New platform launched to curb plastic pollution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Plastic Action Partnership (NPAP) was launched yesterday to forge cross-sectoral collaboration against plastic pollution and accelerate the country's transition towards a circular economy.

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Abdul Awal Mintoo formally inaugurated the initiative at a programme at Pan Pacific Sonargaon in Dhaka.

The platform is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, the Department of Environment, the United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh, and the World Economic Forum's Global Plastic Action Partnership (GPAP).

Bangladesh joined the GPAP in 2025, becoming part of a global network of 25 partner countries working to accelerate action on plastic pollution through locally led, multi-stakeholder collaboration.

The NPAP's formation is a follow-through of that partnership.

The initiative seeks to align national policies, mobilise green investments, and establish a single credible data baseline by bringing together ministries, development agencies, private manufacturers, recyclers, and civil society.

NPAP Bangladesh Project Manager Sayed Monjurul Hoque, UNDP Bangladesh Resident Representative Stephen Rodriques, GPAP Director Clémence Schmid (video message), Environment Ministry acting Secretary Dr Fahmida Khanom and DoE Director (Waste and Chemicals Management) Razinara Begum spoke at the evnet, among others.

LOST CERTIFICATE

I, Nusrat Mahmud Ananna, have lost my Provisional Certificate of B.Sc. in Economics (2023), issued by United International University (UIU), Student ID: 121131017, near Zigatola Post Office, Dhaka, on 11 October 2026. GD No. 761, dated 13 October 2026, Hazaribagh Police Station, DMP. If found, **please contact: 01787024827.**



Children and adolescents playing on the Cumilla Central Eidgah, one of the only few open spaces in the city, recently. PHOTO: STAR

Cumilla playgrounds vanishing in urban sprawl

KHALID BIN NAZRUL, *Cumilla*

Open spaces and playgrounds are rapidly disappearing in Cumilla city amid growing urbanisation, leaving children with fewer places to play and affecting their physical and mental development.

For instance, Sabbir Hossain Sentu from Cumilla city's Jhawtala said he plans to hand over his small house to an apartment developer. With the redevelopment, the open courtyard in front of the house, where children once played, will disappear.

Such changes are becoming increasingly common across Cumilla as urban development spreads through areas including Thakurpara, Munsef Bari, Chartha, Racecourse, Jhawtala, Badurtala and Kandirpar.

School playgrounds, once available for sports, are also becoming less accessible.

"Now, most educational institutions do not allow people to use their grounds for sports for various reasons, including security concerns," said Saiful Alam Babu, a member in-charge of the football committee of the Cumilla District Sports Association.

Debraj Ghosh, a teacher at a government school in Cumilla, said institutions were reluctant to allow outsiders to use their grounds, fearing they could face consequences if a criminal incident occurred there.

Meanwhile, academic pressure leaves children with little time for sports and cultural activities, said Biplab Saha, a cultural activist and director of Shabdartho Sanskriti Khola Chattar.

He said cultural organisations were largely inactive in neighbourhoods, where residents often barely knew one another, even within the same apartment building. He called for effective community-based social, sports and cultural activities involving children and adolescents.

Sayem Ahmed Bhuiyan, executive engineer of Cumilla City Corporation, said there were two parks within the corporation area -- Dharmasagar Park and Telikona Park. An initiative has also been taken to develop DC Park, which falls under the district administration.

"Children need playtime in vast green fields under open skies for proper physical and mental development. They need to grow up in a safe environment free from fear and pollution," said Dr Mohammad Iqbal Anwar, a renowned paediatrician in Cumilla.

Drawing on four decades of experience treating children and adolescents, Dr Iqbal said many were growing up with unexplained psychological pressure and anxiety.

Busy parents, a lack of outdoor sports facilities and dependence on digital devices were among the main reasons, he said.

Ensure safeguards

FROM PAGE 3

balances and accountability were needed to prevent political parties from becoming ruling establishments after taking power.

Proposals included defining the judiciary's authority over constitutional interpretation and fundamental principles, ensuring judicial accountability and establishing a separate constitutional court. One academic proposed a mechanism to hold courts accountable for violating the Constitution.

Discussions on the caretaker government system included removing the president's role as a last-resort option and involving the judiciary if consensus could not be reached on earlier alternatives.

National Professor Mahbub Ullah said a constitutional amendment or a new constitution should reflect the views of political parties, intellectuals, professionals and ordinary citizens.

He proposed bringing state agencies that exercise coercive powers, including intelligence agencies, under accountability mechanisms.

Prof Mohammad Tanzimuddin Khan said proposals had been made to recognise the Liberation War and those who contributed to the independence movement before and during the war.

Prof Samina Luthfa said proposals had been made to ensure women's equal rights through legal amendments and replacing "Mohila" with "Nari" (woman), "Upajati" with "different ethnic communities" and "Upasampraday" with "religious communities" throughout the Constitution, as the existing terms carry discriminatory implications.

