DHAKA THURSDAY OCTOBER 15, 2026



"Waving the Tricolour at Jantar Mantar in a peaceful protest is not a crime. Jailing youth for it is an act of cowardice."

RAHUL GANDHI
on jailing of CJP leaders

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION



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Locomotive bet falters

Ill-equipped BR struggling to mend, maintain 30 new engines; 18 break down in 4yrs

SIFAYET ULLAH, *Ctg*

Eighteen of the 30 locomotives purchased by Bangladesh Railway from South Korean company Hyundai Rotem for about Tk 972 crore became inoperative within four years of entering service, hampering both container and passenger train services on the Dhaka-Chattogram route.

According to BR's Mechanical Engineering Department, the locomotives entered operation in 2022 and were expected to have a service life of 20 years. However, one of those became inoperative in 2023 and four more the following year. The number rose to 10 in 2025 and reached 18 by June this year.

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- BR bought 30 locomotives under 2 deals involving Tk 971.72cr
- Locomotive shortages cut container train trips by 49% in 3yrs
- 5 passenger trains suspended since March 2025
- BR seeks Tk 680cr deal to maintain the locomotives



Smoke billows from Drug International's pharmaceutical factory in Cherag Ali, Tongi, Gazipur, after a fire broke out yesterday morning. The blaze was brought under control after firefighters, BGB and army personnel battled it for more than three hours. PHOTO: STAR

Subsidy, spending cuts should power pay scale bump

Commission recommended in its proposal

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The National Pay Commission recommended reducing subsidies, phasing out export cash incentives and cutting government expenditure to ease the cost of implementing the new pay scale for government employees.

It also recommended merging or reducing departments under ministries, cutting allocations for poorly performing development projects and reforming the tax system to boost revenue.

Headed by former finance secretary Zakir Ahmed Khan, the commission submitted the report to the then interim government in January this year. Although the commission's proposed salary structure became public at the time, the full report was not published.

The current BNP government has started implementing the new pay scale in phases over the current and next fiscal years.

According to finance ministry estimates following cabinet approval of the pay scale with minor adjustments in August, the new salaries and allowances for nearly 23 lakh employees of defence and government services, and nine lakh pensioners will cost additional Tk 1,05,580 crore.

The commission estimated the additional cost at Tk 1,06,307 crore,

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20 out of 30 Bangladeshis trafficked to Russia killed

Says SRB; 17 died on their first day on the frontline

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 30 Bangladeshis were trafficked to Russia with promises of high-paying jobs, only to be forced to join the Russian military and sent to the front lines of the Russia-Ukraine war after just 21 days of training, the Special Response Battalion (SRB) said yesterday.

Of them, 20 have reportedly died, including 17 in drone strikes on their first day of deployment. The victims were allegedly used as "bait" to reveal enemy positions, the battalion said.

At a press conference at the SRB Media Centre in Dhaka's Karwan Bazar, SRB-10 Commander Additional DIG Md Asaduzzaman said two men, including Mizanur Rahman, the alleged mastermind of the trafficking ring, were arrested on October 13.

The other arrestee was identified as Abu Taher Lentu.

According to the SRB, the syndicate lured the victims to Russia with promises of construction jobs before handing them over to the Russian military.

The 30 Bangladeshis travelled to Russia on May 7 this year through three recruiting agencies: Jabal-e-Noor, RS International and TS Group. Each reportedly paid an average of Tk 10 lakh for the promised jobs.

Upon arrival, however, they were denied the jobs and handed over to the military. After just 21 days of training, they were deployed to the battlefield, the SRB said.

"Those taken from Bangladesh were not qualified for combat. They had no physical preparation, military training or tactical skills. So why were they sent to the battlefield after just 21 days of training?" Asaduzzaman said.

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Garment workers block part of the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway in the capital's Uttara yesterday, demanding a wage hike. Over 1,000 workers took to the streets in the Rajlokkhi area around 10:30am, causing severe traffic congestion. Story on page 3. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

INTERVIEW

Bangladesh's permanent representative to the United Nations, ***Irene Khan,*** *speaks to* ***The Daily Star*** *about Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's first visit to the global forum's general assembly.*

Tarique seized networking, showcased Bangladesh

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's visit to the UN General Assembly was an opportunity for him to introduce himself to the world, talk about his plans for the country and reaffirm Bangladesh's commitment to multilateralism, said Irene Khan, Bangladesh's permanent representative to the UN.



"There was a warm welcome as this was [Tarique's] first time at this high-level event", which took place at a time when powerful states were "openly defying international law, challenging international consensus, challenging the UN".

She said the UN's annual event in New York was a good networking opportunity that Tarique fully leveraged, showcasing Bangladesh's potential and possibilities while at the same time pledging certain commitments at the global stage by presenting his plans.

Irene believed it was a good debut for Bangladesh's relatively newly elected PM on the global stage, considering how he was received by different delegations in New York.

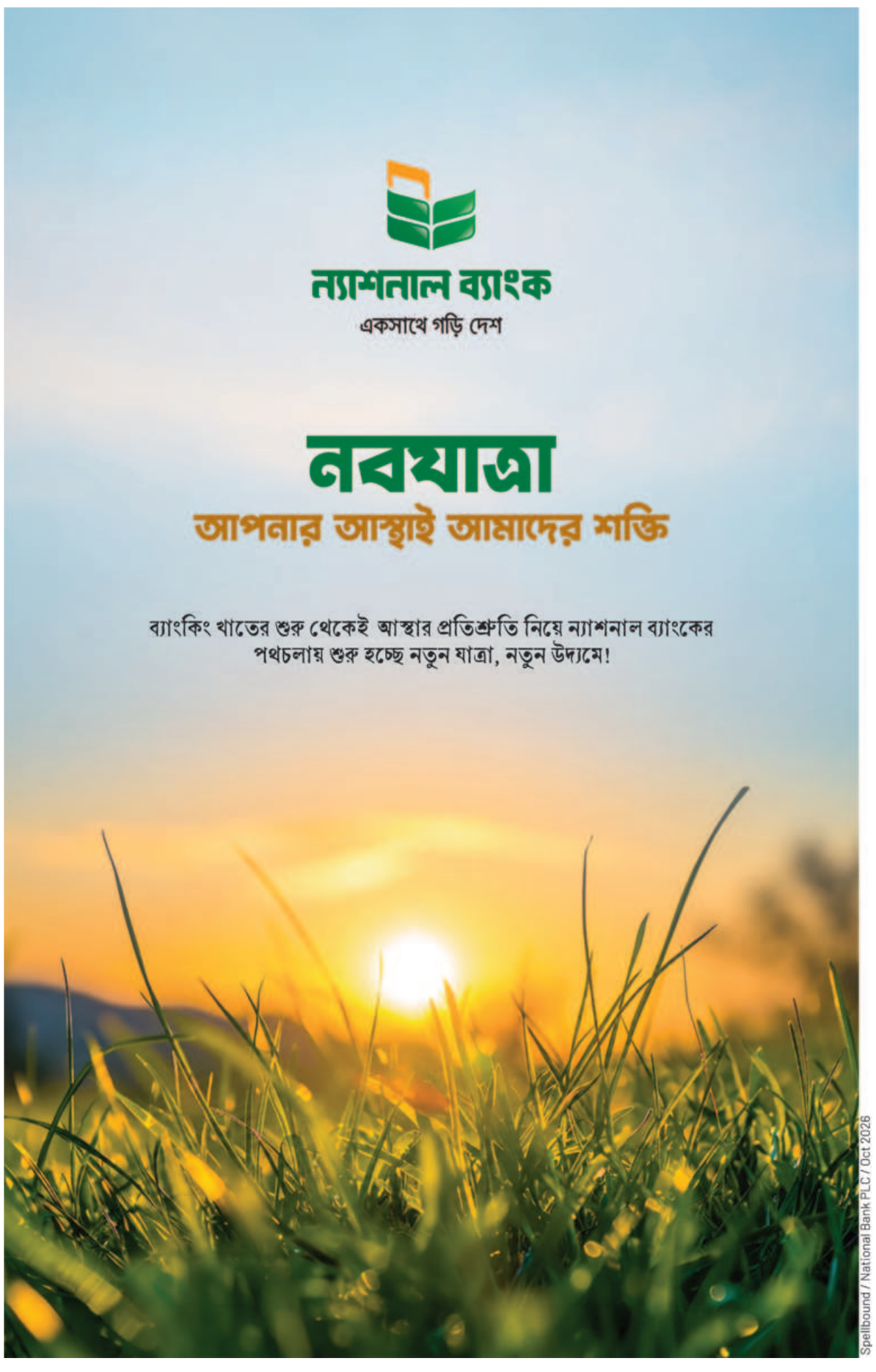
Tarique had about 30 meetings, including 10 with UN agencies, one on the Rohingya issue, two on climate change and a major meeting with investors. "It is remarkable because he was [in New York] from Monday evening until Friday evening. So there were just four days in which he had all these meetings."

Reflecting on the meetings, Irene said, "They were open to him, and they listened, eager to know how Bangladesh is doing, what his vision is. They wanted to understand where Bangladesh is going."

The PM's message, in turn, was that Bangladesh seeks international cooperation and is willing to "work with all but being beholden to none", she said.

"And at the same time, we are open for business. We are

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



‘Act against non-cooperating officials’

JS panel seeks probe into slow-moving projects

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The parliamentary standing committee on the public administration ministry has recommended identifying officials responsible for non-cooperation or negligence in implementing government work.

The committee also asked for action against such officials, and an inquiry into slow-moving projects under the ministry, taking their budget allocations into account.

The recommendations came at the committee’s first meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday, with its Chairman Sayeed Ahmed in the chair, the Parliament Secretariat said in a statement.

The committee advised officials to coordinate their work at the field level to implement the ruling BNP’s 31-point reform agenda. It also asked for action against those failing to cooperate with the government’s efforts to implement its “Bangladesh First” policy.



CNG-run auto-rickshaws stand in a line in front of a filling station at Bahaddarhat of Chattogram city. Low gas pressure has resulted in many vehicles getting less than their required fuel. The photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Man dies after being beaten over ‘hurting religious sentiments’

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Satkhira*

A 30-year-old man was beaten to death by a mob in Satkhira’s Debhata on Tuesday night over allegations that he had hurt religious sentiments, police said yesterday.

The victim was Wahiduzzaman Shamim, son of Shamsur Rahman of Chhota Shanta village in the upazila.

HM Shaheen, officer-in-charge of Debhata Police Station, said an audio clip purportedly containing Shamim’s remarks went viral on social media on Tuesday morning.

That evening, a group of people began beating up Shamim in the Sakhipur area. On information, police rescued Shamim and took him to the local upazila health complex.

Around 9:00pm, another group of people entered the hospital and beat up Shamim again, the OC said. As his condition deteriorated, he was referred to Satkhira Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared him dead around 1:00am yesterday.

Speaking to reporters, Shamim’s elder brother Abdul Jalil said Shamim obtained a master’s degree from Jagannath University.

Jalil claimed that about a year ago, Shamim fell victim to a gang that allegedly drugged and robbed him, locally known as an “Ogyan Party”, while he was returning home from Dhaka. Since then, a change in Shamim’s behaviour had been noticed, he said.

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Houthi attack sparks fire at KSA Aramco facility

MBS rejects Israeli request to join anti-Houthi fight

AGENCIES

Powerful explosions rattled the Saudi capital yesterday, hours after a Houthi strike hit a building in the area housing energy giant Aramco’s operations centre, in a fresh escalation of the war between the kingdom and the Yemeni group.

The civil defence agency said four people -- two women, a man and a child -- were wounded by debris from two intercepted Houthi cruise missiles and that 15 homes were damaged.

The Saudi-led coalition meanwhile struck oil sites across western Yemen, with spokesman Turki Al-Malki saying the attacks targeted facilities used to supply the Houthis’ effort to “threaten the kingdom, Yemen, the southern Red Sea and waterways”.

Yesterday, the Saudi-led coalition fighting the Houthis said it had intercepted a missile fired by the group towards Riyadh. In the city’s downtown, residents have been seen parking their cars to stop and look up at the sky, an AFP journalist said.

Houthis claimed that they had targeted Saudi Aramco facilities in Dhahran, King Khalid International Airport and an Aramco refinery in Riyadh. Oil prices rose, with international benchmark Brent crude futures for December delivery climbing 0.3pc to $105.97 per barrel from $105.69 at the previous close.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia’s Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS) denied a request by Israel to join the fight against the Houthis in Yemen, Israeli media have reported.

A diplomatic source told Haaretz that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had, through US mediation, offered to help fight the Iran-linked group in part as a means of strengthening ties with the kingdom.

Mohammed bin Salman, however, opposed the move, fearing a backlash among the Saudi public.

The Saudi-led coalition has supported Yemen’s government militarily against the Houthis since 2015 in a long-running civil war that has created a humanitarian crisis.

Many civilians in the Houthi-controlled Yemeni capital, fearing shortages, yesterday rushed to queue in front of fuel stations, an AFP journalist said.

The escalation in violence follows a strike on Riyadh’s international airport on Saturday that left 13 people dead and operations suspended in the worst attack on the kingdom since 2015.

Subsidy, spending cuts should power pay scale bump

FROM PAGE 1

including Tk 39,340 crore for the salaries, Tk 29,263 crore for allowances, Tk 19,733 crore for 9,15,999 pensioners and Tk 17,971 crore for employees whose salaries and allowances are paid through budget allocations.

Under the previous pay scale, the government spent Tk 1,31,000 crore a year for its employees and pensioners.

A finance ministry official told The Daily Star that the government had already taken steps to implement the commission’s revenue recommendations, some of which had been reflected in the current budget.

Measures to reduce expenditure had also started, though not all the recommendations might be implemented, the official said.

The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have been pressing for these reforms for years, but the government has yet to implement them effectively, he said. The lenders also press for subsidy cuts during loan negotiations.

The report said subsidies for energy, exports, remittances, and agriculture were intended to benefit targeted groups but needed regular reviews to assess their effectiveness. Subsidies that distort economic efficiency should be withdrawn, freeing up resources for other uses.

It recommended three measures, in line with IMF and World Bank recommendations: market-based pricing for liquid fuel, gradual adjustments to electricity tariffs and social safety net programmes for the poor.

Together, these would ease subsidy pressure and help mobilise resources.

With the exchange rate relatively stable, export cash incentives were no longer indispensable, the report said. Such incentives could be phased out over 12-14 months, generating substantial savings.

Government spending on subsidies and incentives rose to more than three times its FY2019-20 level, from Tk 41,926 crore to Tk 1,41,238 crore in FY2024-25, according to finance ministry budget documents. The revised allocation for the following fiscal year was Tk 1,18,956 crore, though final expenditure was expected to be higher. The allocation for the current fiscal year is Tk 1,26,125 crore.

CUTTING EXPENDITURE

The report recommended rationalising the number of departments under ministries, building on a proposal by the Public Administration Reform Commission. Merging or reducing departments could streamline administration and lower recurrent expenditure.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Phase out export cash incentives
- Merge or reduce depts under ministries
- Cut allocations for poorly performing dev projects
- Splitting NBR, widening tax net
- Reducing tax exemptions

It also proposed cutting allocations for Annual Development Programme projects that were progressing slowly or had unsatisfactory expected returns, and redirecting the funds to priority needs. Returns from projects delivering results more quickly could also help finance priority sectors, including salaries and allowances.

The report identified scope to reduce recurrent operating costs on domestic and foreign training, travel, fuel, lubricants, repairs and maintenance. Savings could help meet the cost of the new pay structure.

BOOSTING REVENUE

The commission noted that Bangladesh’s tax-to-GDP ratio was the lowest among developing countries, including those in South Asia. Revenue collection was insufficient to meet rising development needs and compensate for declining foreign aid, while growing debt-servicing costs further constrained the government’s fiscal space.

To address the shortfall, the report proposed splitting the National Board of Revenue (NBR) into separate Revenue Policy and Revenue Management divisions. It also recommended a Tax Expenditure Policy and Management Framework to review and reduce tax exemptions.

Broadening the tax base was another priority. Although the number of affluent individuals, business owners and entrepreneurs had grown over the past few decades, many remained outside the tax net, the report said. Bringing them into the system would require more revenue officials and greater use of modern information technology.

The report also recommended strengthening research in the revenue department by recruiting qualified staff, establishing a dedicated research cell and requiring it to submit periodic reports identifying potential revenue sources.

Non-tax revenue accounted for an average of just 13.2 percent of total revenue over the past five years, the report said, noting that the share was higher in several South and Southeast Asian countries. The government could increase collections by raising existing non-tax rates and identifying new sources, provided service quality was maintained.

It also recommended updating and rationalising rates for land development tax, duties on alcohol and narcotics, road taxes, stamp duties and vehicle taxes to reflect current conditions.

Locomotive bet falters

FROM PAGE 1

Several officials at the department said the locomotives have been lying idle because BR has been unable to repair them due to the unavailability of spare parts and the absence of Hyundai Rotem’s technical support that ended in 2024. BR has largely depended on its own workshops and technical staff to maintain the locomotives over the past two years.

When BR procured the locomotives, it did not have a long-term maintenance plan, including arrangements for specialised technical support and spare parts, they said.

This correspondent emailed Hyundai Rotem on October 5, seeking information on the 18 locomotives. The company didn’t respond by the time of filing this report.

SERVICE DISRUPTION

Divided into two zones, BR primarily operates metre-gauge trains in the Eastern Zone and broad-gauge trains in the Western Zone. The Eastern Zone covers routes linking Chattogram division with Dhaka, Mymensingh and Sylhet divisions.

The breakdown of the 18 locomotives has impacted both container and passenger train services of BR’s Eastern Zone, said several BR officials.

“The Eastern Zone requires 119 locomotives a day but only 65 are available right now,” Shafiqur Rahman, chief operating superintendent (East) of BR, told this correspondent recently.

“With the 18 locomotives out of service, we can no longer operate container trains with the same frequency as before. We are prioritising passenger services with the available locomotives. This has severely affected our most profitable segment. Of the eight container trains, only two now operate on a regular basis,” he said.

According to BR’s transport department data, container train trips fell from 2,878 in fiscal 2022-23 to 1,467 in fiscal 2025-26 in the Eastern Zone, with earnings from container services dropping from Tk 296.47 crore to Tk 163.31 crore.

The data show that the average daily allocation of locomotives for container trains fell from 11 in fiscal 2022-23 to eight in fiscal 2023-24, six in fiscal 2024-25 and just three in the previous fiscal year.

The locomotive shortage has also strained passenger services, leading to the suspension of five passenger trains on Chattogram-Tangail, Dhaka-Noakhali and Laksam-Noakhali routes between March 2025 and June 2026, said BR officials.

These trains used to carry around 2,200 passengers a day, according to data from the stations at Chattogram and Laksam junctions.

Moreover, The Sonar Bangla Express, a flagship service of BR on the Dhaka-Chattogram route, has faced delays on most trips since July 2025.

The delays ranged from 15 minutes to two and a half hours, mainly because locomotives were not available on time.

PROBLEM WITH NEW LOCOMOTIVES

Asked why BR has not been able to repair the 18 locomotives, Saiful Islam, director (Locomotive Maintenance) of BR, said, “A computer-based system and specific software are needed to fix these locomotives. Besides, some of the spare parts for these locomotives are manufacturer-specific. Our existing system cannot fully meet these requirements.”

Ehtesam Md Shafiq, mechanical engineer and works manager at Pahartali Railway Diesel Workshop, said the sensors of these locomotives do not accept alternative parts, making it difficult for BR to maintain them without support from the manufacturer or authorised sources.

He further said five locomotives had developed technical faults before Hyundai Rotem’s warranty period ended in October 2024.

