 99 and suspected deaths to 786.

A total of 941 new suspected measles cases were reported during the 24-hour period, bringing the cumulative number of suspected cases nationwide to 1,39,125.



Farmers swim through the shallow water of a canal while transporting split betel nut tree trunks on a banana-tree raft in the Pansha area of Barishal's Babuganj upazila yesterday. The trunks are used as pillars for rural houses, roof frames, window bars, and walkways over ditches and ponds. PHOTO: TITU DAS

PROLONGED ABSENCE

Six senior police officials suspended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday suspended six senior police officials, ranging from additional deputy inspector general to assistant police commissioner, for remaining absent from duty for an extended period without leave or permission.

They are Additional DIGs Biplob Kumar Sarkar and Sudip Kumar Chakrabarty (both attached to Barishal Range DIG Office); Superintendent of Police Iqbal Hossain (attached to Khulna Range DIG Office); ASP Rajan Kumar Das of the 8th APBn in Cox's Bazar; SP Kazi Ashraful Azim (attached to Chattogram Range DIG Office); and DMP Assistant Commissioner Golam Ruhani.

According to notifications, the officers remained absent from their respective workplaces for a prolonged period without obtaining leave or prior permission.

The home ministry said the officials were served notices asking them to explain their unauthorised absence, but none of them replied.

Youth key to advancing civilisation in AI era

Says info minister

BSS, *Dhaka*



Information Minister Zahir Uddin Swapon yesterday said the youth are the main driving force of new civilisation in the era of rapidly changing technology.

"With the knowledge and experience of the old days, it is difficult to deal with the new challenges that are being created every day in the ongoing new ecosystem, including the emergence of artificial intelligence (AI). So, it is the duty of every country to impart the right knowledge and skills to the youths," he said.

He stressed the need for enhancing the skills of the youth, saying new technology-based crises are being added to old problems such as employment, food security, natural disasters and climate change.

The minister was addressing an event as chief guest at the Foreign Service Academy marking 'International Youth Day 2026'. Youth and sports and foreign affairs ministries jointly organised the meeting, which was presided over by State Minister for Youth and Sports Aminul Haque.

200 trawlers stranded

FROM PAGE 3

Khan Fish in Alipur, said the price of ice had doubled, while supplies still could not meet demand.

"We are being forced to bring ice by truck from Khulna, Bagerhat and Barishal. This is pushing up our costs and wasting time," he said.

He warned that if ice supplies do not normalise soon, fish harvesting and marketing would be directly affected, with fishermen, trawler owners and traders all bearing the losses.

Abul Kashem, general manager of Patuakhali Palli Bidyut Samity, said the district was experiencing load-shedding due to a fuel shortage at power plants.

Only 85 megawatts of electricity were being received from the national grid against a daily demand of around 130 megawatts, he said.

He said the situation would ease once the fuel shortage was resolved and power plants currently shut for maintenance resumed operation.

Restore media access to SC courtrooms

FROM PAGE 3

discussion with journalists' leaders," he said, urging the SC authorities not to push journalists towards a broader movement.

Nurul Kabir said expectations for democracy, rights and justice had grown following the mass uprising, making it more important for the media to inform people about judicial proceedings.

He also said the Editors' Council had sought a meeting with the chief justice on the issue but had not been granted one yet.

Former LRF president and Ittefaq Executive Editor Saleh Uddin said the constitution envisages trials being held in open court, yet journalists were being kept outside.

Dhaka Journalists Union President Shahidul Islam, Dhaka Reporters Unity President Abu Saleh Akon and LRF President Muhammad Yasin also spoke.

Over 200 journalists took part in the sit-in.

Among others, former LRF presidents Badiuzzaman, Ashutosh Sarkar and Shamima Akhter; DRU former president and RTV Head of News Elias Hossain; Bangladesh Crime Reporters Association General Secretary MM Badshah; Reporters Against Corruption President Shafi Uddin Ahmed; and Reporters Forum for Election and Democracy President Kazi Jebel were present.

Notification

Dhaka Third Division Qualifying Cricket Tournament (2025-2026)

Bangladesh Cricket Board

No.-BCB/CCDM/2025-26/1022 Date: 13th August, 2026

Dhaka Third Division Qualifying Cricket Tournament (2025-2026) will be held in September 2026. According to the decision of the Bangladesh Cricket Board, the teams/clubs located within the Dhaka Metropolitan area only (excluding corporate, office, and cricket academy teams) will be eligible to collect the prescribed application form and terms & conditions from the office of CCDM, BCB, by paying Taka 1,000/- (One Thousand Only) Cash from **13th August to 20th August 2026 (between 10 am to 5 pm).**

The interested clubs/teams are required to submit the prescribed application form and necessary documents on the official letterhead of the club, along with the Pay Order of Taka 1,00,000/- (One Lac Only) Entry Fee, Non-refundable in favor of **"Bangladesh Cricket Board"** from **21st August to 26th August 2026** (between 10 am to 5 pm) at the Office of CCDM, BCB (Sher-E- Bangla National Cricket Stadium, Mirpur-2, Dhaka-1216).

Please note that no application will be accepted after the stipulated deadline.

It must be mentioned that no team/club outside the Dhaka Metropolitan area will be eligible to participate in this tournament. All interested clubs/teams must comply with the terms & conditions prescribed by the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB).

Chairman
Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis (CCDM)
Bangladesh Cricket Board, Dhaka

Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission
Plot#E-5/A, Agargaon Administrative Area
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka.
www.btrc.gov.bd

Invitation for Tender (IFT)

1.	Ministry/Division		Posts and Telecommunications Division		
2.	Procuring Entity Name		Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC)		
3.	Invitation for		For Procurement of Mobile Handset Testing Lab		
4.	Invitation Ref No. & Date		14.32.0000.400.07.007.26.1141; 12-08-2026		
5.	Procurement Method		Open Tendering Method (International)		
6.	Budget and Source		GoB		
7.	Tender Publication Date		12-08-2026		
8.	Tender Last Selling Date		29-09-2026		
9.	Tender Submission Date		30-09-2026		
10.	Tender Opening Date & Time		Date: 30-09-2026, Time: 02.30 PM		
11.	Address of the Office(s) for selling and receiving tender document		Director, Administration Division, BTRC		
12.	Place and Date & Time of Pre-Tender meeting		BTRC, Time: 11.30 AM, Date: 30-08-2026		
13.	Eligibility of Tenderer		1. The Tenderer shall have minimum 05 years of experience in the supply of Goods and related services. 2. The minimum specific experience as Supplier in supply of related telecom product of at least 1 contract successfully completed within the last 5 years. 3. The minimum amount of liquid asset or working capital or credit line(s) or specific credit commitment or in any combination of them, of the Tenderers shall be for: a. Lot-1: 2,00,00,000 BDT (Two crore) or equivalent currency. b. Lot-2: 50,00,000 BDT (Fifty lacs) or equivalent currency.		
14.	Brief Description of Goods		As detailed in tender schedule.		
15.	Brief Description of related service		As detailed in tender schedule.		
16.	Tender Document price		BDT 5000/- (Five Thousand) Pay Order in favour of BTRC.		
17.	Lot No.	Identification of Lot	Location	Tender Security Amount (Tk.)	Completion time in days
	Lot-01	As detailed in tender schedule.	BTRC, Dhaka	BDT 8 (eight) Lacs or USD 6,500 (Six thousand and five hundred)	180 days from contract signing
	Lot-02	As detailed in tender schedule.	BTRC, Dhaka	BDT 8 (eight) Lacs or USD 6,500 (Six thousand and five hundred)	180 days from contract signing
18.	Name, Designation, Address & Contact details of Official Inviting Tender		Mohammad Anowar Hossain, Director (Admin), BTRC. Plot#E-5/A, Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh. Telephone No.: +8802222217120; Mobile No.: +8801552202705; e-mail address: diradmin@btrc.gov.bd.		
19.	The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all the Tenders or annul the Tender proceedings				

12.08.2026
Mohammad Anowar Hossain
Director (Admin), BTRC.

GD-1954

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation

Open Tender (International) for Petroleum Products

1	Ministry/Division	Energy and Mineral Resources Division.
2	Agency	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC).
3	Procuring Entity Name	General Manager (Com. & Ops.), Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC).
4	Procuring Entity District	Chattogram, Bangladesh.
5	Invitation for	Invitation for Open Tender (International) for import of Gasoil 0.005% 'S' (50 PPM) and Jet A-1 during "September 1st to December 31st, 2026".
6	Invitation Ref. No	28.03.0000.000.045.01.0006.26
7	Date	13th August, 2026
KEY INFORMATION		
8	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)
FUNDING INFORMATION		
9	Source of Funds	Own Fund
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
10	Tender Package No.	PG-01 and PG-02
11	Tender Package Name	Invitation for Open Tender (International) for import of Gasoil 0.005% 'S' (50 PPM) and Jet A-1.
12	Tender Publication Date	13/08/2026
13	Tender Last Selling Date and time	02/09/2026; 4.00 PM (BST) (GMT+6)
14	Tender Closing Date and time	03/09/2026; 12:00 PM (BST) (GMT+6)
15	Tender Opening Date and time	Date: 03/09/2026; **PG-01:** 12:15 PM (BST) (GMT+6) **PG-02:** 12:45 PM (BST) (GMT+6)
16	Name and Address of the Office(s)	
17	Selling Tender Document (Principal)	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, Joy Pahar Estate, Sarson Road, Chawkbazar, Chattogram-4203.
	Selling Tender Document (Others)	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, BTMC Bhaban, Level-10, 7-9 Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh.
	Receiving Tender Document	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, Joy Pahar Estate, Sarson Road, Chawkbazar, Chattogram-4203.
	Opening Tender Document	
18	Place/Date/Time for Pre-Tender Meeting	Virtual Meeting (Zoom Platform). 20/08/2026: 11:00 AM (GMT+6)
19	Tender Validity/ Offer Validity Period	The Offer must be valid till 25/10/2026.
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER		
20	Brief Eligibility and Qualification of Tenderer	(i) A maximum of three (03) litigation history against the tenderer(s) over a period of the last three (03) years. (ii) The tenderer(s) must have minimum 3 (Three) years' general experience in the export of petroleum products. (iii) The Tenderer(s) must have specific experience of executing at least 02 (two) contracts with a minimum value of USD 150 Million each in last three years in the supply of goods similar to the proposed goods. (iv) The Tenderer(s) must own refinery(ies) or more than 50% equity of a refinery. The processing capacity of the refinery(ies) must be at least 2.25 million metric tons per year. Or, The Tenderer(s) must satisfactorily complete the export of at least 3.75 million Metric tons of petroleum products annually for the last three years. (v) Annual turnover of the Tenderers during last 3(three) years must be equivalent to minimum US$ 2.00 billion. (vi) The minimum amount of liquid asset or working capital facility must be US$ 1.00 billion. (vii) The Tenderer(s) must be free from any interdictory/embargo/sanction from international organization like UNO, OPEC, WTO etc. (viii) The Tenderer(s) must comply with international safety standard and environment compliances.
21	Brief Description of Goods	PG-01: The total quantity to be supplied is 1.641-1.865 Million Barrels (220,000-250,000 Metric Tons) of Gasoil 0.005% 'S' and 0.400 Million Barrels (50,000 Metric Tons) of Jet A-1 (+/-10% for each grade at Buyer's Option). PG-02: The total quantity to be supplied is 1.492-1.715 Million Barrels (200,000-230,000 Metric Tons) of Gasoil 0.005% 'S' and 0.320 Million Barrels (40,000 Metric Tons) of Jet A-1 (+/-10% for each grade at Buyer's Option).
	Minimum and Maximum range of importable quantity for each package is at Buyer's option.	
22	Tender Document Price	Tender Document Price: BDT 12,000.00 / US$ 100.00 for each package, Non-Refundable by Cash / Pay Order / Bank Draft drawn in favor of "Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation".

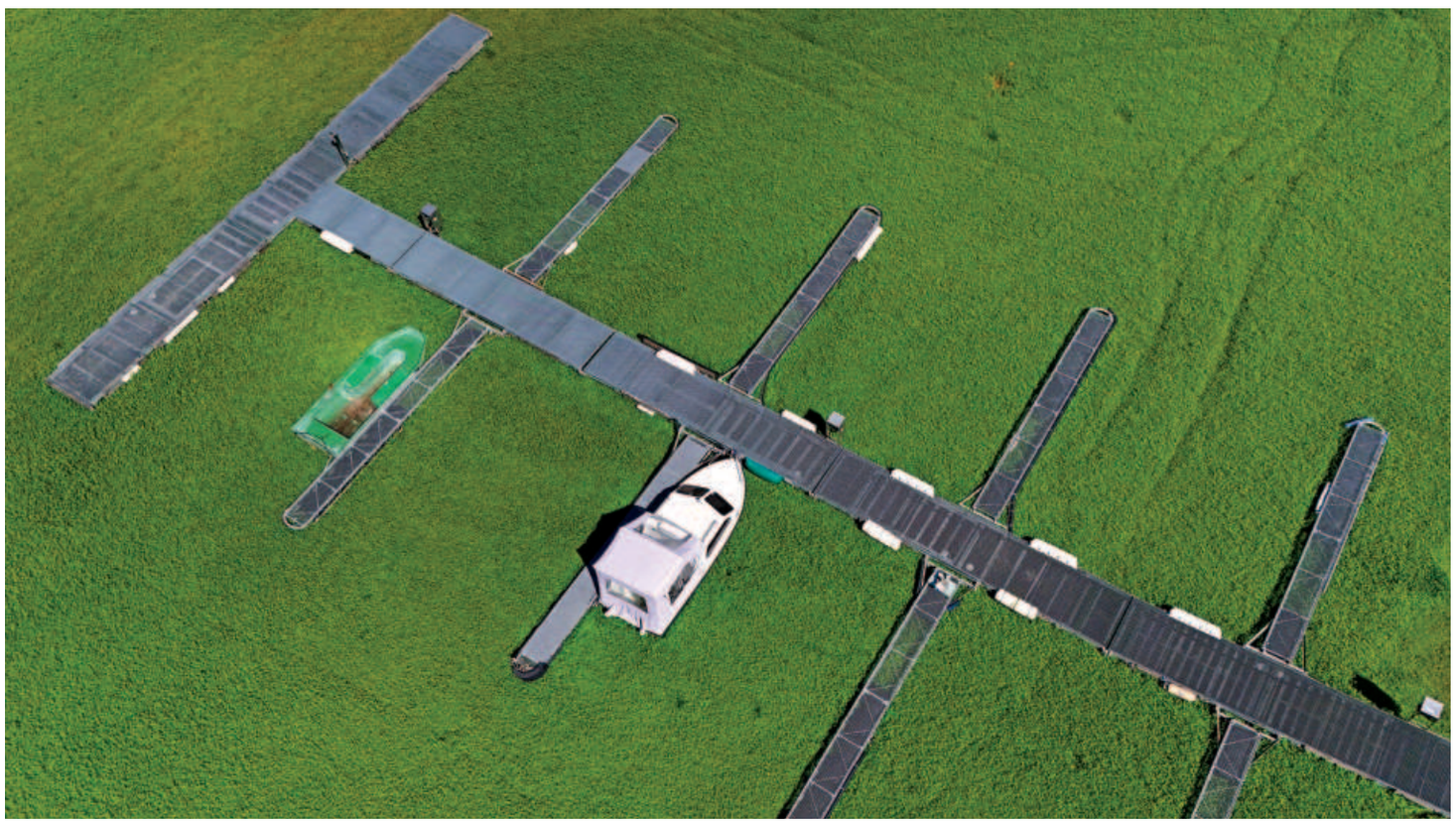
23	Package No.	Identification	Tender Security Amount	Completion Time
	PG-01	PG-01	USD 1.00 Million	01st September – 31st December 2026
	PG-02	PG-02	USD 1.00 Million	

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
24	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Mohammad Zahid Hossain
25	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	General Manager (Commercial & Operations), BPC.
26	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, Joy Pahar Estate, Sarson Road, Chawkbazar, Chattogram-4203.
27	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Tel. No: +88-02-3333-16121 Mobile: +88 01713755377/+880 01829-589366 Fax No: +88 2333320147 Email: gm_commercial@bpc.gov.bd

The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.

