DHAKA FRIDAY OCTOBER 9, 2026

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

# THE DAILY Star ON FRIDAY

SECOND EDITION



I want to make it clear to everybody that ...we will not be attacking Iran at any time prior to the Midterm Elections.

DONALD TRUMP

KSRM
শেকড় থেকে শিখরে

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SECONDARY SCHOOLS

# Vacant posts hurting children, taxing teachers

## 80,000 posts remain unfilled in 20,631 institutions

ARAFAT RAHAMAN

Persistent shortages of teachers have been disrupting classroom learning at secondary schools across the country, forcing many institutions to overburden teachers of key subjects including mathematics, English and ICT, and reduce the frequency of practical classes.

This is contributing to weaker learning outcomes and educational inequality, as deficiencies in classroom teaching push more and more students towards private coaching, according to experts.

At least 2,842 teaching posts were vacant in government secondary schools, while 77,227 posts were vacant in non-government secondary education institutions listed under the government's Monthly Pay Order (MPO) programme, Education Minister ANM Ehsanul Hoque Milon told parliament on April 23.

MPO-listed schools are privately managed institutions where the government covers the salaries and allowances of teachers and other staff appointed against approved posts. Though these schools are run by managing committees, key areas such as teacher recruitment, fee structures, and academic activities are regulated by the government.

Nearly 90 lakh students study at the secondary level in 20,631 secondary schools and secondary sections of colleges across the country, show government data.

Of these schools, 3,861 remain without any ICT teachers; 2,744 without mathematics teachers and 2,625 without English teachers, according to documents from the Education Management Information System.

Educationists and officials said the shortages stem from recruitment delays, problems in teacher deployment and difficulties in retaining teachers.

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| **2,842** teaching posts vacant in **702** govt secondary schools | **77,227** posts remain unfilled in MPO-listed institutions | No ICT teachers in **3,861** institutions | **2,744** institutions have no mathematics teacher |
| In many schools, teachers take up to **27** classes a week | Students turning to coaching and YouTube lessons | **2,625** institutions are without English teachers | DSHE says **2-3** more rounds of recruitment may be needed |

The lack of teachers, especially trained ones, has been a "common and persistent issue" for key subjects, particularly English, mathematics, science and ICT, said Manzoor Ahmed, professor emeritus at BRAC University.

"Proper teaching in these subjects is critical to improving learning outcomes, preventing dropout and raising pass rates, but a coherent plan for addressing the situation is lacking," said Prof Manzoor, who led a 10-member Improvement of Secondary Education Committee formed during the interim government's tenure in October 2025.

The committee submitted its draft report to the then education adviser Prof CR Abrar on February 10 with 120 recommendations, including a long-term proposal to overhaul the mechanism for recruitment and deployment of secondary school teachers.

It proposed establishing a National Teaching Service Corps, modelled broadly on a professional civil service, under which graduates would be recruited into the teaching service with competitive salaries, allowances, and professional status.

They would have to serve for at least five years in government-assigned institutions, with particular emphasis on addressing teacher shortages in rural areas.

The committee also recommended barring teacher transfers, arguing that frequent transfers disrupt continuity between teachers and students.

Prof Manzoor said that upon assuming office, the new government did not "take forward the recommendations comprehensively". Instead, it pursued a series of "fragmented, separate and partial" initiatives.

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Police jostle with members of left-leaning political and labour organisations during a protest in the capital's Agargaon yesterday afternoon against the government's decision to let UAE-based DP World run the New Mooring Container Terminal at Chattogram port for 15 years. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

# Ganges treaty by Dec, work on Padma Barrage to start by Mar

## Hopes Anee

UNB, *Dhaka*



Water Resources Minister Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anee yesterday expressed hope that a new Ganges water-sharing treaty with India would be signed before December 12 this year.

"Restoring the guarantee clause, as in the 1977 agreement, is one of Bangladesh's top priorities in the new treaty," Anee told reporters after a seminar titled "Rethinking the Future of Water: Youth Leadership, Justice, and Cooperation," organised by the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS).

The minister said the existing 30-year agreement would expire on December 12. "A five-year agreement signed in 1977 during the tenure of then president Ziaur Rahman contained a guarantee clause, but the provision was dropped when the new

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# Govt bets on DP World

## Signs 15-year deal for NCT operations amid protests in Dhaka, Ctg; PM meets DP World delegation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday signed a 15-year deal with DP World to operate the New Mooring Container Terminal (NCT), banking on the Dubai-based logistics solutions provider's pledged $150 million of investment to improve efficiency at the Chattogram port.

The agreement signing ceremony took place amid protests outside the venue demanding the cancellation of the move to hand over the operation of the high-revenue-generating terminal to a foreign operator.

DP World becomes the fourth foreign operator at Chattogram Port after RSGT International, AP Møller-Maersk and Medlog.

"Our wider policy is to engage multiple international operators across terminals to improve service quality and reliability and strengthen supply chain resilience," said Shipping Minister Sheikh Rabiul Alam at the agreement signing ceremony.

The government will receive Tk 600 crore as signing money from DP World, with 25 percent paid at signing and the remaining 75 percent before the terminal is handed over to DP World.

Bangladesh will receive 67 percent of the handling revenue per 20-foot container (TEU), while a minimum handling volume has also been set, Rabiul said.

"The national interest will remain protected," said Md Razib Ahsan, the state minister for shipping, adding that higher container volumes would increase government revenue from customs and other sources.



**Leaders of protesting workers' organisations at Chattogram have issued the government a three-day ultimatum to open talks over the deal with DP World.**

Based on current handling charges, the government's share could average around $90-$100 per TEU, although the amount would vary.

NCT, which began operations in 2007, currently handles around 1.23 million TEUs a year. The government expects the volume to rise to 1.6-1.8 million TEUs as efficiency improves.

DP World will invest to modernise NCT, including upgrading equipment and introducing greater automation to reduce container and ship stay time, which at 9.4 days and 2.53 days are well above those of India's Jawaharlal Nehru Port and Vietnam's Cai Mep.

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STANDING ON THE EDGE... Golam Rasul and his wife anxiously look on as the erosion of the Padma riverbank threatens their home at Nimtali village in Rajshahi's Godagari upazila. Over the last five years, relentless erosion has washed away hundreds of homes in the area. The photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

IN FOCUS

# StanChart confirms retail banking exit

## Transition expected to take up to 2 years

AHSAN HABIB

Standard Chartered Bank, the top profit-making lender in Bangladesh, yesterday formally announced its plans to sell its wealth and retail banking business in the country as it sharpens its focus on corporate and investment banking.

Talks about the plan had already been circulating in the banking sector in recent weeks, against a backdrop of the bank's retail loan portfolio growing at a much slower pace than its corporate lending.

Its consumer, SME, and other retail loans, including Shariah-based financing, rose 14 percent to around Tk 9,682 crore between 2022 and 2025, according to its financial statements.

Over the same period, corporate loans, including Shariah-based financing, increased around 30 percent to Tk 22,431 crore.

The bank said the plan would have no immediate impact on retail clients or employees, and operations would continue as usual until any sale is completed.

The transition of the Wealth & Retail Banking business is expected to take 18 to 24 months, subject to the deal process and regulatory approvals, said Enamul Huque, chief executive officer of Standard Chartered Bangladesh.

"We are sharpening our strategic

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