The company’s technical team repaired them. Though the five locomotives remained in operation, they continued to experience problems. Later, the railway staff were unable to keep them running after the team left Bangladesh.

Shafiq said they informed Hyundai Rotem about the situation, but the company told them that the locomotives needed scheduled servicing that was not covered by the warranty agreement and would have to be arranged by the railway separately.

Noting the absence of due diligence in the procurement process, transport expert Md Shamsul Hoque said BR should have assessed the long-term costs of maintenance, spare parts and technical support before purchasing the locomotives.

“The procurement authorities and the railway officials involved in planning and approving the purchase should be held accountable for failing to assess the locomotives’ long-term maintenance needs,” said Shamsul, a professor of civil engineering at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology.

The 30 locomotives were bought from Hyundai Rotem under two contracts -- 10 for Tk 297.63 crore in 2018 under an Asian Development Bank-funded project and 20 for Tk 674.09 crore under a 2019 contract.

Controversy hit the procurement of the 10 locomotives as a railway probe found differences between the contract specifications and some major components, including compressors and traction motors, supplied by Hyundai Rotem.

The issue later drew the attention of the Anti-Corruption Commission, which filed a case in 2025 against three former senior BR officials over alleged irregularities in the procurement and acceptance of the locomotives.

Six of the 10 locomotives are now lying at the Pahartali Diesel Workshop in Chattogram along with other out-of-service locomotives.

With scores of locomotives out of service, BR has drawn up a proposal to sign a Tk 680-crore maintenance agreement with Progress Rail, a US-based locomotive manufacturer and service provider, for three years.

“The BR’s procurement department did not prepare an asset management plan when it purchased the locomotives. Now BR seeks to sign a maintenance agreement to ensure maintenance, technical support and availability of spare parts for the locomotives,” said Anwarul Islam, additional chief controller of stores of BR.

Under the proposed agreement, Progress Rail, a US company based in Alabama, will provide the necessary equipment and services through its agent in Bangladesh -- Desh International. The US company holds the patents to some components used in Hyundai Rotem locomotives.

The agreement will cover 70 locomotives -- the 30 Korean-made ones in the Eastern Zone and another 40 being used in BR’s Western Zone.

Under the proposed agreement, around Tk 30 crore has been earmarked for salaries of staff, consultants and related costs, while most of the remaining Tk 650 crore will be spent on spare parts over three years.

BR officials expect that the arrangement will raise locomotive availability to around 95 percent.

Anwarul said the proposed agreement has already been approved by the railways ministry, but it requires further approval from the Finance Division and other government agencies.

“Several agencies have made some observations, which are now being addressed. The proposal will soon be submitted to the relevant agencies for approval,” he added.

Tarique seized networking, showcased Bangladesh

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looking for investment. That was a strong message from him.” Irene mentioned some of the PM’s plans for investment -- in social development and in upskilling women and the youth.

“People forget that the UN is not only a centre of multilateralism; it is also a marketplace for building relationships with like-minded states or any other kind of states. There are also heads of organisations like the head of the Gates Foundation or the head of the World Bank. And I think he really exploited the opportunities that the UN offered.

“And what struck me as I watched him through all these meetings was that he came across as a sincere person. He was authentic. He did not pretend to be what he was not. He did not pretend to talk about lofty things. He was grounded.”

Asked about Tarique’s speech at the general assembly which focused much on Bangladesh’s local issues despite the UN being a global forum, Irene said there were a whole range of speeches. She said some spoke of their lofty ideas about multilateralism and some spoke about just their own country.

She further said the PM did talk about Bangladesh’s approach to the UN and multilateralism, but most of his speech was about his vision for Bangladesh and what he is doing. “But don’t underestimate the interest that the international community has on what is happening in Bangladesh. The country has gone through a great turbulence and disruption in recent years.”

Irene pointed out that Bangladesh was trying to find a pathway towards stability following the democratic election. “So there was a great deal of curiosity among the international audience about what is happening in Bangladesh.”

She said the PM talked about climate justice, climate impact, and about training 24,000 midwives to improve maternal health and infant survival. “These were very concrete things that he was putting on the table, saying ‘this is what matters in my country and this is what I plan to do’.

“And I don’t think one should dismiss it. I think he was actually making himself accountable to the international community. He was basically saying, these are things that my people need and this is what I’m giving them.”

The envoy said it was not just the PM who was working hard through the week. “He had come with a number of his ministers. And they were working hard too.” For instance, the law minister met the heads of international human rights organisations. “And they gave him a hard time, obviously.”

They discussed what the government was doing with new legislation on the National Human Rights Commission, enforced disappearances and so on. “There were deep questions. And I don’t recall this kind of engagement. The law minister was not just meeting with a delegation but with human rights activists and defenders.

“So not just the prime minister, but his entourage also realised that they were under scrutiny of the international community and it was up to them to engage with them, tell them what they were doing. And that deserves credit.”

MULTILATERALISM IN CRISIS

As regards this edition of the UNGA, she said, “Multilateralism is going through a great crisis, where powerful states are openly defying international law, are challenging international consensus, challenging the UN. There is, in fact, a crisis of public trust in the UN as to whether it is effective not to mention a huge financial crisis.”

But going back to the 1980s and 90s, Irene noted, Bangladesh had set up a pathway for itself where it was a friend to all but beholden to none.

“And there was a strong message along those lines, that we don’t belong to this group or that group. That we are not within the orbit of any superpower, but we are friendly with all and we are here to promote our national interests. That message I think got across quite well and it was welcomed.”

What stood out during the assembly, Irene said, was that by and large, the vast majority -- especially the middle and smaller countries -- stood up against the attacks on the international rules-based system.

“There are these big powers around the world breaking the rules but in the United Nations, we heard speech after speech, where leaders were saying they believe in the international system and they would hold things together.”

“And of course, we had a president of the general assembly who was also from Bangladesh and that was quite an historic occasion. [It was great to see the prime minister giving a speech with the president of the general assembly, who is our foreign minister sitting at the back.”

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'Ensure safe migration, decent jobs'

President calls for skilled workforce, greater protection of workers' rights

BSS, *Dhaka*

President Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday called for ensuring safe migration, creating decent employment opportunities and developing a skilled workforce to strengthen Bangladesh's position globally.

"Let us build a Bangladesh where migration will be safe, employment will be decent, a skilled workforce will strengthen the country's position in the global market, and expatriate and returning workers will become equal partners in national development," he said.

The president made the remarks at a programme marking the 30th founding

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A relieved passenger smiles and holds up his travel documents after managing to secure a flight to Saudi Arabia via an alternative destination at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka yesterday. Many travellers face uncertainty as airlines had to cancel or reschedule flights following the announcement that Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport will remain closed until Saturday.

PHOTO: **FIROZ AHMED**

IN FOCUS

RMG workers block highway for third day

Demand Tk 30,000 minimum wage; blockade, fire cause tailbacks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

RMG workers, mostly women, blocked the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway in the capital's Uttara for the third consecutive day yesterday, demanding a minimum monthly wage of Tk 30,000.

Workers from eight to 10 factories in Dakshinkhan marched to Azampur and gathered in front of Rajlakshmi Complex around 9:00am, carrying placards reading, "Why are commodity prices so high?" and "Tk 30,000 minimum wage".

The blockade, coupled with a fire at a pharmaceutical factory in Tongi's Cherag Ali area, caused severe traffic congestion stretching from Mohakhali to Gazipur.

With traffic halted from 10:30am, hundreds of commuters were forced to get off buses and walk to their destinations, while others took detours to use the metro rail.

Uttara East Police Station OC Morshed Alam said workers blocked both sides of the highway around 11:00am. Police persuaded them to clear the road around noon, but they regrouped near the airport and continued protesting until



PHOTO: **FIROZ AHMED**

The blockade, coupled with a fire at a pharmaceutical factory in Tongi's Cherag Ali area, caused severe traffic congestion stretching from Mohakhali to Gazipur.

1:00pm, after which traffic gradually normalised.

Protesters said rising prices of essentials, house rents and medical expenses had made it difficult to run their households on current wages.

Salma Begum, 28, a senior machine operator at Nipa Garments in Dakshinkhan, earns Tk 16,500 a month, while her auto-rickshaw driver husband earns Tk 15,000.

She sends Tk 10,000 monthly to her ailing parents and two school-going sons in Lalmonirhat. Her Dhaka landlord has also announced a rent increase from Tk 5,500 to Tk 6,000 in January.

"Despite bone-crushing labour, we cannot even afford decent meals," she said, adding that she buys groceries worth Tk 2,000-3,000 on credit each month.

Mansura Begum, 25, a junior sewing operator at Amena Garments, echoed her.

"If commodity prices come down, there is no need to increase our wages," Mansura said.

Give workers a voice at COP31

Labour rights groups unveil 23-point charter, demand compensation, protections

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Labour rights organisations yesterday demanded fair compensation for climate-related losses, stronger labour protections and representation of workers, particularly women and those in informal employment, in Bangladesh's delegation to the upcoming COP31 climate conference.

The demands came as the National Alliance for Just Transition Bangladesh (NAJTB), in collaboration with Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) and Bangladesh Labour Foundation (BLF), and supported by Oxfam in Bangladesh, unveiled the Bangladesh Workers' Charter for COP31 at the Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Centre in the capital.

The charter outlines 23 demands across eight negotiation tracks, focusing on the impact of extreme heat, climate-induced displacement and industrial decarbonisation on workers' jobs and livelihoods.

Speakers called for social protection, workplace safety, worker participation in climate policymaking and funded reskilling programmes to help workers adapt to a greener economy.

Shaheen Anam, executive director of MJF, said informal workers, who account for approximately 84 percent of Bangladesh's workforce, face disproportionate impacts of climate change.

She called for income protection, job security and targeted support for women, who face additional unpaid care responsibilities and risks of technological displacement.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 7

Build safeguards against quantum-era cyber threats

Speakers call for adaptable security systems at Star-Cipher Core Inc roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh needs to prepare its banking systems, government communications and critical infrastructure for cybersecurity threats posed by quantum computing, with experts calling for stronger research collaboration, adaptable security systems and a national roadmap.

At a roundtable organised by The Daily Star and Japan-based Cipher Core Inc at The Daily Star Centre yesterday, participants discussed how advances in quantum computing could threaten existing encryption methods and the need to prepare before current systems become vulnerable.

Quantum computing uses quantum mechanics to process information much faster than conventional computers for certain complex tasks.

Sadia Sharmin, director general of the Department of ICT, said Bangladesh had begun addressing quantum-related security concerns



Participants at a roundtable organised by The Daily Star and Japan-based Cipher Core Inc at The Daily Star Centre yesterday. PHOTO: **STAR**

through its legal and policy frameworks, including the Cyber Security Act 2026, the Personal Data Protection Act and the Cyber Security Framework for 2026–30.

She said Bangladesh had designated 37 critical information infrastructures, underscoring the importance of protecting systems that handle sensitive national information.

Sharmin emphasised that Bangladesh did not need to buy expensive quantum computers immediately. Instead, it should ensure existing systems could adapt to changing security requirements.

She called for systems that allow encryption algorithms to be changed without replacing the entire infrastructure.

Sharmin stressed collaboration

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4

Need joint efforts to protect rights of Hindus: Shafiqur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer and Leader of the Opposition Shafiqur Rahman yesterday called for the government and the opposition to work together to protect the rights, security and interests of the country's Hindu community.

He made the call during a views-exchange meeting with leaders of Hindu organisations at his official residence on Dhaka's Minto Road.

"None of us is a minority or majority in this country. Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, Christians and ethnic communities are all Bangladeshis and proud citizens of this country," Jamaat Secretary General Mia Golam Porwar quoted Shafiqur as saying at a press briefing afterwards.

Shafiqur also said protecting the country's independence and sovereignty was everyone's sacred responsibility and urged all citizens to work together for national development and prosperity.

Porwar said Hindu community leaders praised Jamaat leaders and activists for helping ensure security during religious ceremonies and at puja mandaps and temples after August 5, 2024.

They also raised concerns about discrimination, deprivation and other difficulties facing the community, he added.



Makeshift stalls crowd the footpath and spill onto the road outside Dhaka Medical College Hospital, while a long row of ambulances parked along the roadside further narrows the busy thoroughfare. Rickshaws, auto-rickshaws, cars and other vehicles jostle for space, causing severe congestion and hampering access to the hospital. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: **RASHED SHUMON**

352 accused still at large in ICT cases

Tribunals hand down 22 death sentences in 7 cases since reconstitution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 352 accused in crimes against humanity cases before the International Crimes Tribunals (ICTs) are still absconding, according to prosecution statistics released yesterday.

Another 203 are in custody, one has died, one has been acquitted, and another has been sentenced to the period already served in custody.

Prosecutor Gazi Monawar Hossain Tamim presented the figures at a briefing marking two years since the tribunals were reconstituted on October 14, 2024.

The two tribunals have so far delivered verdicts in seven cases, sentencing 22 people to death and 39 to different terms of imprisonment.

Another 26 cases are at the trial stage, including 12 before ICT-1 and 14 before ICT-2, while 44 are at various pre-trial stages.

The prosecution and investigation agency have received around 700 complaints concerning alleged crimes against humanity linked to the July uprising, enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

DHAKA-COX'S BAZAR

Mahanagar Express train starts Oct 26

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Ctg*

The Mahanagar Express will start running between Dhaka and Cox's Bazar from October 26, allowing passengers at several intermediate stations to travel directly to the tourist destination for the first time.

Mohammad Shafiqur Rahman, chief operating superintendent of Bangladesh Railway's Eastern Zone, said preparations were underway to launch the extended service on the date.

The train currently operates between Dhaka and Chattogram. Unlike the Cox's Bazar Express and Parjatak Express, which run almost non-stop between Dhaka and Cox's Bazar, the Mahanagar Express stops at several stations along the route.



PHOTO: **RAJIB RAIHAN**

A man works on a traditional drum at a musical instrument shop in Chattogram's Patharghata area as demand rises ahead of Durga Puja. Drums of various sizes are being sold for Tk 2,000 to Tk 15,000.

CUET VC denies resignation claim

Shutdown continues for 23rd day



STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Chattogram*

Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Sheikh Shariful Alam has denied reports that he resigned or signed any undertaking under pressure.

He issued the denial after being rescued from his office, where he had been confined for about 30 hours amid protests demanding the reinstatement of former VC Prof Abu Sadat Mohammad Sayem.

"I have not made any statement or declaration saying that I have resigned or that I will never set foot on the CUET campus again," he said in a video message from his hospital bed at Chittagong Medical College Hospital yesterday.

The situation escalated on Monday when Shariful and several others entered his office after breaking the locks on the administrative building's main gate around 9:00am.

Protesting students gave him until noon to leave. When he did not, they locked the gates again around 12:30pm.

Addressing the protesters, Shariful said, "Do not destroy your invaluable academic lives. You might be used by a vested quarter. You are intelligent enough; it is my firm belief that you will not let yourselves be used by anyone." "I came to Chattogram to fulfil the responsibility entrusted to me by the government, not for any personal interest or party agenda," he added.

The protesters, however, disputed his account.

Ahnaf Shahriar Arnob, a protest coordinator and Mechanical Engineering student, said the VC had been allowed to leave safely on condition that he would not return to CUET.

"If he now goes back on his commitment, students will discuss and announce the next course of action," he said, adding that the campus shutdown was continuing.

Meanwhile, several students, requesting anonymity, said classes and examinations had remained suspended for 23 consecutive days, with a week-long Durga Puja holiday due to begin Sunday.

Asked about the VC's video message, CUET Teachers' Association Assistant General Secretary Prof Samium Bashir said, "Our single demand is the reinstatement of our former VC, Prof Abu Sadat Mohammad Sayem."

Road blockade in Sajek from today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Rangamati*

Two organisations in Sajek have announced an indefinite road blockade from today, accusing the administration of failing to meet three demands within a 48-hour deadline, including the withdrawal of armed members of the JSS (Santu) group.

The Sajek Gono Odhikar Rokkha Committee and Sajek Karbari Association announced the programme in a joint statement issued by their leaders, Babudhan Chakma and Natun Joy Chakma.

They alleged that armed JSS members were openly threatening residents and snatching mobile phones, while law enforcement agencies were conducting ineffective operations.

Responding to the allegations, Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti (PCJSS) Assistant Information and Publicity Secretary Sajib Chakma said the JSS had struggled for the interests of the Jumma people and others in the region.

"We have learnt that anti-accord UPDF is deliberately using those two organisations to conspire against the JSS," he said.

United Peoples Democratic Front spokesperson Angya Marma denied any involvement with the two organisations.

Tofazzal Hossain, officer-in-charge of Sajek Police Station, said no incident had occurred that could compromise security. He said an operation was being carried out in Sajek to drive out armed groups.



PHOTO: **COLLECTED**

Wooden logs were seen placed on a road in Sajek in Rangamati's Baghaichhari upazila to enforce an indefinite roadblock called by two local platforms.

Request for Quotation for Tay-Chian TZ-888 Automatic Money Banding Machine

BRAC Bank PLC. delivers a full array of banking services to individuals and businesses through a network of 194 Branches, 116 Sub-branches, 330 ATMs, 446 SME Unit Offices and 1,120 Agent Banking Outlets across the country. The bank is currently seeking potential vendor(s) to provide **Automatic Money Banding Machine (Brand: Tay-Chian || Model: TZ-888).**

A Request for Quotation (RFQ) is issued for the mentioned purpose. The RFQ, along with details of the bidding process, can be found on the bank's website: **https://bracbank.com/en/page/e-tender**

Interested eligible bidders are requested to send their Commercial offer as per Instruction to Bidder (ITB) as per the mentioned bidding process.