Mohammad Zahid Hossain
General Manager (Commercial & Operations)
Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC)

GD-1956



An aerial view shows boat jetties at the exposed Aseler Bruecke bridge, ususally under water, at the dried-up Edersee lake in Asel near Waldeck, western Germany yesterday. Areas of Europe home to at least 92 million people -- particularly in France, Italy, and Spain -- are set for temperatures over 35C today in the continent's latest heatwave. Europe is the planet's fastest-warming continent. PHOTO: AFP

Border peace key to ties with China: India

REUTERS, *New Delhi*

India's foreign ministry said peace along its disputed border with China is critical to ties between the Asian neighbours, amid reports of renewed military tensions between the two countries' troops in a remote corner of the Himalayas.

New Delhi's comment comes ahead of a summit of BRICS countries in New Delhi from September 12 to 13 that Chinese President Xi Jinping is expected to attend.

"In matters relating to the border areas between India and China, we have always emphasised in discussions with the Chinese side that we consider these issues as most serious," Indian foreign ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said on Tuesday.

"We have also stated that the state of the border affairs will reflect on the state of our larger bilateral ties," he added.

Indian news website The Print reported that Indian and Chinese army patrols came face to face in late July near Taksing, a remote border village in Arunachal Pradesh's Upper Subansiri district bordering Tibet.

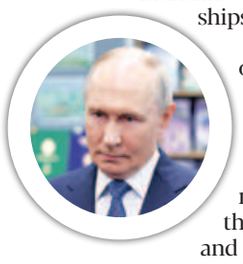
Putin threatens to seize EU vessels if bloc targets Russia's

4 killed in Russia-Ukraine strikes

AGENCIES

Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday said that Russia will respond in kind if European countries start to seize Russian merchant vessels and the commander of Russia's Pacific Fleet said his forces were ready to "inspect and detain" foreign vessels.

The comments, which Putin made as he oversaw navy drills in Russia's far east, come as the EU intensifies pressure on Russia's so-called shadow fleet, expanding sanctions against hundreds of vessels and detaining some ships and their crews for checks. Some European governments have said they are exploring tougher maritime enforcement measures against ships suspected of sanctions evasion.



"We can see that the authorities of certain countries, in violation of international maritime law, are attempting to restrict the movement of our economic operators' vessels..., and have recently gone so far as to consider the possibility of seizing our vessels and selling off the property they have plundered from us," said Putin.

"Naturally, this is nothing less than piracy and robbery. And if this begins to be put into practice, we shall be forced to respond in kind. And not necessarily in those waters where raids on our ships and vessels are planned, but wherever we ourselves deem it necessary and appropriate."

Putin also accused Nato of threatening behaviour in the Asia-Pacific region, and of creating tension in the Arctic.

Meanwhile, Ukrainian drone strikes on Russia's south killed two people, including an eight-year-old child, the regional governor said yesterday after the latest exchange of air attacks between the warring countries.

Russian overnight strikes on a frontline city in southern Ukraine also killed two.

MECCA DEFENCE PACT

Erdogan eyes expansion, courts Egypt

AFP, *Istanbul*

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Wednesday he hoped more countries would join a defence agreement signed last week between Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan aimed at stabilising a region wracked by conflict.

The so-called Mecca Joint Defence Agreement was signed on Friday .

"Our vision for it is not limited to the three countries," the Turkish leader told the London-based Asharq Al-Awsat daily. "Rather we aspire for it to grow, and perhaps appropriate conditions will emerge one day for all countries of the region to gather under its umbrella."

Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan on Saturday said Turkey expected Egypt to join the pact "in the next stage", telling the Anadolu state news agency only "a few technical issues" stood in the way.

Egypt has not commented on the agreement nor on the remarks by Fidan, who will visit Cairo on Thursday and Friday.

No progress on reviving interim peace deal with US

Says Iran; attacks on ships in Hormuz rattles markets

REUTERS, *Dubai*

Iran and the United States remain at loggerheads over efforts to agree on a permanent end to the war in the Gulf, according to a senior Iranian source who said there had been no progress in talks to revive the interim deal agreed in June and define a timeframe to implement it.

The comments were a further blow to hopes of a swift resolution to the crisis, following attacks on shipping in the region on Tuesday that pushed oil prices higher.

The deal agreed in June declared an "immediate and permanent termination of military operations on all fronts", but quickly unravelled, with US President Donald Trump saying it was "over" on July 7 and Iran's foreign ministry declaring it "suspended" a week later.

"One of the issues that is being discussed via mediators is the US returning to the interim agreement and defining a timeframe for implementing the commitments. There has been absolutely no progress on this issue," the Iranian source said.

There was no immediate comment from Washington.

Thousands of people have been killed in the conflict, mainly in Iran and Lebanon, since the US and Israel launched attacks on Iran on February 28.

Iran has struck US assets and infrastructure in countries including Oman, Jordan, Kuwait, Israel, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia.

The June interim ceasefire agreement set a 60-day period, extendable by mutual consent, within which Iran and the US were expected to reach a final deal limiting Tehran's nuclear programme and lifting US sanctions.

The Iranian source yesterday dismissed a report from Turkey's Anadolu news agency that quoted Pakistani government sources as saying they had agreed to extend that 60-day period.

Both Iran and the United States have stepped up rhetoric in the past two days.

Iran's top security official, Mohsen Rezaei, said on Tuesday that the Strait of Hormuz would remain closed unless the US accepted Iran's conditions to end the war.

That followed a new demand from Trump on Monday that Iran should pay compensation for people killed in 50 years of wars, attacks and protests.

The Iranian source dismissed a report from Anadolu news agency that aid US-Iran agreed to extend truce by 60 days.

OPENS TODAY AT 11.00AM

Visit & Source a wide range of
Yarn, Fabrics, Trims & Chemicals
from Large number of Overseas Suppliers !

13th Edition BANGLADESH YARN FABRICS ACCESSORIES SHOW 2026
Concurrent with : BANGLADESH TEXCHEM EXPO 2026

13 | 14 | 15 | 16 AUG 2026
International Convention City, Bashundhara.

LATEST INNOVATIONS !
NEWER SUPPLIERS !

Global Fabric Sourcing Closer to your Doorsteps.
Visit & Source from Overseas Suppliers showcasing Yarn, Fabrics, Garment Accessories, & Chemicals & Allied Products. All under one roof.

Get ideas for your new collections for the coming season.

Entry Free !! Show Timings : 11am - 7pm.

India Pavilion : CHEMEXCIL Basic Chemicals, Cosmetics & Dyes Export Promotion Council
Supported by : BMSA Bangladesh Merchandiser & Supplier Association
Media Partner : Textile Focus
Organised by : ASK Futurex

Contact :
0189 458 3601 Email : info@asktradex.com
Web : www.yandfdhaka.com

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 Web: www.powergrid.gov.bd
স্মারক নং- ২৭.২১.০০০০.৬৯৮.০৭.০০২.২৬.৪৫৩ তারিখঃ ১১/০৮/২০২৬খ্রিঃ

e-Tender বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পাওয়ার গ্রিডের জিএমডি, শ্রীমঙ্গল দপ্তরের আওতাধীন নিম্নলিখিত দরপত্র e-GP পোর্টালে প্রকাশিত হয়েছে।

ID	Title of Works	Closing Date and Time
1314786	Increase of 03 nos. tower height of 132kV Sreemangal - Shahjibazar double circuit transmission line under GMD, Sreemangal, Power Grid Bangladesh for the construction works of flyover at Shayestaganj circle by "SASEC Dhaka-Sylhet Corridor Road Development Project" of RHD.	08 Sep 2026 at 15:00

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

মোহাঃ মশিউর রহমান
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী (অ:দা:), জিএমডি, শ্রীমঙ্গল

Ex-Chinese PM Zhu Rongji dies aged 97

AFP, *Beijing*



Former Chinese premier Zhu Rongji, whose market reforms helped drive the country's extraordinary economic rise, died yesterday at the age of 97.

Zhu became premier in 1998 and swiftly lived up to his reputation as a hard-hitting free marketeer.

Among his best-known reforms were a broad programme to privatise unprofitable state-owned enterprises, the privatisation of urban housing and the promotion of home ownership.

He passed away from illness in Beijing in the morning, "after medical treatment failed to save him", state news agency Xinhua said.

রেজিস্ট্রার দপ্তর
যশোর বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
যশোর-৭৪০৮, বাংলাদেশ।

Office of the Registrar
Jashore University of Science and Technology
Jashore-7408, Bangladesh

স্মারক নং- যবিপ্রবি/রেজি :/সং ও প্রঃ/রাজস্ব জনবল/১০০২ (৭) শ্যাডো/ ২০২৩-১৫৮ তারিখ : ১২/০৮/২০২৬খ্রি.

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

যশোর বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের নিম্নোক্ত পদগুলো পূরণের নিমিত্তে বর্ণিত শর্তসাপেক্ষে বাংলাদেশের স্থায়ী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

ক্র.নং	পদের নাম, পদসংখ্যা ও স্কেল	শর্তাবলী
০১	অধ্যাপক (৩য় গ্রেড), বেতন স্কেলঃ ৫৬৫০০-৭৪৪০০/- ক) অ্যাকাউন্টিং অ্যান্ড ইনফরমেশন সিস্টেমস বিভাগ, ০১ টি স্থায়ী পদ (প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে মার্কেটিং) খ) অ্যাকাউন্টিং অ্যান্ড ইনফরমেশন সিস্টেমস বিভাগ, ০১ টি স্থায়ী পদ (পুনঃ বিজ্ঞপ্তি)	আবেদনকারীকে বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের নির্ধারিত আবেদন ফরমে প্রয়োজনীয় সকল কাগজপত্রসহ পূর্ণাঙ্গ আবেদন ক্রমিক নং ০১ ও ০২ এর জন্য ০৭ সেট এবং ক্রমিক নং ০৩ ও ০৪ এর জন্য ০৪ সেট **রেজিস্ট্রার, যশোর বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, যশোর-৭৪০৮** বরাবরে আগামী ১২/০৯/২০২৬খ্রি. তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ের মধ্যে পৌঁছাতে হবে। পরবর্তীতে কোন প্রকার ডকুমেন্টস জমা নেওয়া হবে না। রেজিস্ট্রার, যবিপ্রবি এর কার্যালয় অথবা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েব সাইটঃ www.just.edu.bd হতে আবেদন ফরম ও ওয়েব পোর্টাল থেকে যোগ্যতার বিস্তারিত বিবরণ জানা যাবে। সকল পদের আবেদন বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক অনুমোদিত সর্বশেষ নীতিমালা অনুযায়ী মূল্যায়িত হবে। যশোর বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে শিক্ষক নিয়োগ, পদোন্নতি ও পদোন্নয়নের সংশোধিত নীতিমালা ২০২৫ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েব সাইটে দেখা যেতে পারে। বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারন দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে আবেদনপত্র ও নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি বাতিল, সংশোধন ও পদসংখ্যা কমবেশী করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন। • আবেদনের শর্তাবলী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েব সাইটে প্রকাশিত নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তির সাথে সংযুক্তিতে সাধারণ নিয়মাবলীতে দেখা যাবে। ক্রমিক নং ০১ এর খ, ০২ এর ক এবং ০৪ এর ক পদে ইতোপূর্বে স্মারক নং- যবিপ্রবি/রেজি :/সং ও প্রঃ/রাজস্ব জনবল/১০০২ (৭)/শ্যাডো নথি/ ২০২৩-৮, তারিখ: ১৭ /১২/২০২৫খ্রি. ও স্মারক নং- যবিপ্রবি/রেজি :/সং ও প্রঃ/রাজস্ব জনবল/১০০২ (৮) /শ্যাডো নথি/ ২০২৫-১১, তারিখ : ০২/০৬/২০২৫খ্রি. মোতাবেক যারা আবেদন করেছেন তাদের পুনরায় আবেদন করার প্রয়োজন নাই।
০২	সহযোগী অধ্যাপক (৪র্থ গ্রেড), বেতন স্কেলঃ ৫০০০০-৭১২০০/- (ক) অ্যাকাউন্টিং অ্যান্ড ইনফরমেশন সিস্টেমস বিভাগ, ০১ টি স্থায়ী পদ (পুনঃ বিজ্ঞপ্তি)	
০৩	সহকারী অধ্যাপক (৬ষ্ঠ গ্রেড), বেতন স্কেলঃ ৩৫৫০০-৬৭০১০/- ক) ফলিত পরিসংখ্যান ও ডাটা সায়েন্স বিভাগ, ০১ টি স্থায়ী পদ খ) ফলিত পরিসংখ্যান ও ডাটা সায়েন্স বিভাগ, ০১ টি স্থায়ী পদ (প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে কম্পিউটার সায়েন্স সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ে স্নাতক/স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রি)	
০৪	প্রভাষক (৯ম গ্রেড), বেতন স্কেলঃ ২২০০০-৫৩০৬০/- ক) অ্যাকাউন্টিং অ্যান্ড ইনফরমেশন সিস্টেমস বিভাগ, ০১ টি স্থায়ী পদ (পুনঃ বিজ্ঞপ্তি) খ) অ্যাকাউন্টিং অ্যান্ড ইনফরমেশন সিস্টেমস বিভাগ, ০১ টি অস্থায়ী পদ (শিক্ষাছুটির বিপরীতে)	

