Authorities approve Rooppur Unit-1 to begin fission

FROM PAGE 2

reaction at Unit-1," he said, adding, "Unit-1 is now eligible to reach the first criticality stage for the reaction in the unit."

BAERA handed over the approval to the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission, an official confirmed.

Officials noted that before beginning power generation, two more licensing approvals from BAERA will be required.

"After the successful completion of the B-2 stage, we will approve C and D licences one after another. Only then will it be possible to supply power to the grid," said the BAERA chairman.

"If all stages are successfully done, we are hopeful about starting power supply to the national grid by the end of this year."

Earlier, fuel loading began on April 28 and was completed on May 12, followed by testing.

Technical faults had delayed the commissioning progress by over two months.

The power plant, built using Russian technology on the banks of the Padma, costs approximately $13 billion and features two VVER-1200 reactors designed to produce 2,400MW of electricity.



Farmers dry freshly harvested jute in the sun after separating the fibre in Bagmara area of Rajshahi. Jute farmers in several districts of the Rajshahi division have reported a bumper yield this season and good prices for their produce. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: **AZAHAR UDDIN**

Indian opposition protests cop action against lawmakers

Push for poll chief's resignation

REUTERS, *Bengaluru*

Indian opposition groups demonstrated for a third day yesterday, protesting police action against Congress party leaders and demanding the resignation of the chief election commissioner over a controversial revision of voter lists.

Opposition parties, their student units, and the "Cockroach" youth movement have been holding almost daily demonstrations seeking Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar's resignation. They have accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of using a revision of voter lists to fix them in its favour, in collusion with its appointees, including Kumar.

Kumar has not commented but the Election Commission and the BJP have denied the allegations.

The protests present a new political challenge to Modi midway into his third term, just months after similar demonstrations led by the self-named Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) forced the resignation of his education minister over exam paper leaks.

Visuals from news agency ANI showed dozens of Congress supporters staging a protest march on Thursday in the southern state of Telangana, while the opposition Rashtriya Janata Dal organised a similar demonstration in the eastern state of Bihar.

Hundreds of supporters of the CJP youth movement also protested in tech hub Bengaluru, many of them holding posters that said, "Every name counts, Every vote matters" and "Stop the Murder of Democracy".

Veteran actor Nana Patekar passes away

FROM PAGE 12

doing theatre in Marathi, the language spoken in his home state of Maharashtra, which is also home to Bollywood.

He made his screen debut with "Gaman" in 1978 and gradually established himself as one of the most recognisable performers in Indian cinema. His breakthrough came with "Parinda", for which he won the National Film Award for Best Supporting Actor, reports our Kolkata correspondent.

He later won the National Film Award for Best Actor for "Krantiveer" and another Best Supporting Actor award for "Agni Sakshi".

For many viewers, however, Patekar's appeal went beyond awards. His performances often carried a raw intensity that became his signature. From the crime drama "Ab Tak Chhappan" and political thriller "Raajneeti" to the Marathi classic "Natsamrat", he repeatedly moved between morally complex, emotionally charged, and deeply human characters.

He also demonstrated a different side of his range through Uday Shetty in Welcome, turning the character into one of his most widely remembered popular performances. The actor continued to work in recent years and appeared in Vishal Bhardwaj's "O'Romeo" in 2026.

Patekar's contribution was recognised with the Padma Shri in 2013. He was also associated with social initiatives supporting farmers affected by drought in Maharashtra, adding another dimension to a public persona that often remained distinct from the glamour of mainstream Bollywood.

His death comes at a time when Indian cinema is increasingly looking back at performers who shaped the industry through character-driven acting rather than celebrity image alone. Patekar belonged firmly to that tradition.

"He was one of those rare actors who never needed to do too much to make you sit up and watch. That voice, that intensity, that honesty in every performance...he was completely his own," said actor Akshay Kumar, who acted with Patekar in several movies.

Patekar is survived by his wife, from whom he was separated, and a son.

High school pupils turn out for new protests across France

AFP, *Paris*

High school pupils across France launched a fresh day of protests yesterday, despite government attempts to ease a crisis that has rocked the country for days.

Children have blocked entrances to hundreds of high schools across the country for more than a week, with squads of riot police deployed to control the situation -- occasionally sparking violent clashes.

Associations of high school children have urged mobilisation on Thursday as the protests have widened, with university student unions joining in, a rally planned in Paris and national education unions calling a general strike.

While the rallies have been largely peaceful, some demonstrators have started fires and vandalised bus shelters, and police have used tear gas, batons and blast balls -- rights groups and the children accusing officers of using disproportionate force.

IO in Ziaul Ahsan case testifies

FROM PAGE 12

"Whenever extrajudicial killings came to public attention, investigations were conducted merely for show to legitimise them," he told the tribunal.