BRAC BANK
আমার আমিত্ব

ঢাকা কমার্স কলেজ
(স্ব-অর্থায়নে পরিচালিত রাজনীতি ও ধূমপানমুক্ত)

পুনঃনিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পদবী	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা	বয়স	বেতন ও ভাতা
অধ্যক্ষ	স্নাতক ও স্নাতকোত্তর পর্যায়ে ন্যূনতম দ্বিতীয় বিভাগ/শ্রেণিসহ স্নাতক পর্যায়ে পাঠদানকারী কোনো কলেজের অধ্যক্ষ/উপাধ্যক্ষ/অধ্যাপক/সহযোগী অধ্যাপক/ সহকারী অধ্যাপকগণ উল্লিখিত পদে আবেদন করিতে পারিবেন। আবেদনকারীকে স্নাতক পর্যায়ে ন্যূনতম ৫ (পাঁচ) বৎসরসহ কলেজ পর্যায়ে শিক্ষক হিসেবে সর্বমোট ১৫ (পনের) বৎসরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকিতে হইবে। আবেদনকারীকে অবশ্যই ডিগ্রি কলেজের উপাধ্যক্ষ হিসেবে ৩ (তিন) বৎসর অথবা সহকারী অধ্যাপক হিসেবে ৫ (পাঁচ) বৎসরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকিতে হইবে। তবে উচ্চমাধ্যমিক কলেজ পর্যায়ে অধ্যক্ষ হিসেবে ৫ম গ্রেডে ৩ (তিন) বৎসরের অভিজ্ঞতাসহ ১৫ (পনের) বৎসরের শিক্ষকতার অভিজ্ঞতা থাকিলে তাঁহারাও আবেদন করিতে পারিবেন। ডিগ্রিপ্রাপ্ত আবেদনকারীদের বিভাগ/শ্রেণি নির্ধারণের ক্ষেত্রে শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়ের প্রণীত নিয়ম প্রযোজ্য হইবে। বি.দ্র. উচ্চতর ডিগ্রিধারী প্রার্থী অগ্রাধিকার পেতে পারেন।	ন্যূনতম ৫০ (পঞ্চাশ) সর্বোচ্চ ৫৮ (আটান্ন) বৎসর (বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তারিখে)	বেতনস্কেল: টাকা ৭৮,০০০-৮০,৯২০-৮৩,৯৬০-৮৭,১১০------ ৯০,৩৮০/- বেতনক্রমে মূল বেতনের ৫০% বাড়ি ভাড়া, মাসিক চিকিৎসা ভাতা ১৫০০/- টাকা এবং কলেজ প্রদত্ত অন্যান্য আর্থিক সুযোগ-সুবিধা।

❑ প্রার্থীর পূর্ণাঙ্গ জীবনবৃত্তান্ত, মোবাইল নম্বর, শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতার যাবতীয় কাগজপত্রের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি, জাতীয় পরিচয় পত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি, সদ্য তোলা পাসপোর্ট সাইজের সত্যায়িত ২(দুই) কপি ছবিসহ **আগামী ০১/১১/২০২৬ তারিখের মধ্যে কলেজ অফিসে পৌঁছাতে হইবে।** ❑ চাকুরীরত প্রার্থীদেরকে যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করিতে হইবে। ❑ অসম্পূর্ণ আবেদনপত্র বাতিল বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে। ❑ পূর্বের আবেদনকারীদের পুনরায় আবেদন করার প্রয়োজন নাই। পূর্বের আবেদন বহাল থাকিবে। ❑ আবেদনের সাথে অধ্যক্ষ, ঢাকা কমার্স কলেজ বরাবর ১,৫০০/- টাকার পে-অর্ডার (অফেরতযোগ্য) জমা দিতে হইবে।

ঢাকা কমার্স কলেজ রোড রাইনখোলা, মিরপুর, ঢাকা-১২১৬ | **ধূমপায়ীদের আবেদন করার প্রয়োজন নাই** | সভাপতি, গভর্নিং বডি ঢাকা কমার্স কলেজ

BANGLADESH HANDLOOM BOARD
BTMC Bhaban (4th Floor) 7-9, Kawran Bazar
Dhaka-1215

Reference No-24.05.0000.523.07.156.25 Date: 13.10.2026

e-Tender Notice (OTM)

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

Tender ID No	Name of the Tender
1353368	Supply and Installation of All in one (Computer), Desktop Computer, Monitor, Multi plug & Duplex printer, Laser Printer, Scanner with related services.

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP System 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 registered Banks.

K.M. Abul Kalam Azad
(Director Admin) (Deputy Secretary)
Phone: 58152898

GD-2516

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)

COMPANY MATTER NO. 1268 OF 2026

IN THE MATTER OF:
Bank Asia PLC and another.
... ... **PETITIONERS.**

-VERSUS-
Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms (RJSC) and others.
... ... **RESPONDENTS.**

Notice is hereby given to all concerned that that the petitioners above-named jointly filed an application under Sections 228 and 229 of the Companies Act, 1994 and Rule 263 of the Companies Rules, 2009 read with Section 49(1)(c), 76(1) and 77(16) of the Bank Companies Act, 1991 before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh against the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms (RJSC), TCB Bhaban (6th Floor),1, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka and others praying for the Hon'ble Court's permission for the Merger/Amalgamation of Bank Alfalah (Bangladesh Operations), the petitioner No. 2 into Bank Asia PLC (Petitioner No. 1). The merger is to include all assets, properties, rights, titles, interests, benefits, liabilities and obligations connected with or incidental to Bank Alfalah's operations including the simultaneous transfer and amalgamation of the Transfer Undertaking, in accordance with the Scheme and Merger Agreement dated 08.06.2026. Vide order dated 06.10.2026, the Hon'ble High Court Division presided over by Mr. Justice Syed Mohammed Tazrul Hossain was pleased to admit the Company Matter No. 1268 of 2026. The Hon'ble Court was pleased to further direct the petitioners to file an Affidavit-In-Compliance within 30 (thirty) days from the date of publication of this notice.

If anyone interested in the above matter, you may appear on the date fixed for hearing either personally or through duly authorised Advocate. Copy of the application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of required fees.

(Md. Anwar Hossen)
Barrister-at-Law
Advocate
Supreme Court of Bangladesh
Law Valley, Suite No. 11A, (11th floor)
Saiham Sky View Tower
45, Bijoynagar, Dhaka.
For the petitioner (Bank Asia PLC)

(Najeeb Huda)
Barrister-at-Law
Advocate
Supreme Court of Bangladesh
Metropolitan Chamber Building
122-124 Motijheel C/A
Dhaka 1000.
For the petitioner (Bank Alfalah Ltd.)

LGED, contractor fined for hill cutting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Cox's Bazar*

The Department of Environment has fined the Local Government Engineering Department and its contractor Tk 15.92 lakh for hill cutting during construction of a road under a regional development project in Whykong area of Teknaf in Cox's Bazar.

In the order issued on October 14, DoE Chattogram Regional Director Zamir Uddin directed the project director and the contractor concerned to deposit the amount within seven working days. Failure to do so would lead to legal actions.

According to the order, the DoE's Cox's Bazar district office inspected the road being constructed from Whykong Forest Office to Keranibazar Ghona in Teknaf, and reviewed relevant documents.

It found that hills had been razed during the project's implementation, causing environmental damage estimated at Tk 15,92,500 under Section 7 of the Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act, 1995 (amended in 2010).

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD,
Road Division, Jhalakathi.
E-mail: eejha@rhd.gov.bd

Memo No-35.01.4240.432.04.012.26-1595 (3) Dated: 13/10/2026

Invitation for e-Tenders (OTM)

Sl. No	Name of Works	Tender ID No	Tender Security	Last Selling Date & Time	Closing/ Opening Date & Time
01	**03/e-GP/PMP-Bridge/JRD/2026-2027** Construction of 31.828 m. (1x30.488) Long P.C Girder Bridge (Choukidarbari Bridge) at 1st Km. (Ch. 00km +547.00m) on Kathalia (Bandhaghata)-Koikhali-Banaihat (Z-8740) Road Under Jhalokathi Road Division During the year 2026-2027.	1352598	3000000/-	09-11-2026 04-00 PM	10-11-2026 12-00 PM

01. These are online tender, where only e-tender will be accepted in e-GP portal.
02. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required.

13/10/2026
Executive Engineer, RHD
Jhalakathi Road Division.

GD-2515

INDIAN VOTER LIST ROW

Two CJP leaders jailed for 5 days over trespassing

Dipke likens Ranka, Das's detention to British-era repression

AGENCIES

An Indian court ordered that two leaders of the youth-led Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) be detained in jail for five days, the party and police said yesterday, a day after they scaled barricades to enter a historic site popular for protests and chanted slogans demanding the election chief's resignation.

Delhi Police said CJP leaders Ashutosh Ranka, 30, and Saurav Das, 27, were taken into custody for their "alleged repeated attempts to disturb public peace and violate the law".

At the end of the five-day remand period, they could have their detention extended, be granted bail or be released.

On Tuesday, the pair jumped security barricades to wave the national flag at Jantar Mantar, a decades-old protest site that police have barred people from using. "Their alleged attempts



to instigate others through social media to engage in similar unlawful activities were also taken into consideration," police added. Parliamentary opposition leader Rahul Gandhi, from the Congress Party, backed the men, who were detained after entering the site.

"Waving the Tricolour at Jantar Mantar in a peaceful protest is not a crime," Gandhi said in a post on social media. "Jailing youth for it is an act of cowardice."

CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke arrived in Delhi yesterday and compared the five-day judicial custody of Das and Ranka over unfurling the Tricolour to British-era repression, reports Hindustan Times.

Jantar Mantar, in the heart of the capital, has been sealed off for days with yellow metal barricades and guarded by security personnel. Delhi Police said on Monday it had removed the site from its list of designated protest venues.

The Congress and CJP have both protested over the voter roll revision. Gandhi said yesterday that "all protests are one".



Rescuers evacuate a resident found beneath the debris of a private house damaged in a Russian jet-powered drone strike in Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine, yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

Russian strikes cut power to 600,000 Ukrainians

10 killed; Kyiv accuses SpaceX of crippling drone missions

AGENCIES

Russian strikes killed 10 people in Kyiv and Lutsk, and plunged hundreds of thousands into darkness overnight, authorities said yesterday. President Volodymyr Zelensky called the attack "ostentatious disrespect" for Donald Trump's peace efforts.

The hours-long missile and drone attack primarily targeted Kyiv and Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, and damaged 30 energy facilities, Zelensky said. At least 600,000 people were left without power.

US President Trump, who lifted sanctions on Russian diesel last week in a bid to lower politically sensitive fuel prices, has said that both sides agreed to halt strikes on energy infrastructure, though neither Moscow nor Kyiv confirmed it, reports Reuters.

"The strike was entirely deliberate and demonstrative in its scale – Russia has never before shown such ostentatious disrespect toward the United States," Zelensky wrote on X. "Russia does not consider the American President's statements strong."

Russia's defence ministry said yesterday it had struck four power plants in and around Kyiv and two in Kharkiv, among other targets.

Ukraine reported downing just four out of 39 missiles, reflecting Kyiv's weakened air-defences against fast-moving ballistic missiles and jet-powered drones amid a shortage of weapons.

Meanwhile, Russia's military said it had shot down 902 Ukrainian drones overnight, 180 of them near the capital Moscow.

Ukraine also said that Elon Musk's SpaceX had abruptly disrupted the operation of military-grade Starlink terminals moving at high speed, effectively preventing Kyiv from using them to guide drones in flight.

The apparent suggestion that Musk's company might limit Ukrainian military capabilities drew a sharp response from Poland, which pays for Ukrainian Starlink subscriptions on Kyiv's behalf.

Pak police crack down on pro-Khan protest in KP; 11 injured

AFP, *Bara*

Police opened fire at a protest in northwest Pakistan, leaving several people injured, as authorities cracked down on supporters of jailed former prime minister Imran Khan, a police official and a member of PTI said.

A local member of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party said officers "opened fire directly into the crowd" at Tuesday's rally in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, although a police intelligence officer said they fired "warning shots" to disperse protesters.

The officer told AFP that more than 200 protesters demonstrated in the town of Bara on Tuesday with security forces using tear gas, batons and bullets to break up the demonstration.

"After the police used tear gas and batons, the demonstrators regrouped, apprehended police personnel and assaulted them," said the officer, who requested anonymity. "Other officials at the scene opened fire into the air to rescue their colleagues. Eleven protesters were injured by bullets and stones," the officer added.

Ship sank in Hormuz due to a mine: Iran

AFP, *Dubai*

Iran's Revolutionary Guards said Wednesday that a ship caught fire and sank in the Strait of Hormuz because of a mine, while British security firm Vanguard also reported a sinking.

"A container ship attempting to cross the Strait of Hormuz using an unauthorised and dangerous shipping lane struck a mine that exploded," said the navy of the Revolutionary Guards, the ideological arm of Iran's military.

Images released by the Guards show a plume of black smoke rising from a ship, while dozens of containers that have fallen into the sea float on the water. The Guards said the ship was carrying more than 2,500 containers.

Sunamganj Zila Parishad
Sunamaganj
www.zpsunamganj.gov.bd

Memo No:46.60.9000.102.14.001.25-533 Date: 14.10.2026

e-Tender Notice (LTM) Number:02/2026-2027

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

SL No	Tender ID No.	Package Number	Tender/proposal Closing Date	Tender/proposal Opening Date
01	1339964	e-gp/zps/adp/gen/LTM/W55	01-November-2026 14:00 PM	01-November-2026 14:00 PM
02	1339970	e-gp/zps/adp/gen/LTM/W56	01-November-2026 14:00 PM	01-November-2026 14:00 PM
03	1339971	e-gp/zps/adp/gen/LTM/W57	01-November-2026 14:00 PM	01-November-2026 14:00 PM
04	1339975	e-gp/zps/adp/gen/LTM/W58	01-November-2026 14:00 PM	01-November-2026 14:00 PM
05	1339977	e-gp/zps/adp/gen/LTM/W59	01-November-2026 14:00 PM	01-November-2026 14:00 PM
06	1339978	e-gp/zps/adp/gen/LTM/W60	01-November-2026 14:00 PM	01-November-2026 14:00 PM
07	1340621	e-gp/zps/adp/gen/LTM/W61	01-November-2026 14:00 PM	01-November-2026 14:00 PM
08	1340077	e-gp/zps/Local/LTM/W62	01-November-2026 14:00 PM	01-November-2026 14:00 PM
09	1340626	e-gp/zps/Local /LTM/W63	01-November-2026 14:00 PM	01-November-2026 14:00 PM
10	1340913	e-gp/zps/Local /LTM/W.64	01-November-2026 14:00 PM	01-November-2026 14:00 PM
11	1341023	e-gp/zps/Local /LTM/W.65	01-November-2026 14:00 PM	01-November-2026 14:00 PM
12	1341141	e-gp/zps/adp/gen/LTM/W.66	01-November-2026 14:00 PM	01-November-2026 14:00 PM
13	1341219	e-gp/zps/adp/gen/LTM/W.67	01-November-2026 14:00 PM	01-November-2026 14:00 PM
14	1341250	e-gp/zps/adp/gen/LTM/W.68	01-November-2026 14:00 PM	01-November-2026 14:00 PM
15	1340627	e-gp/zps/adp/gen/LTM/W69	01-November-2026 14:00 PM	01-November-2026 14:00 PM
16	1340630	e-gp/zps/adp/gen/LTM/W70	01-November-2026 14:00 PM	01-November-2026 14:00 PM
17	1345547	e-gp/zps/adp/gen/LTM/W71	01-November-2026 14:00 PM	01-November-2026 14:00 PM
18	1345551	e-gp/zps/adp/gen/LTM/W72	01-November-2026 14:00 PM	01-November-2026 14:00 PM
19	1345554	e-gp/zps/adp/gen/LTM/W73	01-November-2026 14:00 PM	01-November-2026 14:00 PM
20	1345555	e-gp/zps/adp/gen/LTM/W74	01-November-2026 14:00 PM	01-November-2026 14:00 PM
21	1345556	e-gp/zps/adp/gen/LTM/W75	01-November-2026 14:00 PM	01-November-2026 14:00 PM
22	1345557	e-gp/zps/adp/gen/LTM/W76	01-November-2026 14:00 PM	01-November-2026 14:00 PM
23	1349441	e-gp/zps/adp/gen/LTM/W77	01-November-2026 14:00 PM	01-November-2026 14:00 PM

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 Documents from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank`s branches up to **01.11.2026** Time 13.00 pm.

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

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GD-2506

বাংলাদেশ এনার্জি রেগুলেটরী কমিশন
আইইবি ভবন (৬ষ্ঠ ও ৭ম তলা), রমনা, ঢাকা-১০০০।
ওয়েবসাইট: www.berc.org.bd

গণ-বিজ্ঞপ্তি

নং-২৮.০১.০০০০.০১২.১৭.০০২.২৬.৩৩৫৯ তারিখ ঃ ২৯ আশ্বিন ১৪৩৩ / ১৪ অক্টোবর ২০২৬

বিষয়ঃ ভোক্তাপর্যায়ে সরকারি এবং বেসরকারি এলপিজি'র মূল্যহার পরিবর্তনের প্রস্তাবের বিষয়ে আগ্রহী পক্ষগণকে গণশুনানি।

এতদ্দ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, ভোক্তাপর্যায়ে এলপিজি'র মূল্যহার নির্ধারণ/পুনঃনির্ধারণ বিষয়ে রীট পিটিশন নম্বর-১৩৬৮৩/২০১৬ এর পরিপ্রেক্ষিতে মহামান্য হাইকোর্ট বিভাগের ২৫ আগস্ট ২০২০ তারিখের আদেশের পরিপ্রেক্ষিতে বাংলাদেশ এনার্জি রেগুলেটরী কমিশন আইন, ২০০৩ এর ধারা ২২(খ) এবং ৩৪ এ প্রদত্ত দায়িত্ব ও ক্ষমতাবলে ১২ এপ্রিল ২০২১ তারিখে জারীকৃত বিইআরসি আদেশ নম্বর: ২০২১/০১ এর মাধ্যমে কমিশন কর্তৃক ভোক্তাপর্যায়ে সরকারি ও বেসরকারি এলপিজি'র মূল্যহার নির্ধারণ/পুনঃনির্ধারণ করা হয়। পরবর্তিতে বেসরকারি এলপিজি লাইসেন্সিদের প্রস্তাবের পরিপ্রেক্ষিত কমিশন কর্তৃক বেসরকারি এলপিজি এবং অটোগ্যাসের মূল্যহার পরিবর্তনসহ মূল্য সমন্বয় করে ১০ অক্টোবর ২০২১ তারিখে বিইআরসি আদেশ নম্বর: ২০২১/০৭ জারী করা হয়। উক্ত আদেশের অনুচ্ছেদ ৯.৫ এবং সৌদি আরামকো কর্তৃক ঘোষিত মাসভিত্তিক Saudi Contract Price (Saudi CP) এর সাথে সামঞ্জস্য রেখে কমিশন কর্তৃক প্রতি মাসের প্রথম সপ্তাহে বেসরকারি এলপিজি'র মূল্য সমন্বয় করে আদেশ জারী করা হচ্ছে।

০২। সরকারি এলপিজি'র ভোক্তাপর্যায়ের বিদ্যমান মূল্যহার পরিবর্তনের জন্য এলপি গ্যাস লিমিটেড (এলপিজিএল); বেসরকারি এলপিজি'র মজুতকরণ ও বোতলজাতকরণ চার্জ, ডিস্ট্রিবিউটর চার্জ এবং রিটেইলার চার্জসহ ভোক্তাপর্যায়ে এলপিজি'র মূল্যহার পরিবর্তনের জন্য কতিপয় বেসরকারি এলপিজি মজুতকরণ ও বোতলজাতকরণ লাইসেন্সি; এবং এলপিজি'র ডিস্ট্রিবিউটর চার্জ পরিবর্তনের জন্য কতিপয় এলপিজি ডিস্ট্রিবিউটর লাইসেন্সি বাংলাদেশ এনার্জি রেগুলেটরী কমিশন আইন, ২০০৩ এর ধারা ৩৪(৬) অনুযায়ী কমিশনে প্রস্তাব দাখিল করেছে। বাংলাদেশ এনার্জি রেগুলেটরী কমিশন আইন, ২০০৩ এর ধারা ৩৪(৬) অনুযায়ী উক্ত প্রস্তাবসমূহের বিষয়ে নিম্নবর্ণিত স্থান এবং সময় অনুযায়ী আগ্রহী পক্ষগণের গণশুনানি অনুষ্ঠিত হবে:

গণশুনানির তারিখ ও সময়	গণশুনানির বিষয়	গণশুনানির স্থান
২৯ অক্টোবর ২০২৬ সকাল ১০:০০ টা - বিকাল ০৪:০০ টা	সরকারি এলপিজি'র ভোক্তাপর্যায়ের মূল্যহার; বেসরকারি এলপিজি'র মজুতকরণ ও বোতলজাতকরণ চার্জ, ডিস্ট্রিবিউটর চার্জ এবং রিটেইলার চার্জসহ ভোক্তাপর্যায়ে এলপিজি'র মূল্যহার পরিবর্তনের প্রস্তাবের বিষয়ে গণশুনানি।	শহীদ এ.কে.এম. শামসুল হক খান মেমোরিয়াল (অডিটোরিয়াম) হল বাংলাদেশ ইন্সটিটিউট অব এ্যাডমিনিস্ট্রেশন এ্যান্ড ম্যানেজমেন্ট (বিয়াম) ফাউন্ডেশন ৬৩ নিউ ইস্কাটন, ঢাকা ১২১৫

০৩। আগ্রহী ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠান বা সংস্থা-কে ২৭ অক্টোবর ২০২৬ তারিখের মধ্যে গণশুনানি-পূর্ব লিখিত বক্তব্য/মতামত কমিশনে প্রেরণের জন্য অনুরোধ করা হ'ল। অধিকন্তু, গণশুনানিতে অংশগ্রহণের নিমিত্ত ২৭ অক্টোবর ২০২৬ তারিখের মধ্যে কমিশনে নাম তালিকাভুক্তির জন্যও অনুরোধ করা হ'ল।

০৪। তালিকাভুক্ত ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠান বা সংস্থা উল্লিখিত তারিখে অনুষ্ঠেয় গণশুনানিতে অংশগ্রহণপূর্বক সরকারি এলপিজি'র মূল্যহার, বেসরকারি এলপিজি'র মজুতকরণ ও বোতলজাতকরণ চার্জ, ডিস্ট্রিবিউটর চার্জ, রিটেইলার চার্জসহ ভোক্তাপর্যায়ের মূল্যহার ইত্যাদি বিষয়ে বিশ্লেষণধর্মী তথ্য-উপাত্ত ও সংশ্লিষ্ট দলিলাদি উপস্থাপন করতে পারবেন।

০৫। সরকারি এবং বেসরকারি এলপিজি'র মূল্যহার পরিবর্তন সংক্রান্ত লাইসেন্সিসমূহের প্রস্তাব অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে কমিশন কার্যালয় থেকে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। এছাড়াও কমিশনের ওয়েব সাইট www.berc.org.bd থেকে ডাউনলোড করা যাবে।

০৬। নির্ধারিত গণশুনানিতে অংশগ্রহণ বা উপযুক্ত প্রতিনিধি প্রেরণের জন্য অনুরোধ করা হ'ল।

কমিশনের নির্দেশক্রমে,
মোঃ নজরুল ইসলাম সরকার
সচিব, বিইআরসি।
ফোন: ০২-২২৬৬৪০৯০৫

GD-2513

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

Fertiliser subsidies need a rethink

Support must reach small farmers without disrupting production

A recent World Bank (WB) report has highlighted a major inequity in Bangladesh's fertiliser subsidy programme: the biggest 20 percent of landholders receive half of fertiliser subsidies while the smallest 40 percent get only 13 percent. Fertiliser subsidy has nearly quadrupled to Tk 28,000 crore in five years. This is a contradiction to the subsidy programme's goal—supporting small farmers and poor rural households. The WB has urged the government to phase out price controls and move to market-based pricing, and recommended direct support for small and marginal farmers through electronic vouchers linked to Farmer Cards introduced by the BNP government. While this may sound like a logical solution, Bangladesh must approach the problem with caution.

