DHAKA MONDAY OCTOBER 5, 2026



If Russia is not stopped, its war machine will sooner or later turn against us.

FRIEDRICH MERZ German chancellor while visiting Ukraine

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION



REGD. NO. DA 781 | VOL. XXXVI NO. 250 | ASHWIN 20, 1433 BS | www.thedailystar.net | RABIUS SANI 23, 1448 HIJRI | 16 PAGES: TK 15.00

B1 | NO BANKS LOSING OUT TO UNFAIR REGULATION

P3 | ZERO-COST MALAYSIA JOBS FOR 10,000 WORKERS

P10 | A BID TO UPROOT PALESTINIAN IDENTITY

P11 | BIGGER CONTINGENT, SHRINKING RETURN

Homes take another hit

12kg LPG cylinder now Tk 1,837; consumers already paying Tk 1,900-Tk 2,250 amid supply crunch

ASIFUR RAHMAN

Household budgets are facing another squeeze. Barely two weeks after transport fuel prices rose, the cost of cooking gas has jumped, with the price of a 12kg LPG cylinder rising by Tk 252 to Tk 1,837 yesterday.

Meanwhile, many households are already paying much more than the regulated rate amid a supply crunch.

The new price took effect at 6:00pm, but finding a cylinder at the official rate has become increasingly difficult. Of 10 retailers contacted by The Daily Star in the capital, eight said they had not received any cylinders since September 20-22.

The two retailers who had cylinders said they had only one brand each. One was selling a 12kg Jamuna cylinder for Tk 1,900, while another was asking Tk 2,250 for a United Aygaz cylinder.

That means consumers could be paying up to Tk 413 more than the newly fixed price.

The situation was similar even before yesterday's hike. On September 30, The Daily Star found 12kg cylinders being sold for Tk 2,000-2,200 when the regulated price was Tk 1,585.

On September 21, transport fuel prices were raised by Tk 20 a litre across the board, adding another burden on households already facing higher everyday expenses.

The latest LPG hike comes just three months after the price fell by Tk 357 to Tk 1,528 in July, the lowest since the supply crunch began on the international market. Since then, the official price has increased by Tk 309.

The Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) attributed yesterday's increase to higher international prices of propane and butane, the two main components of LPG, as well as higher shipping costs.

The average import cost of propane and butane has risen to $712 per tonne from $593 in July. Shipping costs, including premiums, have also increased to $250 per tonne from $160, according to BERC.

In 2026	12-kg Cylinder	Increase/Decrease Tk
October	Tk 1,837	Tk 252 ↑
September	Tk 1,585	Tk-13 ↓
August	Tk 1,598	Tk 70 ↑
July	Tk 1,528	Tk-357 ↓
June	Tk 1,885	Tk-55 ↓
May	Tk 1,940	Tk 212 ↑
April	Tk 1,728	Tk 387 ↑
March	Tk 1,341	Tk 0
February	Tk 1,341	Tk 35 ↑
January	Tk 1,306	-----



LPG supply in the local market has reportedly fallen since mid-September, with retailers saying importers and wholesalers have reduced supplies.

The shortage is particularly significant for households, which account for around 80 percent of Bangladesh's LPG consumption. Restaurants and tea stalls also rely heavily on LPG cylinders.

Despite the reported shortage, Bangladesh imported 1.58 lakh tonnes of LPG last month, almost unchanged from 1.57 lakh tonnes in August.

BERC Chairman Jalal Ahmed said the import figures did not indicate a supply problem at the import level.

Industry sources, however, said some operators had reduced market releases while waiting for BERC to raise the regulated price, creating an artificial shortage.

The shortage and price gap have already affected consumption.

When LPG reached Tk 1,940 in May, one distributor told The Daily Star that his daily sales had fallen from around 60 cylinders to 35.

Industry estimates put monthly demand at around 1.3 lakh tonnes, down from about 1.5 lakh tonnes earlier, with some households switching to induction and infrared cookers.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

WORLD TEACHERS' DAY



Altaf Hossain Dukhu Miya, 58, teaches a class at the kindergarten he founded on his ancestral land in Paachdona, Narsingdi, back in 2007. Born without arms, he has overcome a lifetime of discrimination and hardship. He was denied admission to a local madrasa because of his disability and later struggled to find work despite having a degree. Now to ensure others do not face the exclusion he endured, Dukhu Miya offers free education to children with disabilities.

PHOTO: **MEHEDI HASAN**

Govt employees will get hiked pay this month, MPO teachers won't

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Government officers and employees will receive four months' salary under the new pay scale, including three months' arrears, in the last week of this month, but teachers and staff under the MPO scheme, along with judges and judicial service employees, will have to wait longer.

Implementing the new pay scale for MPO teachers and employees, as well as judicial staffers, could take until November or December, The Daily Star has learnt from finance ministry officials involved with the proceedings.

The ministry has already issued a circular making the new pay structure for public servants effective retroactively from July, updating the iBAS++ software accordingly.

Typically, public servants receive their monthly salaries on October 23 or 24.

Once the respective ministries, divisions and subordinate offices enter the approved schedule into the software, the updated salaries alongside arrears will be processed and disbursed with October's pay.

Finance ministry officials attributed

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Dead-end jobs, meagre pay for makers of nation-builders

Govt primary teachers often placed on lower pay grades

ARAFAT RAHAMAN

Despite their pivotal role in shaping future generations, government primary schoolteachers remain among the lowest-paid staffers, a disparity that many educators say is reflected in the level of respect they receive.

Teachers are often placed on similar pay grades (grade 13) as those of drivers, clerks, and stenographers, even though teachers require higher educational qualifications for entry into service. This indicates a persistent undervaluation of their profession, teachers said on the eve of World Teachers' Day today.

For example, the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission issued a recruitment circular in 2025, putting technician-1 in grade 13, which requires HSC or SSC qualifications in science with at least six months' experience.

Primary assistant teachers, by contrast, must have a bachelor's degree. The requirement has been in place for both men and women since 2019.

> **"If capable and talented people are wanted in the teaching profession, the comparison should not be with the lowest level of civil service."**
>
> **Manzoor Ahmed,** professor emeritus at BRAC University

The government has admitted the need to reconsider the grade and is reviewing proposals for a new career structure, but no decision has been made.

This lower entry grade results in pay which many teachers struggle to make ends meet.

The monthly vehicle allowance for a deputy secretary provides for a stark comparison. The Tk 50,000 allowance is almost double a primary teacher's gross starting salary.

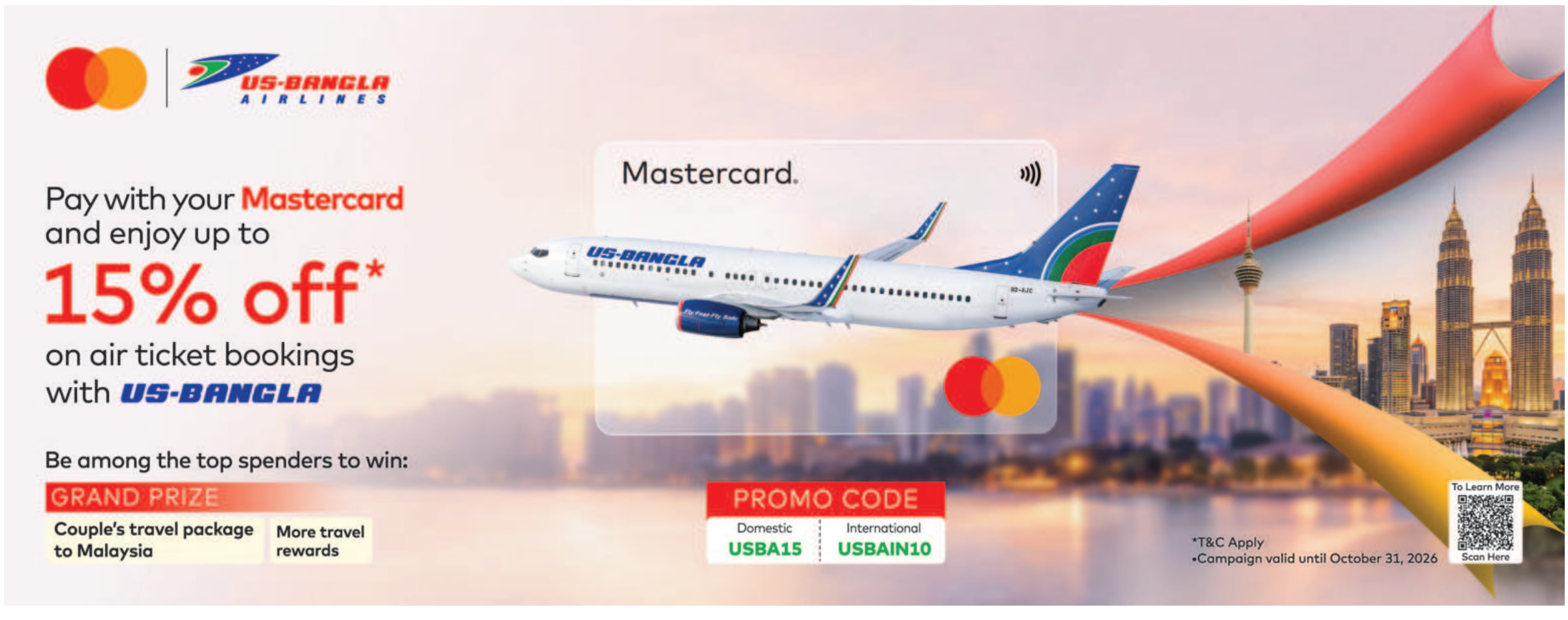
Under the new pay scale, government employees in grades 10 to 20 will receive a 50 percent increase in their basic salaries in the first phase. As a result, the basic salary of a primary teacher will rise to Tk 17,500 from Tk 11,000. Teachers said that with house rent, medical allowance, and other benefits, their monthly gross salary would go up to only Tk 25,230.

Once the pay structure is fully implemented in July 2027, a teacher's basic salary will be Tk 24,000 under grade 13.

Academics said the low pay and status often keep meritorious students away from the teaching profession.

"If capable and talented people are wanted in the teaching profession, the comparison should not be with the lowest level of civil service," Manzoor Ahmed,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



Women face political barriers long before polls

Speakers say at Bay of Bengal Conversation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women face barriers to entering politics long before election day, from securing party nominations and campaign funds to dealing with physical and online harassment, speakers said yesterday.

"If we wait until election day to count how many women have won, it's way too late," said Stephen Rodriques, resident representative of UNDP Bangladesh, at a session titled "Who Gets to Lead? Women, Local Power, and the Future of Democratic Governance" at the Bay of Bengal Conversation 2026 in Dhaka.

He said the process was shaped much earlier by who was encouraged to enter politics, could rise within political parties, received training and support, secured nominations and felt safe enough to remain in politics.

Rezwana Karim Snigdha, professor of anthropology at Jahangirnagar University, said political parties often focused on a candidate's "winnability", while women had fewer opportunities to build the networks needed to succeed in politics.

She said women also faced physical and digital harassment, with online attacks often targeting their appearance, family roles and personal lives.

Rezwana added that such abuse deterred other women from entering politics.

She also identified money as a major barrier, saying women had less access to the resources needed to contest elections.

Election Commissioner Abul Fazal Md Sanaullah said local government elections were no longer held under party banners, creating greater scope for women to participate.

He added that the electoral code of conduct had also been revised to address violence against women and gender-based cyberbullying.

Md Abdul Alim, a former member of the Electoral Reform Commission, called for effective quotas, gender policies within political parties and public funding for women candidates.

UN Women Country Representative in Bangladesh Gitanjali Singh said meaningful representation of women in leadership was a democratic imperative.



Distinguished speakers attend a session, titled "The Democracy Conversation: Rebuilding Trust in An Age of Polarisation", on the second day of the three-day 2026 Bay of Bengal Conversation at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF BAY OF BENGAL CONVERSATION

No significant media reform despite pledges

Says Matiur Rahman, criticises treatment of the press under Hasina and Yunus regimes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criticising the two previous governments led by deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and former chief adviser Muhammad Yunus over their treatment of the media, Prothom Alo Editor Matiur Rahman yesterday said the current BNP government had taken no significant steps to reform the sector despite its election pledges.



He, however, lauded previous BNP administrations under Khaleda Zia for granting "considerable freedom" to the press.

Speaking at a session titled "Journalism After the Turning Point" at the Bay of Bengal Conversation, he reminded the ruling party of its 31-point reform programme and election manifesto, which promised a media commission, the repeal of restrictive laws, and protection for "fearless, impartial journalism".

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

UK, EU want strategic partnership with Dhaka

Say envoys of UK and European Union

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The heads of the United Kingdom and the European Union missions said they are looking to move beyond the traditional donor-recipient relationship and are viewing Bangladesh as a strategic partner.

EU Ambassador Michael Miller and UK High Commissioner to Bangladesh Sarah Cooke were addressing the Bay of Bengal Conversation organised by the Centre for Governance Studies yesterday.

Both outlined plans for free trade arrangements with Bangladesh as the country moves up from the Least Developed Country status.

"Today, our relationship has matured into a modern, strategic partnership, one that reflects Bangladesh's growing global role. As Bangladesh continues to prepare for graduation from Least Developed Country status, our focus is on supporting a transition that is both smooth and sustained," said Cooke.

The envoy said Bangladesh currently benefits from duty-free access to the UK market for 99.8 percent of product lines under the UK's Developing Countries Trading Scheme and would continue to do so for a three-year transition period following LDC graduation.

"And after that, 92 percent of product lines will remain duty-free, including ready-made garments," she said.

Cooke also said the UK was working with Bangladesh to "unlock greater climate finance and develop high-integrity carbon markets, helping channel investment towards the country's long-term resilience."

She said Bangladesh had "custodial responsibilities" in the Bay of Bengal, which was a "region of increasing strategic importance" and stressed the importance of a free and open Indo-Pacific.

The EU wants its future economic engagement with Bangladesh to be "balanced, reciprocal, and mutually beneficial", said Miller.

The bloc is ready to match Bangladesh's "speed and ambition", including by exploring a future free trade agreement, said the envoy.

Referring to the EU's Everything But Arms trade preference scheme, the ambassador said it had helped underpin Bangladesh's development and contributed to lifting millions of people, including women, out of poverty.

He added that deeper economic ties would also depend on accountable institutions, the rule of law, respect for labour and human rights, environmental protection and good governance. "These issues are essential. They are not peripheral."

As Bangladesh moves beyond LDC status, he highlighted the need for a skilled workforce, diversified exports, stronger infrastructure, and public administration reforms.

Miller said the EU sought to combine European investment with technology, standards, innovation and long-term capital, while maintaining its emphasis on values and institutional safeguards.

Greater foreign and domestic investment and meaningful jobs for young people would also require stronger institutions and greater accountability, he said.

The three-day conference is being held at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel.

'We are bad at building democratic institutions'

Says Mahfuz Anam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has a proven track record of rising against and bringing down dictatorships but has struggled to build a sustainable democracy, said Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star.

"We are so good at dismantling dictatorships, but the tragic reality is that we are so bad at building democratic institutions," he said at the Bay of Bengal Conversation, organised by the Centre for Governance Studies yesterday.



"When dismantling a dictatorship, the nation unites, but once the dictatorship is dismantled, the nation divides. The very groups who worked together to dismantle the dictatorship then become each other's enemies," Anam said.

"We really don't know how to bring people together, with all their energy, all their innovation, all their resilience, and turn that resource into national strength," he said.

Anam said the birth of Bangladesh itself was the result of an uprising against a brutal military dictatorship.

"But then we failed to develop a democracy in Bangladesh, and then there was a military uprising. Ershad was the last one to fall, and we returned to democracy in 1991, and we really hoped that this would be the rebirth of democracy in Bangladesh," he said.

Since then, Bangladesh has held some fair elections under caretaker governments, but those arrangements did not last, he said.

"Instead of institutionalising fair elections, we got more and more into conflicts, rivalries and then destruction," Anam said.

He said Bangladesh had failed to institutionalise democratic structures because "we have over-politicised every institution imaginable".

"This over-politicisation has corroded the effectiveness of almost all our institutions," he said.

He said almost every profession in Bangladesh was politically divided along party lines. This ranged from doctors, who are expected to serve everyone, to journalists, for whom non-partisanship is essential to credibility.

"In a profession where credibility is

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5

Homes take another hit

FROM PAGE 1

BERC reviews LPG prices in the first week of every month based on global prices and import-related costs.

Before the latest global price pressures, the regulated price stood at Tk 1,306 per 12kg cylinder in January. It rose by Tk 387 and Tk 212 in April and May respectively as international LPG prices increased.

Prof M Shamsul Alam, energy adviser to the Consumers Association of Bangladesh, said BERC never properly examines shipping costs and simply accepts businesses' proposals.

"If international LPG prices and shipping costs increase, there is no question that prices may have to rise. The question is: by how much, and how will that increase be determined?" he said.

Shamsul said the law requires prices to be set after a public hearing, which BERC has ignored. The regulator has also failed to enforce its own orders and ensure competition among importers, he added.

"With the latest adjustment, BERC has again shown it is protecting unscrupulous businesses and keeping LPG licence holders beyond accountability," he said.

Opposition Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Mia Golam Porwar yesterday condemned the price hike, calling for its immediate withdrawal.

Alleging that syndicates were controlling the market, he said, "Money will end up in the pockets of ministers, leaders, their sons and daughters, relatives, friends and associates.

"Prices will be raised here, mega projects will be awarded there -- all kinds of arrangements are being made to generate income."