স্বাঃ/
কাজী মোঃ জালাল উদ্দীন
রেজিস্ট্রার
যশোর বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়।

GD-1955

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Finance Division, Ministry of Finance
Strengthening Public Financial Management Program to Enable Service Delivery (SPFMS)
Scheme on Strengthening the capacity of Treasury and Debt Management Wing of Finance Division
Shaheed Prokaushali Bhaban (4th Floor), IEB Headquarter, Ramna, Dhaka-1000
spfms.gov.bd

No. 07.00.0000.000.11.093.26-1168 Date: 12/08/2026

Invitation for e-Tender

e-Tender is invited to the National e-GP portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of following:

Sl. No.	Tender ID, Reference No.	Procurement Nature, Title	Type, Method	Publishing Date, Closing Date
1.	1313718, 07.00.0000.000.11.093.26-1165	Services, Selection of Senior Consultant-NSC for TDM Scheme	NCT, IC	13-Aug-2026 10:30:00, 03-Sep-2026 15:30:00
2.	1313798, 07.00.0000.000.11.093.26-1166	Services, Selection of Senior Consultant-DSL/FAM for TDM Scheme	NCT, IC	13-Aug-2026 10:30:00, 03-Sep-2026 15:30:00
3.	1313803, 07.00.0000.000.11.093.26-1167	Services, Selection of Senior Consultant- IT Support for TDM Scheme	NCT, IC	13-Aug-2026 10:30:00, 03-Sep-2026 15:30:00

This is an Online Tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hardcopy will be accepted. To submit e-Tenders, registration is required in the National e-GP portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd). Further information and guidelines are available in the national e-GP portal and from e-GP helpdesk (email: helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd; Phone: 16575, +8809617016575).

(Dr. Ziaul Abedin)
National Program Director
SPFMS Program

GD-1949

The Daily Star
FOUNDER EDITOR: **LATE S. M. ALI**

An epidemic that shouldn't have occurred

Wrong decisions and negligence are to blame for the ongoing crisis

As of August 12, 2026, at least 885 deaths, mostly of children, from measles or measles-like symptoms have been reported in the country. This is a tragedy that is unacceptable because it was avoidable. Measles was largely eradicated in Bangladesh, thanks to the country's successful immunisation campaigns that earned praise worldwide. So why have we lost so many children to this disease this year, with new deaths being reported almost every day? A *Prothom Alo* investigation has found that negligence from several quarters at the policymaking level—from health ministry, DGHS and Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) to WHO and Unicef—led to major gaps in immunisation, resulting in this frightening epidemic.

The *Prothom Alo* report identified five factors leading up to the 2026 death toll. The first is a seven-month gap in measles inoculation because of repeated postponements in 2025. In the years after the last campaign in 2020, typhoid vaccination was prioritised, pushing back the vaccination for measles. It is estimated that around 92 percent of the children who died were not vaccinated for measles. Second, between 2023 and 2025, procurement of measles-rubella dropped by around 42 percent. Third, neither domestic nor international organisations raised the alarm about the increasing number of children staying unvaccinated, the shortage of vaccines, and the high incidence of infections.

The interim government has been largely blamed for the crisis as it abruptly changed the procurement policy, resulting in a deadly delay in getting the vaccines. Frequent strikes of health workers in 2025 disrupted the regular vaccine programmes and delayed the campaign as well. When the vaccines were finally provided in April 2026, a huge number of children had not been reached. Health experts said if the vaccination campaign had started at least six months earlier, the disease would either have not occurred at all or been so widespread.

In the coming days, the government, through the relevant agencies, must identify all the gaps in immunisation. Inoculation against certain diseases can never be put on hold. The health ministry and the DGHS must ensure that immunisation campaigns take place within the time period specified and that the coverage is wide enough to ensure immunity. Campaigns must reach areas that have been left out in the past. Vaccination must be prioritised after consultation with health experts. The government must make sure that the EPI provides accurate information regarding outbreaks of major diseases as well as vaccine shortages so that adequate quantities of vaccines are procured without delay. International organisations, too, must own up to their role in this tragedy—for not raising the alarm and not prioritising the need for timely measles vaccination.

Time to scale up rooftop solar

Govt must remove barriers to unlock its vast potential

While we often talk about expanding renewable energy, a new assessment by the Infrastructure Development Company Limited (Idcol) shows just how much potential we are leaving untapped. Reportedly, the country could generate more than 3,600 megawatts peak (MWp) of electricity from rooftop solar panels, but harnessing this potential would require an investment of Tk 16,295 crore. Given our growing energy insecurity, particularly as the entire country grapples with severe load shedding, the potential of solar power can no longer be ignored.

According to Idcol, the textile and garment industry alone could generate 2,815MWp from rooftop solar, given that Tk 12,669 crore is invested. Some companies have already benefited from rooftop solar. Ha-Meem Group has installed 17MWp across three factories, reducing diesel use by nearly 60 percent, while Walton Hi-Tech Industries has installed 33.8MWp and plans to expand it to 50MWp. Clearly, rooftop solar can reduce businesses' energy costs, strengthen energy security and cut carbon emissions. So, why is the sector still struggling to expand at the required pace?

We once had one of the world's largest off-grid solar programmes, but nearly half of the 60 lakh solar home systems installed in the past are now reportedly non-functional, according to a CPD survey. We therefore need a proper long-term strategy to expand solar energy. We can learn from Pakistan, which has seen a remarkable expansion of distributed solar, with an estimated 28-38 gigawatts deployed, mostly through rooftop and behind-the-meter systems. Meanwhile, Bangladesh currently has only 4,551 net-metered rooftop solar installations with a combined capacity of 213.3MW, per the CPD study. Financing constraints, high taxes on solar equipment, regulatory bottlenecks and institutional fragmentation continue to discourage investment. Some manufacturers have also complained about lengthy financing procedures and the need to make large upfront investments before reimbursement. These hurdles must be addressed if the government is serious about accelerating the transition to clean energy.

While it is encouraging that Idcol plans to increase its annual financed capacity from 129MWp this year to around 233MWp by 2029-30, the scale of the country's potential calls for greater ambition. To this end, banks and non-bank financial institutions should be encouraged to expand their rooftop solar portfolios. Besides, operational expenditure (OPEX) models can help smaller businesses overcome the barrier of high upfront costs. The government must also ensure that net metering, taxation, financing and grid integration policies work together. Rooftop solar can reduce pressure on the national grid, lower reliance on imported fossil fuels, strengthen energy security, and help the country meet its climate commitments.

A new chance to fix urban primary healthcare



Dr Rumana Huque
is professor in the Department of Economics at Dhaka University and executive director at ARK Foundation.

RUMANA HUQUE

More than 40 percent Bangladeshis live in urban areas, 35 percent of whom reside in slums, according to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics' 2022 census. But urban primary healthcare services are still delivered by a fragmented mix of providers: the health ministry operates urban dispensaries and hospital outpatient departments, city corporations run some facilities, and NGOs manage contracted and donor-supported clinics. Private chambers, diagnostic centres, pharmacies, and informal providers deliver much of the first-contact care. Rapid urbanisation has created a larger, increasingly mobile and diverse population. The rise of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) is also creating the demand for continuous care that the existing urban primary healthcare system is not designed to provide.

The 2021 Urban Health Survey by the National Institute of Population Research and Training found that in city corporation slums, neonatal mortality reached 27 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2016-2021, while around 33 percent of under-five children were stunted, 16 percent wasted, and 28 percent were underweight. Only 53 percent of newborns in slums received a check-up from a medically trained provider within two days of birth. So, despite the concentration of health facilities in cities, access to comprehensive primary healthcare remains highly unequal.

In May, the government said 192 urban primary healthcare facilities were being transferred from the Local Government Division to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS). Earlier in April, the DGHS decided to set up 170 urban primary health and nutrition centres in Dhaka North, Dhaka South, and Chattogram city corporations, at a cost of Tk 1,157 crore. In July, the health minister said the government was considering an expansion of the Aalo Clinic model, given its success in providing healthcare to disadvantaged urban populations, and would apply its lessons to the 192 facilities mentioned above.

These initiatives could help address the fragmented delivery of urban primary healthcare. But in order to create an integrated and sustainable health system, more needs to be done. The National Urban Health Strategy 2020 identified the major problems plaguing urban healthcare: weak coordination between the health and local government ministries, inadequate public primary healthcare capacity, limited attention to slum residents and floating populations, absence of separate city health budgets, weak regulation of NGO and private providers, fragmented information and referral systems, and insufficient services for NCDs.

The lack of an accountable network connecting various urban healthcare providers must be addressed. Projects such as Surjer Hashi and Aalo Clinic helped fill this gap to some extent, particularly for maternal, newborn, child and reproductive health. But they remain geographically selective and project-dependent. There's the issue of finance, too. The ADB-supported model has relied largely on development financing. City corporations were expected to contribute around one percent of their revenues, but contributions were irregular and most did not establish fixed primary healthcare budget lines.



VISUAL: **ALIZA RAHMAN**

This weakness became evident after June 2025, when an interim arrangement for some clinics split operating costs among NGOs, the Local Government Division, and city corporations. The DNCC has since introduced a dedicated health budget and resources for primary healthcare, but such arrangements remain exceptional rather than part of a predictable national financing framework. Besides, salaries, medicines, diagnostics, utilities, maintenance, and outreach require reliable recurrent expenditure. Requiring NGOs to generate a large share of operating costs through user charges also creates an equity problem: facilities intended for poorer populations become increasingly dependent on the patients' ability to pay. City corporations and municipalities have long lacked separate health budgets and have limited capacity to mobilise resources.

Urban primary healthcare also needs to expand its service scope to include diagnosis and treatment of hypertension, diabetes and other NCDs, which are steadily on the rise. At present, these patients often move among pharmacies, private chambers, diagnostic centres, NGO clinics, and hospitals.

Whereas rural healthcare has a defined community-based platform (combining facility work with household outreach) urban healthcare does not. Vaccinators and EPI personnel provide important services, while NGOs deploy outreach workers in selected areas, but these arrangements remain uneven. This gap is particularly important for NCDs and mobile populations: screening for hypertension does little if patients cannot be followed to ensure treatment initiation, medicine adherence, and completed referrals.

The DGHS needs to establish clinical standards for the essential service package, using satellite and mobile clinics for slum, working and floating populations, and developing a structured referral system and health information for urban primary healthcare. City corporations may retain responsibility to map all facilities in urban areas, assign facilities to defined catchment populations, and ensure community engagement, environmental health, and local accountability. It is also crucial to standardise and display NGO and private healthcare providers' fees, bringing non-government providers into the DGHS information system. The government can consider transferring physician and nurse posts from city corporation facilities to the DGHS and the Directorate General of Nursing and Midwifery (DGNM), considering the ongoing institutional transition.

The transfer of 192 centres to the DGHS may improve coordination, but it is important to ensure that these clinics function. Clinic operators need a clear, costed operational directive from the DGHS covering staffing, salaries, medicines, utilities, existing NGO personnel, and protection of services for poor patients. The DGHS project provides part of the answer. The 170 urban health centres are supposed to operate in two shifts through a hub-and-spoke model, with additional human resources, at least 80 percent availability of essential medicines, and full integration into the digital health information system. However, the new project covers three city corporations while the 192 transferred facilities span 12 city corporations and 23 municipalities. Moreover, the project is scheduled to end in June 2028. Development financing for three cities cannot substitute for a recurrent financing architecture for the nationwide urban primary healthcare system. The project should therefore also be used to design institutional, financing, and workforce arrangements.

The DGHS needs a recurrent allocation for clinical operations, while city corporations need protected health budgets. A financing plan to sustain services should be finalised. Urban primary healthcare also needs a community health workforce assigned to defined catchments, covering immunisation, health promotion, maternal and child health, NCD follow-up, climate-related illness, referrals, and outreach to migrants and floating populations. All facilities and contracted providers should be brought under a single referral, financing, and information architecture. The success of reform initiatives will be measured by whether mandate, money, and accountability finally follow all of the urban population.

How traditional credit ratings fail CMSMEs



Md Rakibul Hasan
is credit officer at Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC). He can be reached at rakib4457@gmail.com.

MD RAKIBUL HASAN

A retail store owner in any part of the country processes dozens of bKash or Nagad transactions an hour, pays suppliers every week by digital transfer, and never misses a utility bill. Yet when this merchant asks a commercial bank for a Tk 5 lakh loan to expand inventory, he is almost always politely refused.

The Cottage, Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise (CMSME) sector accounts for nearly a quarter of Bangladesh's GDP and an estimated 87 percent of the active labour force. Bangladesh Bank (BB) last year set a target of 27 percent of total loan portfolios for CMSMEs by 2029. But despite circulars, refinancing schemes, and low-interest quotas, the financing gap persists—estimated by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) to be $2.8 billion. At the heart of this disconnect sits a credit rating framework that has been built to evaluate a factory, not a shop on the side of a footpath.

Credit risk evaluation in Bangladesh leans on two mechanisms: the central bank's Internal Credit Risk Rating (ICRR) framework and evaluations by external agencies under Basel III guidelines. Under the ICRR, 60 percent of a borrower's score is built on quantitative financial data: audited balance sheets, profit-and-loss statements, tax receipts, formal leverage ratios. The central bank exempts the smallest borrowers—including micro-credit and small enterprises below Tk 50 lakh—from ICRR. Even so, as per BB's March 2025 master circular, which formally recognised informal enterprises for the first time, cottage and micro borrowers need to present a Credit Information Bureau (CIB) report and collateral proof before a loan is cleared.