Sudden price increases in administered fertiliser could actually lead to small landholders reducing fertiliser use, lowering yields, and pushing up food prices. The WB has cautioned against this and suggested that Bangladesh should stock up on fertiliser for the coming cropping seasons, maintain buffer stocks and ensure timely distribution. But on pricing and targeting reforms, the WB remains firm. The IMF has also urged reducing subsidies for several years and may make fertiliser-subsidy reform a key condition of its upcoming loan. While there is an obvious need for reform, abruptly withdrawing subsidies will be risky. Bangladesh's agricultural policy must ensure small landholders get adequate subsidies while food production is not affected. The food price also must remain stable.

Ensuring food production and food security has to be among the biggest priorities, especially when Middle East crises are having a huge impact on the country's economy.

While the government's Farmer Card initiative sounds promising, it is still at the rudimentary stage and more time is needed to assess its coverage and ability to deliver benefits on time. Thus, it would be risky to assume that it can immediately replace the existing subsidy system. For now, the Farmer Card should be distributed alongside existing support, with evaluations conducted to see if the intended beneficiaries are being reached.

Being a country that imports 85 percent of its fertiliser requirements makes Bangladesh vulnerable to global supply disruptions and price and foreign exchange fluctuations. The gas crisis, moreover, has severely hampered local fertiliser production. Ensuring adequate stocks, monitoring distribution and preventing unofficial price increases should be prioritised.

In the long term, Bangladesh should invest more in research, extension services, soil health, irrigation, storage and marketing. A more efficiently managed subsidy programme can reduce the imbalance in agricultural spending. Therefore, pricing reforms must be done predictably, with their impacts carefully monitored. Instead of immediately removing subsidies, Bangladesh must move towards a subsidy system that better serves the farmers who need it most. A sudden policy change may leave farmers struggling to buy the necessary inputs for the next harvest. Ensuring food production and food security has to be among the biggest priorities, especially when Middle East crises are having a huge impact on the country's economy. Any policy recommendation that may affect food production must be evaluated very carefully.

Child marriage law should be reformed

Remove 'special circumstances' section, strengthen enforcement

It is unacceptable that nearly a decade after the enactment of the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2017, millions of girls across the country continue to be married before they turn 18. A recent review by Unicef and UNFPA reveals why the law has failed to deliver the expected results, identifying legal loopholes and weak enforcement as major obstacles. According to the review, 47.2 percent of girls were married before 18 in 2025, down from 51.4 percent in 2019. Despite this decline, we still have the highest prevalence of child marriage in South Asia, with an estimated 41.6 million child brides, including 22.3 million who were married off before turning 15.

One of the most problematic provisions in the act is Section 19, which allows underage marriage in "special circumstances" with court approval but does not clearly define these circumstances. As we have argued before, this provision is open to misinterpretation and misuse, and therefore must be removed. Another major shortcoming is that the act penalises those involved in child marriages but does not invalidate the marriages themselves. This means that while a marriage is punishable under the act, it can still be recognised as valid under personal laws. The aforementioned review recommends allowing children to annul their marriages and ensuring that the law takes precedence over conflicting personal laws. It also recommends that the minimum marriage age be set at 18 for both girls and boys, and that children involved in marriages should not face criminal penalties.

Weak enforcement is another barrier, which has allowed the practice to persist. While prevention committees often fail to function, officials also lack adequate training and resources, and authorities often arrive at the spot after weddings have taken place. Families also continue to evade scrutiny by using forged birth certificates or arranging marriages in neighbouring districts. These gaps must be addressed urgently. The review also identifies poverty, limited educational opportunities, insecurity, and entrenched gender norms as other factors driving child marriage.

We urge the government to act on the recommendations without delay. The Women and Children Affairs Ministry must take the lead in initiating the necessary legal reforms and coordinate with relevant ministries and agencies. Prevention committees must function effectively and trained Child Marriage Prohibition Officers must be appointed down to the union level. All marriages must be registered to strengthen oversight. A state-funded support system must also be established to provide rescue services, healthcare, safe shelters, counselling, legal aid, and livelihood opportunities for victims of child marriage.

Constitutional reform is more than a parliamentary numbers game



Barrister Khan Khalid Adnan is advocate of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh, fellow at the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, and head of the chamber at Khan Saifur Rahman and Associates in Dhaka.

■ **KHAN KHALID ADNAN**

Despite strong objections from the Jamaat-led opposition, the constitutional reform process initiated by the ruling party seems to be moving forward with a December deadline in mind. The special committee on constitutional amendments, which held its seventh meeting this Tuesday, seems to be sticking to that timetable, with an amendment bill based on its report potentially following in the first parliamentary session of 2027. A timetable can concentrate minds. It can also turn consultation into a race towards a predetermined destination. The committee's first responsibility, therefore, is not to produce amendments quickly, but to demonstrate that those controlling the process do not own its outcome.

This distinction is important because the rules governing political power should not become the property of whoever currently controls it. Under Article 142 of the constitution, an amendment bill requires the votes of at least two-thirds of all MPs. That is a threshold for exercising authority, not a transfer of the people's sovereignty to the parliamentary majority. Constitutional reform must satisfy legal limits while earning a legitimacy that parliamentary arithmetic alone cannot supply.

In this regard, the Eighth Amendment judgment, in which the Supreme Court struck down a constitutional amendment passed by parliament for the first time in 1989, remains an unusually direct warning. In Anwar Hossain Chowdhury v Bangladesh, the court explained how the basic structure doctrine emerged in response to executives using overwhelming legislative majorities to rush constitutional amendments without meaningful public consultation or adequate deliberation. The danger was not confined to military rule; constitutional mechanisms themselves could become instruments for concentrating power.

The Fifteenth Amendment litigation shows how consultation can take place without giving participants meaningful influence over decision-making. The High Court judgment records an account, not disputed by the then respondent government, of a special committee consulting 104 distinguished citizens and unanimously recommending the retention of the caretaker government system on May 29, 2011. But following meetings with the then prime minister, that position changed. The Fifteenth Amendment Bill subsequently received only four days of standing committee scrutiny, despite 14 days having been allowed, and was passed a day after the committee submitted its report (pp. 21-22).

We are not saying that today's special committee is repeating that history. But the existence of a committee, the participation of distinguished invitees, and the number of meetings held cannot, by themselves, establish independence. Consultation becomes decorative when the executive can reverse its outcome without publicly explaining its departure from the recommendations. Citizens need to see not only who was heard, but also which arguments changed the draft and why others were rejected.

The Fifteenth Amendment judgment itself must also be read accurately. Despite identifying procedural flaws, the High Court declined to invalidate the entire amendment on procedural grounds (p. 31). Its operative order struck down specific provisions, including Articles 7A and 7B, and restored the referendum mechanism. The legality and propriety of other challenged changes were left for parliament to consider "in accordance with law" (pp. 136-138). The Appellate Division upheld the ruling on July 9, 2026. Neither judicial restraint nor that phrase, however, grants parliament unrestricted power to rewrite the constitution.

Equally, removing Article 7B's sweeping prohibition on amending core sections of the constitution does not remove the basic structure doctrine. Textual entrenchment and judicially enforced constitutional limits are different things. A constitution can remain open to substantial reform while protecting the institutions and rights without which democratic choice becomes hollow.

The Thirteenth Amendment review judgment gives that distinction practical force. At page 44, the court characterises parliament's Article 142 power as a trust delegated by the people, not original constituent authority. At pages 45-46, it examines what amendments do in practice: removing an institutional safeguard may imperil democracy even when democratic language remains untouched. A government cannot preserve the signboard while dismantling the institution behind it.

There is, however, a tension requiring candour. At page 46, the same judgment accepts that the 1996 political settlement, which led to the introduction of the non-party caretaker government system through the Thirteenth Amendment, expressed the people's constituent power—their authority to establish a constitutional order—and therefore stood beyond ordinary judicial review. That reasoning cannot simply be omitted because it complicates a tidy account of amendment limits. But neither can a parliamentary majority declare itself the embodiment of exceptional popular authority. The claimed mandate, its scope, and its means of expression must be demonstrated, not presumed.

Courts also owe the public principled explanations. The review judgment condemns the earlier divergence between the short order and the detailed judgment, describing the resulting defect as fatal to its legality and integrity (pp. 59-61). Judicial guardianship is indispensable, but it cannot mean that changing judicial preferences become constitutional truth without transparent reasoning. The doctrine should protect democratic conditions, not turn every inherited institutional detail into a permanent judicial preference.

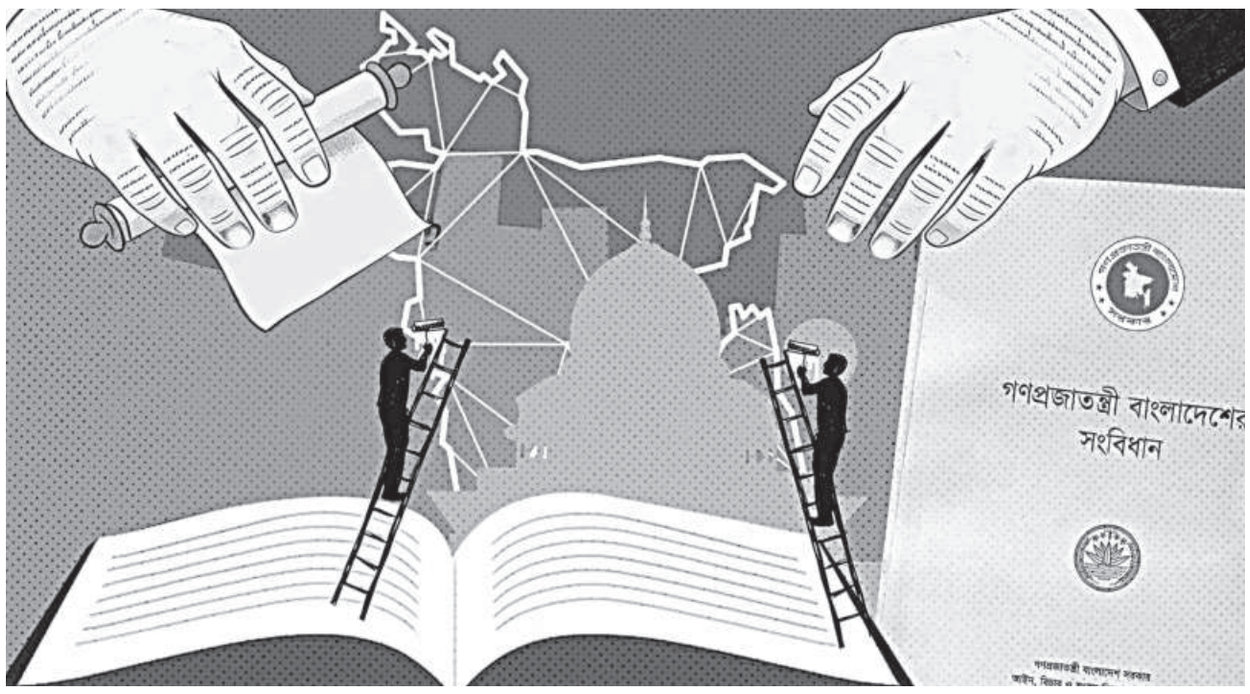
The Constitution Reform Commission's report offered a starting point for further deliberation. It deliberately kept open proposals ranging from constitution amendment to rearrangement and rewriting, acknowledging competing approaches (p. 2). It also recognised that its consultation methods could not guarantee representation of every section of society, prompting a nationwide survey (p. 4). Today's parliament should, therefore, build on that evidentiary foundation without treating negotiations among party leaders as the voice of the entire people.

The special committee should publish a working draft with an explanation alongside each proposed change: the existing position, the problem identified, the relevant judicial constraint, the alternatives considered, and the reason for its recommendation. Substantial revisions should trigger renewed consultation. A publicly announced minimum period for comment, accessible Bangla explanations, and opportunities beyond Dhaka would make participation something more than attendance at an invitation-only meeting.

Its independence should also be visible. Committee legal advice, hearing records, and reasons for departing from recommendations should normally be published. Members should be able to append dissenting opinions. The executive should present its preferred amendments openly rather than influence the committee through an undisclosed channel. These are proposed safeguards for credibility, not claims that every omission automatically invalidates an amendment.

Opposition participation matters, of course. But neither an empty chair nor a majority vote should be treated as a complete answer to legitimacy. The government should offer meaningful influence over deliberations, not merely an opportunity to endorse its conclusions. Opposition parties, should they choose to participate in any form, should explain their alternatives publicly. Women, minorities, workers, and citizens outside organised party structures must have routes into the discussion that do not depend on a party's permission.

The committee should ultimately judge every proposal by a disarming question: would its authors still defend this rule if their strongest political opponent controlled the government? Reform that passes that test begins to resemble constitutionalism. Reform designed to secure today's advantage merely prepares tomorrow's grievance. The purpose is not to make power easier to exercise, but harder to monopolise.



FILE VISUAL: **ANWAR SOHEL**

Saudi Arabia's war risks are becoming our burden

■ **WINKERS AWEIGH!**



Tanim Ahmed is special affairs editor at The Daily Star.

■ **TANIM AHMED**

While the direct impact of the Houthi missile strike in Riyadh is being clearly felt in Dhaka due to the dozens of suspended flights and long queues at the airport, the longer-term repercussions are likely to be more debilitating for the economy. Flights to and from the kingdom have been suspended until October 17. According to the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB), this has affected at least 61 flights and 9,269 passengers so far, leaving many migrant workers worried about their employment and visas.

Saudi Arabia, home to around 3.5 million Bangladeshi expatriates, is Bangladesh's single largest source of remittances, accounting for about a fifth of inflows during July-September this year, worth $1.95 billion. If a stronger Houthi presence translates into control over the crucial Bab el-Mandeb Strait, a key Red Sea chokepoint, it could have serious implications for global oil markets.

This would effectively mean Iran exercising control over two straits (Hormuz and Bab el-Mandeb) that are crucial not just for Saudi oil but also for all kinds of fuel transporting from the Persian Gulf. The ongoing war in the Persian Gulf has also affected Bangladesh's exports, directly by way of shutting down export destinations in the region and indirectly by way of more expensive energy prices.

The missile strike, which killed two Bangladeshis and critically injured several others, also underscored the extent of Bangladesh's integration with both the global economy and the international energy order. Ironically, Riyadh was hosting the World Energy Congress at the time, with several energy ministers of different countries addressing the conference virtually rather than attending it themselves. Chief executives of ExxonMobil, TotalEnergies, BP, and Shell cancelled their trips. The energy minister, Abdulaziz bin Salman, an elder stepbrother of the all-powerful Saudi crown prince, did not mention the strikes as he addressed the gathering but expressed his dismay that some of the invitees could not join because of certain safety concerns.

Mohammad bin Salman, the crown prince, had waded into this conflict in Yemen soon after his father had ascended to the throne and appointed him defence minister in January 2015. No one had thought the campaign in Yemen would eventually have so much significance for Bangladesh, thousands of kilometres away. More than a decade later it is evident that, try as they might, the Saudis are not going to be able to root out the Houthis, short of putting ground troops in Yemen, with military muscle on their own. The disastrous campaign that bin Salman had begun is now being stoked from elsewhere and for different reasons. If anything, the Houthis have only become battle-hardened and perhaps more resolute.

But this is not just a rebel group trying to run over the Saudi-backed government. There are other factors at play as well. The Houthis are backed by Iran and, by extension, Russia and China. The one in government, supported by Saudi Arabia, is also supported by the US. Then there are the recent parties of the Makkah agreement, Pakistan and Turkey, to consider. Notably, Turkey has clarified that it will not deploy troops for an offensive into Yemen but will actively defend the oil-rich kingdom. To a large extent, this tangled web of interests and allegiances within and among these countries could be resolved if the US and Israel cease their attacks on Iran. But Iran has also demanded that Israel cease its genocide in Gaza and violence in Lebanon for any peace deal to hold.

Now that the Houthis have brought the war right inside his home, the crown prince will discover that it is no longer possible to extricate Saudi Arabia without resolving what the US and Israel had started. Revisiting the possibility of Iran-backed Houthis taking over control of the Red Sea chokepoint while Iran maintains its firm control over Hormuz would mean that the flow of fuel would dwindle to a trickle, practically shutting off the kingdom's access to the vast markets of Asia, except all the way around Africa, which would be extremely costly and perhaps unfeasible. Of course, all this would push oil prices higher, spelling doom for Bangladesh and many other countries dependent on the regular supply of fuel from the Middle East.

And given the poor state of Saudi air defence, there is still a serious security threat. Several countries have issued strong warnings about flying to the kingdom. Some have forbidden air travel to Saudi Arabia altogether. Even Mohammed bin Salman has been reportedly moving from one palace to another in fear of Houthi air strikes. Thus, the crown prince is most likely going to become another one in a long line of people impressing upon the Trump administration that the impasse needs to be resolved. And given the repercussions Bangladesh is feeling already, that resolution will be in Saudi interest as much as it will be in ours.