Govt employees

FROM PAGE 1

the delay for MPO institutions, specifically madrasas and technical schools, to manual payroll calculation processes, which have held up the circular.

As of 2025, there are 5.87 lakh MPO-affiliated teachers and employees, including 4.32 lakh teachers, according to data from the Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics, the central government agency under the education ministry responsible for collecting, storing, and disseminating education statistics and information.

Meanwhile, the secretary-level committee failed to resolve the implementation of the new pay structure based on recommendations for the judiciary.

Consequently, a separate cabinet committee, chaired by the finance minister, was formed.

The Judicial Service Pay Commission recommended raising the judicial allowance to 100 percent of basic pay, up from the current 30 percent, along with additional perks.

Once the cabinet committee decides on the recommendations, the finance ministry will issue a circular to make the new pay scale effective for the judicial service.

The new pay scale will take effect retroactively from July 1, 2026, and will be implemented gradually over four phases across the current and upcoming fiscal years.

Employees in Grades 10 to 20 will receive a 50 percent increase in their basic salaries in the first phase, effective from July 1. They will receive a further 25 percent increase from January 2027 and the remaining 25 percent from July 2027.

For officials in Grades 1 to 9, basic salaries will rise by 40 percent in the first phase, followed by another 30 percent increase from January 2027 and the final 30 percent from July 2027.

The fourth and final phase will begin on January 1, 2028, when the government will revise all other allowances for employees across the 20 grades.

Full implementation of the restructured salaries and allowances will add an estimated Tk 1,05,580 crore to the government's annual expenditure.

Currently, Bangladesh's public sector workforce includes 24 lakh civil and defence services employees and 9.25 lakh pensioners.

Under the revised structure, the minimum basic pay will rise from Tk 8,250 to Tk 20,000, while the maximum fixed basic salary will increase from Tk 78,000 to Tk 1,56,000.

Special grades remain in place for top officials: the cabinet secretary and principal secretary will draw a basic salary of Tk 1,72,000, while senior secretaries will receive Tk 1,64,000.

Dead-end jobs, meagre pay for makers of nation-builders

FROM PAGE 1

professor emeritus at BRAC University, told The Daily Star.

Teachers and educationists said the issue extends beyond pay disparity, encompassing limited promotion opportunities, the absence of a clear career structure, and the relatively low status of primary teachers despite higher entry qualifications.

Shahinur Al Amin joined a primary school as an assistant teacher on January 14, 1999. More than 27 years later, he is still at the same post.

"For many professionals like us, having no promotion is deeply painful. But we must keep that bottled up and continue teaching," he said, adding that a defined career path could have given him two or three promotions.

Shahinur said supporting his wife, three children, and his mother in Dhaka costs around Tk 80,000 a month, forcing him to look for other sources of income.

"Many have their own businesses or tutor students. I am into music and perform at programmes. I sing on radio and television. This is how we have to manage our families."

With their various demands, the teachers took to the streets. In May 2025, assistant teachers staged work abstentions, demanding grade 11 upon entry, and higher-grade benefits after 10 and 16 years of service.

By November, the demand had moved to grade 10. Police used truncheons, sound grenades, and water cannons as teachers marched towards Shahbagh, leaving over 100 injured.

The movement was suspended after talks with the Finance Division but resumed later. The division said the pay proposal had been sent to the National Pay Commission.

Talking to this newspaper, Khayrun Nahar Lipi, general secretary of the Bangladesh Primary Teachers' Association and a leader of that movement, said the grade 10 demand was also about status and career prospects.

"It is not only a demand for higher pay; it is also about teachers' professional status, the importance of their responsibilities and a clear career structure."

Interim government's consultation committee on primary and non-formal education proposed abolishing the post of assistant teacher and recruiting new teachers under grade 12. They would be confirmed after two years and promoted to senior teachers in grade 11 after another two years. Headteachers would be placed in grade 10.

None of these has materialised.

Prof Manzoor, who led the consultation committee, said, "A rethinking of teachers' professional standard, preparation, incentives, status and performance assessment across goverment, and private institutions is urgently needed, rather than empty promises on Teachers' Day."

The teachers' demands also reflect how the position of primary teachers in the government pay structure has changed.

Primary-teacher salary records provided in the pay scale reviewed by The Daily Star place a trained assistant teacher in grade VIII in 1973, with a starting basic salary of Tk 220. Now they have inched closer to the bottom instead of climbing higher.

Prof Manzoor said Bangladeshi primary teachers get lower salaries compared to other South Asian countries.

Talking to this correspondent, Bobby Hajjaj, the state minister for primary and mass education, said grade 13 needed reconsideration as assistant teachers' qualifications and responsibilities have increased.

He said the ministry was considering grade 12 for the teachers. They will be promoted to 11th grade as senior teachers.

"But the administrative structure, the number of posts and financial implications would have to be examined first."

The ministry is also working on a career path based on qualifications, experience, training, and performance, Bobby said.

Metro under ground

FROM PAGE 12

long queues of vehicles extending towards Badda.

He said construction work between Bashundhara and Notun Bazar, as well as towards Gulshan-2 and Banani, had made commuting difficult for everyone, especially students and office-goers.

"A journey that would normally take around 20 minutes now takes 40 minutes to an hour, particularly during office hours," Nuruzzaman said.

He said construction had been ongoing for about a year, while congestion had become particularly severe over the past six months.

Monowar Hossain, a CNG-run three-wheeler driver, said dug up roads had significantly reduced available space, while buses stopping in the middle of the road to pick up passengers further aggravated the situation.

Dhaka Mass Transit Company Limited (DMTCL) is implementing the MRT Line-1 project.

Sarwar Uddin Khan, project director of MRT Line-1, said utility relocation work was being carried out under several construction packages (CP). Work under CP-6, covering three stations from the airport, had been completed, while work under CP-5, covering one station, was ongoing.

The package covers areas including Nadda, Notun Bazar, Uttar Badda, Badda and Aftabnagar. Though the project authority had initially set a target to complete the work by March, 2027, the official indicated that some activities could continue until October or November next year.

He said the Notun Bazar package had faced delays following changes in contractors. The authority now plans to begin the work around January or February, with work on the Notun Bazar and airport sections expected to proceed simultaneously under different packages.

MRT Line-1, Bangladesh's first underground metro rail project inaugurated in February 2023, is expected to improve connectivity in the city by providing a high-capacity public transport system. It consists of two interconnected routes.

The 19.872km underground Airport Route with 12 stations will connect Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport with Kamalapur Railway Station. The 11.369km Purbachal Route with seven elevated and two underground stations will connect Notun Bazar with Purbachal.

On September 16, the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecnec) approved budget revisions to the MRT Line-1, as well as the 20km MRT Line-5 (Northern) projects, both financed by Japan. It also approved a new MRT Line-5 (Southern) project, which will be financed by the Asian Development Bank. The combined estimated cost of the projects is Tk 2.5 lakh crore

Star RU Correspondent

FROM PAGE 12

8:00pm, looking for hall union General Secretary Ariful Islam. Several carried machetes, hockey sticks, pipes and bats.

They hid the weapons when Proctor Prof Mahbubur Rahman arrived, witnesses said. When the weapons were spotted later, the Samakal correspondent and Dwin Islam of Ajker Patrika moved in to record videos. The Samakal reporter was beaten with a stick, and an attempt was made to snatch Dwin's phone. The bdnews24.com correspondent was also assaulted.

The proctor took the journalists inside the hall and shut the entrance. As other reporters rushed to the site, Mridul and Zahidul were beaten, witnesses said. Zahidul suffered a head injury. Journalists who tried to protect their colleagues were threatened.

Witnesses named RU Chhatra Dal vice-presidents Ahsan Habib and Shariful Islam, Joint General Secretary Hasibul Islam and Assistant Office Secretary Shahriar Alam among at least 10 leaders and activists involved.

RU Chhatra Dal President Sultan Ahmed Rahi said he had informed the central leadership. "Action will be taken against them quickly," he said.

Chhatra Dal's central General Secretary Nasir Uddin Nasir said, "I have just learnt about the incident. I am trying to get the details. We will take action against those responsible."

The proctor said the university authorities had failed to bring the situation under control.

RU Pro-VC Prof Abdul Alim said the authorities were looking into the incident. "We will not tolerate any criminal activities on campus. Those involved will be brought under the law," he said.

The National Citizen Party condemned the attack and demanded the arrest and punishment of those responsible. In a statement, it called for measures to ensure the safety of students and journalists and protect freedom of expression.

The incident followed a Facebook dispute between Ahsan Habib and Rakibul Islam, assistant cultural secretary of Rajshahi University Central Students' Union (Rucsu), over a post about Rucsu General Secretary Salahuddin Ammar.

Habib alleged that Rakibul used abusive language about his mother and sister in a comment. Rakibul claimed Habib threatened to assault him. Both posted their accounts on social media.

On Saturday, Rakibul stayed in front of the hall from 10:00am to 5:00pm. Habib later arrived with several Chhatra Dal leaders and activists, some carrying bats, and announced they would stay until 10:00pm.

Ariful later accused Chhatra Dal members in a Facebook post of carrying locally made weapons and engaging in violence on campus. Witnesses alleged the group returned to the hall last night with weapons before attacking the journalists.



'Recognise our rights in Constitution'

Indigenous groups, workers submit proposals to JS body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Representatives of indigenous communities and workers yesterday demanded constitutional recognition for Bangladesh's different nationalities and the inclusion of workers' rights as fundamental rights in the Constitution.

At a meeting with the Special Parliamentary Committee on Constitutional Amendment, they called for measures to reduce income, wage and wealth inequality and ensure workplace safety.

The committee met representatives of workers, indigenous peoples and ethnic minority communities who contributed to the July uprising at the parliament complex, according to a press statement from the parliament secretariat.

Several discussants told The Daily Star after the meeting that indigenous representatives demanded the removal of the terms "small ethnic groups", "minor ethnic entities", "communities" and "tribes" from the Constitution.

They proposed recognising these groups as either "Indigenous peoples" or "Janjati" (ethnic nations).

Representatives also proposed reserved seats in the upper chamber of parliament for indigenous peoples, marginalised

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



Three-and-a-half-year-old Ayesha plays with her younger brother while undergoing dengue treatment alongside her mother, Sonia, at Bangladesh Shishu Hospital in Dhaka yesterday. Her younger brother and grandmother had come to visit them, bringing a brief moment of comfort amid the illness.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

IN BRIEF

Expedite Inner Circular Road project: PM

UNB, *Dhaka*



Prime Minister Tarique Rahman yesterday directed the authorities concerned to expedite the Inner Circular Road project to ease traffic congestion in Dhaka.

He gave the directive at a meeting to review progress on the project at the Cabinet Division of the Bangladesh Secretariat, said PM's Deputy Press Secretary Hasan Shiplu.

The PM also asked the Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges and the Local Government Division to jointly review the existing project plan and take steps to speed up construction work.

He stressed for identifying and removing obstacles to implementation, ensuring effective coordination among the agencies concerned, and setting a realistic deadline for project completion.

Tarique also called for the project's visible progress at the earliest.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Shaikh Rabiul Alam, State Minister for LGRD Mir Shahe Alam, and State Minister for Road Transport and Bridges and Railways Habibur Rashid Habib were present at the meeting, among others.

Akhtaruzzaman sent to jail

BNP, Jamaat-backed lawyers scuffle during bail hearing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



A Dhaka court yesterday sent former lawmaker Major (retd) Akhtaruzzaman, who joined Jamaat-e-Islami last year, to jail after remand in a case filed over the alleged assault of an on-duty security official, obstruction of government work and creation of disorder at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Jamshed Alam passed the order, rejecting his bail petition, said Additional Public Prosecutor Muhammad Shamsud Doha Sumon.

Meanwhile, pro-BNP and Jamaat-backed lawyers got into a scuffle inside and outside the courtroom during the hearing.

Amid tight security, Akhtaruzzaman was brought to court around 2:30pm. A few minutes into the hearing, the prosecution sought his detention in custody.

Around 2:40pm, some BNP- and Jamaat-aligned lawyers got into a heated argument that soon turned into jostling. The

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

Zero-cost Malaysia jobs for 10,000 Workers

Recruitment to prioritise skills, employers' requirements

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Bangladesh is preparing to send 10,000 workers to Malaysia at zero migration cost, with recruitment to focus on skills, experience and employers' requirements as the two countries move ahead with restarting labour migration.

Malaysian employers have started issuing demand letters, while a delegation from the country is expected to visit Bangladesh next week to discuss the types of workers, skills and experience required.

Labour and Employment Minister Ariful Haque Chowdhury, who is also the expatriates' welfare and overseas employment minister, said Malaysia had agreed to receive 10,000 workers initially and that the process would begin with workers being sent free of migration costs.

Speaking to reporters at the labour and employment ministry's conference room yesterday, he said workers would be trained according to employers' requirements before selection and sent through Bangladesh Overseas Employment and Services Limited (BOESL) and other recruiting agencies.

Malaysian employers have started issuing demand letters, while a delegation from the country is expected to visit Bangladesh next week to discuss the types of workers, skills and experience required.

Ariful said the Malaysian labour market had reopened following discussions between the two countries, but the government wanted to prevent a repeat of the problems workers had faced under syndicate-based recruitment.

"For a long time, people going abroad have faced different forms of harassment through syndicates," he said, adding that the government has set conditions while discussing the reopening of the market.

According to officials from the expatriates' welfare ministry and

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

Govt has no right to stay if it fails to ensure safety

Says Jamaat chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leader of the Opposition and Jamaat-e-Islami Chief Shafiqur Rahman yesterday said a government that "fails to ensure people's safety" has no right to remain in power.

He made the remarks while inaugurating a weeklong dengue-prevention awareness campaign organised by Dhaka north city Jamaat at Madhubagh Field in Hatirjheel.

Jamaat will observe the campaign till October 10.

Claiming that all state institutions, including the health sector, were in a "devastated" state, he said the deteriorating law and order situation had allowed various crimes to take place in broad daylight in the capital.

"The situation in the capital reflects what is happening across the country. It is deeply concerning," he said.

He also called for immediate government action on dengue.



Teen denied bail over Baridhara crash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 17-year-old boy, who allegedly drove the car that hit and killed a construction worker in Dhaka's Baridhara Diplomatic Zone on September 22, was denied bail yesterday.

Judge Md Abdul Moktadir of the Juvenile Court-8 in Dhaka passed the order. During the hearing, the teenager's lawyer told the court that the boy is a child and therefore entitled to bail.

The court asked how long he had been in custody. His lawyer replied, "He [boy] has been in custody for 12 days as of today [Sunday]."

A state lawyer also opposed the bail, saying the teenager did not have a driving licence and was not authorised to drive the vehicle.

The judge then asked, "Can a child have a driving licence?" The defence lawyer replied, "The child was not in the driving seat."

The judge then said, "The CCTV footage shows him coming out from that side. If he is granted bail now, it will send a message that one can commit such an offence and get away with reckless driving. It will send a bad message to society and encourage such behaviour. Moreover, it may lead the wealthy and children to take the law and justice lightly."

No copy of a settlement deed was submitted to the court yesterday. However, on September 24, defence lawyer Alamgir Hossain claimed the matter had been settled for Tk 9 lakh.

The teen was sent to the Child Development Centre in Gazipur on September 24 after police produced him before the court and sought his detention.

The boy was not named in the case, although he was detained at the scene. After outcry from netizens and media reports, police arrested him in Gulshan on September 23, a day after the accident.

The case, filed by the victim's elder brother Moktadir Islam with Gulshan Police Station, accuses 44-year-old Akash Marok as the driver. The complainant alleged in the case statement that Akash drove recklessly and ran over Mehedi, 24,

Unopened ramps limit Ctg expressway use

Five of nine ramps still under construction nearly three years after inauguration

SIFAYET ULLAH, *Ctg*

Nearly three years after its inauguration, the Lalkhan Bazar-Patenga Elevated Expressway in Chattogram has yet to deliver its full benefits, with none of its nine ramps open to traffic.

At present, vehicles can access the expressway only through its entry and exit points at Lalkhan Bazar and Patenga.

The ramps include upward ramps at GEC, Agrabad and Karnaphuli EPZ, downward ramps at Ambagan and Fakirhat, and two-way ramps at Nimtala and Chattogram EPZ.

Of them, the GEC and Agrabad ramps are considered the most important. The GEC ramp will connect the expressway with the city's main residential areas, including GEC Circle, Panchlaish, Nasirbad, Khulshi, Muradpur and nearby neighbourhoods, while the Agrabad ramp will provide direct access to the city's main commercial zone.

Mizanur Rahman Arian, a private bank employee, said it takes around 40-45 minutes by CNG-run auto-rickshaw to return home on Akmal Ali Road from Agrabad.

"If I could get onto the expressway from Agrabad, the trip would take no more than 10-12 minutes," he added.

The four-lane, 16-kilometre expressway, built at a cost of Tk 4,299 crore, can accommodate at least 32,400 vehicles daily, according to the Chattogram Development Authority (CDA), the project authority.

However, only around 8,500 vehicles currently use it each day.

The expressway was planned to improve connectivity with Chattogram Port, the Export Processing Zone and airport, while easing traffic on the busy Lalkhan Bazar-Patenga route.



PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

An aerial view of the Lalkhan Bazar-Patenga Elevated Expressway from the Bandar area of Chattogram city. Inset, ramp construction underway in Agrabad.

Construction began in July 2017 with a June 2020 completion deadline, but the expressway was only partially opened to traffic in November 2023.