For a mid-sized manufacturing plant, these requirements make sense, but for a cottage or micro entrepreneur, they become a wall. An estimated 80 percent of CMSMEs operate informally, which typically means they do not work with a professional accountant and do not produce an audited statement. When given an informal ledger from such a business, the rating system only sees an entity it is unable to rate.

Of course, collateral is not even the first hurdle for the smallest borrowers. Bangladesh Bank's master circular requires banks to lend up to Tk 5 lakh collateral-free to every CMSME borrower, and up to Tk 25 lakh and beyond for specific cases, especially for women entrepreneurs. But collateral-free never means paperwork-free. Banks still need to see a business's trade license, sales history, and CIB report, and once a loan grows bigger, collateral requirements stack up as well.

Bank officials themselves admit the problem. Regulations already permit assets other than land as collateral, but lending practice has yet to catch up, particularly in manufacturing. A micro-merchant's wealth sits in inventory, receivables, and daily cash flow. But the value of these only counts once documented, and an informal ledger does not produce such documentation.

These merchants do leave a continuous, verifiable digital footprint in the form of payments through Bangla QR, invoices settled by mobile financial services (MFS), and utility bills paid on time. Because Bangla QR, recently made mandatory, is interoperable across banks and wallets, this data is technically poolable in a way it never was before. A business clearing Tk 15,000 a day in MFS transactions shows real liquidity and steady demand, a meaningful signal, though it speaks more to cash flow than to margin or true debt-service capacity, which any scoring model would still need to estimate rather than read off transaction volume. Traditional credit ratings offer a static snapshot of the past; digital transaction data, imperfect as it is, comes closer to real time.

Handing lending decisions to algorithmic models built on MFS and merchant data raises questions. Who audits the models for bias? What happens to a borrower's transaction history if a fintech platform folds or is breached? How does BB supervise scoring systems it does not build itself? These need to be resolved up front, rather than being an afterthought once a model goes live.

Two policy moves could help close this gap. First, BB should open a regulatory sandbox for Alternative Credit Scoring (ACS), letting fintech platforms and commercial banks jointly build scoring models based on MFS transaction volumes, utility payments, and digital merchant records, with oversight and data protection rules built in. Paired with this, the Credit Guarantee Scheme (CGS) should be wired directly into validated digital scores. Branch managers hesitate to extend uncollateralised loans because a non-performing loan reflects on their own career record. In contrast, a CGS backing loans cleared through audited digital scoring gives them cover to lend.

The central bank has already pointed towards part of the answer. Its March 2025 master circular created a new informal-enterprise category built around the Digital Business Identification (DBID) and Personal Retail Account (PRA) systems, capped at Tk 5 lakh in credit. What's needed now is the follow-through. Banks remain reluctant to accept a DBID or UBID registration in place of a trade license, so the reform sits half-used.

What Bangladesh needs is a scoring framework built for how the smallest businesses operate and the oversight to use that data responsibly. With these factors in place, the financing gap has a real chance of closing. But only upgrading the technology while skipping the safeguards means swapping one flawed gatekeeper for another. The retail store owner on a side street is not necessarily a good credit risk, but they have also never had the chance to be measured in terms which would help determine where they stand.

The Daily Star Reg. No. DA 781 | **EDITOR & PUBLISHER: Mahfuz Anam** Printed by him on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd at Transcraft Ltd, 229, Tejgaon Industrial Area, editor@thedailystar.net | **Registered & Head Offices:** The Daily Star Centre 64-65 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215 Phone: 09610222222 | **Newsroom:** Fax- 58156306 reporting@thedailystar.net | **Advertisement:** 01711623910 advertisement@thedailystar.net GPO Box: 3257 | **Subscription:** 01711623906 | thedailystar.net bangla.thedailystar.net/

Girls are winning the exam race but losing the career race



Mst Asma Mahmud
is a senior civil judge and MPhil fellow in the Institute of Bangladesh Studies at the University of Rajshahi.

MST ASMA MAHMUD

The numbers from this year's Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and equivalent examinations tell a striking story about Bangladesh's girls. Like in the past eight years, female students have once again outperformed their male counterparts in SSC examinations, and this year the gap widened substantially: the pass rate among girls is 66.68 percent, while that among boys is 57.86 percent, a difference of 8.82 percentage points. Girls also secured 63,896 GPA-5 results, compared to 52,780 among boys. In absolute numbers, 607,939 female candidates passed, compared to 530,938 male candidates, even though more boys had sat for the exams.

Despite these encouraging figures, it remains a puzzle why girls' educational advantage does not translate proportionately into better employment opportunities, higher incomes, greater professional advancement, and stronger representation in leadership.

Bangladesh has made remarkable progress in girls' education, moving from a situation in which girls were significantly disadvantaged in accessing education to one in which they have achieved, and in many respects exceeded, educational parity (particularly at the primary level). Yet, the transition from education to economic participation remains deeply unequal. According to the final report of the latest Labour Force Survey, labour force participation rate among women was 38.40 percent while that among men was 79.96 percent in 2024. In absolute terms, only 2.29 crore women were employed in 2024, in contrast to 4.62 crore men. In other words, employment among men exceeded that of women by more than two crores. Besides, female employment has been decreasing since 2022. So why are girls, despite being successful at the beginning of their educational journey, increasingly falling out of the pipeline before reaching the most economically and institutionally powerful stages in their lives?

One of the reasons is undoubtedly family responsibility. This should not be understood simply as a private choice made by women. The BBS conducted the country's first Time-Use Survey in 2021 and found that women spend an average of 11.7 hours a day on domestic and care work, compared with 1.6 hours for men, which is less than seven times that of women. This unequal burden impacts women's careers, as time spent on unpaid domestic and care work is time that could otherwise be used for paid employment, professional development, and career advancement.

The problem is not a shortage of talented women. Their consistent success in examinations demonstrates that clearly. Rather, the rules which determine success change. At school, individual effort and academic performance are heavily rewarded. In professional life, success also depends on uninterrupted career trajectories, mobility, networks, time, and institutional support. If those resources are distributed unequally, educational equality cannot produce equal outcomes.

The lack of childcare centres nationwide is a crucial barrier to women's advancement. Bangladesh has only 63 publicly funded childcare centres nationwide, run by the Department of Women Affairs under the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs. Private centres also exist, but many remain too expensive for low- and middle-income families. A 2024 study conducted to develop the government's "Roadmap for Childcare in Bangladesh" revealed that 54 percent of parents identified inadequate childcare as a major barrier to workforce participation. Furthermore, among the women who participated in the survey, 18 percent had left their jobs, 34 percent reported lower job performance, and 13 percent had turned down job offers because of childcare constraints.



Female students have once again outperformed their male counterparts in SSC examinations, and this year the gap widened substantially. FILE PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

For women, a career break is rarely just a temporary pause. Time away from work can mean missing out on experience, professional networks, and opportunities for promotion. When a woman leaves her job to care for her family, she may return to find that her colleagues have moved ahead while her own career stagnated. As a result, the same family responsibility, for which men are not taking leave, can affect men's and women's careers very differently.

But family responsibility alone does not explain the gap between male and female employment. According to Bangladesh Sample Vital Statistics 2022, among Bangladeshis aged 15 to 24 years, 61.71 percent of women versus 18.59 percent of men are not in education, employment, or training (NEET). A gap of this size suggests that structural barriers and social expectations matter as much as individual choice, even before marriage or motherhood become factors.

Women also often face restrictions on mobility, concerns about workplace safety, occupational segregation, and discrimination. While some portion of the NEET data may reflect individual preference, when the disparity in NEET is this large and seen this early in terms of age, preference alone cannot explain it. So instead of asking why girls cannot shine later in life, we should try to answer why society captures less of the potential that girls demonstrate so clearly when in school.

The problem is not a shortage of talented women. Their consistent success in examinations demonstrates that clearly. Nor do men suddenly become more capable after leaving school. Rather, the rules which determine success change. At school, individual effort and academic performance are heavily rewarded. In professional life, success also depends on uninterrupted career trajectories, mobility, networks, time, and institutional support. If those resources are distributed unequally, educational equality cannot produce equal outcomes.

This matters as an economic issue, not only as a question of gender justice. When an educated woman leaves the labour market prematurely, Bangladesh loses more than her individual income. It loses part of the return on the educational investment made by her family, community, and state. That is why childcare should not be treated as a family matter alone, because affordable and accessible childcare enables parents, particularly mothers, to participate in the labour market. Bangladesh needs to treat childcare as part of its economic and employment infrastructure, not simply as a welfare service.

The government should expand affordable childcare beyond the existing 63 centres, ensure that employers comply with the childcare requirements under Section 94 of the Labour Act, 2006, create opportunities for women to return to work after career breaks, and make workplaces and transportation safer for women. Besides, a fairer sharing of unpaid domestic work within households is necessary.

The solution is not simply to tell girls to study harder. They are already doing so. The challenge is to ensure that they can retain their performance throughout their academic journey and into their careers as adults. Bangladesh has already demonstrated that it can change the educational trajectory of an entire generation of girls. We must now ensure that the girl who wins the examination race does not become the woman who is forced to withdraw from the career race. The real measure of Bangladesh's success will not be how many girls top the board examination at age 15 or 16; it will be how many of them are still thriving, earning, leading, and making decisions 20 years later.

We must bring AI to the factory floor

RMG NOTES



Mostafiz Uddin
is managing director of Denim Expert Limited. He is also the founder and CEO of Bangladesh Denim Expo and Bangladesh Apparel Exchange (BAE).

MOSTAFIZ UDDIN

Bangladesh built its garment industry on scale, competitive labour costs, and the ability to supply large volumes of basic apparel. But this model is now under serious pressure. Wages, energy prices, and financing costs have risen; buyers expect shorter lead times and smaller orders; and the country's planned graduation from Least Developed Country (LDC) status will gradually reduce many trade advantages.

The next competitive edge for Bangladesh is unlikely to come from being cheaper alone. It should rather stem from becoming faster, more accurate, more flexible, and more innovative. Artificial intelligence (AI) could help deliver such a shift. In an industry where sewing remains difficult to fully automate, the biggest near-term gains may come from using AI to improve the thousands of decisions surrounding production.

One of the most immediate applications could be production planning. Many of our factories still rely heavily on spreadsheets and experience to allocate orders, balance sewing lines, and estimate completion dates. An AI-based system could analyse order specifications, standard minute values, worker skills, machine availability, and previous production data to recommend the most efficient line plan. It could recalculate schedules when fabric arrives late, a machine breaks down, or a buyer changes an order.

This would give factories a more accurate picture of capacity and reduce the risk of accepting orders they cannot deliver profitably. Faster planning could also help suppliers compete for shorter-run and higher-value business, rather than depending on large, predictable orders. Quality control is another high-value opportunity. Cameras placed above fabric inspection machines, cutting tables, or sewing lines could be trained to identify holes, stains, shade variation, skipped stitches, print misalignment, and incorrect seams. The aim would not be to remove human inspectors, but to alert them earlier and direct their attention to potential problems. A defect detected at the end of production may affect thousands of garments. However, the same defect identified early could be confined to a few pieces. Better in-line detection could reduce rework, shipment rejection, and costly airfreight while strengthening buyer confidence.

AI could also support predictive maintenance. Sensors fitted to knitting, dyeing, cutting, sewing, and finishing equipment can be used to monitor vibration, temperature, pressure, and electricity use. Machine-learning systems, meanwhile, can identify abnormal patterns and warn engineers before a failure stops production. Preventing even a few hours of downtime can protect margins and shipment dates.

The next competitive edge for Bangladesh is unlikely to come from being cheaper alone. It should rather stem from becoming faster, more accurate, more flexible, and more innovative. Artificial intelligence (AI) could help deliver such a shift. In an industry where sewing remains difficult to fully automate, the biggest near-term gains may come from using AI to improve the thousands of decisions surrounding production.

Energy and resource efficiency offer a related advantage. AI can compare production schedules with real-time electricity, gas, steam, and water use, highlighting machines or processes which are consuming more than expected. In dyeing and finishing, algorithms could optimise recipes and process settings, reducing repeated batches, chemical use, and water consumption.

A further opportunity is in design and product development. Generative AI and 3D tools can turn a buyer brief into initial concepts, prints, virtual samples and draft technical specifications. When used by designers and merchandisers, these tools can shorten development cycles and reduce physical sampling. China is already showing what can look like in practice. For instance, down-apparel group Bosideng has worked with Zhejiang University to create an AI model for design and product development. The company says it has cut prototype development time from 100 days to 27 and reduced sample costs by more than 60 percent. At its smart factory, an AI "brain" reportedly connects nearly 2,000 devices, while a jacket can move from raw fabric to finished product in three to four minutes. China is also deploying AI beyond design. In Hai'an, Jiangsu province, AI visual-inspection systems have entered trials at nine textile companies.

Chinese company DataBeyond has meanwhile developed an AI-enabled textile-sorting machine capable of processing around two tonnes of used clothing per hour. Its operator says the technology reduced the proportion of material classed as unrecyclable from 50 to 30 percent. These examples illustrate how China is combining AI with machinery, industrial data, research institutions and government policy.

Changshu, an apparel cluster containing more than 5,000 textile businesses, has even issued a white paper promoting AI-led upgrading, while China's wider "AI Plus" initiative aims to embed the technology across traditional industries. National and local governments are also supporting robotics through funds, subsidies, public procurement, and shared data facilities.

Bangladesh does not need to copy China's capital-intensive model wholesale. Our advantage could lie in deploying practical, lower-cost AI around existing workers and machinery. Encouragingly, there are signs that this transition has begun. The BGMEA says larger Bangladeshi suppliers are investing in advanced machinery, enterprise resource planning systems and AI tools for production planning and quality control. Some factories are using AI to optimise fabric cutting to improve forecasting. Industry leaders have nevertheless warned that adoption must accelerate if Bangladesh is to preserve its competitiveness after LDC graduation.