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As the world rediscovers industrial policy, we must rethink protectionism



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■ ABDUR RAZZAQUE

In March 2026, the World Bank brought out a major publication, Industrial Policy for Development: Approaches in the 21st Century, in which its authors, Ana Margarida Fernandes and Tristan Reed, thanked the WB's Chief Economist Indermit Gill for providing them, among other things, "freedom" to arrive at their own conclusions. Industrial policy, after all, has long been an uneasy subject for the World Bank. Gill himself, in the foreword to the same publication, recalls that roughly three decades ago, the WB took a position that helped "stigmatize" industrial policy as a costly failure outside a few East Asian cases.

The March 2026 publication took a noticeably different view: industrial policy is difficult, risky, and demanding, but it is also more replicable than previously thought to be and can no longer be dismissed as an exceptional East Asian story. This reassessment comes at a time when global trade is witnessing a major shift away from the easy certainties of liberalism and open markets. This is clear to see in the richest and most influential economies, especially those in the G20. While just about 1 percent (or $115 billion) of G20 imports in 2010 were subject to some form of restriction, including tariffs and non-tariff measures, the stockpile of such measures rose to cover $2.33 trillion, accounting for 12.7 percent of G20 imports, by 2024. By November 2025, it reached about $4 trillion, or 22 percent of G20 imports.

Developing economies have also widely used trade and industrial policy instruments. The WB report also mentions that low-income economies have the highest average tariffs, while upper-middle-income countries make heavy use of business subsidies. The WB is revisiting industrial policy at a moment when the most influential economies have become far more willing to use protectionist policies and strategic trade instruments than they were prepared to admit a generation ago.

The reasons behind this shift are not difficult to see, as many previous assumptions about trade competitiveness, technology, and industrial strength have been unsettled by China's rise. For a long time, the dominant argument was that open markets and global value chains would allocate production efficiently, and that countries would gain by specialising according to their comparative advantage. That confidence has been badly shaken as US-China rivalry intensified and the WTO-centred multilateral trading system became increasingly paralysed. International trade is no longer seen only as a matter of prices, efficiency, and consumer welfare. It has also become a question of geopolitical influence, technological leadership, and national security.

The decades-long protectionist regime has failed to make industries globally competitive or diversify exports. The impending LDC graduation makes the challenge more urgent, as future market access through free trade agreements (FTAs) and other arrangements will increasingly depend on reforms in tariffs, customs procedures, standards, compliance and domestic regulation.

During Covid, Western economies discovered, rather uncomfortably, how dependent they had become on China, or on a narrow set of suppliers, for critical goods. What had earlier been celebrated as efficient global sourcing suddenly looked like strategic vulnerability. The parlance of trade and growth changed as well. Efficiency did not disappear, but it was no longer enough. Resilience, security, domestic capability, and trusted supply chains entered the centre of trade policy thinking.

This global resurgence of industrial policy creates an awkward irony for Bangladesh. Our policymakers do not need to rediscover industrial policy simply because the World Bank or richer countries have returned to it. After the initial dose of trade reform in the early 1990s, Bangladesh continued with heavy protection for its industries through customs duties, para-tariffs, and other measures. By many comparisons, it remains one of the world's most protected economies. High tariffs and other import-restricting measures are often justified as support for domestic industries. By raising the cost of imported goods, they give local producers space to grow, invest, and supply the domestic market. In principle, such support can help firms learn and build capacity.

The problem arises when protection becomes a comfortable shelter rather than a temporary route to competitiveness. The real question, then, is whether such support has helped build firms that can compete beyond the protected domestic market.

For Bangladesh, garments are often cited as proof that export success is possible even in a protected economy. But the export-oriented apparel industry grew almost entirely on foreign orders. The domestic market for many exported garments was largely absent, and producers using bonded warehouses for importing inputs duty-free for export production were not allowed to serve the protected domestic market. This removed a key source of anti-export bias: garment exporters did not have an easy alternative of selling the same products at higher protected prices at home.

The Multi-Fibre Arrangement governing the global market at that time was also a critical determinant of export success, as quota restrictions on established exporting countries encouraged foreign buyers and investors to look for new sourcing locations like Bangladesh. LDC trade preferences reinforced the sourcing advantage from Bangladesh.



VISUAL: ALIZA RAHMAN

Other sectors did not benefit from this same combination of conditions. They had sizeable domestic demand shielded by tariff protection and less pressure to meet foreign buyers' requirements on price, quality, compliance and reliable delivery. Many firms could thus grow by serving the local market, but that should not be mistaken for export competitiveness.

Protection can create production capacity. But without competition, standards, and compliance, it rarely creates the efficiency and innovation needed for sustained export diversification. When the protected domestic market offers higher returns with fewer demands, investment naturally tilts towards serving local consumers rather than building the capabilities needed for export markets.

A heavily guarded trade regime did help domestic manufacturing expand, with manufacturing's share of GDP rising from about 13 percent in 1990 to 23 percent in 2024, although the sector has come under pressure in recent years. While this growth has been celebrated and made policymakers reluctant to undertake difficult reforms, the costs were often left outside the policy conversation. Economist Zaidi Sattar estimated that consumers in Bangladesh in 2017 alone paid an additional $14.2 billion, equivalent to 5.7 per cent of GDP and 31 percent of manufacturing value added, because protection pushed domestic prices above international prices.

This also affects market size. Bangladesh has a large population, but not yet a large high-income consumer market. If protection keeps domestic prices excessively high, it does not help create a genuinely large market. Export markets are larger, but cannot be accessed through protection alone. Price competitiveness, quality, standards, reliable supply and product upgrading determine export success. This is where Bangladesh's old industrial support system has fallen short: many goods are produced for local consumers, but few are export-ready.

It is against this backdrop that the trade reform dilemma deepens for Bangladesh. Our own experience points towards reform, while the global policy mood can now be read in the opposite direction. The argument—that if rich countries are supporting their industries, Bangladesh should not move away from protection—can easily be used to justify the current policy stance. Yet the decades-long protectionist regime has failed to make industries globally competitive or diversify exports. The impending LDC graduation makes the challenge more urgent, as future market access through free trade agreements (FTAs) and other arrangements will increasingly depend on reforms in tariffs, customs procedures, standards, compliance and domestic regulation.

In this changed global context, proactive policy support to build competitiveness cannot be overlooked. We must, however, be careful about drawing the wrong lesson from the return of industrial policy elsewhere. Many countries are moving from relatively open regimes towards more selective industrial support. Bangladesh starts from a very different position: high protection, weak standards enforcement, limited compliance capacity, and a long record of domestic-market-oriented support. Old protectionism will not expand exports, improve efficiency, or raise consumer welfare. The challenge now is to support differently: with stronger standards, lower anti-export bias, better export discipline, and a clearer route from domestic production to international competitiveness.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF RURAL WOMEN

Recognition of women's role as the engine of rural life is long overdue



Pavel Partha, an ecology and biodiversity conservation researcher, is director at Bangladesh Resource Centre for Indigenous Knowledge (BARCIK). He can be reached at animistbangla@gmail.com.

■ PAVEL PARTHA

If a village is a living body made up of natural elements and human society, rural women are its mitochondria. As mitochondria act as the powerhouses within the cells, so are rural women the powerhouses of village life. Through farming, food processing and preparation, traditional medicine, seed preservation, fishing, collecting wild food, livestock rearing, sewing, cooking, cottage industries, folk culture, disaster management and natural resource management, rural women keep more than 87,000 villages in Bangladesh alive.

Yet, their contribution, the work, knowledge and management skills remain largely unrecognised in the dominant knowledge and decision-making systems in the country. Rural women pass on generations of traditional knowledge within their communities. Their expertise in selecting crop varieties and seeds, predicting weather patterns, midwifery, weaving, cooking and traditional medicine involves complex knowledge and scientific understanding. But these practices are still dismissed as inferior knowledge in the mainstream discourse.

Much like how a body cannot function at the optimum level with damaged mitochondria, a village cannot develop safely and sustainably if its women are subjected to deprivation, discrimination, oppression, marginalisation, insecurity and exploitation. We must recognise rural women's contributions and listen to their voices to understand society and its progress.

This year's theme for the International Day of Rural Women, observed globally on October 15, is "Rural Women Farmers Caring for Mother Nature." The United Nations has declared 2026 as the International Year of the Woman Farmer. The year is also being observed as the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists. The International Day of Rural Women is not formally observed in Bangladesh's villages. This is ironic, since the largest village in Asia, Baniachang, is located in this country.

Meanwhile, facing shrinking livelihood opportunities, wage discrimination, debt and climate-related crisis, rural women are leaving their villages and moving to the cities, often losing their sense of identity in the process. Development policies that neglect rural realities, combined with patriarchal power structures, view the nation's overall development through binary, colonial, racist and discriminatory lenses. These perspectives must be challenged across society, the state and the corporate sector. Rural women must receive justice and recognition in every sphere of life.

Access to and ownership of assets

Globally, around 36 percent of employed women work in agrifood systems, according to a 2023 report by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The proportion is much higher in South Asia, at around 71 percent. According to the UN, women account for around 40 percent of the global agricultural labour force but own only 15 percent of agricultural land. Rural women's rights remain restricted in decisions about ownership and control across the food system, from production to distribution.



Women account for around 58 percent of the agricultural labour force in Bangladesh, according to UN. The photo was taken in Rajshahi on October 14, 2026. PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

Growing pressures

According to the 2022 census, around 5.79 crore women live in rural Bangladesh, accounting for more than half of the rural population. UN data says women account for around 58 percent of the country's agricultural labour force. Despite their historic presence and contribution to agriculture and rural food systems, the state does not adequately recognise rural women as farmers. The enormous economic contribution rural women make to the country's agricultural economy is not fully reflected in the national accounts either. A 2021 estimate valued women's economic contribution through household work in Bangladesh at around Tk 6.7 lakh crore.

Research has shown that rural women are paid less than men. This wage gap can also affect productivity on farms managed by women, even when their farms are comparable in size to those managed by men.

FAO further found that the productivity gap between male-managed and female-managed farms is around 24 percent. If women had equal access to resources, agricultural productivity could increase by 20 to 30 percent. Equal pay, participation and ownership rights for women and men in agriculture and food systems could increase global GDP by around $1 trillion and improve food security for approximately 4.5 crore people.

Women also have less access than men to agricultural land, loans, farming equipment, irrigation, technology, markets, agricultural services and digital tools. At the same time, structural inequalities mean that women carry a heavier burden of household and care work than men. Social, class-based, professional and geographical discrimination creates additional barriers to agricultural productivity and other forms of rural work.

When rural women lack formal recognition as farmers, they face difficulties accessing agricultural services, farmer cards, subsidies, training, and opportunities to establish businesses.

Their multiple responsibilities and workloads continue to grow. Because of climate change, women in coastal areas, hilly regions, Barind areas and urban settlements may spend hours queuing for a single container of water, sometimes walking miles to collect it. During disasters, women may be unable to reach shelters because they must first protect their livestock, poultry and household belongings and ensure their families' safety.

Rural women's knowledge of agriculture, cottage industries, healthcare, recipes and creative practices is also frequently commercialised without their consent. This amounts to a violation of their rights over the knowledge and intellectual resources they have developed and preserved.

A call to action on rural women's day

For a rural woman struggling to cope with the constant loss of agricultural land and other pressures in an agrarian country like Bangladesh, the message of International Day of Rural Women may seem distant from her everyday reality. Nevertheless, the demand to place rural women at the centre of agriculture and food systems can become a meaningful commitment.

Rural women must no longer be treated as "invisible workers". They must be recognised as farmers who lead and make decisions within agricultural and food systems. The state must also strengthen support for rural women's agricultural knowledge, seed preservation, and climate adaptation practices.

The UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) recognises rural women's rights in agriculture, land, credit, water, sanitation, technology, social protection and decision-making. The Sustainable Development Goals also explicitly recognise women's agricultural land ownership and secure land rights as important development priorities. Bangladesh's National Women Development Policy 2011 acknowledges women's labour and contributions to agriculture and calls for equal wages and equal access to agricultural equipment and credit. The National Agriculture Policy 2018 also includes a dedicated section on women in agriculture. Despite these national and international commitments, the reality remains different.

Rural women must not be viewed merely as beneficiaries of development, but as its architects. They do more than provide food; they protect seed and livestock diversity, preserve traditional knowledge, and safeguard local environments. Despite structural discrimination and the climate crisis, rural women continue to sustain their communities. Like the mitochondria that power our cells, they help keep the world alive.

Led Zeppelin's **'STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN'** gets rare nod for 'Narnia' trailer



Led Zeppelin guitarist Jimmy Page has approved the use of the band's iconic song ***Stairway to Heaven*** in the trailer for Greta Gerwig's upcoming film ***Narnia: The Magician's Nephew,*** marking a rare licensing exception.

Released in 1971, the classic track has been reworked for the Netflix adaptation of C S Lewis's ***The Chronicles of Narnia,*** scheduled to arrive in cinemas in February.

According to Variety, Gerwig personally approached Page and vocalist Robert Plant for permission, sharing an early version of the film with them.

Page praised Gerwig's filmmaking, expressing excitement about her vision for the fantasy film.

Led Zeppelin have historically been selective about film licensing, previously rejecting requests from ***Wayne's World*** and ***Almost Famous.*** However, their music has featured in several recent productions.



PHOTO: COURTESY OF AGANTUK

When crows make more sense than humans

'Kaak'- a notable comedy of errors on display in Cox's Bazar

ASHLEY SHOPTORSHI SAMADDAR

Living in Cox's Bazar for the past couple of years, my hopes of engaging with the fine arts had dwindled to almost zero — until I came across ***Kaak***, a theatrical production staged at the Public Library's Shaheed Subhash Auditorium in Cox's Bazar this weekend.

According to the tickets and flyers circulated among visitors (myself included) during recent shows, this eco-satire, directed by Shahidul Shannon, promised nothing but humour, wrapped in its delicious disclaimer: "This play strictly resembles reality." And me being me, that was precisely what clicked!

Agantuk's sixth production, ***Kaak***, drew a sizeable audience on Saturday, October 3. I had also heard accounts of a full house at the previous day's show, which only added to my anticipation.

Walking down the rugged red carpet covering the gallery staircase, I entered the auditorium, where I was greeted by torn and broken seats. Yet, I was pleasantly surprised by the very first scene: a "murder" (yes, folks, that is what a group of crows is called) of ravens, echoing the "songs" of Ted Hughes's much-maligned, arguably blasphemous poetic masterpiece, ***Crow***.

The opening scene transported me back to a college lecture on ***Apple Tragedy,*** perhaps the finest poem I have read so far, and one whose simplicity of verse has stayed with me, owing, in part, to my Christian roots. As the play progressed, it continued to build on these familiar ideas, taking them in unexpected directions.

While I had expected the narrative to remain faithful to its original framework, the director ventured well beyond the Adam–Serpent–Eve narrative, weaving in new characters and themes with remarkable ease.

As an added delight, he explored the socio-cultural dimensions of love, complemented by a selection of evergreen melodies performed live and unplugged.

What struck me most was the ironic reversal of roles: humans behaved foolishly like crows, while the crows displayed greater intelligence and awareness.

Through this inversion, ***Kaak*** offered a pointed ecological critique, holding up an uncomfortable mirror to our own foolishness.

Bacchu is one character I will certainly remember, thanks to the actor's understated, minimalist portrayal. His restrained performance felt just right, marking him as a promising emerging talent.

My evening ended on a note of pleasant rediscovery. What I had witnessed was not merely an adaptation, but rather a contextualised deconstruction of an experience I had once deeply cherished — and was now delighted to relive, albeit through an entirely different lens.

Shilpakala Academy to commemorate Lalon's 136th death anniversary

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy will organise a special programme on October 17 to commemorate the 136th death anniversary of Baul legend Fakir Lalon Shah.

Supported by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, the event will begin at 6:00pm at the National Theatre Hall in Segunbagicha, Dhaka.

A cultural programme featuring Lalon songs will follow at 6:30pm, presented by BSA and JASAS.

Meanwhile, a three-day commemorative festival and fair will take place from October 17 to 19 at Lalon's Akhrabari in Chheuriya, Kushtia.



EVENTS



'Company'

Aranyak Natyadal brings ***Company***, its 66th production, to the stage. Written and directed by Mamunur Rashid, the play traces Robert Clive's rise to power and the conspiracies that led to the fall of Bengal's independent Nawabi rule. Through the story of British conquest, exploitation and division, it draws parallels with the plunder of wealth and siphoning of money that continue today, asking whether new versions of Clive remain among us.

Date: Today | October 15
Time: 7:00pm
Venue: National Theatre Hall (Main Hall), Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Dhaka

NEWS

100 flights cancelled

FROM PAGE 12

seeking alternative flights to Jeddah and Madinah to enter Saudi Arabia and reach their workplaces.

Biman Bangladesh Airlines has also advised passengers requiring urgent travel to consider using Jeddah and Madinah airports while its Riyadh and Dammam services remain suspended until October 17.

Among direct operators, Biman accounted for 17 affected flights, US-Bangla Airlines 10, and Saudia and Riyadh Air seven each.

Among connecting carriers, IndiGo recorded 22 affected flights, Emirates 14, SalamAir and Qatar Airways seven each, flydubai six, Air India two and EgyptAir one.

Meanwhile, Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport will remain closed until October 17.

The security situation deteriorated further yesterday, with Saudi authorities reporting the interception of another ballistic missile aimed at Riyadh.

Yemen's Houthi rebels also threatened further attacks on Saudi airports and oil infrastructure following a strike on Saudi Aramco facilities in Dhahran, Reuters reported.

Against this backdrop, the Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (BAIRA) yesterday urged the government to take immediate diplomatic steps to protect the employment and legal status of affected migrant workers.

In a statement, BAIRA expressed concern that newly recruited workers awaiting departure and expatriates returning to Saudi Arabia after visiting Bangladesh could face difficulties over expiring visas, residence permits and employment arrangements.

The association called for discussions with Saudi authorities to extend affected workers' visas and iqamas and ensure that their jobs remain protected.

It also demanded free ticket rescheduling or full refunds without additional charges, alongside government assistance for affected workers and their families.

The government is already pursuing bilateral discussions with Saudi Arabia over visa extensions for stranded workers, said Md Nurul Haque, the state minister for expatriates' welfare and overseas employment, earlier this week.

On October 12, CAAB directed airlines operating direct and connecting services to Saudi Arabia to promptly notify affected passengers of cancellations, delays and schedule changes through SMS, telephone, email and other communication channels.

Airlines have also been instructed to provide information on revised schedules, rebooking and refunds, and guide passengers requiring visa extensions or immigration assistance towards the relevant Saudi authorities and diplomatic missions.

However, with Riyadh airport closed until October 17 and further attacks threatened, uncertainty persists over when affected passengers will be able to complete their journeys.

বাড়ী বিক্রয়
বনানী কামাল আতাতুর্ক এভিনিউ কাকলীতে
সামনে পিছনে রাস্তা ৬ তলা বাড়ী বিক্রয় হবে।
শুধুমাত্র প্রকৃত ক্রেতারা যোগাযোগ করুন।
যোগাযোগ ইমেইল- bananihousesell@gmail.com
Mobile: 01351157258, 01351448103

Man dies

FROM PAGE 2

He added that on Tuesday evening, Shamim had attempted to take his own life by ingesting poison at home and had appeared distressed amid threats from people following the circulation of the audio clips.

Later, as family members were taking him to a local doctor, a group of people began beating him in the Sakhipur area, Jalil said, adding that Shamim was attacked again at the upazila health complex.

Arif Billah, an emergency department physician at the facility, said Shamim had multiple serious injuries. When his condition worsened suddenly, he was referred to Satkhira Medical College Hospital.