Of the nine ramps, five are still under construction.

During a recent visit to the 637-metre GEC ramp, workers were seen carrying out piling work for one of the remaining pillars.

Work began in June 2024 and was scheduled for completion by December that year. According to the CDA's project progress report, the ramp is now 90 percent complete.

The Agrabad ramp is 52 percent complete, the two-way ramps at CEPZ 90 percent, and the KEPZ ramp 85 percent.

Contacted, Project Director and CDA Executive Engineer Mahfuzur Rahman said construction of the GEC ramp was delayed by protests from students of BAWA School opposing construction beside their campus and difficulties in relocating a major Chattogram WASA water supply pipeline.

Construction of the Agrabad ramp was supposed to begin in 2024, but started only in June this year following complications over land acquisition and opposition from local traders.

Although four ramps have been completed, the CDA wants to open them only after the GEC Intersection and Agrabad ramps are finished.

Urban planner Delwar Majumder, former chairman of the Chattogram centre of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh, said the expressway would remain underused without direct access from the city's main residential and commercial areas.

Subhash Chandra Barua, vice-president of the Forum for Planned Chattogram, suggested an independent technical review of the project by Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology.

The project has undergone three major design revisions since construction began -- in 2022 following an objection from the Chattogram Port Authority, in 2025 when the number of ramps was reduced from 14 to nine, and most recently when the design of a GEC entry pillar was changed after Chattogram WASA's pipeline could not be relocated.

Mahfuzur Rahman said large infrastructure projects sometimes require design changes because of site conditions and utility services. He said the changes were made to address practical problems during construction.

Recognise

FROM PAGE 3

communities and other under-represented groups.

They called for proportional representation for ethnic communities in the hills and plains, and at least one reserved women's seat for indigenous peoples living in the plains.

Workers' representatives proposed reserved seats in the upper house and their inclusion in framing regulations on the right to information, judicial reform and establishment of an independent police commission.

Labour leader Razekuzzaman Ratan said workers' representatives had demanded constitutional recognition of work, wages and dignity.

Former Labour Reform Commission Chairman Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed said they had proposed a broader constitutional definition of forced labour and measures to address workplace discrimination.

He said they had also demanded a 30 percent quota for representatives of workers and marginalised communities among the 50 reserved seats for women and in the proposed upper house, or Senate.



MA Rashid's death anniv

CITY DESK

The 38th death anniversary of MA Rashid will be observed today, said a press release.

On the occasion, a milad and doa mahfil will be held after the Maghrib prayers at Unity Club, United House.

All of his relatives, friends, and well-wishers are requested to join the programmes to offer prayer for the salvation of his departed soul.

4.20 lakh yaba pills seized in Bandarban

UNB, *Bandarban*

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) yesterday seized 4.20 lakh yaba tablets in Nayapara area along the Tambru border in Naikhongchhari upazila of Bandarban.

Tipped off, a team of BGB-34 Battalion conducted a drive around 4:30am and chased some suspected smugglers, who managed to flee the scene, said a BGB press release.

Later, the BGB men recovered the yaba tablets, wrapped in clothes, from the spot.

DECLARATION OF MARRIAGE

I, SHAMA SIDDIQUE Father's Name: MD. SIDDIQUE & Mother's Name: YASMIN SIDDIQUE, Address: House 91, Road 5, Block D, Bashundhara R/A, Dhaka, 1229, Bangladesh. Date of birth: 22.02.1987 Passport No. A01576999, and MOHAMMED SAMEER Father's Name: MOHAMMED GHOUSE & Mother's Name: SHAHADA BEGUM MOHAMMED , Address: 2-1-PJR/674/GF PJR NAGAR, YELLAMMABANDA, KPHB, MEDCHAL, TELANGANA Pin Code - 500072, INDIA. His date of birth: 24.01.1992 Passport No: IND Z4594065, have got married at Dhaka, Bangladesh on 02 July 2026 as per Islamic traditions. Since then, we have been living as husband and wife. We have published this notice for registration of our marriage at Embassy of India, Bangladesh.

If anyone has any queries please connect with the bride's father on the contact number provided below.

MD. Siddique (Bride's Father)
Contact No: 01621223615.

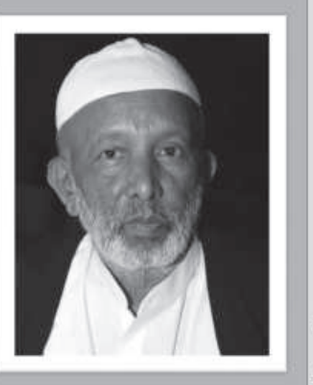
Commercial Space for Sale

Quotation from potential buyers is invited within October 15, 2026 for the following assets

Property Location	Property Particulars
Nahar Green Summit Address: Holding#43 (New) 305 (Old), Road#16 (New), 27 (Old), Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1209	**Commercial Floor Space:** "(2nd Floor)"; measuring 6963 sft. & 8 nos Car Parking 1888 sft. (land area 2.26 katha).
Chattagram Office Address: Excel SM Tower, 62 Zakir Hossain Road, East Nasirabad, Khulsi, Chattagram	**Commercial Floor Space:** "(1st Floor)" measuring 3280 sft. & 1 nos Car Parking 90 sft. (land area 0.0091 acres).
Bogura Office Address: Jamil Shopping Center 3rd Floor, Borogola Bogura Rangpur Road, Sadar, Bogura.	**Commercial Space:** "(3rd Floor)" measuring 2075 sft. & 1 nos Car Parking 120 sft. (land area 0.98 decimal).

Please Contact:
MIDAS FINANCING PLC.
Cell # 01678-121809 Phone # 01627-318522, 4102293
MIDAS Center (10th & 11th Floor), House#05, Road#16 (Old 27), Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1209. info@mfl.com.bd, web:www.mfl.com.bd

7th DEATH ANNIVERSARY!



It's been 7 years we lost our honorable former Director, Veteran Industrialist

FEROZ ALAM

on 5th of October 2019.
We remember him on this day.

We all pray to Almighty Allah for granting him Jannat.

Directors and All Employees of AUSIS

Government of the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Superintending Engineer (RHD)
MIS and Estates Circle
Sarak Bhaban, Level-5, Block-B, Room No.-526 Tejgaon, Dhaka.
Phone: +8801730782512
E-mail: semiscir@rhd.gov.bd

Memo No: 35.01.0000.160.14.26.147 **Date: 04 October 2026**

Corrigendum No. 5

This is to notify all concerned that due to unavoidable circumstances, the e-Tender notice (Corrigendum No.4) (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd) circulated vide this office memo no. 35.01.0000.160.14.26.120, date: 14 September 2026 of Roads and Highways Department (RHD) has been changed as follows:

Tender ID:1283093

Package: 01/e-GP/RHD/SE/MIS ESTATE/2025-2026

Package Description: Supply, Installation, Operation and Maintenance of Plants and Equipment for Axle Load Control System under Roads and Highways Department (One Stage Two Envelope Tendering for Turnkey Contract) Under "Installation of Axle Load Control Stations at the Origins and Destinations of Freight Transport on Important Highways under Roads and Highways Department" Project.

The Tender Submission Schedule has been amended as follows:-

Field Name	Old Value	New Value
Document last selling date & time	05/10/2026 16:00	04/11/2026 16:00
Opening Date & Time	06/10/2026 14:00	05/11/2026 14:00
Last date & time for Tender/ Proposal Security Submission	06/10/2026 12:30	05/11/2026 12:30
Closing Date & Time	06/10/2026 14:00	05/11/2026 14:00
Start Date (Lot No : 01)	10/11/2026	25/01/2027
Completion Date (Lot No : 01)	10/05/2028	31/05/2028

04/10/2026
K.M Noor-E-Alam
ID NO: 006004
Project Director & SE, MIS and Estates Circle, RHD, Sarak Bhaban, Tejgaon, Dhaka

GD-2404

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD
Chittagong Road Division, Chattogram.
Phone: 88-0233363232
www.rhd.chittagong.gov.bd

CORRIGENDUM NOTICE-1

This is an information for all concern that due to unavoidable circumstances the e-Tender Notice circulated vide this office memo no. 35.01.1541.408.31.002.26-4255, date: 14.09.2026 of Chattogram Road Division has been changed as follows:

Package: e-GP/PMP Bridge/05/EE/CRD/RHD/2025-26 (Tender ID- 1332445)

Previous	Replaced
ITT Clause 13.1(b): The minimum specific experience as a Prime contractor in the design/construction/ major maintenance/rehabilitation (major maintenance or strengthening, replacement of cables/bearings/expansion joints etc.) of Extradosed/Cable-Stayed/Suspension Bridge (anywhere in the world) in a single contract of similiar nature, complexity and methods/construction technology successfully completed within the last 10 (Ten) years with a value of at least Tk. 50.00 (Fifty point zero zero) Crore. [years counting backward from the date of publication of IFT in the newspaper].	ITT Clause 13.1(b): The minimum specific experience as a Prime contractor in the design/construction/ major maintenance/rehabilitation (major maintenance or strengthening, replacement of cables/bearings/expansion joints etc.) of Extradosed/Cable-Stayed/Suspension Bridge (anywhere in the world) in a single contract of similar nature, complexity and methods/construction technology successfully completed within the last 15 (fifteen) years with a value of at least Tk. 50.00 (Fifty point zero zero) Crore. [years counting backward from the date of publication of IFT in the newspaper].
Tender Last Selling/ Dowloading Date : **04.10.2026 16:00**	Tender Last Selling/ Dowloading Date : **14.10.2026 16:00**
Tender Closing Date & Time : **05.10.2026 12:00**	Tender Closing Date & Time : **15.10.2026 12:00**
Tender Opening Date & Time : **05.10.2026 12:00**	Tender Opening Date & Time : **15.10.2026 12:00**
Tender Security Submission Last Date & Time : **05.10.2026 11:00**	Tender Security Submission Last Date & Time : **15.10.2026 11:00**

Except the above changes, all other Terms and Conditions of the tender will remain unchanged.

04-10-2026
(Md. Mohinul Islam)
ID No. 700244
Sub Assistant Engineer,RHD
Chattogram Road Division.

04.10.2026
(Mohammad Yunus)
(ID No. 700158)
Asstt. Engineer, RHD,
(Addl. Charge)
Road Division, Chattogram.

(Md. Maidul Islam)
(ID No. 602361)
Executive Engineer(C.C), RHD
Road Division, Chattogram.

GD-2410

Following legal process

FROM PAGE 12

legal procedures.

"While legal procedures must be respected, political intent is equally crucial. We hope the government of India will focus on expediting the ongoing extradition process to bring the accused back," she told reporters at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs when her attention was drawn to Indian High Commissioner Dinesh Trivedi's comments.

Both countries must have political will, Shama said, noting that the government of Bangladesh certainly has the political will and that the Indian government needs to have it as well.

The state minister said it is entirely possible to extradite the accused under the framework of the extradition treaty and that the legal process is actively being pursued.

Speaking on this issue at an event on Saturday, Trivedi said, "...the process involves legality, and it is well structured. So, as far as that is concerned, the process is on."

The courts are involved in the matter and, therefore, "nobody can give you a timeframe," he said at a discussion titled "Power and Prudence: Managing Great-Power Competition without Conflict" as part of the ongoing Bay of Bengal Conversation in Dhaka.

The Indian high commissioner highlighted the need for continuous dialogue, mutual respect and trust between the two countries to address bilateral issues, saying every issue between the two neighbours has a solution.

No significant media reform

FROM PAGE 2

"Despite this commitment by BNP as a political party and as the government, no significant steps have yet been taken to reform the newspaper and broader media sector," he said.

Recalling the Awami League era, Matiur said journalists were jailed and Prothom Alo faced sustained pressure.

Following government orders, advertisements from 50 major companies were halted to choke the daily's business. Nearly 80 cases were filed against him, including one under the Digital Security Act in 2023.

He recalled how Hasina openly labelled Prothom Alo an "enemy" of the AL and the country in parliament. Before the 2024 uprising, military intelligence placed "tremendous pressure" on the company to oust him and relinquish ownership.

"Had that government lasted a few more months, Prothom Alo's management could have been taken away," he said.

The subsequent interim government also fell short of people's expectations, he observed.

"The media industry became increasingly unstable, as pressure from various groups forced management changes across media houses, leaving many journalists jobless. An atmosphere of uncertainty and fear led outlets, including Prothom Alo, to self-censor," he added.

He said the interim administration "took virtually no initiative" to implement the Media Reform Commission's proposals, despite journalists, editors, and media owners reaching a positive consensus on its short- and long-term recommendations.

"Hateful propaganda" and protests by extremists ultimately culminated in arson attacks on and vandalism of the Prothom Alo and The Daily Star offices on December 18, 2025.

"Only after everything had been burned down and destroyed did the law enforcement agencies clear the way for the fire service," Matiur said, alleging that the government gave no effective instructions to prevent the destruction.

In contrast, Matiur said he enjoyed "considerable freedom" as editor of Bhorer Kagoj and Prothom Alo under Khaleda Zia's governments in 1991-1996 and 2001-2006.

Though his paper strongly criticised the 2001-2006 government, it faced no major legal harassment. He recalled having heated arguments with Khaleda and her son Tarique Rahman, now the prime minister, without facing retribution.

Recalling his participation in a student protest against the Ayub Khan regime for press freedom on February 1, 1962, the veteran journalist said, "After 64 years, we still have to speak about those demands. We still have to ask for them. We still have to remind those in power that the right to speak and freedom of the press are not privileges. They are fundamental rights.

"At the end of my 56 years of journalism, I find myself standing in the same place once again," he concluded.

Akhtaruzzaman sent to jail

FROM PAGE 3

judge then left the bench.

The scuffle continued for several minutes before Dhaka Public Prosecutor Omar Faruq Faruqi and defence lawyer Abdul Razzaq urged the lawyers to calm down.

When the judge returned around 2:45pm, Akhtaruzzaman said, "I want 10 lawyers to conduct the hearing on my behalf."

After the court rejected his bail petition, Akhtaruzzaman chanted "Allahu Akbar" inside the courtroom. Lawyers present then asked him to stop.

The altercation and verbal exchanges later continued downstairs.



PHOTO: VIDEO GRAB

Pro-BNP and Jamaat-backed lawyers got into a scuffle outside the courtroom during the hearing yesterday.

After the hearing, BNP- and Jamaat-aligned lawyers again got into heated exchanges and jostling while state lawyers, including Faruqi, were preparing to brief the media.

Law enforcement personnel later brought the situation under control.

Contacted, Faruqi said, "Pro-Jamaat lawyers, along with their supporters from outside, created an awkward situation inside the courtroom. When other lawyers asked them to make space, a scuffle broke out. Later, the scuffle continued outside the courtroom as they were chanting various objectionable slogans."

However, Abdul Razzaq, a Jamaat-backed lawyer present during the incidents, denied the allegation.

"We did not bring any outsiders into the court," he told The Daily Star.

On Friday, Airport security officer Mohammad Shahriar Alam Sajib filed the case against Akhtaruzzaman with Airport Police Station. Later that day, detectives arrested him from his residence in the Dhaka Cantonment area.

On Saturday, he was placed on one-day remand after police produced him before the court with a five-day remand prayer.

Zero-cost Malaysia jobs for 10,000 Workers

FROM PAGE 3

recruiting agency owners, Malaysian employers have begun issuing demand letters and enrolling workers in the Foreign Workers Centralised Management System (FWCMS) through levy payments.

The Bangladesh High Commission in Kuala Lumpur has also begun attesting to demand letters from Malaysian employers.

Last week, the high commission attested a demand for 28 Bangladeshi workers from the Malaysian supermarket chain NSK Trade City under Goodness Services Limited.

Officials said priority would be given to sending the 10,000 workers through BOESL at zero migration cost.

Mohammad Rashedul Haque, managing director of BOESL, told The Daily Star yesterday that workers with the required expertise, experience and fitness would be selected from among the 10,000.

"We want to leave the selection criteria entirely to the recruiter -- who they want, what kind of workers they need and what qualifications they are looking for," he said.

Rashedul said a Malaysian delegation is expected to visit Bangladesh next week to discuss recruitment criteria.

He said a clearer timeframe would emerge after the delegation's visit and once employers' demand becomes known.

Before sending new workers, however, BOESL plans to complete the migration of workers who could not travel to Malaysia before the market was closed for Bangladesh on May 31, 2024.

That process is expected to be completed by October 16.

A BOESL official said around 120 to 150 of the previously stranded workers were still waiting to travel to Malaysia. The agency would write to their employers to complete the process.

Recruiting agencies, meanwhile, said they had yet to receive specific guidelines on when and how worker selection, medical examinations, training and other procedures would begin after receiving demand letters.

Ariful said the medical examination process had not yet been approved and the government would provide details once arrangements were finalised.

There are currently 17 approved medical centres for Bangladeshi workers.

On October 1, the authorities sealed Human Diagnostic and Medical Centre on Box Culvert Road in Paltan after finding that it had been conducting medical tests and issuing reports for Malaysia-bound workers without approval.

At yesterday's briefing, Prime Minister's Adviser and PMO spokesperson Mahdi Amin said the government was working to reopen the Malaysian labour market while giving Bangladesh's interests the highest priority.

Without giving further details, he said the process was subject to certain conditions and that some complications remained because of the existing memorandum of understanding and the structure put in place under the previous government.

Mahdi said the expatriates' welfare ministry was working on the issues and would brief the media once an effective decision was reached.