Government support is essential, particularly for smaller manufacturers unable to afford large technology teams or risky pilot projects. A dedicated RMG AI programme could offer matching grants for factory trials, concessional finance for sensors and inspection equipment, and accelerated depreciation or tax credits for qualifying investments. Bangladesh's draft National AI Policy already proposes tax incentives and accelerated depreciation for eligible private AI investment.

The government could also establish shared "AI factory labs" with business organisations, universities and technology providers. Factories could test quality-control cameras, planning software and energy-management systems before committing substantial capital. Data is hugely important for our sector. An industry data trust could allow anonymised information on defects, machine failures, energy consumption, and production bottlenecks to be pooled securely. This would help developers train systems around the realities of Bangladesh's garment production rather than relying solely on overseas datasets.

The government could further support deployment by bringing brands into the process. Buyers who demand shorter lead times, better traceability, and increasingly detailed environmental data could be encouraged to co-finance technology pilots with suppliers. This would prevent the full cost of digital upgrading being pushed onto factories already operating on thin margins.

Finally, implementation includes workers. Operators, inspectors, engineers and production managers need training to understand AI outputs, identify errors and improve the systems. Government-funded programmes should prioritise women, who account for a substantial part of the RMG workforce but may be excluded from advanced technical training. AI will not remove Bangladesh's structural challenges. But used intelligently, it could help factories quote faster, plan more accurately, waste less, improve quality, and offer buyers greater visibility.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Bangladesh Police
Office of the Commanding Officers
Rapid Action Battalion-6
Labonchora, Khulna

Invitation For e-Tender

For financial year 2026-2027, e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP system portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of:

SL	Tender ID No & Reference No	Descripton of goods	Last selling date & time	Closing/Opening Date & Time
1.	1317668, RAB-6/6300/03/Q(Ration)/2026-2027/02 Date: 29/6/2026	Edible Oil (S/oil) - 1st Quarter	23 August 2026 11:00	23 August 2026 14:00

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.

To submit e-tender, registration in the national e-GP system portal (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 bank branches.

Further information and guidelines are available in the national e-GP system portal and from e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Tender having clarity requirements are requested to contact at 017777-10608 (Senior Assistant Director, RAB-6, Khulna)

NISTER AHMED, BGBMS
Lt Col
Commanding Officer
RAB-6, Labonchora, Khulna

GD-1950

REZAUDDIN STALIN'S SHILPAKALA and its unfinished reform

DOWEL BISWAS

When Rezauddin Stalin took charge as Director General (DG) of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy last September, he inherited an institution he describes as "disorderly and chaotic", marked by political divisions, corruption and deep disillusionment among artists and employees.

He was taking over an institution already struggling with the consequences of a turbulent political transition. Liaquat Ali Lucky, who had led the Academy for more than a decade, resigned in August 2024 after the fall of the Awami League government. Theatre personality Syed Jamil Ahmed took charge soon after, raising considerable hope among cultural practitioners, but resigned barely six months later. After a brief period under temporary leadership, Stalin took over.

Nearly a year into his tenure, Stalin says much of the disorder has been addressed through tolerance, discipline and greater engagement. But his account of a functioning and increasingly accessible institution raises a larger question: has Shilpakala's internal culture actually changed, or has its structural dependence on political and bureaucratic authority simply acquired a different face?

Stalin says his first priority was to restore order without turning the Academy into an instrument of partisan retribution.

"I did not look at the officials and employees from the standpoint of any political party or partisan interest," he says. "I looked at who was involved in corruption, who had committed wrongdoing, and who was working outside the rules."

He says some officials involved in wrongdoing were transferred and departmental cases filed against others. At the same time, he sought to address long-standing grievances over promotions, time scales and grades, which he says had contributed to employee demotivation.

His assessment of the Academy's past problems is striking. "I have found that the corruption here has been more political than financial," he says.

"The Academy is still running according to partisan politics. Favoured personnel of the ministry, the government and political parties now occupy key positions, and many of them belong to the same political or ideological spectrum. The people sitting in those positions have changed, but the corrupt internal mechanism is still operating under a similar but differently coloured umbrella."

The former official also questions whether Stalin's stated principle of not punishing people simply because of political association has been consistently applied.

"If that is true, then why have so many of us been transferred or left without positions, while a few have risen to power in our places after July, who haven't worked at the Academy before the July uprising?"

That contradiction matters because Stalin's approach is deliberately different from a wholesale political purge. Employees appointed during the previous government, he argues, should not automatically become victims of a political transition.

"If that person has done nothing wrong, removing them from their job would only make them a victim. Their families depend on those jobs." "I try to look at everything from a human perspective," says Stalin. "I did not want anyone who was innocent to suffer."

The question, then, is whether such decisions are being made according to transparent and consistently applied criteria. Faiz Zahir of Aranyak Natyadal, who recently headed the Academy's Drama and Film Department, sees the problem at a deeper institutional level. For him, changing personnel will not be enough if the structures governing Shilpakala remain vulnerable to political influence.

"Shilpakala's autonomy cannot remain merely on paper," Zahir says. He argues that the Academy's Parishad should be insulated from partisan politics, while the DG's role should be clearly defined within an accountable structure that gives cultural practitioners a meaningful role in decision-making.

For Stalin, reform means accountability, dialogue and negotiation with the state. For his critics, those measures cannot be enough if the underlying structure remains vulnerable to political patronage, ministerial priorities and bureaucratic control.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

That question becomes particularly important when the law itself is examined.

Under the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Act, 1989, the general direction and administration of the Academy vest in a Parishad. The governing body is headed by the minister in charge of cultural affairs and includes senior government officials alongside representatives and nominees from the cultural sector. The structure therefore places Shilpakala's cultural mandate within a governance framework with a significant state presence—raising the question of how much institutional autonomy the Academy can exercise in practice.

Stalin does not deny the ministry's role. He embraces it. "I represent Shilpakala Academy, and I will continue to do that," he says. "At the same time, I recognise the ministry's oversight and its role as our guardian because it provides the funds."

"Shilpakala cannot become an event-management arm of the ministry," says Faiz Zahir, arguing that the Academy must be driven by cultural policy rather than ministerial priorities and an expanding event calendar.

Under Stalin, the Academy has organised programmes spanning religious and cultural communities, alongside festivals, exhibitions and training initiatives. But Zahir argues that activity alone cannot constitute reform.

"The Academy's budget should be planned around its cultural mandate, not around individual events," he says. "A predictable allocation would allow Shilpakala to build long-term programmes instead of depending on event-based funding and ministerial priorities."

He also calls for a permanent policy and planning mechanism involving cultural practitioners. "Without a proper policy-making structure, we will continue to see programmes being organised one after another without a coherent long-term cultural vision."

Shilpakala was created to do more than host events. The question is whether its institutional machinery can fulfil that mandate beyond the programme calendar.

Stalin says structural reforms to the governing board and legal framework are underway. He also says the bureaucracy has been cooperative. "No one can accomplish anything alone. Every initiative is ultimately a collective effort."

He says the distance between the Academy and artists has narrowed, with people now able to bring their complaints directly to him. But access to one DG cannot substitute for institutional participation and accountability.

The harder question is whether artists, employees and cultural practitioners have a permanent voice in how Shilpakala is governed, funded and shaped.

For Stalin, reform means accountability, dialogue and negotiation with the state. For his critics, those measures cannot be enough if the underlying structure remains vulnerable to political patronage, ministerial priorities and bureaucratic control.

The real test of post-July Shilpakala is whether the institution can become bigger than the person occupying its highest office—and independent enough to outlive the politics surrounding it.

For an institution created to be the country's cultural spearhead, events can demonstrate activity. Institutional reform has to demonstrate permanence.

NEWS

US Democratic primaries deliver split results

AFP, *Washington*

Primaries held across several US states delivered a mixed verdict Wednesday in the battle roiling the Democratic Party, with the anti-establishment left notching another victory in Minnesota but suffering an unexpected defeat to a centrist in Wisconsin.

With the November midterms looming, this internal clash -- playing out across the United States -- is set to define the direction of a party searching for the best way to take on US President Donald Trump and wrest control of Congress from Republicans.

In Minnesota, the left-wing Democratic candidate for a Senate seat, Peggy Flanagan, defeated her moderate rival, Angie Craig, to replace retiring Senator Tina Smith with 59 percent of the vote, according to US media reports.

Flanagan had the backing of Smith and prominent left-wing senators including Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren, while Craig was supported by Democrats who argued her record of winning competitive elections made her the safer choice for the general election.

"I am truly honored and humbled to be Minnesota's Democratic nominee for US Senate. Thank you, Minnesota -- for everything," Flanagan posted on X after her 59-39 percent victory.

Immigration enforcement has become particularly charged in Minnesota after the state emerged as a focal point of Trump's crackdown.

Flanagan had attacked Craig over her support for the Laken Riley Act, a Republican-backed immigration measure, while Craig had emphasized electability and later expressed regret over her vote.

Ninth pay scale

FROM PAGE 12

The committee will meet today to resolve the judiciary-related issues. The meeting is scheduled for noon at the finance ministry.

Once the committee submits its recommendations, the final draft would be placed before the cabinet.

'Has the govt learned nothing from the past?'

FROM PAGE 12

from independently investigating disciplined forces.

TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman said in the statement, "It is a major concern that the NHRC can only seek reports from the government or force chiefs in cases of human rights violations by disciplined forces."

TIB said this shortcoming had prevented commissions during the AL era from holding disciplined forces accountable for rights violations or preventing such violations.

Similarly, the draft Enforced Disappearance Prevention and Redress Act, 2026, retains provisions that could facilitate impunity for members of agencies accused of involvement in the majority of enforced disappearance cases during the authoritarian period, TIB said.

It also criticised the draft law for placing investigations into enforced disappearances entirely under the police while keeping such cases outside the NHRC's jurisdiction. TIB said this was particularly problematic as many of those accused of involvement in such cases are members of disciplined forces.

"If a senior official is accused of involvement in an enforced disappearance, the draft requires a junior investigating officer to prepare and submit an 'interim report'," Iftekharuzzaman said.

If the report fails to find sufficient evidence against the senior official, the competent magistrate may order the official's discharge from the proceedings, TIB said.

Iftekharuzzaman questioned whether such a mechanism could realistically remain free from influence. "Will this provision actually help prevent and redress enforced disappearance, or will it in practice ensure impunity for the crime?"

TIB also said the draft's definition of enforced disappearance does not include the involvement of elected representatives, ministers or other important state officials.

"As a result, the definition does not reflect Bangladesh's actual experience or conform to relevant international conventions," it added.

It further pointed out that the Enforced Disappearances Prevention and Redress Ordinance, 2025, enacted during the interim government, had empowered the NHRC to monitor compliance with detention safeguards, inspect prisons, lock-ups and detention centres, visit facilities to identify secret detention centres, and take lawful measures.

"These important functions have not been incorporated into the cabinet-approved draft."

TIB also criticised the proposed selection committee for appointing the NHRC's chairperson and commissioners, which would include the Speaker, law minister, home minister, a ruling party MP and the cabinet secretary.

According to the anti-graft watchdog, the government would retain control over nominating at least two of the committee's three other members, posing a serious risk of government dominance over appointments.

The draft also does not make it mandatory to appoint a woman among the five commissioners or ensure women's representation on the selection committee, TIB said, adding that it lacks provisions requiring the representation of minorities and other disadvantaged groups.

"Civil society had demanded that at least two of the five commissioners be women and one member be from a small ethnic group to ensure pluralistic representation in line with international standards," it said.

Iftekharuzzaman said that although the approved draft describes the NHRC as independent and impartial, it does not clearly state that the commission will remain outside the control of any government ministry or division.

He also criticised provisions requiring government approval to open offices outside Dhaka and to determine the commission's organisational structure and appoint its staff.

"The provision allowing up to 30 percent of government employees to be appointed on deputation, along with the option of naming serving officials as commissioners, could effectively turn the commission into a government body," he said.

TIB urged the government to revise both draft laws before placing them before parliament, taking into account the views of victims and stakeholders.

Total solar eclipse to cast its shadow over Europe

AFP, *Burgos*

Millions of people will turn their gaze towards the heavens on Wednesday to witness one of nature's greatest spectacles -- a rare total solar eclipse -- as it sweeps over mainland Europe to briefly turn day into night.

The Moon is first expected to blot out the Sun, leaving only the shimmering glow of its outer corona, in Russia's remote Arctic north, before parts of Greenland and Iceland are enveloped in the arc of its eerie shadow.

Excitement was highest in Spain, where tourists thronged the streets of normally quiet villages to experience the dramatic natural phenomenon as the eclipse's narrow path cuts across the Iberian Peninsula from the northern Atlantic coast to the Mediterranean Sea in the south.

Govt goes for long-term US LNG supply

FROM PAGE 1

Officials said the pricing formula was designed to hedge against volatility in global LNG markets.

Of the 117 cargoes, 14 will be delivered between 2026 and 2028 at a price linked to the Japan Korea Marker (JKM) index, at JKM plus $0.0875 per million British thermal units (MMBtu).

Gunvor will deliver five cargoes in 2026, six in 2027 and three in 2028. With the JKM rate standing at around $21 per MMBtu last week, the price would be about $22 per MMBtu if the purchases were made now.

The remaining 103 cargoes will be delivered between 2029 and 2038, at a rate of 10 cargoes a year, under a US Henry Hub-linked pricing formula.

With domestic gas reserves failing to keep pace with demand, Bangladesh is increasingly reliant on LNG imports to meet the needs of industries, transport and households.

The government is also planning to set up two more floating LNG terminals and another land-based terminal, in addition to the two existing floating terminals.

However, the ongoing US-Israel war on Iran has heavily disrupted global LNG supplies. Qatar, Bangladesh's largest LNG supplier under long-term contracts, has cut scheduled deliveries to Bangladesh, putting further pressure on domestic supplies.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh has pledged to increase imports from the US under the Agreement on Reciprocal Trade with Washington.

To meet immediate gas requirements, the purchase committee also approved delivery of six cargoes under spot and direct procurement contracts.

It approved delivery of two LNG cargoes from the UK's Blackcube International at $15.50 per MMBtu and two from Oman's Maxwell International SPC at JKM plus $0.54 per MMBtu.

Another two deliveries, for 2026, will be purchased from Hong Kong-based Zhenyu Shipping at $14.95 per MMBtu.