He said officials were forced to prepare false or inaccurate inquest, post-mortem and police reports during such inquiries, his investigation found.

"The authorities forced officials to prepare false or inaccurate inquest, post-mortem and police reports, concealing the actual cause of death to shield the real perpetrators," Rafiqul said.

He testified that some victims of enforced disappearance were later shown as killed in "crossfire", while others were killed in staged operations supposedly targeting forest bandits.

Some victims were detained for prolonged periods before being shown as arrested in fabricated cases and produced before courts, while others were allegedly shot dead, he said.

In some cases, victims were shot, their abdomens slit open and their bodies dumped into rivers, he testified.

The fate of many victims of enforced disappearance remains unknown, he added.

Rafiqul said his findings were based on evidence gathered while investigating the allegations against Ziaul.

Ziaul is on trial for allegedly orchestrating the enforced disappearance and murder of 104 people between 2010 and 2013. He has pleaded not guilty.

Rafiqul's testimony concluded yesterday. The defence will cross-examine him later.

So far, 15 prosecution witnesses, including the investigation officer, have testified in the case.

Who governs Bashundhara

FROM PAGE 12

yet to establish full control there.

A press release issued by the Parliament Secretariat said the meeting recommended ensuring, as soon as possible, the allocation of plots to people affected by land acquisition for the Purbachal New Town Project.

It also called for investigations into irregularities in previous plot allocations and the activities of middlemen, with necessary action to be taken against those responsible.

The committee further recommended expanding housing opportunities through the construction of high-rise apartment buildings instead of launching new land-based housing projects.

It recommended strict measures to prevent the construction of buildings in the capital in violation of approved plans, as well as unauthorised commercial activities in residential areas.

Rajuk was also instructed to strengthen oversight and conduct regular mobile court drives to prevent customer harassment by housing developers.

Emphasising planned and sustainable urbanisation, the committee stressed the need for integrated utility services and underground cable networks, fire safety measures in new commercial buildings, adequate restroom facilities and prayer spaces, and the conservation of Dhaka's lakes. It also recommended assessing the feasibility of expanding solar power use across the capital.

The committee expressed concern over delays in audit processes and urged the adoption of modern digital systems to expedite audits and resolve audit objections.

Among the committee members who attended the meeting were Whip Mia Nuruddin Ahmed Apu, Whip Md Akhtaruzzaman Mia, Tahsina Rushdir, Khondaker Abu Ashfaq, Mohammad Kaysar Ahmed, Biswas Jahangir Alam, Mustafizur Rahman Bhuiyan and Mohammad Kamal Hossain.

Ganges treaty by Dec, work on Padma Barrage

FROM PAGE 1

treaty was signed in 1996."

"We must conclude a new Ganges water treaty before December 12," Anee said, adding that Bangladesh and India are working regularly through the Joint Rivers Commission (JRC).

"Based on meetings between the two countries, Bangladesh is optimistic that the new treaty will be finalised ahead of the deadline," said the minister.

The minister also said work on the Padma Barrage would become visible between January and March next year.

The government is also moving ahead with a plan to complete the feasibility study of the Teesta multipurpose project and begin main construction work in 2027, he added.

Describing the Padma Barrage and the Teesta Master Plan as mega projects of great importance, Anee said about one-third of the country's population would benefit once they are implemented.

The Padma Barrage project has already been approved by the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC), he added.

On the Teesta Master Plan, the minister said, "The Teesta is a swift-flowing river, and people in the downstream areas have long been suffering because of water coming from upstream," he said, stressing the need for technical support from local and foreign experts.

He said discussions have been held with experts of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), who have been given responsibility in this regard, while many other local and international experts have also been consulted.

"The feasibility study of the Teesta project will begin very soon, and main work will start based on that study," he said, expressing hope that the necessary work, including the feasibility study, would be completed in 2027 and the main work launched in the same year.

Asked whether there was any foreign pressure or obstacle regarding the Padma Barrage and Teesta projects, the minister said people living along the Padma and the Teesta are citizens of Bangladesh.

"The interests and expectations of the people of the country are the biggest concern for me," he said, adding that the government's main goal was to work for their welfare.

Canadian poet

FROM PAGE 12

The Academy singled out her 2010 poem "Nox", printed on one continuous sheet of paper in homage to her brother who died in 2000, as "an unforgettable work".

"Palpable here is a deep sense of loss that works its way up from below. The result is a creation as sculptural as it is literary, an epitaph in the form of a box containing an accordion-fold-out of pictures, letters and other written texts dedicated to her dead brother."

It also highlighted her translations from Classical Greek, which "may be regarded as independent works in their own right".

Academy member Steve Sem-Samberg told the Nobel Foundation Carson was "an author for our time", connecting the contemporary with antiquity.