PRAYER TIMING

OCTOBER 5

	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	4-45	12-45	4-15	5-53	7-30
JAMAAT	5-20	1-15	4-30	5-56	8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Surplus liquidity

FROM PAGE 12

as the lender of last resort.

Among individual recipients, Islami Bank received the highest assistance at Tk 17,000 crore, followed by First Security Islami Bank (Tk 15,810.32 crore), Social Islami Bank (Tk 10,843 crore), EXIM Bank (Tk 10,568 crore), National Bank (Tk 10,508 crore), Union Bank (Tk 5,421 crore), Premier Bank (Tk 4,900 crore), AB Bank (Tk 4,270 crore), and Global Islami Bank (Tk 3,003 crore).

Three other banks received between Tk 200 crore and more than Tk 600 crore each.

Meanwhile, following a cut in the policy rate from 10 percent to 9.50 percent, the interbank call money rate has trended lower.

On September 27, the call money rate stood at 8.72 percent, down from 9.94 percent on the same day last year.

Despite substantial surplus liquidity, capital shortfalls and historic defaulted loans are preventing banks from expanding fresh credit to the broader economy.

As of March, 15 out of 63 banks were operating with negative capital. The banking sector's overall Capital to Risk-Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) plummeted to negative 3.17 percent.

Shariah-based banks fared worst, with their capital adequacy ratio sliding to an alarming negative 44.77 percent.

Eroded capital structures are severely undermining banks' ability to absorb losses, safeguard depositors' interests, and extend new credit, the report said.

The surge in bad loans remains a key concern.

By the end of June, defaulted loans rose to Tk 5,81,247 crore, accounting for 31.41 percent of total disbursed loans. Total classified loans climbed to Tk 6,06,555 crore, or 32.78 percent of the total credit portfolio.

On the earnings front, despite generating an operating profit of Tk 789 crore in the first quarter of the year, the banking sector posted a net loss of Tk 8,417 crore after adjusting for high provisioning and potential loan losses.

Currently, 22 banks hold cumulative losses totalling Tk 2,53,938 crore.

To restore equilibrium and rein in defaulted assets, the BB has outlined short-, medium- and long-term reform plans.

Legal overhaul is also underway through amendments to the Bank Company Act 2026, the Money Loan Court Act 2026, and the upcoming Insolvency and Bankruptcy Act 2026.

The regulator is also evaluating legal provisions to publicly disclose lists of loan defaulters and wilful default borrowers, the report added.

According to a press statement from the parliamentary committee, lawmakers discussed the ministry's presentation on the current financial sector outlook, stressing the need for enhanced transparency, accountability, and macro-financial stability.

The committee directed the ministry to present comprehensive data at the next meeting.

Road crashes killed 14 a day

FROM PAGE 12

An analysis of the crashes showed that 168 (38 percent) occurred after vehicles lost control. Another 109 involved vehicles hitting or running over pedestrians, while 98 were head-on collisions.

Dhaka division recorded the highest number of deaths, with 134 people killed in 132 crashes. Sylhet recorded the lowest, with 21 deaths in 20 crashes. In Dhaka city, 21 people were killed and 47 injured in 52 road crashes during September.

Road Safety Foundation said the report was prepared based on information collected from nine national dailies, 17 national and regional online news portals, various electronic media outlets and its own sources.

'We are bad at building democratic institutions'

FROM PAGE 2

your lifeblood, how can you openly side with a political party and still expect that you will enjoy credibility?" Anam questioned.

"Police are always used as a partisan extension of one's party muscle. Intelligence agencies are used for political purposes. Institutions like the Anti-Corruption Commission, which are supposed to be constitutional bodies and run independently, are all politicised," he added.

Anam said a party's election through a democratic process is an expression of public will, but that does not necessarily translate into loyalty towards the public.

"Obviously, globally, every political party -- the Labour Party in England, the Democrats in the US -- will have some partisanship [within the government], but turning your whole governance system into an extension of your own party is where the collapse begins. And one of the first results of this is corruption and cronyism," he said.

He underscored the importance of technology in reducing partisanship in governance.

"Technology can now give us a very efficient bureaucracy and a very efficient police force, and at the same time a just police force," Anam remarked.

The three-day conference is being held at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka.

Hormuz won't reopen

FROM PAGE 12

on the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding, are met," Ghalibaf, who is Iran's top negotiator, was quoted as saying.

He said Washington "must understand that the period of dragging out the (diplomatic) process and dictating one-sided demands is over".

A Foreign Ministry spokesperson yesterday said that Tehran had clarified its broad positions via mediators to the US response but that additional points remained to be communicated to Washington.

"The Americans' propositions are more or less in line with their previous positions, specifically on the nuclear issue. We told them our focus in this stage is the issue of the Strait of Hormuz and the return to security in this waterway requires clear steps from the US," spokesperson Esmaeil Baghaei said.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বিচার প্রশাসন প্রশিক্ষণ ইনস্টিটিউট
১৫, কলেজ রোড, ঢাকা-১০০০।
www.jati.gov.bd

নং: ১০.০৬.০০০০.০০১.৩৯.০১০.২৪.৩২১৭ তারিখ: ১৯ আশ্বিন, ১৪৩৩ বঙ্গাব্দ / ০৪ অক্টোবর ২০২৬ খ্রিস্টাব্দ

পুনঃনিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১.	শিরোনাম	বিচার প্রশাসন প্রশিক্ষণ ইনস্টিটিউটের অকেজো ও ব্যবহার অনুপযোগী আসবাবপত্র ও অন্যান্য মালামাল "যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে সে অবস্থার ভিত্তিতে" নিলামে বিক্রয়।
২.	নিলাম দরপত্র প্রাপ্তির স্থান	কক্ষ নং ২১৪, হিসাব শাখা, বিচার প্রশাসন প্রশিক্ষণ ইনস্টিটিউট
৩.	নিলাম দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের তারিখ ও সময়	০৫/১০/২০২৬ খ্রিস্টাব্দ হতে ১৮/১০/২০২৬ খ্রিস্টাব্দ অফিস চলাকালীন পর্যন্ত।
৪.	নিলাম দরপত্র জমা দেওয়ার স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	পরিচালক (প্রশাসন), বিচার প্রশাসন প্রশিক্ষণ ইনস্টিটিউট-এর দপ্তর (কক্ষ নং ৩০৩) তারিখ: ১৯/১০/২০২৬ খ্রিস্টাব্দ বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
৫.	নিলাম দরপত্র উন্মুক্তকরণের স্থান ও সময়	সেমিনার হল (২য় তলা), বিচার প্রশাসন প্রশিক্ষণ ইনস্টিটিউট তারিখ: ১৯/১০/২০২৬ খ্রিস্টাব্দ বেলা ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা।
৬.	নিলাম দরপত্রের মূল্য	নগদ ১০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য)।
৭.	দরপত্র জামানত	যেকোনো তফসিলী ব্যাংকের ইস্যুকৃত ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার এর মাধ্যমে পরিচালক (প্রশাসন), বিচার প্রশাসন প্রশিক্ষণ ইনস্টিটিউট-এর অনুকূলে প্রস্তাবিত দরের ২৫% টাকা জামানত হিসেবে দরপত্রের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে।
৮.	মালামাল পরিদর্শনের সময়	আগামী ০৫/১০/২০২৬ খ্রিস্টাব্দ হতে ১৮/১০/২০২৬ খ্রিস্টাব্দ পর্যন্ত প্রতি কর্মদিবসে সকাল ১০:০০ ঘটিকা হতে ১২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
৯.	কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন প্রকার কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোনো দরপত্র/সকল দরপত্র বিধি মোতাবেক বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।	

এ. ই. এম. ইসমাইল হোসেন
পরিচালক (প্রশাসন)
(সিনিয়র জেলা জজ)
ফোন: ৪১০৫৩৪৭৭ (অফিস)

GD-2401

সোনালী ব্যাংক পিএলসি
কমন সার্ভিসেস ডিভিশন
প্রধান কার্যালয়, মতিঝিল, ঢাকা।

সোনালী ব্যাংক পিএলসি এর জন্য দেয়াল ক্যালেন্ডার মুদ্রণের লক্ষ্যে দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

(উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র)

কাজের নামঃ- Printing and Supplying of 11,00,000 (Eleven Lac) Wall Calendars & 20,000 (Twenty Thousand) Pieces of Envelopes.
টেন্ডার রেফারেন্স ঃ 2026/177 Date: 01/10/2026

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির বিস্তারিত তথ্য সোনালী ব্যাংক পিএলসি এর Website www.sonalibank.com.bd এর Tender Board এ রয়েছে।
যোগাযোগঃ কমন সার্ভিসেস ডিভিশন, সোনালী ব্যাংক পিএলসি, প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা।
ফোনঃ ০২-২২৩৩৮৪৬৪২

স্বা/-
ডেপুটি জেনারেল ম্যানেজার

GD-2400

কোল পাওয়ার জেনারেশন কোম্পানি বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড (সিপিজিসিবিএল)
Coal Power Generation Company Bangladesh Limited (CPGCBL)
(An Enterprise of Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh)
'আলোকিত দেশ, যত্নে পরিবেশ'

Memo No: 27.32.0000.000.005.07.0003.25.0864; Date: 04-10-2026

INVITATION FOR BIDS

	Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh	
1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Energy, Power and Mineral Resources/ Power Division
2	Agency	Coal Power Generation Company Bangladesh Limited (CPGCBL)
3	Purchaser Name	Kazi Md. Miraj Hossain FCS
4	Purchaser Address	Company Secretary, CPGCBL, CPGCBL Corporate Office, Dhaka
5	Invitation For	Procurement & Delivery of Imported Coal at Plant Jetty (CDP)
6	Invitation Reference No.	27.32.0000.000.005.07.0003.25.0863; Date: 04-10-2026
	Key Information	
7	Procurement Method	One Stage Two Envelope Tendering Method (ICB)
	Funding Information	
8	Budget and Source of Funds	CPGCBL Own Fund
	Particular Information	
9	Bid Package No.	2026-2027/CO/SE.PRO/GR-05
10	Bid Package Name	Procurement and Delivery of Imported Coal at Plant Jetty (CDP) for Matarbari 2x600 MW Ultra Super Critical Coal Fired Power Plant
11	Bid Publication Date	04 October 2026
12	Bid Document Last Selling Date	18 November 2026 16:00 BST
13	Bid Closing Date & Time	19 November 2026 12:00 BST
14	Bid Opening Date & Time	19 November 2026 12:30 BST
	Name & Address of the Office(s)	
15	Selling of Bid Document	Office of the Company Secretary, CPGCBL Corporate Office, Unique Heights (level-17), 117, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Eskaton, Dhaka-1217 & CPGCBL Website [http://www.cpgcbl.gov.bd/Tender & Contract Related/Current Tender/] (*Bid Document price to be provided during bid submission if collected from online)*
16	Submission of Bids	Office of the Company Secretary, CPGCBL Corporate Office, Unique Heights (level-17), 117, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Eskaton, Dhaka-1217
17	Place of Opening of Bids	Board Room, CPGCBL Corporate Office, Dhaka
18	Place & Time of Pre-Bid Meeting	Place: Board Room, CPGCBL Corporate Office Time: 27 October 2026 14:30 BST (Both Offline & Online Platform)
	Information for Bidders	
19	Eligibility of Bidders	As per Bid Document
20	Brief Description of Goods	Imported Coal
21	Brief Description of Related Service	As per Bid Document
22	Bid Document Price	BDT 1,20,000/= only or USD 1,000/= only (Non-refundable)

Bid Lot Information

SL No.	Description of Supply	Location	Bid Security	Completion Time
01	Procurement and Delivery of Imported Coal at Plant Jetty (CDP) for Matarbari 2x600 MW USCCFPP	Matarbari Jetty, Matarbari, Moheshkhali Cox's Bazar	USD 04 (Four) Million only	24 (Twenty-Four) Months

	Purchaser Details	
24	Name, Designation, Address and Contact Details	Kazi Md. Miraj Hossain FCS, Company Secretary, CPGCBL CPGCBL Corporate Office, Unique Heights (level-17) 117, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Eskaton, Dhaka-1217 Phone: +88-01332-544800, +88-02-222221509; Fax: +8802-222228306, email: cs@cpgcbl.gov.bd

*The Purchaser reserves the right to reject all Bids or annul the Bid proceedings without any prior notice.

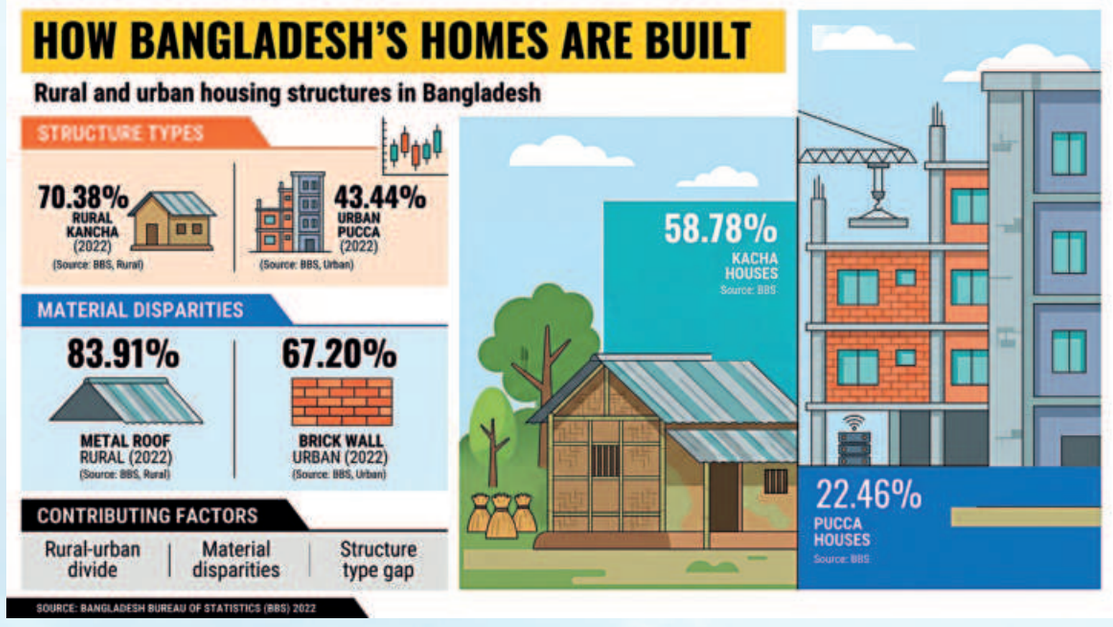
04.10.2026
Kazi Md. Miraj Hossain FCS
Company Secretary, CPGCBL, Dhaka

Housing a changing Bangladesh

S. M. TAHMID

After food and water, a person needs a safe shelter to survive. Ancient humans called caves and hollowed-out trees their home, then came huts and houses made of brick and stone. Today, massive structures of concrete and reinforced steel provide much of humanity with a place to call home. Fittingly, October 5 this year marks both World Habitat Day and World Architecture Day, observed by the International Union of Architects under the theme "Housing is a Human Right. Build It." The two occasions share a common concern: how we design and build places that can safely and adequately house the people who live in them.

The United Nations General Assembly observes the first Monday of October as World Habitat Day. The first time this day was celebrated was in 1986, in Nairobi, Kenya. That year, the central theme was "Shelter is My Right". Forty years later, this year's theme is "Adequate Housing for All", with the global observance taking place in Muscat, Oman.



THE CHALLENGE OF URBANISATION

Urbanisation is one of the defining demographic shifts of our time. Bangladesh is still a predominantly rural country, but that scenario is changing steadily. In the last decade, from 2015 to 2025, the share of the population living in rural areas dropped from around 70.5 percent to 66.7 percent, according to World Bank data based on the United Nations Population Division's World Urbanisation Prospects.

The long-term direction points towards an increasingly urban Bangladesh. UN projections put the urban share of the population at 59.3 percent by 2050. Recent changes in the economy may have slowed that movement somewhat. Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics data for 2023 showed rural-to-urban migration falling compared with the previous year, while movement from cities back to villages increased. Whether that is a temporary response to the high cost of urban living or a longer-term shift remains to be seen. The broader challenge, however, remains the same: millions more people will need adequate places to live in the decades ahead.

Providing those homes is no easy task. Unplanned urban sprawl is already a major problem in Bangladesh, compounded by high population density, limited land, a tropical monsoon climate and floodplain geomorphology. As cities become denser and expand outwards and upwards, simply building more floors and more apartments cannot be the only answer.

MORE THAN FOUR WALLS

Adequate housing is more than just having a roof over one's head. A home needs to be safe, affordable and liveable. It needs access to water, sanitation, electricity, transport, schools, workplaces and other basic services. A house that a family cannot afford to maintain, or one that leaves its occupants exposed to heat, flooding, fire or structural hazards, cannot truly fulfil that purpose.

This makes planning as important as construction. New neighbourhoods need roads, drainage, open spaces and services alongside housing. Existing buildings need maintenance, and additions or alterations need to respect the limits of the original structure. As our cities grow vertically, structural safety, fire protection and responsible use of materials become increasingly important. Many of the decisions that determine how safe a building will be need to be made from the earliest stages of planning. Condition of the ground dictates the structural design of the building. Quality of steel, concrete, bricks, blocks and electrical systems used determine how safe it is.

Bangladesh also has to build for its environment. Heavy rainfall, flooding, extreme heat, cyclones and the risk of earthquakes place very different demands on buildings. This is where modern engineering can work alongside lessons already present in local architecture: shade, ventilation, courtyards, raised structures, suitable materials and designs that respond to sun, rain and airflow rather than fighting them at every turn.