Forty-five academics were invited to the meeting, but only 17 attended.

70% of Jamaat

FROM PAGE 3

preparation. Jamaat hopes to prepare women to contest elections over the next five years, she added.

When asked about party women candidates in the UP elections, she said, "I do not think we will be able to field women candidates for general seats this time. However, we hope we will be able to do so in the future."

At the conference, Umama Fatema, former spokesperson of Students Against Discrimination, said thousands of women had taken to the streets and helped organise the July uprising, but their political participation had declined after the movement ended.

"Parties have used patriarchal structures to push women out of politics. Young women are made to feel that they cannot be political leaders if they speak about women's rights."

She said the lack of visible female role models and strong networks had further marginalised women.

Umama called for stronger networks among women, reforms to political party structures and measures to address online hostility.

The conference opened with remarks by Imran Matin, executive director of BIGD at BRAC University, and Homa Hoodfar, a member of the executive board of Women Living Under Muslim Laws and professor emerita of anthropology at Concordia University.

PRAYER TIMING
OCTOBER 14

	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	4-45	12-45	4-15	5-45	7-15
JAMAAT	5-20	1-15	4-30	5-50	7-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

IN BRIEF

6 more die with measles-like symptoms

UNB, DHAKA

Six more patients died with measles-like symptoms in 24 hours until 8:00am yesterday, bringing Bangladesh's combined tally of confirmed and suspected measles-related deaths to 1,170 this year.

The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) classified all six latest fatalities as suspected measles deaths.

With this, the total number of suspected measles deaths has reached 1,066, while confirmed deaths from measles have remained the same at 104.

Nat'l research fest at CU

CU CORRESPONDENT

The National Research Festival 2026 was held for the first time at the Chittagong University yesterday.

The daylong event was organised by the Chittagong University Central Students' Union (Cucsu) at the university's Shaheed Minar and Buddhijibi Chattar premises.

Students from 31 universities across the country participated in the event.

Maddhapara Granite Mining Company Limited (MGMCL)
(A Company of Petrobangla)
Maddhapara, parbatipur, Dinajpur
www.mgmcl.gov.bd

Ref.: MGMCL/SO&M/CC&M/2026-2027/Building Maintenance/01 Date: 12-10-2026

e-Tender Notice

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

Sl No.	Tender ID	Name of work	Last selling date & time	Closing date & time	Opening date & time
1	1348030	Painting and necessary maintenance works of Head Office, VIP Guest House and GM Banglow Building of MGMCL.	26-Oct-2026, 10:00	26-Oct-2026, 15:00	26-Oct-2026, 15:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal (https://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 banks branches up to 10:00 on 26/10/2026.

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

12.10.2026
(Mir Pinak Iqbal)
General Manager (SO&M)
Contact No: 01730-332205

GD-2502

পাওয়ার গ্রিড বাংলাদেশ পিএলসি
POWER GRID BANGLADESH PLC
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)
Grid Bhaban, Avenue-3, Jahurul Islam City, Aftabnagar, Badda, Dhaka-1212 Web: www.powergrid.gov.bd
স্মারক নং- ২৭.২১.০০০০.৪২৭.১৪.০৩৯.২৬.৭০৫ তারিখঃ ১৩/১০/২০২৬খ্রিঃ

"কালিয়াকৈর-ময়মনসিংহ (শম্ভুগঞ্জ) ৪০০ কেভি ডবল সার্কিট সঞ্চালন লাইন" চালুর সতর্কীকরণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পাওয়ার গ্রীড নেটওয়ার্ক স্ট্রেংথেনিং প্রজেক্ট (জিটুজি) প্রকল্পের আওতাধীন কালিয়াকৈর ৪০০/২৩০/১৩২ কেভি গ্রিড উপকেন্দ্র হতে নবনির্মিত শম্ভুগঞ্জ ৪০০/১৩২/৩৩ কেভি গ্রিড উপকেন্দ্র পর্যন্ত ৯৬.৮৯১ কিঃমিঃ দীর্ঘ "কালিয়াকৈর-ময়মনসিংহ (শম্ভুগঞ্জ) ৪০০ কেভি ডবল সার্কিট সঞ্চালন লাইন" আগামীকাল ১৫ অক্টোবর ২০২৬ তারিখ, রোজ বৃহস্পতিবার, দুপুর ১২:০০ ঘটিকায় পরীক্ষামূলকভাবে চালু করা হবে। সঞ্চালন লাইনটি গাজীপুর জেলার কালিয়াকৈর ও শ্রীপুর উপজেলা, টাংগাইল জেলার মির্জাপুর ও সখিপুর উপজেলা এবং ময়মনসিংহ জেলার ভালুকা, ত্রিশাল, ময়মনসিংহ সদর, ঈশ্বরগঞ্জ ও গৌরীপুর উপজেলার উপর দিয়ে অতিক্রম করেছে। চালুর সময় হতে পরবর্তীতে লাইনটি বিদ্যুতায়িত থাকবে।