OC Shaheen said no complaint had been filed with the police station as of about 8:30pm yesterday. "Legal action will be taken if the complaint is lodged."

Proposal for 3rd LNG terminal

FROM PAGE 12

be signed.

CNEE submitted the proposal on June 19 for the offshore LNG terminal under a build-own-operate model, with a base regasification capacity of 600 million cubic feet per day (mmcfd) and a peak capacity of 750 mmcfd.

A comparison by The Daily Star found large portions of the proposal closely mirror another proposal submitted just 38 days earlier by US-based company NS Energy Navigation, whose chief executive is the grandson of Brahmanbaria-4 MP Mushfiqur Rahman, also the chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on the finance ministry.

The similarities are so extensive that a project map in CNEE's June 19 proposal still carries the name of the earlier proposer: "Proposed NS Energy FSRU".

The total cost of the proposed project has been estimated at Tk 12,324 crore for a 15-year term or Tk 13,161 crore for a 20-year term.

Earlier on September 5, The Daily Star reported that the regasification service fee to CNEE would be 35-37 percent more than what the government pays to existing LNG terminals, although the government's negotiation committee could not determine how much of the premium is justified.

Under the 15-year arrangement, CNEE will charge $3,42,000 per day for the FSRU.

At present, the daily fee for Excelerate Energy's FSRU is $2,54,000 and Summit LNG terminal's is $2,49,115.

It is also higher than the $3,00,000 daily fee agreed by Petrobangla in March 2024 for Summit's proposed second FSRU at Moheshkhali with a capacity of 600 mmcfd and a 15-year tenure.

Petrobangla terminated the deal in October 2024 following the fall of the Awami League-led government, and Summit contested the termination in court. The matter is still pending.

CNEE's solicited daily fee is even higher than the benchmark of $2,39,653 per day recommended in a 2025 feasibility study by RPGCL.

Despite the higher rate, the seven-member negotiation committee on August 30 recommended two options before the government: a 15-year deal at $3,42,000 a day or a 20-year deal at $3,29,000 a day.

The charge under a 15-year agreement will include $2,46,000 fixed fee, $59,000 operational fee and $37,000 port service fee.

The committee calculated the value of Petrobangla's payment obligation for the 15-year option at $1.002 billion, equivalent to Tk 12,324 crore, at a 12 percent discount rate.

Turkey appoints trustee to run pro-opposition Halk TV

REUTERS, *Ankara*

Turkish authorities appointed a government trustee to run pro-opposition broadcaster Halk TV, prosecutors said yesterday as police raided its Istanbul office, extending a crackdown on the opposition and prompting fresh concerns over media freedom.

The Istanbul Chief Prosecutor's Office said its financial crimes unit had conducted an investigation into Halk TV Chairman Cafer Mahiroglu over "bribery, tender-rigging, and laundering of assets derived from crime."

Prosecutors ordered the detention of 17 people, including Mahiroglu, and 11 have been detained, the statement said, with firms linked to Mahiroglu seized and the Savings Deposit Insurance Fund (TMSF) appointed as trustee.

Mahiroglu is currently outside Turkey and being sought by the authorities.

The channel's live broadcast was cut at 6:30 am (0330 GMT), after which pre-recorded material began airing. "Hundreds of police" were inside and entry into the premises was not being permitted, it said on its website. A Halk TV programmer said negotiations with the trustee delegation to continue broadcasts had yielded no results.

Govt clears import

FROM PAGE 12

variations totalling over Tk 765 crore under the ongoing Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport Expansion Project (1st Phase, 3rd Revised).

For the main construction contract, the committee approved an additional Tk 360.65 crore, raising its value by 1.75 percent, from Tk 20,598.64 crore to Tk 20,959.30 crore.

The contractor, Aviation Dhaka Consortium (ADC), is a joint venture of Japan's Mitsubishi Corporation and Fujita Corporation and South Korea's Samsung C&T.

The committee also approved an additional Tk 405 crore for consultancy services, raising the contract value by 52.48 percent, from Tk 771.72 crore to Tk 1,176.72 crore.

The consultancy contract is with NOCD JV, a joint venture of Japan's Nippon Koei Co Ltd and Oriental Consultants Global Co Ltd, Singapore's CPG Consultants Pte Ltd, and Bangladesh's Development Design Consultants Ltd.

The committee also approved a proposal from the commerce ministry to purchase 10,000 tonnes of sugar from Meghna Sugar Refinery Ltd in two lots for over Tk 100 crore.

Govt moves to tap economic potential

FROM PAGE 12

e-waste generation and recycling.

According to a 2017 Department of Environment survey, Bangladesh generates nearly 13.3 million kilogrammes of e-waste annually, of which only 3 percent is recycled and exported. The data on the remaining 97 percent is sketchy and collected through the informal sector.

The data on current years are not available.

Although the import of used electronic items is prohibited, such products continue to enter the country, Osmani said, adding that no organisation involved in manufacturing, importing, exporting or marketing electronic equipment was registered with the DoE or had established an e-waste collection centre.

Sumon Ahmed Sabir, chairperson of WEEE Society Bangladesh, delivered the introductory speech at the seminar, jointly organised by TIB and WEEE Bangladesh at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre.

20 out of 30 Bangladeshis trafficked to Russia killed

FROM PAGE 1

He said investigators believed the Bangladeshis were deployed as bait.

"When opposing forces launched drone strikes against them, the attacks revealed the enemy's positions," he added.

The SRB said the Bangladeshis were deployed in three sections of the battlefield: the front, middle and rear. Seventeen reportedly died in drone strikes on the first day, while three others died later.

The battalion said it had so far confirmed the deaths of 20 of the 30 Bangladeshis.

Of the 10 survivors, two injured men have returned to Bangladesh, while two others are receiving treatment at a hospital in Moscow. The remaining six are still on the battlefield, according to the SRB.

Asaduzzaman said one of the returnees, identified as Rajon, suffered a fractured lower back and lower-body paralysis following a drone strike. He dragged himself on his chest for nearly four kilometres to reach a camp.

The SRB official said most of the victims came from impoverished backgrounds, with some taking out substantial loans to finance their journeys. Many families have received news of their relatives' deaths but have been unable to see their bodies or bring them home.

The victims came from several districts, including Gopalganj, Mymensingh, Narayanganj, Jamalpur, Pabna, Chapainawabganj, Faridpur, Rajbari and Gazipur.

Asaduzzaman said investigators had also gathered preliminary evidence suggesting that nationals of several other countries had been recruited through similar methods to fight in the war.

The SRB said a Russian national named Igor and a Kyrgyzstani woman named Julia were also allegedly involved in the operation, alongside Bangladeshi members of the ring.

The battalion is gathering information about the two foreign suspects and conducting drives to arrest another alleged syndicate member, identified as Mostafizur.

In March, a joint investigation by Bangkok-based Fortify Rights and Ukraine-based Truth Hounds found that at least 104 Bangladeshis had been recruited into the Russian military by February 2026, with at least 34 reportedly killed in the fighting. Researchers interviewed survivors, relatives of the deceased and other sources in Bangladesh and Ukraine.

The investigation found that recruiters targeted economically vulnerable men with promises of jobs as cleaners, factory workers, electricians and security guards. Some travelled through Saudi Arabia or the United Arab Emirates before reaching Russia, where they were allegedly forced to sign military contracts in Russian, a language they did not understand.

Several reported receiving little training before being sent to the front lines, while others described beatings, unpaid wages, passport confiscation and threats when they tried to escape.

In April 2025, The Daily Star reported that the Criminal Investigation Department's Human Trafficking Cell was investigating allegations that Dhaka-based Dream Home Travel had trafficked around 20 Bangladeshis to Russia with promises of civilian jobs paying monthly salaries of Tk 2 lakh to Tk 2.5 lakh.

Investigators said at the time that three of the men had been killed after allegedly being forced into combat.

Ensure safe migration, decent jobs

FROM PAGE 3

anniversary of the Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) and Sonar Manush Sammilan-2026 at a hotel in the capital.

He urged all stakeholders, including the government and the opposition, to work together to protect migrants' rights.

"Protecting their rights, ensuring their dignity and utilising their achievements for the country's development are our collective responsibilities," he said.

The president said, "Expatriate Bangladeshis sent over US 35 billion dollars in remittances in the 2025-26 fiscal year... Our economy remains functional for them and therefore, our responsibility towards them is much greater."

Stressing the need to equip prospective migrants with skills, he said, "Unfortunately, we cannot adequately prepare or equip them before they go abroad. As a result, most of them go as unskilled workers. Sometimes, they go without proper documents as well."

Recalling his experiences with Bangladeshi expatriates, the president said, "I had witnessed the difficulties and miserable living conditions of expatriate Bangladeshis. They live extremely hard lives and send all their earnings back home... As a result, they deserve the highest respect in our country."

Earlier, the president handed over "Sonar Manush Sammanana Smarak Awards and Crests" to the recipients in seven categories.

RMMRU Executive Director Dr Tasneem Siddiqui presented the keynote paper and outlined the organisation's upcoming activities.

The organisation's Deputy Executive Director Motasim Billah delivered the welcome address.

352 accused still at large in ICT cases

FROM PAGE 3

Tamim said the prosecution expected to complete presenting evidence by December in several high-profile cases, including those against former ministers Qamrul Islam, Rashed Khan Menon and Anisul Huq, former prime minister's adviser Salman F Rahman, former state minister Zunaid Ahmed Palak, former prime minister's son Sajeeb Wazed Joy and Maj Gen (relieved) Ziaul Ahsan.

Asked about defence lawyers' objections to trying crimes committed during the July uprising under the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973, originally intended to try war crimes, Tamim said the law covers crimes against humanity, war crimes, genocide and crimes against peace.

He said a 2009 amendment extended the law's scope to individuals, including civilians, while another amendment in November 2024 incorporated international legal definitions.

An investigation into the Awami League as an organisation was also underway, he added.

Build safeguards against quantum-era cyber threats

FROM PAGE 3

among government, industry and academia to identify vulnerable infrastructure, set priorities and develop skilled professionals.

Delivering the keynote, Takatoshi Nakamura, CEO of Cipher Core Inc, highlighted weaknesses in existing public-key encryption and questioned whether post-quantum cryptography and quantum-based key distribution could fully address the problem.

He said Bangladesh should invest in security technologies that have been thoroughly tested and proven effective, rather than those with unresolved weaknesses.

He also stressed the importance of carefully checking whether these technologies could protect sensitive information.

Nakamura said Cipher Core is ready to work with Bangladesh's public institutions and private sector to improve secure communications, protect critical infrastructure and strengthen national information security.

The company also welcomes joint research with Bangladeshi universities, including technical training and knowledge transfer, he said.

Motoyuki Odachi, COO at Cipher Core Inc, said Bangladesh has an opportunity to build security into its digital infrastructure from the outset.

"This could be the right time to adopt quantum-proof technology and lay the foundation for Bangladesh to be prepared for the information security as well as cybersecurity challenges of the quantum era," he said.

Shazzad Hosain, professor at North South University, called for greater collaboration among technology companies, universities and banks to develop local expertise in quantum cybersecurity.

He said banks spend crores of taka on cybersecurity solutions but are reluctant to invest comparatively small amounts in university research and development.

Saifuddin Khalid, an associate professor at the Technical University of Denmark, said the shift to quantum-resistant security should be treated as an organisational transformation rather than merely a technological upgrade.

He called for a national roadmap backed by government leadership, clear responsibilities for relevant institutions and pilot projects involving banks and other critical infrastructure operators.

Bangladesh could learn from international initiatives in quantum communication and post-quantum cryptography, he said.

Preparing for these threats would require investment not only in technology but also in skilled professionals, standards, university-industry collaboration and adaptable financial systems, he added.

Mehedul Islam Mahi, country executive at Cipher Core Ltd, said Bangladesh needs to look beyond cybersecurity and recognise information security as the foundation of its digital future.

He said the country should focus on technological independence and translate its preparations for the AI and quantum era into action.

Syed Ibrahim Saajid, head of digital banking at City Bank; Md Abul Kalam Azad, chief information security officer at Eastern Bank; Kamrul Islam, head of information security at BRAC Bank; Mohammed Shakil, head of information security at United Commercial Bank; Mohammad Moinus Samad Khan, vice president of the IT division at Bangladesh Commerce Bank; Mohammad Iqbal Kabir, chief information technology officer at Sonali Bank; Foysal Tarif Hasan, assistant professor at Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management; and Brig Gen (retd) Saleem Ahmad Khan, team leader for IT-supported postal voting, also spoke.

Tanjim Ferdous, head of strategic partnerships at The Daily Star, moderated the event.

Give workers a voice at COP31

FROM PAGE 3

Referring to the prime minister's instruction to ensure worker representation, she urged the government to include a woman worker in the COP31 delegation.

Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed, executive coordinator of NAJTB and executive director of the Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies, said workers contribute to the economy while bearing the consequences of a climate crisis they did little to create.

He demanded compensation based on actual losses and meaningful worker participation in decisions affecting their livelihoods.

Presenting the keynote, Mir Mohammad Ali, assistant professor at Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, said Bangladesh lost approximately 250 million workdays to heat-related illness in 2024, citing World Bank estimates.

The charter was developed through eight consultations involving 43 organisations, according to the organisers.

Shaikh Faridul Islam, state minister for environment, forest and climate change, said the ministry would try to incorporate relevant demands into national and local climate policies and Bangladesh's position paper for COP31.

AKM Ashraf Uddin, member secretary of NAJTB and executive director of BLF, said the green transition would not be sustainable if workers lost wages, jobs and opportunities to participate in negotiations.

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- ব্যাংকের নাম: বেসিক ব্যাংক পিএলসি.
- বিভাগ: সাধারণ সেবা বিভাগ, প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা।
- কাজের বিবরণ: ১,০০,০০০ পিস ওয়াল ক্যালেন্ডার (১০,০০০ পিস খাম) ও ৩০,০০০ পিস ডেস্ক ক্যালেন্ডার (খামসহ) মুদ্রণ ও সরবরাহ।
- টেন্ডার আইডিঃ ১৩৫৩৯৩৪ (ওয়াল ক্যালেন্ডার) ও ১৩৫৪১২৮ (ডেস্ক ক্যালেন্ডার)।
- সূত্র নংঃ BASIC/HO/CSD/WALL-2027/01(ওয়াল ক্যালেন্ডার) ও BASIC/HO/CSD/DESK-2027/01 (ডেস্ক ক্যালেন্ডার)।
- গুরুত্বপূর্ণ শর্তঃ e-GP পোর্টালের মাধ্যমে অনলাইনে দরপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে। কোনো অফলাইন দরপত্র বা দরপত্রের হার্ড কপি গ্রহণ করা হবে না। তবে নির্ধারিত সময়ের মধ্যে নমুনা হিসেবে এক সেট ওয়াল ক্যালেন্ডার ও এক সেট ডেস্ক ক্যালেন্ডারের হার্ড কপি জমা দিতে হবে।

উপমহাব্যবস্থাপক
সাধারণ সেবা বিভাগ

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Project Director
Construction of New Dual Gauge Railway Line from Bogura to Sirajganj Project
Bangladesh Railway, Rail Bhaban, Dhaka.

Memo No.: BSRLP/CSC/SD2/54.01.0000.000.710.34.0041.26-1511 Date:14 /10/2026

CORRIGENDUM

Reference: Notice No. BSRLP/CSC/SD2/54.01.0000.000.710.34.0041.26-1487; Dated01/10/2026.

This is to inform you that to facilitate wider participation by eligible consulting firms and provide adequate time for the preparation and submission of Expressions of Interest, the deadline for submission of EOI for the above-mentioned assignment is hereby extended as set out below:

Particulars	Date and Time
Original submission deadline	28/10/2026 and Time : 12.30 pm
Revised submission deadline	12/11/2026 and Time : 12.30 pm

All other terms and conditions of the original EOI notice shall remain unchanged. Interested consulting firms are requested to submit their EOIs within the revised deadline.

14.10.26
Md Abu Zafor Mia
Project Director
Email: pdbsrlp@gmail.com
Mobile: 01711-692942

GD-2510

PRAYER TIMING
OCTOBER 15

	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	4-50	12-45	4-00	5-38	7-15
JAMAAT	5-25	1-15	4-15	5-41	7-45

SOURCE: **ISLAMIC FOUNDATION**

Bangladesh Parliament Secretariat
Administration Section
Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
www.parliament.gov.bd

Memo No: 11.00.0000.000.604.07.0068.2026/02 Date: 14.10.2026

e-Tender is invited hereby in the national e-GP portal for the procurement of following goods:

Tender ID No	Tender Package Name	Last Selling/ Downloading Date & Time	Closing & Opening Date & Time	Method
1	2	3	4	5
Tender ID No: **1349471**	Procurement of 500 Mbps Redundant Internet Bandwidth Service	28 October 2026 16:00	29 October 2026 12:30	OTM (F/W)

2. This is an online tender, where only e-tender (online tender) will be accepted through the national e-GP portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted.
3. The fees for downloading the e-tender documents from the national e-GP portal must be deposited online through any schedule bank of Bangladesh registered by the BPPA.
4. For further information visit national e-GP portal & e-GP help desk (e-mail: helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

14/10/26
Kafil Uddin Mahmud
Senior Assistant Secretary
Phone: 55029007

GD-2507

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Director
DNCC Dedicated Covid-19 Hospital
Mohakhali, Dhaka

e-GP Tender Notice

Memo No-DNCC DCH/2026-2027/Tender/003 Date: 14/10/2026

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no Offline/Hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP system portal (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd), for more details, please contact support desk contact numbers, e-Tenders are invited in e-GP system portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) by Acting Director, DNCC Dedicated Covid-19 Hospital, Mohakhali, Dhaka for the Procurement of:

Tender Id	Name of Goods	Tender/Proposal Publication Date & Time	Tender/Proposal Last Selling Date & Time	Tender/Proposal Closing/Opening Date & Time
1346233	Chemical & Reagent-1 for 2026-27 FY	15 Oct 2026 10:00	27 Oct 2026 14:00	28 Oct 2026 12:00
1348241	Computer & Accessory for 2026-27 FY	15 Oct 2026 10:00	27 Oct 2026 14:00	28 Oct 2026 12:00
1348697	MSR (Light Instrument!)-3 for 2026-27 FY	15 Oct 2026 10:00	27 Oct 2026 14:00	28 Oct 2026 12:00
1348698	MSR (Gauge, Bandage & Cotton) for 2026-27 FY	15 Oct 2026 10:00	27 Oct 2026 14:00	28 Oct 2026 12:00

e-Tender details can be downloaded on e-GP System portal (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for pursuer, e-Tender will be accepted only as stated in above list; accepted tenders will be opened online on the dates stated above.