BUILDING SUSTAINABLY

Housing millions more people will also require an enormous amount of material and energy. Cement, steel, bricks, ceramics and glass all carry environmental costs before they reach a construction site. Sustainable housing therefore cannot be separated from the way these materials are manufactured.

More efficient production, recycling industrial water, recovering waste heat, reusing by-products and reducing material waste can make the construction supply chain less resource-intensive. At the building level, passive cooling, natural ventilation, rainwater management, durable materials and energy-efficient systems can reduce the resources a home consumes throughout its life.

None of these ideas alone can solve the housing challenge. There is no single material, technology or architectural style that can provide adequate housing for everyone. Bangladesh will need high-rise apartments and rural homes, affordable developments and private projects, new construction and the careful improvement of buildings that already exist.

We can always build more homes. But building better homes and to make those homes accessible to the people who need them is the main challenge. A safe shelter may be one of humanity's oldest needs, but providing one for everyone remains one of the defining challenges of the modern city.





Building Better Begins with Making Better



MOHAMMAD BAYAZED BASHAR

Sustainability and environmental impact of a building depends on the materials its made from. How the materials are produced, how much energy and water the process consume and what is left behind in the process, all matter immensely. As we observe World Habitat Day and World Architecture Day, conversations naturally turn towards better cities, safer homes and more sustainable buildings. But the sustainability of our built environment cannot be separated from the industries that supply it.

Ceramics, for example, is a resource-intensive industry. High-temperature kilns, drying processes, minerals and water are all essential to production. Traditionally, waste generated along the way has been treated as an unavoidable consequence. Yet if we are serious about creating more sustainable habitats, we must also question how the materials used to build them are made.

Nature offers a useful model. Water evaporates and returns as rain. Organic matter decomposes and enriches the soil. Resources move through cycles rather than ending as waste. Manufacturing, by contrast, has long followed a linear model: take, produce, use and discard.

At DBL Ceramics, this thinking led to Project Circular Flow, an effort to examine whether materials, water, energy and production by-products could remain useful for longer.

Waste heat from ceramic kilns, which operate at temperatures exceeding 1,200 degrees Celsius, can be recovered and redirected into other production processes. Water can be treated and circulated instead of being used only once. Ceramic dust can be collected and reused to manufacture small-format tiles from recycled material. Sludge from water treatment has also inspired TileChalk, which turns production residue into chalk and educational materials for underprivileged schools.



Sustainable architecture does not begin only with the design of a building. It also depends on the systems behind the materials that architects and builders specify.

These initiatives point towards a broader idea. Sustainable architecture does not begin only with the design of a building. It also depends on the systems behind the materials that architects and builders specify.

For Bangladesh, this matters increasingly as cities expand, construction demand grows and pressure on energy, water and raw materials intensifies. Architects, manufacturers, policymakers and researchers therefore have a shared role in shaping the next generation of the built environment.

We often describe sustainability as an additional cost. But unused energy is a cost. Discarded material is a cost. Wasted water is a cost. A circular approach is ultimately about using resources more intelligently.

The buildings of tomorrow will be judged not only by how they look or function, but also by the resources required to create them. If we want better habitats, we must look beyond the finished building. We must also rethink the industries that make those buildings possible.

Engineering resilience into every structure

As Bangladesh's cities expand vertically and infrastructure becomes more complex, the materials that hold those structures together are taking on greater importance. In a country exposed to natural hazards, structural resilience begins long before construction is complete — with the quality, strength and consistency of the materials being used.

For AKS, that focus begins with the way steel itself is produced.

The company uses Electric Arc Furnace (EAF) technology to produce refined steel while controlling impurities that may affect structural performance. This is combined with Advanced Thermo-Mechanically Treated, or TMT, technology to manufacture rebars designed to provide both strength and ductility.

That combination is particularly important in structures designed for seismic resilience. Rather than strength alone, reinforcing steel must also be capable of deforming and absorbing energy without sudden fracture. AKS manufactures earthquake-resistant grade rebars to international quality standards, positioning material performance as an integral part of safer construction.

Its manufacturing capacity has also received international recognition. At its Sitakunda plant, AKS secured a Guinness World Records™ title for producing the most steel rebars in one minute, manufacturing 52 rebars measuring 108 metres each within 60 seconds. The achievement highlighted the company's High-Speed Delivery system and broader investment in modern steelmaking technology. AKS has achieved Superbrands Award for four consecutive years, reflecting sustained consumer trust and brand strength in the Bangladeshi market.

More recently, the company introduced B700C-R, which AKS describes as the strongest rebar grade manufactured in Bangladesh to date. Designed for applications requiring high strength, ductility and reliability, the grade is aimed particularly at high-rise buildings and critical infrastructure, where greater load-bearing capacity and structural resilience are key considerations.

According to the company, local production of such high-grade rebar can also reduce dependence on imported materials for demanding construction applications.

Alongside product development, AKS has incorporated a number of environmental measures into its Sitakunda manufacturing facility. These include solar power and rainwater harvesting, as well as Water Treatment Plants and closed-loop systems that allow process water to be treated and reused. A Fume Treatment Plant manages emissions, while waste and by-product recovery systems are intended to minimise material loss.

As Bangladesh continues to build for a denser and more climate- and disaster-conscious future, structural safety will increasingly depend on decisions made at the material stage. Through advanced steelmaking, higher-performance rebar and more resource-conscious production, AKS is seeking to make resilience part of that foundation.

Use of Suitable Bricks and Blocks in Building Construction

FOUZIA JAHAN

Building construction is a carefully planned process in which the quality and suitability of every material affect the durability, safety and appearance of the finished structure. Among the earliest and most important decisions is the selection of bricks and blocks for different parts of a building.

No single type of masonry unit is suitable for every application. The choice depends on factors such as structural requirements, location, exposure to weather and the intended function of a wall. For this reason, architects, engineers and building owners need to understand where different grades and types of bricks and blocks should be used.

First-class burnt-clay bricks are among the highest-quality conventional masonry units. Their relatively uniform shape, strength and surface finish make them suitable for quality masonry, including exposed work where appearance is important. Properly manufactured bricks can also provide durable external walls capable of withstanding prolonged exposure to sun and rain.

Regular clay bricks remain widely used for general masonry and wall construction. Their suitability, however, depends on the quality of the bricks and the requirements of the particular building.

Modern construction is also making greater use of alternative masonry units. Concrete blocks, including hollow varieties, can be used for walls and partitions depending on their specification and structural design. Hollow clay blocks are similarly useful as lightweight infill or partition walls within framed structures. Because lighter walling materials can reduce dead load, they can offer advantages where reducing unnecessary structural weight is a design priority.

Lower grades of bricks also have limited applications. Second-class bricks may be considered for less critical or concealed masonry, subject to engineering requirements. Third-class bricks, because of their lower quality, should generally be restricted to applications where their limitations do not compromise structural performance.

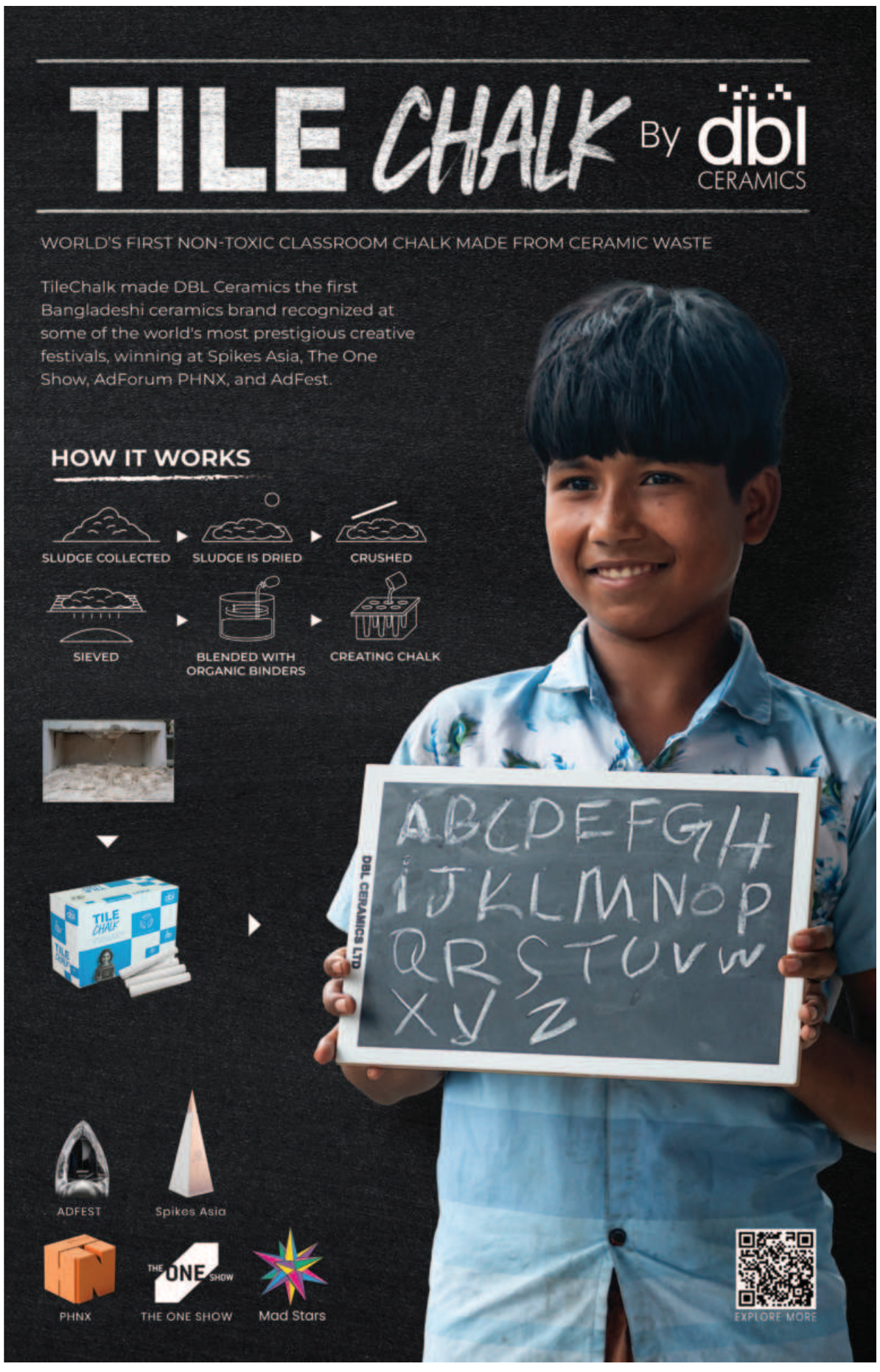


Over-burnt bricks, commonly known as Jhama bricks in Bangladesh, have traditionally been used in applications such as soling and, when appropriately processed and specified, as aggregate in certain construction works. Their characteristics differ considerably from standard walling bricks, making correct application particularly important.

Ultimately, good construction depends not merely on using high-quality materials, but on using appropriate materials in the right places. Building height, structural load, environmental exposure and wall function should all guide material selection.

A durable and safe building therefore begins with informed specification. When architects and engineers select bricks and blocks according to their properties and intended use, material efficiency improves, unnecessary loads can be reduced and the building is better equipped to perform as intended throughout its lifespan.

Fouzia Jahan *is a senior architect at VOLUMEZERO and can be reached at fouzia5299@gmail.com*



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

End the black market in child adoption

A civil legal framework for adoption needed to prevent scams, irregularities

Most countries have some legal mechanism for determining who may raise another person's child. Bangladesh, however, has a legal vacuum in this area, with no civil statute clearly governing adoption. This coupled with the fact that many childless couples look for alternative options through unsupervised digital platforms have helped create fertile ground for a black market in children. A recent report by *Prothom Alo* found 39 such public groups on Facebook and scrutinised 288 posts. However, the child trade extends well beyond social media. A woman broker admitted that she and her associates find pregnant women in hospitals who do not want to keep their babies, and then have a network look after them until they give birth. A newborn boy costs Tk 300,000; a girl Tk 200,000.

Not every seller is a seller. Some mothers are desperate, abandoned by husbands and unable to feed another mouth. Some are members of scam rings. One man from Kushtia, for example, lost Tk 10,000 to a "mother" who showed him a baby on a video call, took his advance by mobile money, and vanished along with her group. Law enforcement currently remains too lax to stop such scams and irregularities. In Bangladesh, the penal code punishes selling or buying a child for immoral or illegal purposes. The new law on human trafficking counts adoption in bad faith as exploitation. Yet police say they have received no complaint specifically about child-selling. Nobody complains, of course, when the buyer and the seller are willing parties. Nobody tracks where these children end up: in loving homes, in domestic servitude, or in worse places.

Meta, which owns Facebook, cannot be let off the hook for the digital scams underway. Its own rules forbid content that facilitates the sale of children or illegal adoption, yet the groups *Prothom Alo* found are public and searchable. Meta profits from the attention that such groups attract. Bangladesh's regulators should therefore demand that Meta remove the groups, act on report findings promptly, and cooperate with investigations. At the same time, law enforcement agencies must crack down on the black market where the price of a child is set by just a few clicks and a mobile-money transfer. The government must bring the whole situation under control, making sure that the criminals, once targeted, do not simply retreat into encrypted apps to continue the trade through another platform.

The penal code punishes selling or buying a child for immoral or illegal purposes. The new law on human trafficking counts adoption in bad faith as exploitation. Yet police say they have received no complaint specifically about child-selling. Nobody complains, of course, when the buyer and the seller are willing parties.

Bangladesh should also consider a civil legal framework for child adoption for people of all faiths, with proper court oversight, screening of adopters, and a national registry that follows each child. Many childless couples badly want a family and they need proper and safe options. The authorities should help open a lawful, supervised route for them. That will shelter many vulnerable children and also shrink the market that now preys on the desperation of people.

Syndicates mustn't control slum utilities

Why should slum dwellers pay a 'premium' for essential services?

It is deeply troubling that many residents of Dhaka's informal settlements remain at the mercy of syndicates controlling basic amenities such as electricity, water, and gas, forcing low-income households to pay significantly more than they should. A recent report by this daily, based on interviews with around 50 residents of Korail, Bhashantek, and Kalyanpur Pora Basti between May and July, found that many lack the documents required for individual connections. So, they depend on shared-meter arrangements involving NGOs or other authorised intermediaries. However, syndicates, often with political backing, take unauthorised control of the meters and exploit residents.

One of the residents of Korail pays Tk 600 a month for a light and a fan, despite estimated usage costing less than Tk 450. Among the few main electricity meters that cater to around 17,000 households in Korail, many are controlled by people with political affiliation. One such person charges sub-meter users Tk 13 per unit, but he, himself pays Tk 7.47 per unit to Desco. Another informal provider, also the joint convener of BNP's Banani Thana Mahila Dal, defended the extra charge as a service fee for maintenance and customer support. Residents of another slum under Dhaka North, Kalyanpur Pora Basti, said they get charged between Tk 15 and Tk 18 per unit of electricity.

The situation is dire even for gas connections and water supplies. Many Korail residents pay Tk 500–600 for a single burner and Tk 1,000–1,200 for a double burner, while paying Tk 300–400 for water regardless of usage, far above Wasa's official tariff. Meanwhile, Titas lacks the manpower to adequately monitor illegal connections, allowing syndicates to repeatedly reconnect lines and maintain their grip over supplies. The relevant authorities at Desco, Dhaka North, Wasa, and Titas Gas are aware of the illegal connections; however, they appear to lack a plan to tackle the situation, leaving the residents highly vulnerable.

We, therefore, urge the authorities to move beyond sporadic enforcement and develop a coordinated policy to formalise utility access in informal settlements. Individual connections should be facilitated where possible, while regulated shared connections can provide an interim solution. Meanwhile, we urge the government to ensure access to basic amenities for these communities. Our most vulnerable citizens must not bear the brunt of weak governance.

WORLD TEACHERS' DAY

Teachers must be the pivot of change in our education system



Dr Manzoor Ahmed is professor emeritus at Brac University, chair of Bangladesh ECD Network (BEN) and adviser to Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE). Views expressed in the article are the author's own.

■ **MANZOOR AHMED**

The theme for World Teachers' Day 2026 is "Standing with teachers: 60 years of protecting the profession, advancing its status and shaping our futures." It has been six decades since UNESCO and the ILO adopted the Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers in 1966, and this year's teachers' day theme provides an opportunity to reflect on the challenges facing teachers and the teaching profession—an issue that resonates particularly in Bangladesh. Since its independence, the country has struggled to define and enhance the role of teachers in building an education system that is equitable, inclusive, and of acceptable quality.

Ensuring enough teachers with the required skills and motivation has become a global challenge with burgeoning educational expectations and demands since the launch of the Education for All movement in the 1990s. Unesco estimates that at least 44 million teachers worldwide must be added to the 94 million current teachers to meet the requirements of Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG4) by 2030. The global teacher crisis prompted the convening of the first World Summit on Teachers in Chile in August 2025, which highlighted how a lack of trained teachers disproportionately impacted low-income countries, especially the rural, remote, and marginalised communities.