Separately, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs gave in-principle approval for the direct purchase of eight more LNG cargoes to avert potential energy shortages.

Two cargoes each will be sourced from Zhenyu Shipping, Malaysia's PETRONAS LNG Ltd, China Runze Holdings Group Limited and US-based DARAB Inc. The prices will be approved later by the purchase committee.

TABS, RICE, FERTILISER

The purchase committee also approved a proposal from the Department of Social Services to procure Android tablets under the Strengthening Social Protection for Improved Resilience, Inclusion, and Targeting (SSPIRIT) project.

The tablets will be used to implement the Family Card programme and will be procured directly from Bangladesh Navy-operated Dockyard and Engineering Works Limited, Narayanganj, at a cost of Tk 320.71 crore.

The committee also approved rice and fertiliser imports to safeguard food security and agricultural production.

Under a government-to-government deal with Vietnam Southern Food Corporation (VINAFOOD II), Bangladesh will purchase 1 lakh tonnes of non-basmati parboiled rice at $416 per tonne.

Under another G2G arrangement with Morocco's OCP NUTRICROPS SA, Bangladesh will import 40,000 tonnes of DAP fertiliser at $891.67 per tonne and 30,000 tonnes of TSP fertiliser at $677.33 per tonne.

Besides, 40,000 tonnes of bulk granular urea will be procured from Saudi Arabia's SABIC Agri-nutrients Company at $421.67 per tonne for the 2026–27 fiscal year.

Death penalty

FROM PAGE 12

"They don't deserve any mercy. They don't have any mitigating factors; rather, there are aggravating factors."

Referring to Quader as a "political joker" or "political clown", Aminul said some of his remarks and statements at different times could not be considered those of a political leader.

The other accused are AL Joint General Secretary AFM Bahauddin Nasim, former state minister for information Mohammad Ali Arafat, Jubo League Chairman Sheikh Fazle Shams Parash, General Secretary Moinul Hossain Khan Nikhil, and Chhatra League President Saddam Hussain and General Secretary Sheikh Wali Asif Enan.

All the accused are absconding.

During the arguments, the prosecution alleged that Bahauddin helped organise and facilitate the party's response, while Arafat played a role in controlling the media and suppressing reports of killings and violence. It accused Parash and Nikhil of mobilising Jubo League activists. It said Nikhil had opened fire on protesters.

It said BCL leaders Saddam and Enan were involved in assembling armed cadres and coordinating attacks.

Half of Afghan women rarely leave home: UN

REUTERS, *Geneva*

Half of Afghan women now leave their homes only once or twice a month as Taliban-imposed restrictions curtail their freedom of movement and participation in public life, according to data released by U.N. Women on Wednesday.

As the Taliban prepare to mark the fifth anniversary of their return to power this week, Afghanistan remains the only country in the world to ban girls from secondary education and women from attending university, stated the U.N. agency, which promotes gender equality.

"Half a decade after the Taliban takeover in August 2021, Afghanistan has systematically dismantled the rights of half its population, making it a global outlier with no parallel in the modern world," U.N. Women said in a statement.

The Taliban-run Ministry for the Propagation of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice, which enforces many of the government's rules on women, did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The government's chief spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, also did not immediately respond.

The Taliban have barred an estimated 2.4 million Afghan girls from secondary education since they regained power in Afghanistan in 2021, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization said on Tuesday.

Fakhrul BNP's presidential candidate

FROM PAGE 1

the Election Commission to submit the nomination form with the signatures of the proposer and seconder," said a Standing Committee member.

Fakhrul, 78, is also expected to resign from his ministerial post at the meeting, sources said.

BNP leaders will then go to the EC, where the party is expected to submit Fakhrul's nomination paper around 12:30pm before publicly announcing his candidature.

BNP Chief Whip and party Vice-Chairman Nurul Islam Moni said the party would submit its nomination paper after Jamaat-e-Islami files its nomination.

"After the submission, the name of the presidential candidate will be announced publicly," he added.

According to the EC schedule, nomination papers can be submitted between 10:00am and 4:00pm today.

At a meeting on August 1, the BNP Standing Committee authorised Tarique to select the party's presidential candidate.

On August 9, Moni and BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi collected nomination papers from the EC. The following day, the Jamaat-led 11-party alliance collected a nomination form for Liberal Democratic Party Chairman Oli Ahmed to contest the election.

Voting will be held during a parliamentary sitting from 2:00pm to 5:00pm on August 20. Lawmakers will cast their votes through an open ballot.

The presidency fell vacant following Mohammed Shahabuddin's resignation on July 24, with Speaker Hafiz Uddin Ahmed serving as acting president since then.

Besides LGRD minister, Fakhrul also holds the posts of an MP and BNP secretary general. If elected president, he will have to give up all three, requiring the BNP-led government and the party to choose his replacements.

WHY FAKHRUL?

The BNP believes Fakhrul, besides being a tested leader within the party, has a positive image and broad acceptance among other political parties and the public.

Several senior leaders said the party's top leadership wants to honour Fakhrul, taking these factors into account.

During the Awami League's long rule, the BNP suffered serious setbacks amid repression and persecution. Party chief Khaleda Zia was imprisoned, while Tarique remained in exile in London.

In the absence of the two top leaders, Fakhrul served as the BNP's main visible leader inside the country for an extended period, guiding the party through crises and leading movements against the AL.

The party believes rewarding him would set a strong example and send a positive message throughout its ranks.

Although the president has limited powers under the existing Constitution, the office has assumed significant importance at different times during political or constitutional crises.

The three-month caretaker government system has also been restored to conduct national elections, and the president's role became important during such periods in the past.

Against this backdrop, the BNP has taken the position that the president should this time be an active politician from within the party.

POLITICAL CAREER

Fakhrul has been BNP secretary general since March 30, 2016. Before that, he served as the party's acting secretary general for five years from March 20, 2011.

At the BNP's 5th National Council on December 8, 2009, he was appointed senior joint secretary general.

In the 8th parliamentary election in 2001, Fakhrul was elected an MP from his home district's Thakurgaon-1 constituency as a BNP-nominated candidate.

He served as state minister for agriculture, and civil aviation and tourism ministries from 2001 to 2006. In 2008, he contested the 9th parliamentary election.

Fakhrul resigned from government service in 1986 and joined active politics. In 1988, he was elected chairman of Thakurgaon Municipality as an independent candidate.

In the early 1990s, amid the nationwide anti-Ershad movement, Fakhrul joined the BNP. In 1992, Fakhrul was made president of the Thakurgaon district BNP.

Fakhrul was born on January 26, 1948, in Thakurgaon.

Working on 'accurate' list

FROM PAGE 3

called for grassroots-level data collection involving freedom fighters, families, administrators, researchers and students.

Liberation War Affairs Minister Ahmed Azam Khan said accurately preserving and presenting the history of the Liberation War for future generations is the state's moral and historical responsibility.

Acknowledging longstanding allegations of irregularities and the inclusion of non-freedom fighters in official lists, he said the ministry is working to prepare accurate lists of freedom fighters, martyrs and Biranganas.

State Minister Ishraque Hossain said the Liberation War is the foundation of Bangladesh's independence and sovereignty, leaving no room for ambiguity or inaccuracy in recognising freedom fighters, martyrs and Biranganas.

Speakers also called for combining local knowledge with institutional records, re-verifying existing documents and preserving sources and verification processes to build a sustainable national archive.

They said the list of martyrs should cover not only fallen freedom fighters but also civilians, teachers, students, intellectuals, women and others killed by Pakistani occupation forces and their collaborators.

Among others, Liberation War Affairs Secretary Md Ashraful Islam, North South University Professor Salimullah Khan, Bangladesh Open University VC Professor Mohammad Siddiqur Rahman Khan, Dhaka University Professor Sukomal Barua and Jugantor Editor Abdul Hai Shikder spoke at the meeting.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation
Open Tender (International) for Petroleum Products

1	**Ministry/Division**	Energy and Mineral Resources Division.
2	**Agency**	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC).
3	**Procuring Entity Name**	General Manager (Com. & Ops.), Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC).
4	**Procuring Entity District**	Chattogram, Bangladesh.
5	**Invitation for**	Invitation for Open Tender (International) for import of Gasoil 0.005% 'S' (50 PPM) during "September 1st to December 31st, 2026".
6	**Invitation Ref. No**	28.03.0000.000.045.01.0006.26
7	**Date**	13th August, 2026
KEY INFORMATION		
8	**Procurement Method**	Open Tendering Method (OTM)
FUNDING INFORMATION		
9	**Source of Funds**	Own Fund
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
10	**Tender Package No.**	PG-03
11	**Tender Package Name**	Invitation for Open Tender (International) for import of Gasoil 0.005% 'S' (50 PPM)
12	**Tender Publication Date**	13/08/2026
13	**Tender Last Selling Date and time**	02/09/2026; 4.00 PM (BST) (GMT+6)
14	**Tender Closing Date and time**	03/09/2026; 02:00 PM (BST) (GMT+6)
15	**Tender Opening Date and time**	03/09/2026; 02:15 PM (BST) (GMT+6)
16	**Name and Address of the Office(s)**	
17	**Selling Tender Document (Principal)**	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, Joy Pahar Estate, Sarson Road, Chawkbazar, Chattogram-4203.
	Selling Tender Document (Others)	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, BTMC Bhaban, Level-10, 7-9 Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh.
	Receiving Tender Document	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, Joy Pahar Estate, Sarson Road, Chawkbazar, Chattogram-4203.
	Opening Tender Document	
18	**Place/Date/Time for Pre-Tender Meeting**	Virtual Meeting (Zoom Platform). 20/08/2026; 11:00 AM (GMT+6)
19	**Tender Validity/ Offer Validity Period**	The Offer must be valid till 25/10/2026.
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER		
20	**Brief Eligibility and Qualification of Tenderer**	(i) A maximum of three (03) litigation history against the tenderer(s) over a period of the last three (03) years. (ii) The tenderer(s) must have minimum 3 (Three) years' general experience in the export/supply of petroleum products. (iii) The Tenderer(s) must have specific experience of executing at least 02 (two) contracts with a minimum value of USD 32 Million each in last three years in the supply of goods similar to the proposed goods. (iv) The Tenderer(s) must own refinery(ies) or more than 50% equity of a refinery. The processing capacity of the refinery(ies) must be at least 0.75 million metric tons per year. Or, The Tenderer(s) must satisfactorily complete export/supply of at least 0.40 million Metric tons of petroleum products annually for the last three years. (v) Annual turnover of the Tenderers during last 3(three) years must be equivalent to minimum US$ 350 million. (vi) The minimum amount of liquid asset or working capital facility must be US$ 45 million. (vii) The Tenderer(s) must be free from any interdictory/embargo/sanction from international organization like UNO, OPEC, WTO etc. (viii) The Tenderer(s) must comply with international safety standard and environment compliances.
21	**Brief Description of Goods**	PG-03: The total quantity to be supplied is 0.186-0.373 Million Barrels (25,000-50,000 Metric Tons) of Gasoil 0.005% 'S' (+/-10% at Buyer's Option).
	Minimum and Maximum range of importable quantity for each package is at Buyer's option.	
22	**Tender Document Price**	Tender Document Price: BDT 12,000.00 / US$ 100.00 for each package, Non-Refundable by Cash / Pay Order / Bank Draft drawn in favor of "Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation".

23	Package No	Identification	Tender Security Amount	Completion Time
	PG-03	PG-03	USD 0.25 Million	01st September – 31st December 2026

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
24	**Name of Official Inviting Tender**	Mohammad Zahid Hossain
25	**Designation of Official Inviting Tender**	General Manager (Commercial & Operations), BPC.
26	**Address of Official Inviting Tender**	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, Joy Pahar Estate, Sarson Road, Chawkbazar, Chattogram-4203.
27	**Contact details of Official Inviting Tender**	Tel. No: +88-02-3333-16121 Mobile: +88 01713755377/+880 01829-589366 Fax No: +88 2333320147 Email: gm_commercial@bpc.gov.bd

The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.

Mohammad Zahid Hossain
General Manager (Commercial & Operations)
Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC)

GD-1957

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক
(সেন্ট্রাল ব্যাংক অব বাংলাদেশ)
প্রধান কার্যালয়
মতিঝিল, ঢাকা-১০০০
বাংলাদেশ।

হিউম্যান রিসোর্সেস ডিপার্টমেন্ট-১
(রিক্রুটমেন্ট এন্ড আউটসোর্সিং উইং)

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং: ৬৪/২০২৬

তারিখ: ২৮ শ্রাবণ ১৪৩৩ / ১২ আগস্ট ২০২৬

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকে 'সহকারী পরিচালক (প্রকৌশল-যান্ত্রিক)' পদে প্রাথমিকভাবে নির্বাচিত প্রার্থীদের তালিকা।

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকে 'সহকারী পরিচালক (প্রকৌশল-যান্ত্রিক)' পদে নিয়োগের উদ্দেশ্যে ১১/১২/২০২৩ তারিখে প্রকাশিত নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-৭৫/২০২৩-এর সূত্রে গৃহীত লিখিত এবং মৌখিক পরীক্ষার ফলাফলের ভিত্তিতে নিম্নে বর্ণিত রোল নম্বরধারী ০৬ জন প্রার্থীকে নিয়োগের জন্য প্রাথমিকভাবে নির্বাচিত করা হয়েছে:

নির্বাচিত প্রার্থীদের রোল নম্বর (বাম থেকে ডানে মেধাক্রমানুসারে)

৬০০৮৭৮, ৬০০১৫৬, ৬০০১৭৩, ৬০০১০০, ৬০১১১০ এবং ৬০০২১১ = মোট ০৬ জন

নির্বাচিত প্রার্থীদের চরিত্র ও প্রাক-পরিচয় সম্পর্কিত বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ-এর সন্তোষজনক তদন্ত প্রতিবেদন প্রাপ্তি এবং প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে অন্যান্য দলিলাদি যাচাই সাপেক্ষে নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত পরবর্তী কার্যক্রম গ্রহণ করা হবে।

ডিসিপি ঃ ৪৮/২০২৬-২১৭৪
তারিখ ঃ ১২-০৮-২০২৬

(মোঃ শহীদ রেজা)
পরিচালক (এইচআরডি-১)

ব্যাংকিং ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে, হয়রানির শিকার হলে কিংবা কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

GD-1953

Barriers to recognition leave

FROM PAGE 3

Many are unable to obtain birth certificates or NIDs, effectively excluding them from basic civic services, she added.

