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.