এমতাবস্থায় উক্ত নবনির্মিত সঞ্চালন লাইনের টাওয়ারসমূহে আরোহণ, গবাদি পশু বাঁধা, টাওয়ারে রশি বেঁধে কাপড় শুকানো, লাইনের নিচে ও পাশে বাঁশঝাড় ও বড় বৃক্ষাদি রোপণ প্রভৃতি ঝুঁকিপূর্ণ কাজ হতে বিরত থাকার জন্য এবং সঞ্চালন লাইন হতে নিরাপদ দূরত্ব বজায় রাখার জন্য সর্বসাধারণকে অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে। উচ্চ ভোল্টেজে বিদ্যুতায়িত উক্ত সঞ্চালন লাইন/টাওয়ারের সংস্পর্শে এসে কেউ দুর্ঘটনার শিকার হলে পাওয়ার গ্রিড কর্তৃপক্ষ দায়ী থাকবে না।

মোঃ আলমগীর হোসেন
প্রকল্প পরিচালক (প্রধান প্রকৌশলী)
পাওয়ার গ্রিড নেটওয়ার্ক স্ট্রেংদেনিং প্রজেক্ট আন্ডার পিজিসিবি

ঢাকা উত্তর সিটি কর্পোরেশন
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়
অঞ্চল-১ (উত্তরা)

Memo No: 46.10.0000.063.14.115.26 Date: 13/10/2026

e-Tender Notice (OTM)

e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of:

SL No.	Tender ID & Ref No.	Name of Works	Last date and Time for Tender Security Submission	Tender Closing & Opening Date & Time
1.	ID No- 1349032, Ref No- 46.10.0000.000.058.14.0090.26 Date: 24-09-2026	Emergency repair and maintenance works of damaged roads, drain, cross-drain, manhole cover, footpath, median, grill and other infrastructures in the jurisdiction of Engineering Division (Civil), Zone-01, Under the framework contract for the FY 2026-2027(Group-Ka).	29-Oct-2026 14:00	29-Oct-2026 15:00
2.	ID No- 1349033, Ref No- 46.10.0000.000.058.14.0089.26 Date: 24-09-2026	Emergency repair and maintenance works of damaged roads, drain, cross-drain, manhole cover, footpath, median, grill and other infrastructures in the jurisdiction of Engineering Division (Civil), Zone-01, Under the framework contract for the FY 2026-2027(Group-Kha).	29-Oct-2026 14:00	29-Oct-2026 15:00
3.	ID No- 1349034, Ref No- 46.10.0000.000.058.14.0088.26 Date: 24-09-2026	Under the frame work contract Supply of materials such as bricks, sand, khori, bitumen, diesel, fire wood etc. for emergency repair work of damaged roads in Engineering Department of Zone-1 through departmental workers for the FY 2026-2027.	29-Oct-2026 14:00	29-Oct-2026 15:00

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The Fees for downloading the e-Tender Document 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 National e-GP System Portal and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

(Md. Nuruzzaman Khan)
Executive Engineer
Zone-1 (Uttara)
Dhaka North City Corporation.

GD-2499

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Customs, Excise and VAT Commissionerate, Cox's Bazar
Hospital Road, Cox's Bazar
(Temporary Office)
www.coxbazarvat.gov.bd

Number: 08.01.2200.039.004.07.003.26. Date: /10/2026

e-Tender Notice (e-GP)

e-Tender is invited in the national e-GP system Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of physical services/goods mentioned in the table below:

SL. No.	Tender/ Proposal ID	Package No. & Description	Last Date & Time of Tender Documents Selling	Closing Date & Time of Tender
01	1344792	Procurement of Computer & Accessories	25 October, 2026; 10.00	25 October, 2026; 16.00
02	1352238	Procurement of Office Equipment	25 October, 2026; 10.00	25 October, 2026; 16.00
03	1353092	Procurement of Furniture	25 October, 2026; 11.00	25 October, 2026; 16.00
04	1353173	Procurement of Others Equipment	25 October, 2026; 11.00	25 October, 2026; 23.59
05	1344879	Procurement of Others Stationery	25 October, 2026; 11.00	25 October, 2026; 23.59

1. This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the national e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.
2. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required.
3. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank.
4. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and e-GP Help Desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).
5. Authority reserves the right to accept and reject any tender or all tenders without assigning any reason.

Signed.
(Minhaz Uddin Ahmed Sourav)
Assistant Commissioner
On Behalf of the Commissioner.

GD-2494