Citizens' Platform for SDGs organised the plenary session titled "Inclusive Development, Five-Year Strategic Framework for Reform and Development (July 2026-June 2031) and SDGs".

Moderating the session, the platform's convener Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya said the Awami League government had inflated growth figures to claim 7 percent growth, while the actual rate was 4.2 percent, citing the interim government-era white paper.

He said 1.4 crore working-age people entered the job market during that period, but employment was created for only 87 lakh. As a result, one in three educated youths is now unemployed.

Besides, 3.18 crore people live in poverty, including 95 lakh in extreme poverty, he added.

Sohanur Rahman of Youth Net Global said many members of the manta community in Barishal are born and die on boats and remain outside the formal documentation system and government safety nets.

Citing Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics data, he said 13 percent of residents in Dhaka's slums are climate refugees from Barishal.

Ashrafun Nahar Misti, representing persons with disabilities, said only one of the country's 20 major railway stations is disabled-friendly, while public transport, apart from the metro rail, remains largely inaccessible.

Labour leader Taslima Akhter said 85 percent of workers are employed in the informal sector and called for a national minimum wage and dignified working conditions.

Madhabi Marma, a reserved seat lawmaker, said geographical isolation prevents many marginalised communities in the hills from accessing education and healthcare. She also stressed the need to protect indigenous people's land rights.

Social Welfare Minister Abu Zafar Md Zahid Hossain pledged to build a "humane Bangladesh" where marginalised people and those with special needs receive priority.

Prime Minister's Adviser Mahdi Amin said district-level "Employment Exchanges" would be introduced to connect jobseekers with employers. The government also plans to recruit 1 lakh social and medical care workers nationwide, 80 percent of whom will be women.

State Minister for Planning Zonayed Saki said Tk 1,43,000 crore has been allocated to the social safety net sector in the current budget and that the government is trying to reduce the number of such programmes from over 90 to fewer than 10.

Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury said the government is focusing on "democratisation of the economy" to ensure every citizen's right to participate in economic activities.

BANGLADESH GAS FIELDS COMPANY LIMITED
(A Company of Petrobangla)
Birashar, Brahmanbaria.

"গ্যাস জাতীয় সম্পদ। এর অপচয় রোধ করে জাতীয় দায়িত্ব পালন করুন।"

Reference no. 28.10.1213.000.806.00.0356.26 Date: 12-08-2026

e-Tender Notice

e-Tenders are invited in e-GP System Portal (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd) by Civil Engineering Department, Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Limited, Birashar, Brahmanbaria for the procurement of following works:

SL. No.	Package No.	Description of works	Tender ID No.	Tender Last Selling /downloading date & Time	Tender Closing date & time	Tender Opening date & time
01	Civil/egp/01/2026-2027	Renovation of Marichakandi Ghat in Bancharampur, Brahmanbaria, to facilitate the transport of the rig and other ancillary equipment to the Meghna Gas Field for the workover of Well No. Meghna-1, under the project titled "Workover of 7 Wells in Titas, Bakhrabad, Habiganj and Meghna Fields".	1317425 (OTM)	23-08-2026 up to 15.00 Hrs.	24-08-2026 at 14.00 Hrs.	24-08-2026 at 14.00 Hrs.

- 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;
- The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any members of registered bank's branches up to 15.00 Hrs. on 23-08-2026.
- To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP system portal (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd);
- Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd);
- The procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

28.10.1213.000.876.09.0079.26 (civil)
(3x6")

12-08-2026

Engr. Md. Mahabubur Rahaman Khan
Dy-General Manager (Civil Engg.)
Phone- 02337741202-02337741205, Extn. -113

GD-1952

PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 13

	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	4-25	12-45	4-45	6-41	8-00
JAMAAT	5-00	1-15	5-00	6-44	8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Dengue claims two more lives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least two dengue patients died while 723 others were hospitalised in the 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday.

The deaths were reported from Barishal and Khulna divisions, according to the Directorate General of Health Services.

With the new deaths and cases, the total number of deaths this year rose to 63 and cases to 21,550.

Currently, 1,593 dengue patients are undergoing treatment in different hospitals.



ILLUSTRATION: **MAHMUDA EMDAD**

ESSAY

Why we should let adaptations be adaptations

SHANJIDA NOWSHIN CHOWDHURY

From the moment it was first announced to its theatrical release, Christopher Nolan's *The Odyssey* (2026) has sparked immense debate amongst fans and critics alike. While some have praised the film for its breathtaking cinematography and innovative use of filming techniques, others have criticised what they perceive as a lack of narrative depth and fidelity to the original source material. Amidst the flood of online opinions, one voice that stands above the rest is that of classics scholar, Emily Wilson, whose 2017 translation of Homer's epic is considered one of the most accessible versions of the poem for modern readers.

Wilson's critique, among other things, focuses largely on the lack of depth of the female characters and removal of certain scenes from the film that, according to her, were essential to the moral complexity of the original text and packed a particularly strong punch. While a lot of Wilson's criticism of the film holds true, one cannot help but wonder whether a true verdict on Nolan's film can ever be achieved if it is consistently being compared to its source material. With all this in mind, before we decide whether an adaptation has succeeded or failed, perhaps we must first allow these works to be what they were always meant to be: adaptations, not reproductions.

There are a few reasons why we should let adaptations be adaptations:

We tend to think of the "original text" as something set in stone: the first version of the text written by the author, or maybe even the first edition of a book published to readers. However, a quick look into literary history reveals that the idea of the original text is not stagnant, but something that is constantly in motion. Take Homer's *The Odyssey* for instance. Emerging in ancient Greece, the story of Odysseus's epic journey was passed down through oral tradition—sung, recited, acted out by many different people across generations before it was eventually written down for us to read. In this regard, the original text isn't one piece of writing written by a single person, but rather a story that has been shaped over the years by the many people who have heard it, carried it, and passed it on.

Even in a more modern context, where the first published work may be deemed as "the original", if ultimately tied to the author's intent, the original text can change depending on how the author chooses to look at their own work. J R R Tolkien for example, throughout his lifetime made several changes to *The Hobbit* (George Allen & Unwin, 1937) after its publication to help it better fit into the storylines he later set out in *The Lord of the Rings* (1954) trilogy. Other authors such as Christopher Castellani, Lindsay Ward, and JoDee Neathery among others have also expressed their interests in wanting to revise or edit their old work. This just goes to show that if the original text itself is prone to change, the same liberties can be extended to adaptations of those very texts.

With different modes of storytelling, there comes the need to evaluate how stories translate across different formats. Every adaptation by its nature is an interpretation where key decisions have to be made regarding what to preserve, what to discard, and what to alter. How exactly are these decisions made? More often than not, it comes down to what that particular story means to the person who is interpreting the text. If we are to look at both Wilson and Nolan's adaptations of *The Odyssey* for instance, it becomes increasingly clear that a personal connection to the text can often dictate what we deem to be most important about it.

Back in 2017, Emily Wilson was the first ever woman to publish a complete translation of *The Odyssey* from Greek to English. At that time, her translation received both acclaim and criticism due to its focus on a more contemporary understanding of the epic. Most notably, her focus on fleshing out female characters and describing Odysseus as a "complicated man" with moral ambiguity caused a stir among purists who believed that it was wrong to hold Homer's story and characters to modern standards of morality. Wilson's main line of defense at the time was that every translation is different as the translator inevitably interprets the text through their own cultural context, values, and understanding of the story.

Nolan's 'The Odyssey', while not above criticism, has undoubtedly helped introduce this timeless epic to a new generation of readers, a feat that even Wilson herself could not help but acknowledge in her otherwise strongly worded review of Nolan's film.

Applying this same logic to Nolan's *The Odyssey*, critiques regarding his storytelling choices can be tempered when considering that his adaptation focused largely on visual storytelling and therefore prioritises elements of the epic that can be communicated through imagery, spectacle, and performance, rather than through Homer's original narrative form or Wilson's focus on moral complexity.

We've established by now that interpretation lies at the heart of adaptation. The next question to then emerge from this discussion may ask, whose interpretation do we consider valid? In his famous essay "The Death of the Author" (*Aspen*, 1967), Ronald Barthes argues that once published, the meaning of a text is not solely in the hand of the writer, but the reader who may now choose to read and interpret the text beyond the realms of what the author originally intended. As such, in many ways the ownership of the text shifts from the author to the reader.

Considering this argument, one cannot claim that Nolan, or anyone else for that matter, has a responsibility to remain completely faithful to the text because the core idea of what the story itself is or means, does not exclusively belong to one person. As a reader, Nolan has the right to engage with *The Odyssey* and reimagine it in ways that make most sense to him. Even in the face of criticism from the author themselves—and in this case Wilson's criticism of Nolan's use of her translation as the main inspiration or source material for his film adaptation—it does not change the fact that Nolan's adaptation is valid in its own right. Ultimately, in adapting the text, Nolan is not simply reproducing, but interpreting the story through his own creative lens; a reading that does not suddenly become illegitimate simply because it does not align with what Wilson originally intended.

Lastly, and perhaps the most important reason we must let adaptations be adaptations is because without them so many classics may remain unknown to new generations. Think of how many people first picked up Shakespeare after watching Baz Luhrmann's *Romeo + Juliet* (1996), or how the film *Clueless* (1995), for an entire generation, became the gateway to reading Jane Austen. Adaptations help make classics more accessible to new audiences which in turn help them stay relevant even centuries after they are first released into the world.

Nolan's *The Odyssey*, while not above criticism, has undoubtedly helped introduce this timeless epic to a new generation of readers, a feat that even Wilson herself could not help but acknowledge in her otherwise strongly worded review of Nolan's film. Publishers Weekly reports that across all editions, the book sales of *The Odyssey* have gone up by 76% surrounding the film's release.

Ultimately, it is perhaps this excuse to return to beloved stories that we should be looking for in adaptations. *The Odyssey* has survived for as long as it has precisely because it had been told and retold for centuries upon end, catering to new generations of audiences. So, when it comes to adaptations, maybe it is time we stopped judging how accurately they are able to reproduce the past, but rather how well they can carry these stories on into the future.

Shanjida Nowshin Chowdhury *is a lecturer in the Department of English and Modern Languages at North South University.*

TRIBUTE

REMEMBERING
Humayun Azad, the feminist

SADMAN AHMED SIAM

Humayun Azad has been described by different adjectives: progressive, anti-traditionalist, and anti-establishment- at different times. But less discussed is his work on feminist literature in Bangladesh. He wrote one of the most accessible books on feminist literature in Bangla, *Nari* (Agamee Prakashani, 1992). Lesser known still is that he translated one of the most seminal books on feminist theory, *The Second Sex* (1949), by Simone de Beauvoir in Bangla, titled *Ditiyo Lingo*, that was published in 2001.

Azad was a radical feminist, and he made that clear in the opening sections of *Nari*. His chief enemy is patriarchy, which he shows operates across race, class, and political ideology. Throughout the book, he details how, from ancient mythology to modern literature, from cavemen to modern, even progressive men, patriarchy affects everything. He draws from Mary Wollstonecraft, Friedrich Engels, Simone de Beauvoir, Kate Millett, and Catharine A. MacKinnon, among others.

Azad was writing in a time when the two top leaders in the two largest political parties in Bangladesh were female, and both of them went on to become Prime Ministers. Despite it being hailed as a success in a conservative nation like Bangladesh, Azad was never convinced. Rather, he maintained that both of these leaders were deeply reactionary, and demanded the emancipation of all women, not only of the elite class. This reflects how universal and radical he wanted his feminist commitments to be.



ILLUSTRATION: **MAISHA SYEDA**

The novelist in his writings did not even spare one of his favourite poets. Through his deep knowledge of the Tagore canon, Azad exposes the deep misogyny lurking behind the romantic poetry of Rabindranath. He pinpoints how reactionary his thoughts on women were. Victorian misogyny was prevalent in Tagore's literature, and Tagore was also critical of women's liberation movements in his time, which Azad explores through Tagore's essays.

A subtle irony surfaces when Azad explores the criticism of Sigmund Freud and the concept of Envy in psychoanalytic literature. In his other works, Azad is quite celebratory of science and is a proponent of scientific optimism, a notable example being *Mohabissho* (Agami Prokashoni, 2000), among many others. But in Nari, he exposes how science can be affected by patriarchy, and it is not as universal as it claims to be. He maintains that the reason Freud was so successful in spreading his misogynistic conception of the world was that he wrapped it in a scientific fashion. Not all of these insights were his own, but it is important to note how the opponents of women's liberation still rely on different scientific arguments to support their position, without considering that the scientific endeavour in question might itself be a patriarchal production.

Probably an unusual but highly interesting focus of Azad is his attempt to discuss sex education, a subject still highly taboo in the Bangladeshi context. His description is brief, but the inclusion of such matters in *Nari* signals priority—he believes it is the duty of the state and society to teach young girls about their bodies and bodily autonomy. These are concepts we are still not comfortable with, even 35 years after the publication of the book, and probably this is part of the reason this aspect of Azad is less discussed.

Azad was not uncritical of the influence of patriarchy in his fellow progressives as well. He was conscious of the fact and demonstrated it through the example of Jean-Jacques Rousseau. Rousseau was one of the leading philosophers in the French Revolution, but despite claiming "Liberty, Equality and Fraternity" for all in theory, achieved them only for men in practice. In fact, Rousseau was not fond of liberty when it came to women despite being known as one of the forefathers of western liberalism. Progressive spheres, even in Azad's time, were not free of patriarchy, as they are not now, and to ensure justice, we must be wary of that as well.

But can Azad be free from his own criticism?

This is an excerpt. Read the full article on *The Daily Star* and Star Books and Literature websites.

Sadman Ahmed Siam, *as the name suggests, is indeed a sad man. Send him happy quotes at: siamahmed09944@gmail.com.*

Star
SPORT
RSDAY AUGUST 13, 2026, SRABAN 29, 1433 BS

What to WATCH

T SPORTS
Futsal League
Warrior SA VS Ansar & VDP (Women)
Live from 2:30 pm
Warrior SA VS Ansar & VDP (Men)
Live from 4:45 pm
Bangladesh Army vs Xenon FC (Women)
Live from 7:00 pm
Bangladesh Army vs Xenon FC (Men)
Live from 9:15 pm


PHOTO: BCB

TIGERS READY TO COMPETE

Bangladesh captain Najmul Hossain Shanto poses alongside Australia captain Pat Cummins in Darwin on Wednesday as the Tigers prepare for the first of the two Tests starting today. After a 23-year wait since their last Test tour of Australia, Bangladesh return with Shanto confident they can rise to the challenge.