The core recommendations of the summit included: i) preserving dignity in teachers' work conditions with governments guaranteeing job security, fair and competitive salaries, realistic workloads, and support for teacher well-being; ii) sustainable financing by prioritising education in national budgets and establishing legal minimum allocations, backed by coordinated international donor support; iii) professionalisation and training by strengthening initial teacher preparation, continuous professional development, and specialised digital and AI competencies; iv) social dialogue within countries by teachers and their unions directly participating in national policy design and decision-making processes; and formally recognising teacher-student relationship as part of common cultural and human heritage; and v) strong accountability through tracking progress transparently via national monitoring mechanisms, etc.

To apply the general guideline for improving teacher performance and status as reflected in the Santiago Consensus, countries must adapt these broad principles to their specific circumstances. In Bangladesh, two consultation committees appointed under the interim government to recommend reforms in primary and secondary education devoted a chapter on teachers in their two reports.

There, a lack of a clearly defined framework for teachers' responsibility, effort, and performance standards at both primary and secondary levels was found. Not enough teachers are on the payroll or deployed to maintain a reasonable class size in schools. Shortage of subject teachers for core subjects is a particularly serious shortcoming in secondary schools. Teaching personnel management, including recruitment, placement, transfer, and promotion, is a source of inefficiency, corruption and huge discontent among teachers. Pre-service professional preparation, in-service professional support, and a culture of mentoring new school teachers are largely absent or ineffective. A reliable career path for teachers is virtually non-existent.

Both consultation committees recommended ways to strengthen teachers' role, performance and status, including early and medium-term actions, essentially within the existing structure of teaching personnel management. They also proposed a longer-term view to bring about a transformative change in how teachers perform and perceive themselves and how society perceives and values teachers, so that the "best and the brightest" are attracted to the profession.

In this connection, it's worth mentioning the BNP government reform initiative called Bangladesh NextGen Overhaul. Developed with the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) Partnership Compact, it ambitiously aims to "transform teacher professionalisation for effective teaching towards enhanced learning outcomes." The Partnership Compact will be funded, in addition to government funds, by a $48.8 million System Transformation Grant from GPE with an additional $350 million package of an Asian Development Bank concessional loan and GPE grant.

The "key transformative pillars" of the initiative are indicated as: a) Blended Learning and Technology Deployment providing training to 7,00,000 teachers nationwide in digital delivery tools and modern pedagogical techniques; b) System Synergy and Transition Rates, in which success will be measured by the rate of students transitioning from primary to secondary school and the boost in secondary completion rates; and c) Long-Term Funding Commitment from Bangladesh government to scale up public education spending progressively from under 2 percent of GDP toward a 5 percent GDP target.

The partnership compact focusing on change in teachers' role and performance—aiming at a policy shift, mobilising domestic and external funding, and assessing measurable progress—is commendable but, in the past, such initiatives faltered and promises remained unfulfilled. This raises the question: does the new initiative rely on a technocratic formula ignoring political and cultural barriers, system capacity, work ethic and accountability deficits?

The "teacher professionalisation" relies heavily on standardised, metrics-driven outputs, such as training 70,0,000 teachers and deploying digital learning infrastructure. These quantifiable metrics are necessary, but does leaning on them risk treating systemic issues as mere logistics while glossing over deep-seated cultural, political, and institutional deficits? It can be justifiably argued that a primary vulnerability of the GPE model is its assumption that training activities translate directly into classroom performance.

Besides, a technocratic formula assumes that teacher recruitment and professionalisation operate within a meritocratic system. However, our education policy and practices are deeply intertwined with local political economy. The NextGen overhaul mandates massive digital and blended-learning transformations across tens of thousands of primary and secondary schools. Does this overlook severe disparities in basic system capacity?



Bangladesh has the lowest school teachers' salaries in South Asia—50 percent lower than in India and 30 percent lower than in Pakistan.

FILE PHOTO: **ORCHID CHAKMA**

In secondary schools, only government teachers (3 percent of the total) are placed at the government salary level of grade 10 (out of 20 civil service grades). The MPO-listed teachers (97 percent of secondary teachers) receive the basic salary and about a quarter of the benefits paid to government teachers. Non-MPO teachers, paid from the school's own funds, receive substantially less. Meanwhile, government primary school teachers are employed at grade 13, which is traditionally classified as a third-class government job. Majority of primary-level institutions and teachers are non-government, with no salary regulations.

In fact, Bangladesh school teachers' salary is the lowest in South Asia. The average teacher salary is 50 percent higher in India and 30 percent in Pakistan. Besides, teachers' professional organisations, often linked with political parties, mostly bargain for material gains with little discussion on system performance.

Is the economic reality of the teaching profession being overlooked? How will the perception change that school teaching is a low-status, underpaid civil service track, not attractive to top-tier graduates? How can the economic cycle that drives the private coaching market be broken?

While this initiative provides an infusion of resources and focuses on teachers' issues, its success clearly hinges on whether the government can execute structural anti-corruption and civil service reforms. Without breaking the underlying political and institutional patterns, the initiative risks operating as an expensive and dysfunctional technical solution to what is essentially a deeply political problem. It also neglects a longer-term transformative rethinking of the teaching profession emphasised in the two consultation committee reports.

Teaching is serious business. It takes commitment, not just expertise



Shafiq R Bhuiyan is vice-president and head of internal communication and CSR at BRAC Bank

■ **SHAFIQ R BHUIYAN**

In the movie *3 Idiots*, Rancho (played by Aamir Khan) walks into a classroom and does something that irritates his professor: he shows how to teach. The professor knows engineering, but Rancho challenges him on how to make students understand. This memorable scene renders a distinctive message: knowing a subject and knowing how to teach it are not the same.

Every October 5, World Teachers' Day reminds us to celebrate those who shape how children think, learn, and see the world. We call them nation-builders and guardians of the future. But perhaps the occasion also invites a fundamental question: Is being a good student enough to become a good teacher?

Someone who has mastered a subject, performed well in examinations, and demonstrated discipline seems an obvious candidate to teach it. Yet the skills that make someone a successful learner are not the same as those that make someone an effective teacher. A good teacher must do more than show they know the answer. They must work out why a student does not know it.

Consider a simple math lesson. A teacher may know exactly how to solve an equation, but when a student cannot, the teacher has to diagnose the problem. Has the student misunderstood the concept? Missed something in an earlier lesson? Found the explanation too abstract? Lost confidence? The teacher must adapt the approach to suit the learner. This ability is called pedagogical knowledge. Growing evidence shows it matters.

A 2026 OECD Teacher Knowledge Survey, involving more than 20,000 lower-secondary teachers across eight countries, found that countries where teachers scored higher in general pedagogical knowledge also tended to have better mathematics results among 15-year-old students. The OECD says this knowledge helps teachers create effective learning environments and use classroom time more effectively.

The finding is consistent with an earlier OECD systematic review of international research involving more than 10,000 teachers and 850,000 students across 21 countries. Its meta-analysis found significant effects of general pedagogical knowledge on teaching quality and student outcomes. It concluded that teaching requires not only knowledge but also the skills and practical experience needed to translate that knowledge into classroom practice. This is why some education systems treat teaching as a profession requiring specialised preparation, rather than assuming that subject expertise will automatically translate into teaching ability.

Singapore provides one example. At the National Institute of Education, teacher preparation includes teaching practice under experienced teachers and university supervisors. Trainee teachers progressively develop lesson planning, delivery, classroom management and assessment skills. The practicum is not an optional add-on; it is integral to becoming a teacher.

Finland takes a different route but follows a similar principle. For a qualified class teacher, Finland generally requires a master's-level education together with multidisciplinary studies and teachers' pedagogical studies. Subject teachers also require a master's degree, studies in the teaching subject and pedagogical studies. In other words, knowing the subject is one component of becoming qualified to teach it.

Neither country offers a model that Bangladesh can copy. Their education systems, resources, and social contexts differ. Yet both illustrate a principle worth considering: teaching ability must be developed, practised, and assessed.

Bangladesh can apply that principle without reinventing its education system. Academic qualifications should remain important in teacher recruitment, but they need not be the sole criterion of suitability. Demonstration classes, supervised teaching practice, and structured feedback could help assess whether a candidate can explain a concept, engage learners, and respond to diverse classroom situations.

Professional development matters just as much. Teachers need opportunities to reflect on their practice, learn new methods, and understand how different students learn. This matters even more in an age when information is instantly available. A student can now find an explanation, definition or formula on a phone within seconds. The teacher's value increasingly lies not simply in possessing information, but in helping students understand, question, connect, and use it.

That is perhaps the lesson hidden in *3 Idiots*. Rancho is not necessarily demonstrating that he knows more engineering than his professor. He is showing that knowing something and communicating it effectively are distinct abilities. The film makes the point dramatically; educational research gives it substance.

On World Teachers' Day, the most meaningful way to honour teachers may be to take teaching seriously: select people not just for what they once achieved as students, prepare them to teach, give them opportunities to practise, and continue developing them throughout their careers. A good student knows how to learn; a good teacher must also know how to make learning happen for someone else.

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/

Biman needs more than new aircraft to compete globally



Zarif Faiaz is editor of the Tech & Startup section at The Daily Star and a research fellow at Tech Global Institute. He can be reached at faiaz@thedailystar.net.

■ ZARIF FAIAZ

Biman Bangladesh Airlines is on a shopping spree.

In April, it signed an agreement to buy 14 Boeing aircraft. In September, it added another 11, taking its Boeing order book to 25. Now, the government is negotiating with Airbus for another 10 aircraft: four A350-900s and six A321neos. If all of these purchases go through, Biman, which currently operates 19 aircraft, will have 35 new planes in its procurement pipeline.

The government's justification is that it carries only a little over 20 percent of international passenger demand in Bangladesh, leaving foreign airlines with the rest: more planes would allow Biman to increase frequencies, open routes, and compete for more of that traffic.

But competing for passengers is very different from merely having enough seats to carry them. A Bangladeshi expatriate travelling home from Jeddah may choose Biman because it offers a convenient direct flight. However, a foreigner travelling from Europe to Southeast Asia has far less reason to do so. If Bangladesh genuinely wants Dhaka to become an aviation hub, Biman would have to compete on fares, frequencies, connections, reliability, and service, not simply add capacity.

The challenge is to turn Biman into an internationally desirable brand, to make Biman an airline that passengers, Bangladeshi or not, actively choose and subsequently recommend. To do that, Biman needs to look like it belongs in this century.

The first step is branding.

Unfortunately, Biman's entire brand identity seems to be stuck in the 80s. Nothing about the airline—from its bland typography and dated cabin hospitality to its severely outdated social media and website—tells you that this is a serious airline ready to take flight in the modern 21st century.

Biman has spent years modernising its fleet without ever fully deciding what a modern Biman should actually be. The airline operates Dreamliners—among the world's most technologically advanced passenger aircraft. Yet the wider Biman experience does not consistently communicate the same modernity.

The Balaka, Biman's logo designed by Quamrul Hassan, is a wonderful piece of Bangladeshi design heritage, and there is no real good reason to abandon the core logo. But preserving an icon does not require preserving an entire visual language around it indefinitely. Biman has clung to the mundane past all the while; the world has moved on, and the best airlines have kept up.

Emirates, for example, understood that an airline is more than transport. Emirates began flying in 1985 with just two leased aircraft from Pakistan International Airlines (PIA). The difference between PIA and Emirates is sky-high 41 years later. Emirates' original brief was remarkably simple: the airline had to "look good, be good, and make money". The impression it created is remarkably consistent with the impression Dubai wants to create of itself: polished, confident, international, expensive, and ambitious.

Qatar Airways has pursued a similar idea. Its branding is quieter and more restrained: burgundy, grey, the oryx, and the word Qatar prominently displayed across its aircraft. When the airline redesigned its livery in 2006, it deliberately removed the word "Airways" from the most prominent part of the fuselage and enlarged "QATAR". The airline said at the time that the change reflected the growing importance of the country.

The airline has spent years associating that name with luxury, attention to detail, and a carefully controlled premium experience. Its own brand material has repeatedly emphasised luxury and distinctive service. The intended impression carries into Doha: sophisticated, orderly, affluent, and increasingly worth experiencing rather than merely passing through.

SriLankan Airlines offers a useful regional example. Despite operating from a much smaller economy, the airline has built parts of its passenger experience around a recognisable Sri Lankan identity. In 2026, it received regional awards for overall passenger experience and improvement, while previous awards have recognised its inflight food, entertainment, and destination marketing.

The point is that these airlines seem to understand something Biman still needs to internalise: an airline is both a transportation company and a consumer brand. It needs to identify a credible position of its own: competitive value, recognisable Bangladeshi hospitality, and a world-class experience that passengers can trust.



Biman needs a visual identity worthy of contemporary Bangladesh. FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

However, a rebranding promise only works when the organisation can deliver it. Service reform must happen alongside visual reform. If Biman is to compete seriously with international airlines, its modernisation must reach far beyond the aircraft, advertising, or cabin service. This is one of the less glamorous lessons offered by the airlines Biman wants to compete with.

Singapore Airlines, for example, has treated organisational capability as part of the product. During its transformation programme in 2018, the airline changed its IT development model, invested in digital skills across its workforce, and reported cutting application development time to market by about 40 percent. Its more recent annual reporting continues to emphasise continuous training, cross-functional mobility, and the development of digital and service capabilities among employees.

Emirates invests in the same principle from another direction. Its Centre of Hospitality Excellence trains not only cabin crew but also check-in and lounge employees, while new cabin crew undergo weeks of structured safety and service training before operating flights. In 2025, Emirates opened a dedicated hospitality training facility intended eventually to serve its roughly 25,000 cabin crew.

Biman is not, contrary to its old reputation, currently a consistently loss-making airline. It recently reported Tk 785.21 crore in net profit for the fifth consecutive year. Boeing deliveries under the current programme are also scheduled to begin from 2031. There is, in other words, time before much of this new capacity arrives. Biman should seize this moment. By 2031, passengers should not simply see new aircraft. They should see a radically new airline, ready to promote Bangladesh to the world.

Passengers today choose Dubai, Doha, Singapore, Istanbul, or other connecting hubs because airlines, airports, schedules, baggage systems, lounges, immigration rules, hotels, tourism agencies, and ground transport work together closely enough to make connecting through them worthwhile.

Dhaka will have to provide the bare necessities. Why should someone flying from Manchester to Bangkok, or from Jeddah to Kuala Lumpur, connect through Bangladesh rather than somewhere else? This question matters far more than how many planes Biman has.

Bangladesh absolutely should have an ambitious national carrier. It should have more routes, greater capacity, modern aircraft, and a much larger share of the country's international passenger market. But ambition must extend beyond procurement. Biman (and the airport too, in time) needs a visual identity worthy of contemporary Bangladesh. It needs to free itself from dated bureaucratic clutches and create a genuine tourism proposition that makes foreigners curious about the country whose flag is painted on the tail. Most importantly, it needs to understand what business it is actually in—branding the country to the world. It needs to take Bangladesh to the world. And, in turn, bring the world to Bangladesh.

Biman has all the potential to become an aviation icon. Boeing can sell Biman a Dreamliner. Airbus can sell it an A350. Neither can sell it a reputation. That part Biman Bangladesh Airlines will have to build for itself.

Feminism isn't what we consume, it's what we practise and fight for



Adrita Islam is a lecturer of political science and streaming media culture and a part-time news anchor. She can be reached at adrita027@gmail.com.

■ ADRITA ISLAM

Consider the language of beauty advertising. Try this shampoo to make your hair shinier and silkier and express yourself more confidently. Spritz on this fragrance to make men notice you. Buy this makeup to hide how tired you are and achieve flawless beauty, rather than asking why you are so burned out in the first place. Buy our product to run as fast as a man!

Apparently, empowerment is just one purchase away.

How often do we come across advertisements that promise women empowerment through a product, a makeover, or a crafted, catchy slogan? From billboards to social media campaigns, feminist language has increasingly become part of marketing. But beneath these catchy slogans and promises of confidence, what are we really being sold? Is it empowerment or are we simply being given new ways to feel inadequate, insecure and in need of another product? Behind these empowering messages often lie the same standards of femininity that feminism has long questioned and challenged.

Often, the women featured in these advertisements are popular models; polished, confident, and financially capable of consuming the products being promoted. But how different is their journey from that of a woman living in a rural community, struggling to access even basic necessities? More importantly, who are these messages actually targeting and reaching? Are they reaching the women who are looking for empowerment, or are they speaking primarily to those who have the means to consume the product being advertised?

American sociologist Goldman and his colleagues in a paper published in 1991 used the term commodity feminism to describe how feminist discourse can be redirected through mass media and transformed into marketable signs attached to brands and commodities. This is particularly visible and relatable in today's consumer culture. For instance- a woman can supposedly become more confident by buying the right clothes. Sure, but do these messages acknowledge how underpaid the women are who work day and night to produce these clothes in a garment factory? We are encouraged to use the right anti-aging cosmetics or makeup products to conceal the imperfections, but why do we not question why women are punished or judged for growing older? The obsession with women's beauty is not something new in society. However, the way brands are feeding and selling this obsession to us in a packaged form calls for attention and scrutiny. The contrast between "you are powerful" but "you need to look a certain way to be taken seriously" is striking. An advertisement may tell a woman that she is powerful and independent while simultaneously suggesting that she needs smoother skin, shinier hair, a slimmer waist, or a more attractive appearance to be valued, heard, and taken as seriously as the men around her.

Feminist language has undeniable appeal because words such as confidence, independence, equality, and empowerment carry personal, political, and emotional weight. Brands understand this. By associating themselves with these ideas and often pairing them with catchy music and polished visuals, they can position a product as more than a commodity. Buying it can begin to feel like an expression of identity or even a small act of liberation. But empowerment is not the same as feeling good, and it is certainly not the same as overconsumption.