"She uses the myths, the characters, the stories, the fables from that time to put them into a modern context. And the mixture between those two gives an enormous energy to her writing," he said.

"When you're inside her work, you immediately recognise her voice and her themes. Nobody writes like her," he told AFP.

In her own interview with the Nobel Foundation, Carson described her writing as "inadvertant", coming about while "always trying to do something else."

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney called the win "an extraordinary achievement and a proud moment for Canada."

In the London Review of Books in 2024, Carson said Parkinson's had "disintegrated" her handwriting, a "particularly mortifying" symptom.

"I used to take pleasure in writing in notebooks, shelves of them, day after day, year after year. Now the upright strokes bend or break or go in all directions, vowels shrink to blobs, slant loses its smooth smart angle, it all looks embarrassing."

Carson had been mentioned as a possible Nobel laureate for years, though some experts said the Academy was unlikely to honour another Canadian so soon after the 2013 prize to short story author Alice Munro.

Many literary critics had expected the award to go to a woman this year, given the frequent criticism directed at the Academy over the overrepresentation of Western white men among its picks.

There have been just 19 women laureates out of 122 since the Nobel literature prize was first awarded in 1901.

A 2018 sex assault scandal left the Academy in tatters and more than half of its 18 members were replaced.

Since then, every other literature laureate has been a woman.

Last year, the award went to Hungary's Laszlo Krasznahorkai, whose works explore themes of postmodern dystopia.

The Nobel Prize comes with a diploma, a gold medal and $1.2 million.

PM pledges support for Abrar case

FROM PAGE 3

Tarique assured him of taking steps to construct the bridge and pledged to name it after Abrar Fahad.

Abrar Fahad, a student of Electrical and Electronic Engineering at Buet, was beaten to death by leaders and activists of Chhatra League at Sher-e-Bangla Hall on the night of October 6, 2019.

His killing triggered widespread protests at Buet and other universities across the country, with students demanding punishment of those responsible.



Prime Minister Tarique Rahman at a meeting with the family members of slain Abrar Fahad at his office at the Secretariat yesterday.

PHOTO: **COURTESY**

Dhaka to get two franchise bus routes in 7 days

FROM PAGE 3

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Shaikh Rabiul Alam said bus owners agreed at a September 28 meeting to company-based operations and responsibility for vehicle fitness and legal compliance.

Owners have been instructed to repair, carry out bodywork and repaint all buses within two months. Dilapidated buses missing the deadline may be taken off the road until the work is completed.

The meeting also decided to assess the feasibility of circular bus routes proposed by DMP and take steps to introduce them.

Meanwhile, BRTC is purchasing electric buses, with eight routes proposed for initial operation. DTCA will select the routes in coordination with BRTC and the bus owners' association.

The meeting also discussed disposing of around 36,000 vehicles seized in various cases. With inadequate storage space and abandoned vehicles losing value, the authorities will amend relevant laws to expedite disposal.

Law promises speedy trials, oversight remains absent

FROM PAGE 3

Appearing before the HC on June 23, the judge said she had joined the tribunal only in September last year and had since recorded testimony from six witnesses. Repeated attempts to secure other witnesses' attendance had failed, she said.

She assured the court that the trial was continuing and would conclude as early as possible.

Satisfied with her explanation, the HC exempted her from further personal appearance and directed her to complete the trial expeditiously, Deputy Attorney General Md Mohsin Kabir told The Daily Star.

He said the case concerned the alleged rape and murder of a 17-year-old girl in Nabiganj, Habiganj, between December 26 and 27, 2021.

The victim's father filed the case on December 28 against Khalil Uddin and Md Golam Hossain, both of whom remain in custody.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS)
Economic Census 2023 Project
Parishankhyan Bhaban
E-27/A, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207

e-Tender Notice

Memo No: 52.01.0000.635.07.061.25.8303 Date: 08/10/2026

e- Tender is invited in the National e- GP Portal (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the Procurement of below Package for Economic Census 2023 Project.

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Procurement Nature, Type and Title	Tender Publication Date &Time	Last Selling Date &Time	Closing Date & Time	Opening Date & Time
1.	1344713	Goods OTM, NCT Purchase of STATA software for data processing and analysis	08 October-2026, 16:00	19 October-2026, 12:00	19 October-2026, 15:00	19 October-2026, 15:00

This is an online Tender, where e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit Tender registration in the e-GP system Portal (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The PE reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders in accordance with applicable Procurement rules.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents form the National e-GP system Portal have to be deposited online through any e-GP registered banks branches up to date & time mentioned in respective Tender. Further information and guideline are available in the National e-GP Portal and from e-GP (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

08.10.2026
Dr Dipankar Roy
Project Director
(Joint Secretary)
Economic Census 2023 Project
Mob: 01732363039
Email:ec24.bbs@gmail.com

GD-2449