14/10/2026
Colonel Latifa Rahman
Acting Director
DNCC Dedicated Covid-19 Hospital
Mohakhali, Dhaka
Phone: 0241082277

GD-2508

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Bangladesh Oil, Gas & Mineral Corporation (Petrobangla)

CORRIGENDUM NOTICE

Extension of Bid Submission Deadline and Revision of Data Sales Package Prices under Bangladesh Offshore Bidding Round 2026

Ref. No.: 28.02.0000.000.052.02.0001.26.36(1) Date: 13 October 2026

The Notice Inviting Bids for Oil and Natural Gas Exploration under Bangladesh Offshore Bidding Round 2026, bearing Ref. No. 28.02.0000.000.052.02.0001.26.36 dated 24 May 2026, published in different national daily newspapers and on the websites of EMRD, Petrobangla and BPPA, is hereby amended as follows:

Reference	Original Bid Submission Deadline	Revised Bid Submission Deadline
BANGLADESH OFFSHORE BIDDING ROUND 2026	not later than 1:00 pm BST **30 November 2026**	not later than 1:00 pm BST **31 March 2027**

AVAILABILITY AND PRICES OF DATA SALES PACKAGES

The purchase of Data Sales Packages (DSPs) is optional. The prices of all ten (10) packages have been revised. Four (4) packages will be available free of cost on Petrobangla's website. The remaining six (6) packages will be available at a reduced nominal price of US$5,000 per complete package, as detailed below:

Data Package Content	Previous Price	Revised Price
Data Sales Package (DSP)-1 (31,000 LKM of vintage offshore seismic data from 1974–1976)	US$10/LKM	**Free of cost** (Available on Petrobangla's website)
Data Sales Package (DSP)-2 (Offshore wells)	US$5,000	**Free of cost** (Available on Petrobangla's website)
Data Sales Package (DSP)-3 (The Hydrocarbon Habitat Study)	US$5,000	**Free of cost** (Available on Petrobangla's website)
Data Sales Package (DSP)-4 (2D seismic data for Block SS-11)	US$314,600 (US$100/LKM)	US$5,000 per complete package
Data Sales Package (DSP)-5 (3D seismic data for Block SS-11)	US$152,500 (US$500/sq. km)	US$5,000 per complete package
Data Sales Package (DSP)-6 (2D seismic data for Blocks DS-10 and DS-11)	US$268,000 (US$100/LKM)	US$5,000 per complete package
Data Sales Package (DSP)-7 (2D seismic data for Block DS-11 and part of Block SS-07)	US$307,700 (US$/100 LKM)	US$5,000 per complete package
Data Sales Package (DSP)-8 (2D seismic data for Block DS-12)	US$358,000 (US$100/LKM)	US$5,000 per complete package
Data Sales Package (DSP)-9 (2D seismic data for Blocks SS-04 and SS-09)	US$508,000 (US$100/LKM)	US$5,000 per complete package
Data Sales Package (DSP)-10 (Kanchan-1x well data)	US$5,000	**Free of cost** (Available on Petrobangla's website)

All other terms and conditions of the original Bid Notice remain unchanged.

13.10.26
Engr. Md. Shaiful Islam Sarkar
Director (Production Sharing Contract)
Petrobangla
Telephone: +88-02-55013610
E-mail: dpscpb@petrobangla.org.bd
Website: petrobangla.org.bd

GD-2511

INTERVIEW

Remembering Sumit Sarkar, the historian and the iconoclast

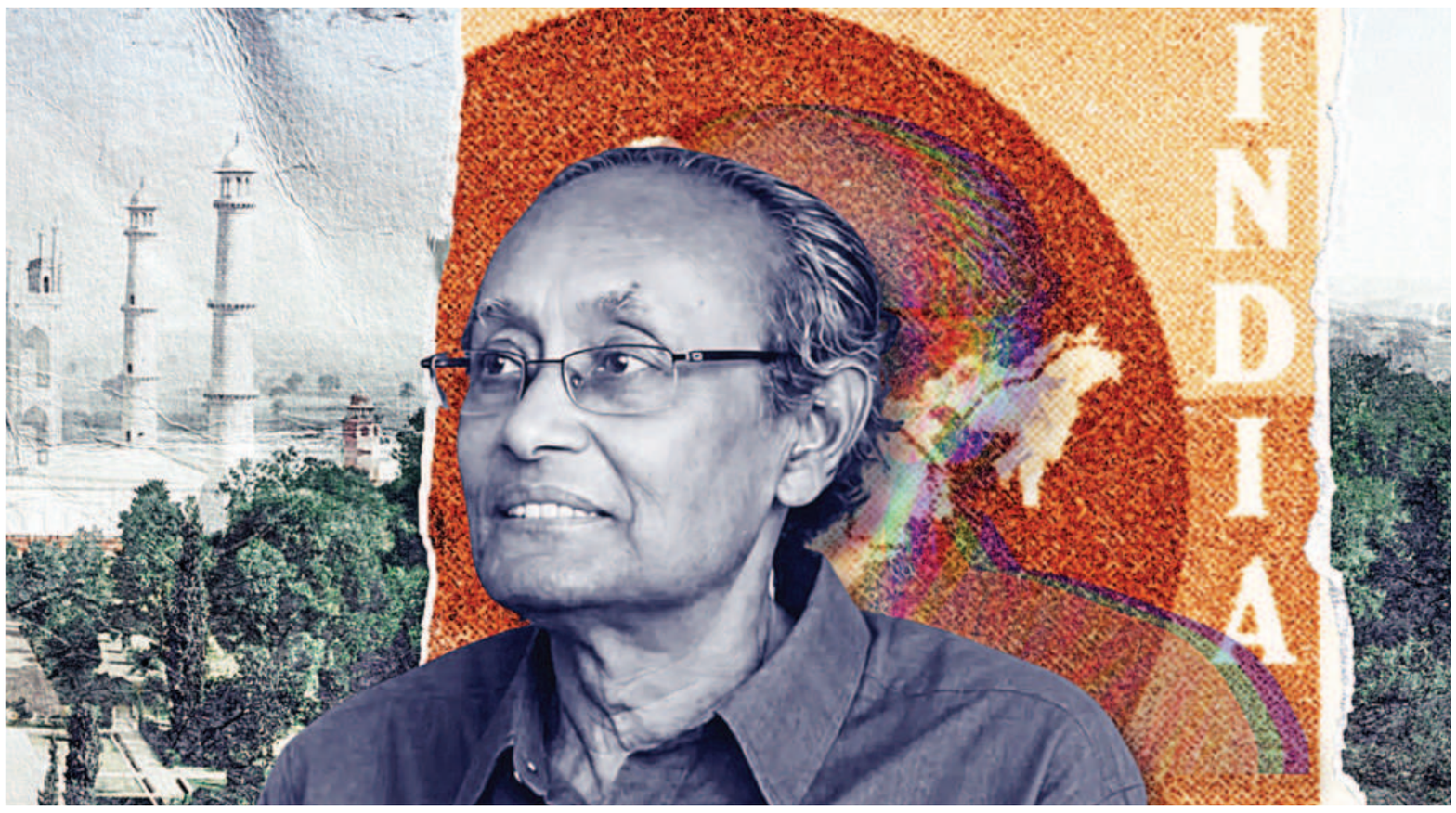


ILLUSTRATION: **MAHMUDA EMDAD**

SUBHORANJAN DASGUPTA

Slender, small-built and soft-spoken, Sumit Sarkar, who passed away on August 13, was a towering historian, one of the very best we have seen in recent years. Author of classics like *The Swadeshi Movement in Bengal 1903–1918* (1973), *Writing Social History* (1998), and *Modern Times: India 1880s–1950s: Environment, Economy and Culture* (Permanent Black, 2014), he guided generations of researchers and students.

Academic and author Subhoranjan Dasgupta, who knew Sarkar closely, draws on their conversations over the years to explore his views on Hindutva's reading of history, the discipline of history, his relationship with subaltern historians and his book *Modern Times: India 1880s–1950s: Environment, Economy and Culture.*

Why did the then HRD Minister, Murli Manohar Joshi, block the publication of the sixth volume of the *Towards Freedom: Documents on the Movement for Independence in India, 1946* (2007) series, a project of the Indian Council of Historical Research, in 2000? You had prepared and edited this volume with meticulous care.

Because it questioned and challenged the Hindutva project of history, theorised first by Veer Savarkar in his pathbreaking *Hindutva: Who Is a Hindu?* (1923) and then, more virulently, by Guru Golwalkar in *We or Our Nationhood Defined* (1939). This volume, suppressed by the BJP regime, not only underlined the distance that had existed between the Sangh Parivar and our struggle for freedom (though this unpalatable truth was no longer a secret) but also exposed the close understanding that had bound together the colonial rulers and the Saffron Family. The volume was released in 2004 when the Congress returned to power after winning the election.

Could you please pinpoint the primary traits of this Hindutva project of history?

First, the imposition of the thesis that the Punyabhumi (Holy Land) and Pitribhumi (Fatherland) of Bharat, Savarkar employed these two Sanskrit terms, were reserved for Hindus only. That is, Muslims and Christians were, by birth, aliens and outsiders. Second, the Muslim invaders destroyed the glory, grandeur and harmony of ancient Sanatani Bharat, which embodied the very apex of human civilisation and culture. Third, all possible measures have to be implemented to construct a "Hindu" nation where the main adversaries, Muslims and Christians, will have to survive as second-class citizens. Mohan Bhagwat, the RSS supremo, labelled the project of a "Hindu nation" as "non-negotiable" a few months ago. This carefully charted programme regards history as something narrowly unilinear, exclusionary to the extreme and hostile, nourished as it is by hatred and consequent violence. Hindutvadis seek a return to the age of kings and queens, not to humankind.

I need to stress that the Hindutva project of history goes all out to justify its aberration by invoking the tempting principle of nationalism. We have to be very careful here. The 'nationalism' of the Sangh Parivar is intrinsically different from the other nationalism, which was anti-colonial and anti-imperialist in origin and, moreover, redemptive in essence. It is sustained by the indispensable attachment to and love for the marginalised human being. Gandhi, Nehru and Rabindranath, in particular, wedded this essentially human dimension, not sectarian at all, to our configuration of the nation. Recall Rabindranath's masterly novel *Ghore Baire* (1916) and his superb essay "Nationalism" in this context. I myself have drawn on their thoughts and placed the human being, united to race, religion or colour, at the very centre of my concern in books like *Beyond Nationalist Frames: Postmodernism, Hindu Nationalism, History* (IU Press, 2002) and in other texts.

30 years had rendered the work dated, and revising it seemed futile. My own historical perspective had also changed, prompting a new text. You yourself concentrate on creative expression. So, I think you will appreciate my chapters on "Languages and Literatures" as well as "Visual and Performing Arts". Even the very title of the book carries a creative undertone which everyone will recognise.

But the genuine study of history and its epistemic nature are nurtured by totally different impulses?

Obviously. When we reflect on the real worth of history, we travel beyond these petty religious, racial and even conscripted nationalist frames. We champion many histories, including those of Dalits, subalterns, the environment, gender, art and faith. In other words, we propose a stimulating multitude of narratives instead of a black-and-white, mythical account crafted by Hindutva and chained from all sides.

You endorsed the history of the subalterns initially, but later opposed it. How would you evaluate this conflict, this drastic change in your attitude?

First, I recall the attachment. When I visited Oxford for a year in 1976-77, I interacted with the historians of the Subaltern School, Professor Ranajit Guha in particular, who was reverentially called 'Pope' by his associates. My discussions with him at his home in Sussex were really inspiring. In fact, once or twice, we conversed the whole night on the subject of Indian peasantry. He was fascinating. Well, I became one of the founders of the Subaltern Studies Collective.

But then later, I shall not go into names, some illustrious members categorically criticised the Enlightenment, the nation-state and secularism. Indeed, they came to link this critical trend with uncomfortable assessments which, at times, came perilously close to the worldview of Hindutva. Sadhvi Ritambhara, for instance, was presented as the bearer of 'subaltern consciousness'.

As a result, their 'history from below' turned out to be markedly different from my 'history from below', which I had explored in *The Swadeshi Movement in Bengal* (1973). Here, I endeavoured to go beyond the engagement of the bourgeois elite and include plebeians as well as peasants as protagonists of history. I simply rejected the top-down, privileged or typical nationalist narration which ignores the majority struggling down below.

I have clearly elaborated the reason for my "drastic change", as you put it, in my essay "Decline of the Subaltern in Subaltern Studies" that appeared in *Writing Social History* (1997) and, to a lesser extent, in "The Fascism of Sangh Parivar" in *Fascism: Essays on Europe and India* (2016), edited by Jairus Banaji.

Why did you thoroughly reconstruct your old *Modern India* (1983) and write the new narrative *Modern Times: India 1880s–1950s: Environment, Economy and Culture?*

30 years had rendered the work dated, and revising it seemed futile. My own historical perspective had also changed, prompting a new text. You yourself concentrate on creative expression. So, I think you will appreciate my chapters on "Languages and Literatures" as well as "Visual and Performing Arts". Even the very title of the book carries a creative undertone which everyone will recognise. I borrowed the title from that evergreen film by Charlie Chaplin, *Modern Times* (1936).

Subhoranjan Dasgupta *is an academic and author.*

BOOK REVIEW: NONFICTION

'Jan Morris': A life in the shadow of empire

Review of 'Jan Morris: A Life' (Faber & Faber, 2026) by Sara Wheeler

THEODORE GRIFFIN

"I'd have been a better writer if I weren't so self-obsessed," mused the elderly Jan Morris from her windswept Welsh home. But Morris had an exemplary career in books—she gave firsthand accounts of Venice, Everest, and her own sex-change, earning her numerous awards and canonisation in London's National Portrait Gallery. Often dismissed as an apologist for the empire, Morris was an enduring figurehead of a different generation of British travel writers. Sara Wheeler's masterful new biography does justice to the Forrest Gumpian Morris, who seemed to be present at every age-defining event. Wheeler wasn't wrong when she wrote that Morris "was the 20th century."

Long before Morris became Jan in a headline gripping sex-change, she was born James in the 1920s, shortly after the British Empire had reached its territorial apogee. James enjoyed a middle-class childhood cushioned from the worst of the '29 financial crisis, in a village overlooking the Bristol Channel, a waterway that linked the bustling imperial port to the Atlantic. The young Morris would watch the ships with longing; they represented the triumphs of empire and the exuberance of capitalism and its machines, morally dry themes that would reappear across the writer's future work.

Before long, the second world war began. After a solid education at elite British institutions, Morris joined the British army. He finished training shortly after peace was declared, but there was still much for a young British soldier to do on the European continent. It was ravaged by war and the fallen regimes' states were left without administration. The task fell on the Allies, who were already engaged in the paranoid jostling that would become the Cold War. Morris was sent to Venice and Trieste; the two cities he would eventually write his best travel books on.

From Trieste, Morris's regiment was sent to Palestine, where the British Mandate was mismanaging an emerging ethnic conflict in a series of characteristic imperial blunders that brought the ire of both the Jews and Arabs. Despite Morris's admiration for the perceived "splendour" of the British Empire, its actions under the Mandate was a shocking failure, he would later write.

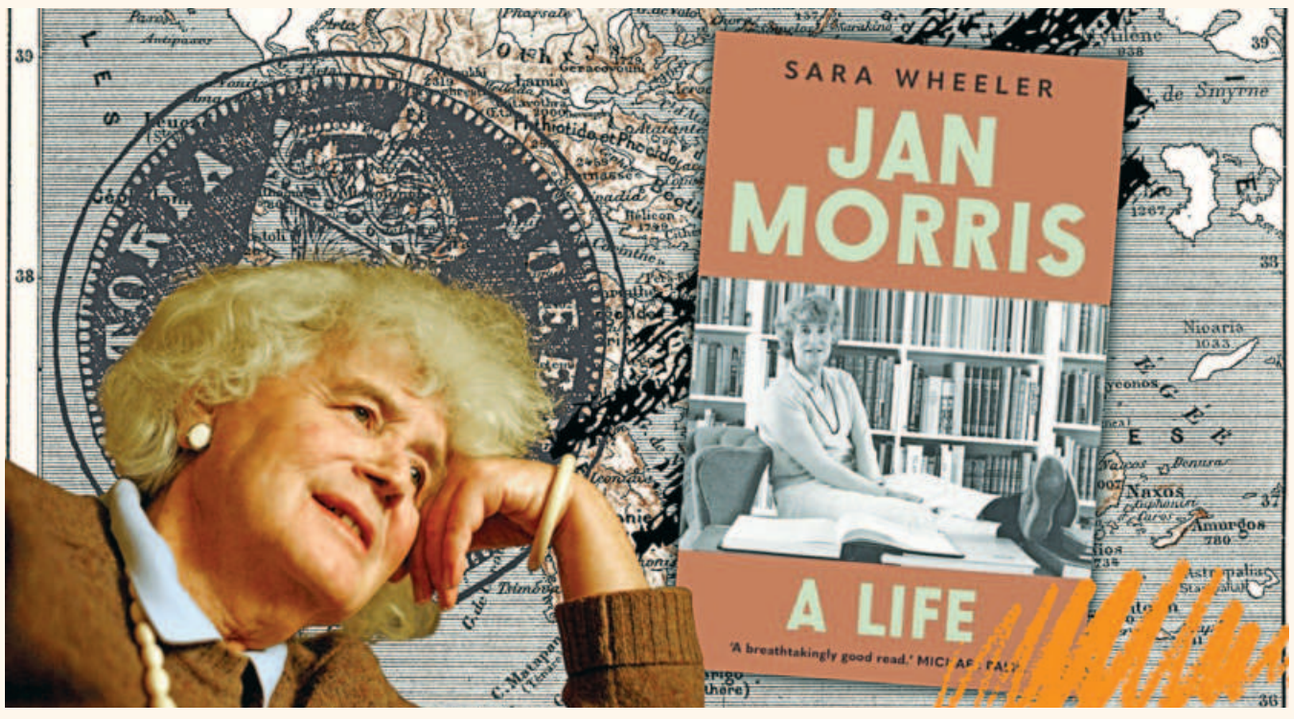


ILLUSTRATION: **MAISHA SYEDA**

After military service, Morris decided to embark on a career in journalism, securing a position at the *Times*, where he came to be seen as a promising young reporter. Journalism gave Morris access to the world. He reported from Cairo to Everest—where he was the first to break the news of its first successful summit. With growing attention from publishers, these years precipitated his career as a writer.

While he nursed a maturing career in foreign correspondence, Morris took his family to Venice—"where the Orient began." The resulting travel book, *Venice* (first published in 1960), is widely regarded as one of the best travel books ever written. More would follow, on the United States, the Hashemites, and the World Bank, none achieving the same success that Venice did.

Yet Morris was privately tormented by the sensation that he was born the wrong gender. He had been gobbling harmful hormone altering drugs that changed his body in increasingly visible ways. Appearing at his son's school cricket matches began to be an embarrassment. A peaceful home in Wales offered some respite, but his desire to change sex grew ever stronger. There was a famous surgeon performing such procedures in Casablanca, Morocco. It would not be without its risks, but for Morris, the alternative was suicide. Recovering from the surgery in a private Casablanca hospital, Morris, now writing as Jan, began her memoir of the experience. *Conundrum: An Extraordinary Narrative of Transsexualism* (1974) would eventually become a founding classic of trans literature.

The world's press was inevitably shocked and intrigued by Morris's sex-change. Appearing on British television, Jan was humiliated by an unrelenting host who asked vulgar questions and dismissed her as a "man who has eaten a great many pills."

Meanwhile, Morris was working on a trilogy of history books on the British Empire. Despite her (his) outward radicalism, *Pax Britannica* (1968) was a deeply conservative work. Imperialism had its faults, she admitted, but it was a "blessing to the world at large." Nonetheless, the work has remained a respected classic. Even left-wing journalist and historian Sathnam Sanghera, author of *Empireland* (Vikin, 2021), described *Pax* as the "one book" to understand the British Empire.

Was Morris really an apologist for empire? It often seemed so. But the truth was more ambiguous. She found the pomp and grandeur of empire attractive. For Morris, nostalgia for a lost childhood also played into her rose-tinted view of imperialism. She claimed to be against the principle of empire but called herself an "aesthetic imperialist" who liked the "beauty of scale" it offered. Needless to say, this is a lazy position—bells and whistles could never justify the atrocities at Amritsar or the Bengal Famine. But Morris, like many British travel writers of her generation and before, was a product of colonial attitudes that aspired to grand sweeping gestures and swashbuckling adventure. In their excitement, they were unwilling to see its true cost.