A campaign celebrating women's confidence does not necessarily address gender-based violence. A product marketed around women's independence does not automatically challenge unequal wages, unpaid care work, discrimination, barriers to education, or the oppression that women face across the world. A brand can celebrate "strong women" while leaving the structural conditions that limit millions of women entirely untouched. Hashtag feminism has increasingly become part of advertising, with brands using social-media campaigns to market ideas of female empowerment.

There is also a question of class disparity. Who can afford to participate in this supposed version of feminism? If empowerment is increasingly communicated through products, lifestyles, and experiences, then access to empowerment risks becoming a privilege. The woman who cannot afford these products is not less deserving of confidence, dignity, or equality. Yet consumer culture can subtly suggest that she is missing something. It can also create an "us" versus "them," where the "us" is presented as more culturally refined, educated, modern, and sophisticated, while the "others" are portrayed as backward, less modern, or not as capable. In that sense, consumer feminism may reinforce the very social divisions that feminism seeks to challenge.

None of this means that women should not enjoy beauty products, fashion, or self-care. Consumption and feminism do not have to be opposites. The problem begins when purchasing is presented as a substitute for political and social change.

We need to become more discerning and critical about the feminism we encounter in advertisements and on social media. Is a brand genuinely engaging with gender inequality, or is it simply using feminist language to sell us another product? Feminism cannot be reduced to a slogan on a billboard, a hashtag on Instagram, or a product on a shelf. Real empowerment requires confronting inequalities beyond the marketplace and addressing them from the grassroots level.

It is high time we learn to distinguish between feminism that challenges inequality and marketing strategies that simply know how to package and sell it. Because when feminism becomes too advertising-friendly, we risk confusing visibility with progress and consumption with empowerment. We celebrate the campaign, share the slogan, buy the product and perhaps feel that we have participated in something meaningful. But what changes when the advertisement ends?

If feminism becomes something we consume rather than something we practice, question, and fight for, then we may be buying the language of liberation while leaving the structures of oppression untouched. The real measure of empowerment is not what we are persuaded to buy, but what women are free to become, access, demand, and change.

Government of The Peoples Republic of Bangladesh
Bangladesh Maritime University, (BMU)
Plot# 14/06-14/23, Pallabi Mirpur-12, Dhaka-1216
Web: www.bmu.edu.bd

No. bmu-2026-27-goods(e-GP)-01-111 Date: 04 October 2026

e-Tender Notice No : 01/2026-27

e-Tenders is invited in the National e-GP Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of Goods as stated as below:

Sl. No.	Description of Goods & Package No.	Tender ID	Tender/Proposal Publication Date & Time	Tender Security Submission Last Date & Time	Tender/Proposal Closing/Opening Date & Time
01	Medicine & Medical Equipment	1314755	05 October 2026 at 11:00a.m	15 October 2026 at 10:55a.m	15 October 2026 at 11:05a.m
02	Electronics, Electrical & Other Items	1325216	05 October 2026 at 12:00p.m	15 October 2026 at 12:05p.m	15 October 2026 at 13:00p.m
03	Diary Calendar & Others	1338385	05 October 2026 at 12:00p.m	15 October 2026 at 11:05a.m	15 October 2026 at 12:05p.m

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no Offline/ hard copies will accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fee's for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited, online through any registered Bank's branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Procurement Section
BMU, Bangladesh

GD-2407

Russia strikes hit Kyiv as Germany chancellor visits

AFP, *Kyiv*

Russia struck another major bridge in Kyiv yesterday, soon after Germany's chancellor arrived on a surprise visit to show European support in the face of an upsurge in attacks.

Air raid sirens blared repeatedly across the Ukrainian capital throughout the morning, including as Friedrich Merz met President Volodymyr Zelensky at the National Academy of Sciences, which was hit by a Russian attack drone on Monday.

Merz said as he arrived that Ukraine "needs all our support in the coming weeks".

"If Russia is not stopped, its war machine will sooner or later turn against us," he added.

Ukraine wants more Western military



support, including advanced interceptors to shoot down Russia's new fast-moving, jet-powered drones.

Government sources in Berlin said they were expected to shake hands on a new package of military support worth more than $1 billion.

It includes combat drones and satellite technology to help Ukraine hit Russian launch sites, as well as for the joint production of anti-jet drones, the German sources said.

Russia's defence ministry yesterday vowed to ramp up its strikes on "military and military-industrial facilities" plus "related infrastructure in Kyiv" and elsewhere after Zelensky this week said Ukraine would intensify its own attacks against oil facilities that it says supply Moscow's troops.

On Saturday, Moscow warned foreigners and diplomats to leave Kyiv, saying "massive" new airstrikes would hit the city. It made a similar threat in May but leaders from Ukraine's allies have continued to make visits.



SYSTEMATIC DESTRUCTION OF OLIVE GROVES

A bid to uproot Palestinian identity

AGENCIES

One less-discussed dimension of Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories came to the fore on Saturday when Israeli soldiers backed settlers who seized Palestinian olive groves in the occupied West Bank, as violence against farmers intensified at the start of the traditional olive harvest season.

The incident highlights a longstanding struggle over one of Palestinians' most important economic resources and national symbols -- the olive tree. For Palestinians, olive cultivation is not simply agriculture; it is deeply connected to their history, culture and relationship with the land.

For generations, olive trees have been woven into Palestinian family life, poetry and faith. Their fruit has sustained households, their wood has traditionally provided fuel, and the annual harvest has marked a season of work, community and resilience. Between 80,000 and 100,000 Palestinian families rely on olives and olive oil as a primary or secondary source of income, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

Various reports have estimated that hundreds of thousands of olive trees have been destroyed in the occupied Palestinian territories over the decades, with some estimates putting the number at more than 2.5 million since 1967.

The loss is both economic and symbolic. A mature olive tree can represent decades, even centuries, of cultivation and family labour. When an orchard is reduced to stumps, what disappears is not only a source of income but also a physical record of generations who worked and lived on the land.

Critics describe the destruction of olive groves as a form of environmental and cultural erasure, arguing that the loss of trees weakens Palestinians' ability to demonstrate longstanding agricultural ties to land amid settlement expansion and disputes over ownership.

The practice is well spread in West Bank and Gaza. A FAO-UN Satellite Centre assessment found that 75 percent of fields once used for crops and olive-tree orchards had been damaged or destroyed by late 2024.

Near Beita in the northern West Bank on Saturday, farmers were confronted by settlers. The settlers initially backed down when faced by the farmers and solidarity activists, including some Israelis, witnesses said. Israeli soldiers then arrived, forcing the farmers and activists away and detaining several Palestinians, an AFP journalist witnessed. The Palestine Red Crescent Society said 12 Palestinians were taken to hospital after being beaten by settlers in five separate incidents Saturday.

IN BRIEF

Brazil votes in nail-biter polls

AFP, *Brasília*

Brazilians headed to the polls yesterday in a toss-up race between President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and Flavio Bolsonaro that will decide whether the nation follows a regional swing to the right.

From villages deep in the Amazon rainforest to the agricultural heartlands in the south and sprawling urban favelas, Brazilians are facing a familiar cast -- with many forced to pick who they least dislike. Opinion polls show neither candidate is likely to reach more than the 50 percent threshold required to win in the first round on Sunday, putting them neck-and-neck in an October 25 runoff.

1,476 Myanmar migrants returns from Malaysia

AFP, *Thanlyin*

Nearly 1,500 Myanmar migrants from Malaysia returned to their war-ravaged home country yesterday under an opaque repatriation scheme that rights monitors say cannot assure their safety.

Rhe returnees arrived by three Myanmar Navy ships, which left Malaysia on Tuesday carrying 1,476 migrants -- the first of 5,000 that Malaysia says Myanmar agreed to take back. Rohingyas make up the majority of Myanmar refugees and asylum seekers in Malaysia, but Kuala Lumpur has not responded to an AFP query about the number onboard.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Home Affairs
Bangladesh Coast Guard

INVITATION FOR TENDER

IFT No. 44.08.2680.060.42.001.26.1602 Date: 04 October 2026

Tender Notice (OTM)

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

e-Tender ID No	Description of Goods	Online Publication Date & Time	Last Selling Date & Time	Closing & Opening Date & Time
1346122	1. Purchase of 01 Lot year 2027 Diary/ Notebook, Desk Calender, Wall Calender, Diary/Note Book Box (VIP), Sticker, Table Organizer Calender/Year Planner, Bag large and Bag Small (08 Lines). 2. 02 Samples of each item is to be submitted along with the tender offer.	05-10-2026 At 12:00	19-10-2026 At 11:00	19-10-2026 At 12:00

This is an online tender, where only e-tenders will be accepted in the national e-gp portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-tender, registration in the national e-gp system portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required.
The fees for downloading the e-tender documents from the national e-gp system portal have to be deposited online through any listed bank branches.
Further information and guidelines are available in the national e-gp system portal and from e-gp help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gpv.bd).

MD NIZAM UDDIN
Lt Commander BN
Asst. Director Logistics (Stores)
Bangladesh Coast Guard

GD-2408

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Upazila Engineer
Upazila: Savar, District: Dhaka
Web portal: www.lged.savar.dhaka.gov.bd

Memo No- 46.02.2672.000.14.001.26/1255 Date: 01/10/2026

e-Tender Notice- 01/2026-2027 (UDF)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System portal (LTM) (http:/www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of following Scheme listed below:

Sl No.	Tender ID	Name of Scheme	Last Selling Date & Time	Closing Date & Time	Opening Date & Time
01	1343744	Package no- e-Tender/DHA/SAVA/UDF/2026-27/Shimulia UP/01	18/10/2026 16.00 hrs	19/10/2026 13.00 hrs	19/10/2026 13.00 hrs
02	1343745	Package no- e-Tender/DHA/SAVA/UDF/2026-27/Shimulia UP/02	18/10/2026 16.00 hrs	19/10/2026 13.00 hrs	19/10/2026 13.00 hrs
03	1343746	Package no- e-Tender/DHA/SAVA/UDF/2026-27/Shimulia UP/03	18/10/2026 16.00 hrs	19/10/2026 13.00 hrs	19/10/2026 13.00 hrs
04	1343747	Package no- e-Tender/DHA/SAVA/UDF/2026-27/Shimulia UP/04	18/10/2026 16.00 hrs	19/10/2026 13.00 hrs	19/10/2026 13.00 hrs
05	1343748	Package no- e-Tender/DHA/SAVA/UDF/2026-27/Shimulia UP/05	18/10/2026 16.00 hrs	19/10/2026 13.00 hrs	19/10/2026 13.00 hrs
06	1343752	Package no- e-Tender/DHA/SAVA/UDF/2026-27/Shimulia UP/06	18/10/2026 16.00 hrs	19/10/2026 13.00 hrs	19/10/2026 13.00 hrs
07	1343750	Package no- e-Tender/DHA/SAVA/UDF/2026-27/Shimulia UP/07	18/10/2026 16.00 hrs	19/10/2026 13.00 hrs	19/10/2026 13.00 hrs
08	1344712	Package no- e-Tender/DHA/SAVA/UDF/2026-27/Shimulia UP/08	18/10/2026 16.00 hrs	19/10/2026 13.00 hrs	19/10/2026 13.00 hrs
09	1343754	Package no- e-Tender/DHA/SAVA/UDF/2026-27/Pathalia UP/01	18/10/2026 16.00 hrs	19/10/2026 13.00 hrs	19/10/2026 13.00 hrs
10	1343757	Package no- e-Tender/DHA/SAVA/UDF/2026-27/Pathalia UP/02	18/10/2026 16.00 hrs	19/10/2026 13.00 hrs	19/10/2026 13.00 hrs
11	1343758	Package no- e-Tender/DHA/SAVA/UDF/2026-27/Pathalia UP/03	18/10/2026 16.00 hrs	19/10/2026 13.00 hrs	19/10/2026 13.00 hrs
12	1343761	Package no- e-Tender/DHA/SAVA/UDF/2026-27/Pathalia UP/04	18/10/2026 16.00 hrs	19/10/2026 13.00 hrs	19/10/2026 13.00 hrs
13	1343760	Package no- e-Tender/DHA/SAVA/UDF/2026-27/Pathalia UP/05	18/10/2026 16.00 hrs	19/10/2026 13.00 hrs	19/10/2026 13.00 hrs
14	1343762	Package no- e-Tender/DHA/SAVA/UDF/2026-27/Pathalia UP/06	18/10/2026 16.00 hrs	19/10/2026 13.00 hrs	19/10/2026 13.00 hrs
15	1343763	Package no- e-Tender/DHA/SAVA/UDF/2026-27/Pathalia UP/07	18/10/2026 16.00 hrs	19/10/2026 13.00 hrs	19/10/2026 13.00 hrs
16	1343772	Package no- e-Tender/DHA/SAVA/UDF/2026-27/Dhamsona UP/01	18/10/2026 16.00 hrs	19/10/2026 13.00 hrs	19/10/2026 13.00 hrs
17	1343774	Package no- e-Tender/DHA/SAVA/UDF/2026-27/Dhamsona UP/02	18/10/2026 16.00 hrs	19/10/2026 13.00 hrs	19/10/2026 13.00 hrs
18	1343775	Package no- e-Tender/DHA/SAVA/UDF/2026-27/Dhamsona UP/03	18/10/2026 16.00 hrs	19/10/2026 13.00 hrs	19/10/2026 13.00 hrs
19	1343777	Package no- e-Tender/DHA/SAVA/UDF/2026-27/Dhamsona UP/04	18/10/2026 16.00 hrs	19/10/2026 13.00 hrs	19/10/2026 13.00 hrs
20	1343778	Package no- e-Tender/DHA/SAVA/UDF/2026-27/Dhamsona UP/05	18/10/2026 16.00 hrs	19/10/2026 13.00 hrs	19/10/2026 13.00 hrs
21	1343780	Package no- e-Tender/DHA/SAVA/UDF/2026-27/Dhamsona UP/06	18/10/2026 16.00 hrs	19/10/2026 13.00 hrs	19/10/2026 13.00 hrs
22	1343782	Package no- e-Tender/DHA/SAVA/UDF/2026-27/Dhamsona UP/07	18/10/2026 16.00 hrs	19/10/2026 13.00 hrs	19/10/2026 13.00 hrs
23	1343783	Package no- e-Tender/DHA/SAVA/UDF/2026-27/Dhamsona UP/08	18/10/2026 16.00 hrs	19/10/2026 13.00 hrs	19/10/2026 13.00 hrs
24	1343784	Package no- e-Tender/DHA/SAVA/UDF/2026-27/Dhamsona UP/09	18/10/2026 16.00 hrs	19/10/2026 13.00 hrs	19/10/2026 13.00 hrs
25	1343786	Package no- e-Tender/DHA/SAVA/UDF/2026-27/Dhamsona UP/10	18/10/2026 16.00 hrs	19/10/2026 13.00 hrs	19/10/2026 13.00 hrs
26	1343788	Package no- e-Tender/DHA/SAVA/UDF/2026-27/Dhamsona UP/11	18/10/2026 16.00 hrs	19/10/2026 13.00 hrs	19/10/2026 13.00 hrs
27	1343789	Package no- e-Tender/DHA/SAVA/UDF/2026-27/Dhamsona UP/12	18/10/2026 16.00 hrs	19/10/2026 13.00 hrs	19/10/2026 13.00 hrs

This is an online Tender, where only e-tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal & no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is 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's branches.
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

(MD. MINARUL ISLAM)
Upazila Engineer,
Savar, Dhaka
Phone- 02-224442695
Molile-01708-161356
e-mail: ue.savar@lged.gov.bd

GD-2406

DHAKA MONDAY OCTOBER 5, 2026, ASHWIN 20, 1433 BS

SPORT



Midfielder Rodri, the Golden Ball winner at the 2026 FIFA World Cup, scored his first international goal in two years as Spain brushed aside the Czech Republic 3-1 in Oviedo yesterday to maintain their perfect start to the Nations League. The world champions moved three points clear of England at the top of Group A3. Spain cruised into a two-goal lead through Yamal and captain Rodri, but Jiri Slama gave the Czechs hope by pulling one back with 20 minutes to go. However, Mikel Merino wrapped up Spain's win late on after Ladislav Krejci was sent off for the visitors, as Spain extended their unbeaten run to 41 games, including their World Cup final victory over Argentina in July. PHOTO: X



"It is difficult to find an explanation for such a performance without duels, fouls, aggressiveness, togetherness... I've been here for 20 years, but for the first time I feel ashamed after a game.

Croatia midfielder **LUKA MODRIC** after losing 7-0 against England in Nations League

Bigger contingent, shrinking return

ANISUR RAHMAN

Bangladesh's contingent keeps getting bigger at the Asian Games, but the results have gone in the opposite direction.

At the 2014 Incheon Games, Bangladesh sent 166 people and returned with three medals: one silver and two bronzes. At Aichi-Nagoya in 2026, the contingent had swelled to 260, including 187 athletes.

The return was just one bronze. That is a 56.6 per cent increase in numbers, but a two-thirds drop in medals.

More than a disappointing medal tally, it raises a bigger question about what Bangladesh is actually trying to achieve at the continent's biggest multi-sport event, and why, despite larger delegations and years of familiar promises, the system continues to fall short.

The same explanations are trotted out after every disappointing campaign: a lack of talented athletes, inadequate training, poor planning and insufficient financial support. Whenever questions are raised about the size of the contingent, organisers point to exposure, arguing that taking athletes to major Games will help them perform better at the regional South Asian Games.