It's a very good opportunity. I hope we will play some good cricket, and we want to compete with them.

Bangladesh captain **Najmul Hossain Shanto**

I don't reckon I have ever played an easy Test match, so I am sure they will be strong. A few of the guys we haven't really ever seen before, so that always brings a few unknowns going into the Test match.

Australia captain **Pat Cummins**

No local TV coverage

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's two-match Test series against Australia will face a local television blackout, with no channel set to broadcast the matches.

While T Sports and Nagorik TV traditionally provide coverage of Bangladesh's matches, it was learnt that neither channel will show the two-Test series this time.

According to a BCB press release yesterday, the matches will be available on digital streaming platforms -- Tapmad, for instance. Across South Asia, the series will be broadcast on Star Sports.

'Don't know how to move forward'

REUTERS

Lionel Messi said on Wednesday he is having doubts about continuing his career following the death of his father last week.

Messi's father, Jorge, died last week aged 68 at a medical clinic in the Argentine city of Rosario after a long illness.

"I don't know what I'm going to do without you. I don't know how to move forward. I only played football and now I have quite a few doubts about whether I'm going to keep doing it for much longer," Messi wrote in a tribute on Instagram.

"You were by my side from the beginning; there was so little left until the end. Why couldn't you hold on just a little longer so we could finish it together?"

Jorge closely accompanied his son Lionel throughout his career, beginning with his early years at Barcelona. He acted as a crucial pillar of support and, for several years, served as his representative.

The 39-year-old Argentina captain revealed that one of the reasons he played in the World Cup, where they finished runners-up to Spain after an extra-time loss in the final, was because it was his father's wish.



"A huge hug to you and yours in these tough times, Leo. Much strength."
-- **Cristiano Ronaldo's** comment on Messi's post

"You always asked me to play in the last World Cup and a few days before it started was when you got worse," Messi said.

"It was the first time you weren't going to be at a tournament... Every time a match ended, I would wait and hope for your message. That's when I realised how real the situation was."

During the World Cup, the Argentine captain experienced mixed emotions after scoring a hattrick in the opening match against Algeria, breaking down in tears while celebrating his first goal.

He later explained that his tears were due to "something unrelated to football" after going through "a few difficult, complicated days."

Messi said he wanted to win the final for his father, but he had no energy left to bring home a second World Cup title.

"My legs couldn't go on anymore. This time I tried to push myself beyond my physical limits, but I couldn't. I never felt well... We weren't champions, but you don't know how much we enjoyed every match. Once again, you were right: I had to be there and play it," Messi added.

Despite his grief, the Inter Miami forward pledged to honour his father's memory through parenting his own children.

"I'm going to miss you so much, but you will always be present, especially in the upbringing of my children, because I will teach them and raise them the way you raised me," he said.



RONALDO AND GEORGINA TIE THE KNOT

Cristiano Ronaldo and longtime partner Georgina Rodriguez have tied the knot in a private civil ceremony in Cascais, Portugal, on Tuesday. The couple announced their marriage on Instagram with a picture of their hands wearing matching gold wedding rings and the caption "C [heart] G". Their five children were reportedly present at the intimate ceremony.

PHOTO: **INSTAGRAM**



Root scraps England curfew

REUTERS

England captain Joe Root said there would be no team curfew during next week's home Test series against Pakistan, backing players to act responsibly despite recent off-field incidents.

The 35-year-old's remarks



come amid the intense scrutiny surrounding England's dressing room culture over the past year under former coach Brendon McCullum and former captain Ben Stokes.

Root returned to the captaincy following Stokes' retirement in June amid the Test series against New Zealand, during which the all-rounder was suspended for a Test along with pacer Gus Atkinson for breaching a team curfew during a night out in London.

McCullum, too, stepped down following England's 2-1 series loss, and was replaced by former teammate Stephen Fleming.

"There's not going to be a curfew. I don't think this needs to be a big deal, to be honest," Root said on the Sky Sports Cricket podcast on Wednesday.

"My view is that if players are expected to take responsibility on the field, they should be trusted as grown adults to make good decisions off it as well.

"That's something we, as a team, have to manage properly and police ourselves, alongside Stephen Fleming."

SHORT CORNER

Shamit Shome joins Pele's NY Cosmos



Bangladesh midfielder Shamit Shome will join New York Cosmos after ending his three-year spell with Canadian Premier League club Cavalry FC, the club confirmed through a social media post on Wednesday.

Dickwella replaces Mendis against India

Sri Lanka wicketkeeper Kusal Mendis has been ruled out of two Tests against India due to injury as selectors named the squad for the home series on Wednesday. Wicketkeeper-batter Niroshan Dickwellamakes the 16-member squad in place of Mendis.

***Read The Daily Star website for the full stories.*

Cowater International

ProNurse Project in Bangladesh
Cowater International Inc.
House-100 Road-25, Block-A
Banani, Dhaka-1213

PRONURSE

INVITATION FOR TENDER

Memo No: PRNGAC/Cowater/884/2026 Date: 12.08.2026

01.	Procuring Entity		ProNurse Project
02.	Procurement Method		Open Tendering Method (OTM)
03	Invitation for Tender		The Procuring entity invites tender for procurement of items of following description for Nurse Teachers Training Centre (NTTC), Mohakhali, Dhaka. in 4 (Four) separate tenders.
04.	Tender Packages	1	Supplying, installation, testing and commissioning of THREE PHASE GENERATOR WITH ATS AND SOUND ATTENUATED ACOUSTICALLY TREATED CANOPY(Maximum sound level : 75 dBA at 7m distance in the generator room).
		2	Supply and Installation of (a) 640 Kg 08 Person Capacity and (b) 800 Kg 10 Person Capacity Passenger Lift, complete system including all standard accessories.
		3	Supply,installation,testingandcommissioningof11kVHTSwitchgear, 315KVA Transformer,LT&ELTSwitchgear,PFIPlant, ATSsystemincludingotherrelatedworks.
		4	Split Type (Wall-Mounted/Ceiling-Mounted Indoor Unit) Inverter AirConditioner.
05	Eligibility of Tenderers: This tender is open to all eligible Tenders as per criteria mentioned below:		
	a) Manufacturer's authorized dealer/agent/supplier with at least 05years of general experienceand minimum specific experience of completion of at least 3contractsin a single tender within the last 3 (three) years with a value of at least Tk. 50 lac for each supply, installation and providing after sales service of Generator/Passenger Lift/Sub-Station and Air conditioner under any Govt./Semi-Govt. /Autonomous body/Private Organizations. b) Work completion certificate to be submitted along with the tender. c) Sole Agent/Distributorship certificate must be submitted. A supplier must submit authorization certificate from Sole Agent/Distributor or Manufacturer for confirmation of after sales service. d) The tenderers shall have a minimum average annual sales turnoverof Tk. 100 Lacs during the last 3 (three) for each package.		
06.	Price of Tender Document		Tk. 1,000/- (Taka One thousand) only in cash for each package. The original money receipt must be enclosed with the tender.
07.	Amount of Tender Security		Tk. 2 Lac for each package, to be submitted in the form of a Bank Draft/Pay Order/Bank Guarantee.
08	Name and address of theOffice selling, submission and opening of tender.		ProNurse Project, Cowater International House-100, Road-25, Block-A, Banani, Dhaka.
09	Tender submission and opening date and time		Submission: 20.08.2026 up to 11.00 AM Opening: 20.08.2026 at 11.15 AM
10	Contact details for tender clarification purpose		Telephone: 01819245607
11.	The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all the tenders or annul the tender proceedings at any stage of the tendering process.		

Dr. Lubana Ahmed
Project Director
ProNurse Project in Bangladesh
Cowater International

The Daily Star





Bomb defused in Savar; blast near Barishal court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A powerful bomb was defused in Savar yesterday, while a crude bomb-like object exploded outside the Barishal Judge Court.

The incidents came a day after police recovered 14 pipe bombs and bomb-making materials in Savar.

The man whose arrest led to Tuesday night's Savar raid has been identified as Mohammad Arif alias Imran. Police recovered five pipe bombs from a bag carried by Imran.

A case was filed against him, Md Nazmul Hasan Mamun, Md Abbas Ali, Kamal Hossain "Doctor", Baki and Rakib and six to seven unidentified people under sections 6(2), 8, 9, and 10 of the Anti-Terrorism Act, 2009, with the Savar Model Police Station yesterday.

The other five named accused are absconding. All are members of the banned militant outfit Neo-JMB, and they conspired to create panic and attack law-enforcement personnel, said the First Information Report.

On Tuesday night, Savar locals found a pressure cooker wrapped in black tape inside a blue plastic drum in an open field beside Laltek Ghora Mosque. They removed the pressure cooker from the drum and placed it on the field.

Police went to the spot around 8:00am yesterday after receiving a call through the emergency service and cordoned off the area. The bomb disposal unit of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police defused the device around 3:30pm.

"It was a very powerful bomb," Nur Mohammad, inspector (investigation) of Savar Police Station, told The Daily Star.

Meanwhile, in Barishal, a crude bomb-like object was likely thrown from outside near the main gate of the Judge Court premises around 10:32am. No one was injured, police said.

The CCTV footage is not clear enough to identify who had thrown the object, said Abu Raihan Mohammad Saleh, commissioner of Barishal Metropolitan Police.

In another development, Hanufa Begum, who suffered severe burns in a blast in Barishal's Bakerganj, died yesterday after battling for nine days at the National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery in Dhaka, said family members. The blast occurred at Shah Alam Howlader's house on August 3.

[Our correspondents in Savar and Barishal contributed to this report.]



Children sit atop tables as ankle-deep water fills a classroom at Madhabkati Bilpatiala Government Primary School in Khulna's Dumuria yesterday. With the Sholmari river being clogged by silt, the school remains waterlogged for much of the year, even in winter. The Daily Star reported the problem at least twice last year.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Ninth pay scale to be implemented over 2yrs

Secretaries' committee finalises proposal in principle

BAHARAM KHAN

The government is planning to implement the ninth pay scale for its employees over two fiscal years, according to sources in the secretaries' committee formed to deal with a proposal.

The committee, led by the cabinet secretary, met yesterday and finalised the pay scale proposal in principle for placement before the cabinet.

According to the draft proposal, partial implementation of the ninth pay scale would begin in July this year retrospectively and the implementional would be completed by January 2028 in phases.

- Lower-grade employees to get larger pay hike
- Cabinet to decide on phases of implementation

A member of the secretaries' committee, speaking on condition of anonymity, told The Daily Star, "The cabinet, however, will finalise the number of phases for implementation."

An official in the finance ministry echoed his remarks.

On July 26, the Finance Division briefed Prime Minister Tarique Rahman on the nineth pay scale. The proposal was drafted in light of the discussion, two senior government sources told The Daily Star.

A source, who was present during the briefing, said lower-grade employees would receive relatively larger increases than higher-grade employees.

Asked for his opinion, public administration expert and former additional secretary Firoz Mia told The Daily Star, "The salaries of lower-grade employees should be increased by 100 percent at once, instead of in phases. I do not see any problem if the salaries of higher-grade employees are not increased initially.

"Higher-grade employees receive many benefits besides their salaries, but lower-grade employees are in great distress. The government should consider this matter," he added.

Meanwhile, a Cabinet Division source said complications over judicial matters arose during the finalisation of the ninth pay scale. To address them, the government formed a seven-member cabinet committee on August 6, led by Finance and Planning Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury, to finalise the pay scale for judicial employees.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 3

JULY UPRISING CASE

Death penalty sought for Quader and six others

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The prosecution yesterday sought the maximum punishment for Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader and six other leaders of the party and its affiliated organisations.

It said exemplary punishment was needed to prevent politicians from turning against the people after getting a public mandate.

Concluding the prosecution's final arguments in a crimes against humanity case over atrocities committed during the July uprising, Chief Prosecutor Md Aminul Islam told International Crimes Tribunal-2 that the prosecution proved all four charges against the accused beyond reasonable doubt.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 6

'Has the govt learned nothing from the past?'

TIB says draft NHRC, enforced disappearance acts risk govt dominance, impunity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh expressed deep concern over the cabinet's in-principle approval of two rights-related draft laws, questioning whether the government and ruling party had learned any lessons from the enforced disappearances, killings and other "brutal and multifaceted" human rights violations committed under the ousted authoritarian regime.

The anti-graft body slammed the draft National Human Rights Commission Act, 2026, and the draft Enforced Disappearance Prevention and Redress Act, 2026, saying key recommendations from stakeholders had been ignored.

In a statement issued yesterday, TIB said that while the cabinet-approved draft National Human Rights Commission Act, 2026, contains several positive provisions, it retains clauses that stakeholders had warned could obstruct the NHRC's independent and effective functioning.

It pointed to the controversial Section 18 of the National Human Rights Commission Act, 2009 -- reproduced in the draft -- which restricts the NHRC

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
ধর্ম বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়

সতর্কীকরণ

ওমরাহ লাইসেন্সপ্রাপ্ত সকল এজেন্সিকে জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, পবিত্র ওমরাহ পালনে ইচ্ছুক কোন ব্যক্তিকে ওয়ানওয়ে এয়ার টিকিট দিয়ে সৌদি আরব প্রেরণ করা যাবে না। তাঁকে অবশ্যই রিটার্ন টিকিটসহ সৌদি আরব প্রেরণ করতে হবে। একই সাথে পবিত্র ওমরাহ পালনে ইচ্ছুক ব্যক্তিকে রিটার্ন টিকিট নিশ্চিত হয়ে সৌদি আরব গমনের জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

যে সকল এজেন্সি শুধুমাত্র ওয়ানওয়ে টিকিট দিয়ে ওমরাহ যাত্রীদের সৌদি আরব প্রেরণ করবেন তাদের বিরুদ্ধে কঠোর শাস্তিমূলক ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে ।

প্রচারে: ধর্ম বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়