But exposure without a long-term plan is difficult to distinguish from expensive participation.

The contrast with Bangladesh's neighbours is telling.

India finished fourth with 85 medals: 21 gold, 27 silver and 37 bronze. Pakistan won 10, including two silver and eight bronze, while Sri Lanka claimed one gold, one silver and one bronze. Nepal returned with two bronzes.

For Bangladesh, another Games has instead brought another round of soul-searching. But the deeper failure lies with the system.

The respective federations, Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) and the government have repeatedly failed to put in place long-term planning for the Asian, Commonwealth and Olympic Games.

Preparation is too often replaced by short-term measures. Officials make headlines over selection issues, coaches are left out of contingents, and organisational controversies take attention away from the preparation needed to compete. Questions over athlete selection and the number of officials had already surfaced before the contingent left for Japan.

Bangladesh's participation in the Olympics, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games was once dismissed as 'token participation'. That label may now be outdated in terms of numbers, but the fundamental problem remains. The contingent keeps growing, and so does the expenditure, without a corresponding rise in competitiveness.

There is no mystery about where the realistic medal possibilities lie. In individual sports such as athletics, swimming, shooting, archery, fencing, gymnastics and weightlifting, performance can be measured through times, scores and rankings. In team sports, consistent international results can offer a clearer indication of genuine medal potential.

Yet Bangladesh continues to spread limited resources across a large number of disciplines without first establishing realistic targets and giving athletes enough time to prepare.

Shooting and archery have long been labelled Bangladesh's most promising medal sports. But repeated disappointing performances at international level, including the World Cups, have widened the gap between the hype and the reality.

The time has come to rethink what Bangladesh wants from these multi-sport Games. A bigger contingent may create the appearance of a bigger sporting ambition, but numbers alone do not constitute progress. Without proper preparation, long-term planning and realistic medal targets, sending hundreds of athletes and officials abroad risks turning the Asian Games into little more than an expensive 'leisure trip', only bigger each time.

Across 22 disciplines in Aichi-Nagoya, Jinnat Akter was the one athlete who kept Bangladesh from returning empty-handed. Her bronze in the women's 52kg wushu sanda event ended a 40-year wait for Bangladesh's second individual Asian Games medal.

She brought home Bangladesh's only medal. For everyone else, the Games brought back the same old questions.

Bangladesh went to Japan with a 260-member continegent and will return with just a bronze medal. They finished tied for 37th, alongside four other nations, at the bottom of the medals tally. Five nations failed to win a medal.



PHOTO: REUTERS

MEDALS TALLY (TOP 5)

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
China	169	89	83	341
Japan	83	95	91	269
South Korea	39	43	68	150
India	21	27	37	85
Uzbekistan	21	25	24	70

Shanto awaits green light for Afghanistan Test

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh are still waiting on Test captain Najmul Hossain Shanto's availability for the one-off Test against Afghanistan, starting on October 9 in Abu Dhabi. However, Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) sources said Shanto looked fit after beginning individual batting session in Mirpur yesterday.

Sources said Shanto had suffered from dengue fever in Japan, but the medical department has remained positive about his recovery.

BCB chief selector Habibul Bashar was also optimistic about Shanto's recovery but wants to wait for clearance from the medical department.

"Medically, he is fine and reports suggest he is fit. But given that he had fever, he was struggling with fitness. So we will get an assessment soon regarding the player," Bashar told reporters.



Shanto was ruled out of the Asian Games on September 28 following a bout of fever and returned home without playing a match.

He faced Taskin Ahmed and other bowlers in the nets on Sunday without any discomfort, providing relief for the Test side ahead of the Afghanistan match.

"He is ready [for a five-day match] and there is no problem," a team management source said after his practice session.

"He batted today and faced no problems. He will undergo another session tomorrow. After he gives feedback [following the practice session], we will decide. It also depends on the team management," another source said.

If all goes smoothly, Shanto is expected to catch a flight to the UAE late on Monday night. Most of the Test squad are already in Dubai and began their two-day practice game against the UAE on Sunday. The players who featured in the Asian Games are also scheduled to join the Test squad in Dubai on Tuesday.

Bangladesh will then play a tri-nation series, involving Afghanistan and Zimbabwe, starting October 17. The Test players are expected to feature in the third round of the ongoing National Cricket League to prepare for the home Test series against the West Indies, beginning on October 28.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Project Director
Jamuna Rail Bridge Project
Bangladesh Railway, Railbhaban, Dhaka.

No. 54.01.0000.630.07.398.26-10073 Date: 01 October 2026.

Corrigendum-01 to Invitation for Bid (IFB)

The following corrigendum to invitation for Bid (IFB) against Reference No. 54.01.0000.630.07.398.26-9982dated 13.08.2026 for Package No. WD5: "Construction of Internal Roads, Drains and Related Works near Soydabad Station Area under Jamuna Rail Bridge Project" is hereby issued as under:

Sl No.	Ref. No.	As in IFB	As per Corrigendum Notice
1.	Sl. 2 Para-4	The similarity of the contracts shall be based on the following: A and Related Works. For the above or other contracts completed and under implementation as prime contractor (single entity or JV member) or subcontractor between 1st January 2021 and Bid submission deadline, a minimum experience in the following key activities successfully completed: Construction of at least 1.5 km Internal Road (Bituminous road) and 0.5 km Drain.	The similarity of the above mentioned contracts shall be based on the following: -Any civil construction work. Besides, the following similarity shall have to be ensured by the above contracts or any other contracts: -Completed contracts as prime contractor (single entity or JV member) or subcontractor between 1st January 2021 and Bid submission deadline, a minimum experience in the following key activities successfully completed: Construction of at least 1.5 km Internal Road (Bituminous road) and 0.5 km Drain.
2.	Sl. 5	The Bidding Document may be purchased by interested Bidders on the submission of a written application to the address above during office hours until 5:00 PM, 04 October 2026 and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of BDT 20,000 (Bangladeshi Taka Twenty Thousand only) by cash.	The Bidding Document may be purchased by interested Bidders on the submission of a written application to the address above during office hours until 5:00 PM, 18 October 2026 and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of BDT 20,000 (Bangladeshi Taka Twenty Thousand only) by cash.
3.	Sl. 6	Bids must be delivered to the address above on or before 11:00 AM local time on 05 October 2026 and must be accompanied by a Bid Security of BDT 4,000,000 (Bangladeshi Taka Four Million only) in favor of FA&CAO (Project), Bangladesh Railway, Kamalapur, Dhaka.	Bids must be delivered to the address above on or before 11:00 AM local time on 19 October 2026 and must be accompanied by a Bid Security of BDT 4,000,000 (Bangladeshi Taka Four Million only) in favor of FA&CAO (Project), Bangladesh Railway, Kamalapur, Dhaka.

Other terms and conditions of the IFB will remain unchanged. The above corrigendum shall be the part and parcel of the Bid Document.

1/10/26

(Al Fattah Md. Masudur Rahaman)
Project Director
Jamuna Rail Bridge Project.

GD-2403

IN BRIEF

Argentina thrash Burkina Faso 7-0

AGENCIES

Argentina produced another dominant attacking display on Sunday, thrashing Burkina Faso 7-0 at the Monumental Stadium in their second friendly match of the FIFA international break.

Lautaro Martinez, Gianluca Prestianni, Nico Paz, Julian Alvarez, Franco Mastantuono and Giuliano Simeone scored for Argentina. Burkina Faso defender Moumoune Diallo also scored an own goal.

Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni thanked the Burkina Faso players who travelled to Argentina despite some internal issues.

Lionel Messi did not play after arriving in Argentina on Friday. He is expected to feature in Tuesday's friendly against Benin at the Monumental which will be his last match in an Argentina shirt.

Joy hits ton as Ctg dominate Rajshahi

SPORTS REPORTER

Mahmudul Hasan Joy smashed the first century of the National Cricket League season yesterday, putting hosts Chattogram in a strong position against Rajshahi.

Recently dropped from the Test side, Joy hit his seventh first-class ton, ending Day 2 unbeaten on 102. Fellow opener Sadikur Rahman was 86 not out, taking Chattogram to 190 without loss at Stumps in response to Rajshahi's 364 all out.

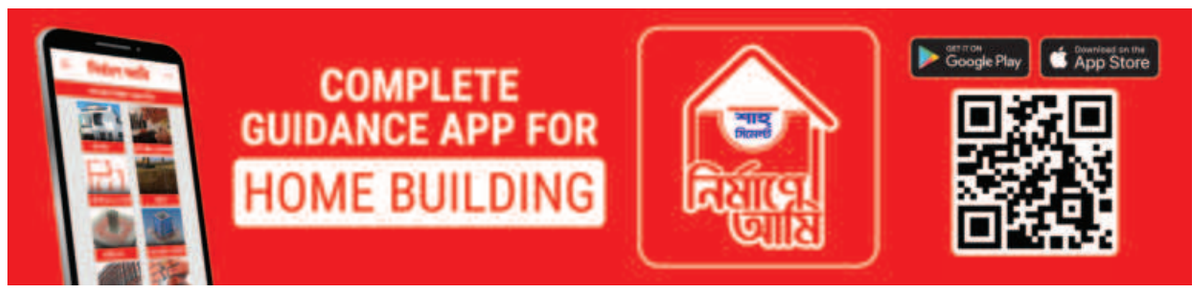
Elsewhere, Barishal were skittled for 94 by Khulna. Forced to follow-on after Khulna's 426 all out, Barishal closed on 43 for 2. In Mirpur, Rangpur left Dhaka 120 for 6, in reply to Rangpur's 340. Meanwhile, hosts Sylhet reached 236 for 5 in response to Mymensingh's 311 in Sylhet.

WHAT TO WATCH

SONY SPORTS 1, 2, 5
UEFA Nations League
Live from 12:45 am (Tuesday)
France vs Belgium
Italy vs Turkiye
Northern Ireland vs Georgia

T SPORTS
Canada Super 60
Live from 6:00 am
FIFA ASEAN CUP
Bronze-medal match
Live from 3:00 pm
Final
Live from 7:00 pm
World Championship of Legends
Bangladesh Vs England
Live from 9:30 pm





Surplus liquidity at banks past Tk 4 lakh crore

REJAUL KARIM BYRON *and* MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Surplus liquidity in the banking sector surged 45 percent over the past year to cross Tk 4 lakh crore, but the vast majority of the funds are parked in government treasury bills and bonds rather than trickling into private sector credit, according to a central bank report.

The findings were presented at the fourth meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on finance ministry chaired by Brahmanbaria-4 MP Mushfiqur Rahman.

The report by Bangladesh Bank highlighted a stark dichotomy in the financial system: while strong conventional banks hold the lion's share of excess liquidity locked in government securities, several lenders, particularly Shariah-based Islamic banks, continue to face severe liquidity stress.

By the end of August, total liquid assets in the banking system, comprising cash and government securities, reached Tk 4.5 lakh crore, up from Tk 3.1 lakh crore a year earlier.

The country faces no actual "liquidity shortage", the BB said. Instead, higher remittance inflows, positive shifts in foreign exchange reserves, and a gradual revival of depositor confidence have driven up excess liquidity.

While strong conventional banks hold the lion's share of excess liquidity locked in government securities, several lenders, particularly Shariah-based Islamic banks, continue to face severe liquidity stress.

However, cash crunches persist among Shariah-compliant lenders and other weak financial institutions.

To keep fragile banks afloat, the central bank has disbursed Tk 84,945.71 crore in emergency liquidity support (demand loans)

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Long-distance buses are being moved from Mohakhali to a temporary hub in Purbachal as part of efforts to ease congestion around one of the capital's busiest bus terminals. The relocation drive was formally launched on July 15. The photo was taken on Saturday.

Hormuz won't reopen until conditions met

Says Iran after US responds to its proposal

AGENCIES

The Strait of Hormuz will not reopen until seven Iranian conditions set out in a June interim agreement with the US are met, state media reported Iran's parliament speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf as saying yesterday.

Iran presented a proposal during the UN General Assembly under which the Strait of Hormuz waterway could be reopened and normal maritime passage restored within seven days if the conditions were met, with the US replying to this proposal last week via Qatari intermediaries.

"The position of the Islamic Republic of Iran is completely clear and firm, and the Strait of Hormuz will not be opened until our seven conditions, based

SEE PAGE 5 COL 8

Star RU correspondent hurt in JCD attack

3 other campus journalists among 10 injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 10 people, including four student journalists, were injured last night in an attack by Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal men on Rajshahi University campus.

The attack took place around 8:30pm in front of Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Hall, according to witnesses and journalists at the scene.

The injured journalists are Nur Ahsan Mridul, RU correspondent of The Daily Star and president of Rajshahi University Reporters Unity; Zahidul Islam of Agamir Shomoy; Arifuzzaman Korban of bdnews24.com; and Mainul Islam Raju of Samakal. They were taken to the university medical centre and later moved to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

Star RU Correspondent Nur Ahsan Mridul pinned to the wall by the throat during the attack. IMAGE: VIDEO GRAB

Witnesses said a group of Chhatra Dal leaders and activists marched from the Transport Market area to the hall around

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

IN FOCUS

Following legal process, political intent equally important

Says Shama Obaed on Hasina's extraditon

UNB, *Dhaka*

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam yesterday said Bangladesh expects India to expedite the ongoing extradition process to bring back accused individuals, including convicted former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, as swiftly as possible, stressing that political intent is equally important alongside

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

Road crashes killed 14 a day in Sept: RSF

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 423 people were killed and 674 others injured in 442 road crashes in September -- averaging 14 deaths a day, according to the Road Safety Foundation.

Motorcyclists accounted for nearly one-third of the fatalities (32.86 percent) as 139 people were killed in 154 bike accidents, it said in a report published yesterday.

Pedestrians accounted for another 106 deaths (25.05 percent). Fifty-three drivers and transport workers were also killed.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5



Ongoing utility relocation work for MRT Line-1 has been causing severe traffic congestion for months on Pragati Sarani near Jamuna Future Park in the capital's Bashundhara R/A. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Metro under ground, but chaos is above

Commuters suffer as utility relocation work on Progati Sarani continues to choke traffic

HELEMUL ALAM

On a recent Thursday afternoon, Selim Badsha, a chauffeur, found himself in a fix when he got stuck on the road near Jamuna Future Park in the capital's Bashundhara R/A.

Although he was in a hurry to refuel the car and return to pick up his employer from North South University, 45 minutes later, he could not even make it past the Bashundhara gate.

Ongoing utility relocation work for MRT Line-1 had reduced the road to about one-third of its original width, causing severe traffic congestion.

"This narrow stretch has now turned into a two-way road, causing many vehicles to get stuck here," Badsha said as he struggled to reach the nearest pump in Kuril -- less than 3km away.

Nuruzzaman, an auto-rickshaw driver, said traffic was particularly severe around the Nadda-Jamuna Gate area, with

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন
Dhaka South City Corporation
www.dscc.gov.bd

সময়মতো পৌরকর পরিশোধ করুন, নগর উন্নয়নে অংশ নিন

রিবেট সুবিধাসহ পৌরকর (Holding Tax) পরিশোধ, সারচার্জ ব্যতীত
ট্রেড লাইসেন্স নবায়ন ও দোকান ভাড়া পরিশোধের মেয়াদ বৃদ্ধি সংক্রান্ত

গণবিজ্ঞপ্তি

ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের সম্মানিত করদাতাগণের (বাড়ি/ফ্ল্যাট/ইমারতসমূহের মালিক ও ব্যবসায়ীগণের) অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, "রিবেট সুবিধাসহ পৌরকর পরিশোধ করার মেয়াদ" এবং "সারচার্জ ব্যতীত ট্রেড লাইসেন্স নবায়ন ও দোকান ভাড়া পরিশোধের মেয়াদ" ১ (এক) মাস অর্থাৎ ৩১ অক্টোবর, ২০২৬ খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত বৃদ্ধি করা হলো। এ ক্ষেত্রে-

- ২০২৬-২০২৭ (হাল) অর্থবছরের ৪ (চার) কিস্তি পৌরকর একত্রে পরিশোধ করে হাল অর্থবছরের উপর ১০% রিবেট গ্রহণের সুযোগ রয়েছে।
- বকেয়া পৌরকর পরিশোধ করে শুধু ২০২৬-২০২৭ (হাল) অর্থবছরের উপর ১০% রিবেট সুবিধা গ্রহণ করুন।
- ২০২৬-২০২৭ অর্থবছরের জন্য সারচার্জ ব্যতীত ট্রেড লাইসেন্স নবায়ন করা যাবে।
- ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের মালিকানাধীন মার্কেটসমূহের দোকান ভাড়া সারচার্জ/জরিমানা ব্যতীত পরিশোধ করা যাবে।

উপর্যুক্ত সময়ের মধ্যে বর্ণিত ১০% রিবেট সুবিধা এবং সারচার্জ ব্যতীত ট্রেড লাইসেন্স নবায়ন ও ভাড়া পরিশোধের সুযোগ গ্রহণ করার জন্য সম্মানিত করদাতা ও ব্যবসায়ীগণকে বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ করা হলো।

আগামী ২৫ অক্টোবর, ২০২৬ তারিখ হতে ২৯ অক্টোবর, ২০২৬ তারিখ পর্যন্ত "ডিএসসিসি কর মেলা" অঞ্চল পর্যায়ে অনুষ্ঠিত হবে।

কর্তৃপক্ষ
ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন

ডিএসসিসি/পিআরডি/৬৬/২০২৬-২৭