Morris was ultimately an old school optimist who embraced technology and liked machines. All the same, Morris lamented the homogenisation of world culture, often declaring that everywhere is starting to look the same. It's a shame that she couldn't more explicitly condemn the west she represented as responsible.

Sara Wheeler's work is unromantic and often exposes the uglier sides of Morris's character: her ego, her difficult relationship with many of her children, as well as her sometimes superficiality. But the enduring impression Wheeler's book provides the reader, recounting a non-stop showreel of adventure, is amazement. "What a life," one of Morris's obituaries exclaimed. It's difficult to disagree: Morris simply went everywhere. If you desire an amusing journey through the Helter-skelter 20th century, look no further than *Jan Morris: A Life.*

Theodore Griffin, *a student of philosophy, languages, and politics, splits his time between France and Scotland.*

DHAKA THURSDAY OCTOBER 15, 2026, ASHWIN 30, 1433 BS

SPORT



> I expect more [investment]. I expect more from our technical director [Jason Wilcox]. I have to be honest, as players, we have to do more but it is also important when you make a strong squad to be ready for this kind of night.
>
> **LISANDRO MARTINEZ**, Manchester United defender

Lessons only matter if Bangladesh learn

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's historic first-ever tour of Australia ended as expected, with the visitors swept 3-0 in the three-match WODI series following an eight-wicket thrashing in the final game in Brisbane yesterday.

Each game exposed the gulf in quality between Australia, the top-ranked side with seven World Cup titles, and Bangladesh, who are still striving to establish themselves at the highest level.

Australia, chasing in all three matches, finished each contest with more than 20 overs to spare. Even yesterday, the hosts romped to their 173-run target in just 22.3 overs.

Despite the glaring difference in results, however, Bangladesh skipper Nigar Sultana Joty found positives to take away from the tour.

"Each and every game, one of the players came up for the team. We have taken a lot of positives, and will try to improve in the future," Joty said after yesterday's game.

Joty's assessment holds true to an extent, as the series saw Sobhana Mostary steal the limelight with a superb 118 off 134 balls in the second ODI – the highest individual score by a Bangladeshi batter in women's ODIs.

She also shared a record-breaking 195-run partnership with Joty, who remained unbeaten on 74 in the same match.

Sharmin Akhter Supta and Shorna Akter also scored half-centuries in the final ODI, while Ritu Moni contributed 45 in the series opener. However, Bangladesh struggled with the ball and in the field throughout the series, shortcomings that ultimately proved costly.

"We have seen a lot of young players who played very well. It was challenging, but still, they were here and giving their 100 percent. A lot of learnings we can take from here," Joty added.

With women's cricket continuing to evolve, however, Bangladesh need to do more than simply treat such tours as learning experiences. While individual milestones and exposure against top opposition are valuable, the real measure of progress will be whether the Tigresses can turn those lessons into tangible improvements.



PHOTO: CRICKET AUSTRALIA

Barca keep on rolling

STAR SPORTS DESK

The first half of the Champions League's Matchday 2 fixtures delivered a night of major scares and stunning results yesterday. While Barcelona survived a hostile trip to Istanbul and Arsenal cruised at home, European giants Bayern Munich, Manchester United, and Inter Milan all stumbled.



PHOTO: AFP/REUTERS



Barcelona overturned a first-half deficit to thrash Galatasaray 4-1 at a hostile Ali Sami Yen Stadium. After Alexey Batrakov scored for Galatasaray in the 28th minute, Lamine Yamal pulled the strings with two assists, while Joao Cancelo leveled the score on the stroke of half-time. Second-half strikes from Fermin Lopez, Anthony Gordon, and Karim Adeyemi comfortably sealed the away win.

Bayern Munich were held to a wild 3-3 draw in Norway by newcomers Viking, who went 2-0 up at half-time. Harry Kane then sparked Bayern's revival with a 54th-minute penalty and a header six minutes later. The brace marked Kane's ninth consecutive Champions League game with a goal, trailing only Cristiano Ronaldo's record of 11. Luis Diaz gave Bayern a 71st-minute lead, but Michael Olise's red card three minutes later left the visitors exposed, allowing Herman Johan Haugen to snatch a dramatic stoppage-time equaliser.

Atletico Madrid needed just 50 seconds to punish Manchester United's high line, with Pablo Barrios scoring the opener.
United saw Lenny Yoro see a red in the 74th minute, and five minutes later, Ademola Lookman tapped in a rebound to secure a polished 2-0 home victory.

Club Brugge pulled off a spectacular 4-3 upset at Inter Milan, fueled by Nicolo Tresoldi's hattrick. After Tresoldi's 30th-minute penalty was canceled out by Lautaro Martinez, a defensive mix-up gifted Tresoldi his second. He completed his treble in the 74th minute. Though Martinez struck again to give Inter hope, Romeo Vermant added Brugge's fourth, rendering Ange-Yoan Bonny's stoppage-time goal a mere consolation for the San Siro crowd.

Arsenal finally broke Lille's resistance in the 64th minute through a Jurrien Timber strike. Substitute Bukayo Saka then set up Eberechi Eze before adding a 71st-minute goal of his own to cap a 3-0 home win.

Notun Kuri Sports returns with 10-fold rise in entries

SPORTS REPORTER

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman is expected to inaugurate the second edition of Notun Kuri Sports at Khulna Stadium on November 5, state minister for youth and sports Aminul Haque told reporters during a view-exchange meeting at the National Sports Council on Wednesday.

"Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has given his nod to declare Notun Kuri Sports Season-2 open across 503 upazilas on November 5. The opening ceremony at Khulna Stadium will also be shown at upazila-level venues," said Aminul, adding that the sports carnival is expected to conclude in late April or early May next year.

"We are going to organise Notun Kuri Sports from 4,599 unions, followed by upazilas, districts, divisions and the final stage in Dhaka."

He further informed that around 16 lakh 23 thousand participants aged 10 to 14 have registered across 10 disciplines this time. The inaugural edition had featured eight disciplines, with around 1 lakh 68 thousand youngsters registering and 306 athletes selected for advanced training.

"Some 306 athletes are currently undergoing a 40-day training camp at BKSP, after which the outstanding performers will be admitted there for further development, with all expenses covered by the government.

"Previously, athletes left after each competition or talent hunt, but this initiative aims to develop them into professional athletes. If we can continue this for the next three to four years, we can create a strong pipeline of players for the national teams."

A question of balance beyond Abu Dhabi

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI

Bangladesh have often relied on spin to run through opponents in home Tests, where surfaces, particularly in Mirpur, have traditionally favoured slow bowling. But the Tigers have become a more balanced unit, with pace proving an effective weapon against Pakistan at home and Australia away.

Their decision to field only two pacers in the one-off Test against Afghanistan in Abu Dhabi, despite their recent progress, raises questions over whether they are trusting their greatest strength enough.

Spin has traditionally done better at the Zayed Cricket Stadium, but only marginally. In Tests over the past 10 years, spinners have taken 142 wickets there, compared to 125 for pacers. Bangladesh backed their three frontline spinners for the match, who boast more than 500 Test wickets between them. However, the limitations of spin on flatter surfaces were exposed in Abu Dhabi.

The Tigers have previously seen the same trio of Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Taijul Islam and Nayeem Hasan taken apart by Kyle Mayers in Chattogram. They also fell into their own spin trap in 2023, when New Zealand's spinners outperformed their Bangladesh counterparts to win the second Test in Mirpur.

Did Bangladesh once again focus too heavily on conditions at the expense of their own strengths?

Hasan Mahmud and Ebadot Hossain certainly made their presence felt in Abu Dhabi. Hasan claimed a historic hattrick and finished with six wickets in the match, while Ebadot took seven, including three in the second innings when the other bowlers struggled for breakthroughs. Of Afghanistan's 18 wickets to fall across the match, the two pacers claimed 13.

Captain Najmul Hossain Shanto faced questions over whether Bangladesh had misread the pitch by opting for three spinners instead of an additional pacer. Shoriful Islam and Khaled Ahmed were available as alternatives.

West Indies squad for Bangladesh series

Following an extended run across all three formats, West Indies rested white-ball captain Shai Hope for their upcoming two-Test series against Bangladesh. The series will begin in Mirpur on October 28, with the second Test scheduled to start in Sylhet on November 5.

SQUAD:

Roston Chase (captain), Jomel Warrican (vice-captain), Joshua Bishop, John Campbell, Tagenarine Chanderpaul, Joshua Da Silva, Justin Greaves, Kavem Hodge, Amir Jangoo, Shamar Joseph, Brandon King, Keemo Paul, Kemar Roach, Jayden Seales, Kevin Wickham.



"Regarding the pitch, I think we could take another seamer. But I think looking at the condition and the weather, I think it's very difficult to judge," Shanto acknowledged after the match on Tuesday.

"I don't think the wicket and the combination is the thing. I think we didn't take those opportunities, especially in the field," he added.

Spin coach Mushtaq Ahmed had said after the second day that Shoriful was 'underbowled' before the match, suggesting he might not have been fit enough to play. Khaled, however, was available after a successful county stint but remained on the bench.

The management's plans appear to have revolved around spin, with the extreme Abu Dhabi heat expected to place an additional burden on the pacers.

Bangladesh now face important home Tests against the West Indies later this month as they pursue their World Test Championship (WTC) ambitions. Team management sources have hinted at sporting pitches, where pacers could exploit extra bounce while spin would remain relevant.

Yet Abu Dhabi showed the risks of moving away from pace despite its recent success. With the West Indies Tests approaching, Bangladesh's biggest lesson should be to trust their pace strength before seeking an advantage through spin.

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Commercial Section

e-Tender Notice

Tender Ref No: (1) 26.05.0000.016.08.239.26.3826; Date: 12 October, 2026
(2) 26.05.0000.016.07.240.26.3827; Date: 12 October, 2026
(3) 26.05.0000.016.09.241.26.3828; Date: 12 October, 2026

Procurement of (1) 3,000 (Three Thousand) M. Ton/ 32,60,870 (Thirty Two Lac Sixty Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy) Liter Refined Rice Bran Oil in 2 Liter PET bottle.
(2) 10,000 (Ten Thousand) M. Tons White Refined Sugar in 50 kg bag.
(3) 10,000 (Ten Thousand) M. Tons Whole Husked (Without Husk) Red Lentil in 50 kg bag (National).

For the Fiscal year 2026-2027, e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of the following package:

Tender ID	Name of Item & Tender Package No	Procurement Method	Tender Invitation & Publication Date	Tender Security (BDT)	Tender Last Selling Date & Time	Tender Closing Date & Time	Tender Opening Date & Time	Delivery Location	Supply Schedule
1352867	3,000 (Three Thousand) M. Ton/ 32,60,870 (Thirty Two Lac Sixty Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy) Liter Refined Rice Bran Oil & Package No: e-Tender/TCB/Imp-023/Rice Bran Oil/2026-27.	OTM (NCT)	15 October 2026	1,32,00,000/- in words (One Crore Thirty Two Lac) Tk only. Validity should be minimum 90 days.	12 November 2026 11.00 pm	12 November 2026 12.00 pm	12 November 2026 12.00 pm	Offers are to be made on TCB's Godowns in Dhaka, Chattogram, Khulna, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Barishal, Moulovibazar, Mymensingh, Cumilla, Madaripur, Jhenaidhah, Bogura, Dinajpur, Gazipur/District's godown/ Upazila's godown.	Entire quantity of Goods is to be supplied within 45 days after signing contract.
1353558	10,000 (Ten Thousand) M. Tons White Refined Sugar. & Package No: e-TENDER/TCB/Imp-024/Sugar/2026-27.	OTM (NCT)	15 October 2026	2,64,00,000/- in words (Two Crore Sixty Four Lac) Tk only. Validity should be minimum 90 days.	12 November 2026 11.00 pm	12 November 2026 12.00 pm	12 November 2026 12.00 pm		Entire quantity of Goods is to be supplied within 60 days after signing contract.
1353559	10,000 (Ten Thousand) Whole Husked (Without Husk) Red Lentil. & Package No: e-TENDER/TCB/Imp-025/Red Lentil/2026-27.	OTM (NCT)	15 October 2026	1,99,00,000/- in words (One Crore Ninety Nine Lac) Tk only. Validity should be minimum 90 days.	12 November 2026 11.00 pm	12 November 2026 12.00 pm	12 November 2026 12.00 pm		Entire quantity of Goods is to be supplied within 60 days after signing contract.

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 portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP portal and from e-GP help desk (http://www.helpdesk@ eprocure.gov.bd).

Special Instruction
a) All terms and conditions related to the tender and product details are mentioned in the tender document.
b) The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any tender in whole/in part without assigning any reason.

(Md. Golam Khorshed)
Additional Director (Commercial)
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GD-2514





Proposal for 3rd LNG terminal sent back

Cabinet panel seeks further review

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase has returned the proposal for the country's third floating LNG terminal in Moheshkhali, Cox's Bazar by a Chinese state-owned company for further review.

At a virtual meeting chaired by Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury on Tuesday, the proposal to establish the floating storage and regasification unit (FSRU) by China National Energy Engineering & Construction (CNEE) under the government-to-government (G2G) method was placed.

The total cost of the proposed project has been estimated at Tk 12,324 crore for a 15-year term or Tk 13,161 crore for a 20-year term.

While the finance ministry's statement said the proposal was withdrawn, an official of the power, energy and mineral resources ministry said the committee gave some observations regarding the proposal and asked for those to be addressed before bringing it back to the next meeting.

Earlier on September 30, Petrobangla asked the Rupantarita Prakritik Gas Company (RPGCL) to get CNEE's feedback/opinion on the comments provided by the legislative and parliamentary affairs division before finalising the implementation agreement and terminal use agreement to

SEE PAGE 8 COL 3



An artisan carefully paints the eyes of an idol of Goddess Durga, giving it the finishing touch ahead of Durga Puja, one of the biggest religious festivals of the Hindu community. The photo was taken at the Shri Shri Kali Mata Temple in Barishal city.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Govt moves to tap economic potential of e-waste

Regional centres to recover precious metals, recycle and produce goods for export

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has drawn up a comprehensive plan to turn the country's growing electronic waste into a revenue-generating sector by setting up regional centres to recover precious metals, recycle reusable materials, and produce goods for export.

Under the initiative, the centres will initially be established at the divisional level before expanding to districts to sort discarded electronics and develop processing capacity, Saimum Parvez, special assistant to the prime minister on environment, forest and climate change, said at a seminar titled "Governance in E-Waste Management in Bangladesh: Challenges and Opportunities" in the capital.

The government is seeking domestic and foreign investors for the initiative, drawing on practices in the Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia and China, he said. The government is also discussing with several foreign firms to manufacture intermediate goods from locally generated e-waste for export.

The plan is part of the government's 3R -- reduce, reuse and recycle -- policy outlined in its election manifesto, Parvez said.

He said the widespread use of smartphones and other electronic gadgets meant almost everyone now contributed to e-waste generation. Rapid economic growth had also increased e-waste from homes and offices, while discarded batteries from auto-rickshaws and electric vehicles (EVs) were causing pollution and environmental hazards.

Parvez warned that importing EVs without adequate end-of-life disposal policies, charging infrastructure or alternative power solutions could put additional pressure on the national electricity grid.

Brig Gen Iqbal Ahmed, commissioner of the Engineering and Operations Division of the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission, said rapid technological changes meant telecom equipment quickly became obsolete, raising concerns about health risks and data security.

Dr Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh, said waste from solar panels could become a major challenge as the country expanded its use of renewable energy.

He urged the government to determine the lifespan of solar panels and formulate disposal policies accordingly.

Citing electronic voting machines (EVMs) as an example of inadequate planning, he said many machines bought at enormous expense had become a burden and were being stored at central locations in 41 districts.

Presenting the keynote paper, Abdullah Zahid Osmani, research associate in Environment and Climate Finance, said Bangladesh lacked up-to-date data on

SEE PAGE 8 COL 8



- Centres to be set up first at divisional level
- Foreign firms in talks for export-oriented manufacturing
- Only 3% of e-waste recycled and exported
- Solar panels, EVs, telecom equipment pose future waste challenges

Govt clears import of 2.37 lakh tonnes of fertiliser

Also approves purchase of nine LNG cargoes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government on Tuesday approved the purchase of nine liquefied natural gas (LNG) cargoes and 237,000 tonnes of fertiliser from the international market.

Singapore-headquartered commodities and logistics multinational Trafigura Pte will supply the LNG cargoes between December 2026 and December 2027, following approval from the Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase (CCGP).

The price of each cargo will be 10 cents per million British thermal units (MMBtu) below the Japan Korea Marker (JKM), the benchmark spot price for LNG delivered to Northeast Asia.

Of the total, 82,000 tonnes will be urea, 40,000 tonnes will be diammonium phosphate (DAP), and the remaining 1,15,000 tonnes will be muriate of potash (MoP).

The Energy and Mineral Resources Division submitted the proposal, recommending Trafigura as the supplier. The deal will be on a government-to-government basis, allowing the number of cargoes to be increased or reduced with mutual consent.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs had earlier approved the direct purchase of LNG.

Fertiliser imports approved

The CCGP also approved the import of 237,000 tonnes of fertiliser from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Russia and Canada through the Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation and the Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation, at a cost exceeding Tk 1,000 crore.

Of the total, 82,000 tonnes will be urea, 40,000 tonnes will be diammonium phosphate (DAP), and the remaining 115,000 tonnes will be muriate of potash (MoP).

The purchases include 40,000 tonnes of granular urea from Saudi Arabia's SABIC Agri-Nutrients Company at $446.67 per tonne and 42,000 tonnes from the UAE's Fertiglobe Distributions Limited at $531.67 per tonne.

The committee also approved 35,000 tonnes of MoP from Russia's JSC Foreign Economic Corporation (Prodintorg) at $383.80 per tonne and another 40,000 tonnes from the Canadian Commercial Corporation at $382.38 per tonne.

Another 40,000 tonnes of DAP will be imported from Saudi Arabia's MA'ADEN at $861.50 per tonne.

Airport expansion project costs rise

The CCGP also approved two contract

SEE PAGE 8 COL 5

RIYADH ATTACK

100 flights cancelled, over 15,000 affected

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Flight cancellations caused by restrictions at Saudi Arabian airports have now affected 100 flights and 15,393 passengers from Bangladesh, as continuing security threats prolong uncertainty over when normal operations will resume.

The latest figures from the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) show that 41 direct flights and 59 connecting flights have been affected since the restrictions began following successive missile and drone attacks on Saudi aviation facilities.

The disruptions have left migrant workers particularly vulnerable, with some facing imminent visa expiry or the end of their approved leave.

Some affected passengers are

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

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বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এসএসসি/সমমান-২০২৬, এইচএসসি/সমমান-২০২৫ ও ডিপ্লোমা-ইন-ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং-২০২৫ ক্যাটাগরিতে প্রবাসী কর্মীর সন্তানদের শিক্ষাবৃত্তি প্রদানের জন্য আবেদন আহ্বান।

প্রবাসী কর্মীর মেধাবী সন্তান যারা ২০২৬ সালের এসএসসি/সমমান পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ হয়ে দেশের বিভিন্ন শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠানে একাদশ/সমমান অথবা ডিপ্লোমা-ইন-ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং কোর্সে (১ম সেমিস্টার/বর্ষে) অধ্যয়নরত ও ২০২৫ সালে এইচএসসি/সমমান পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ হয়ে দেশের বিভিন্ন বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়/মেডিক্যাল কলেজে (১ম সেমিস্টার/বর্ষে) অধ্যয়নরত এবং বাংলাদেশ কারিগরি শিক্ষাবোর্ড হতে ২০২৫ সালে ডিপ্লোমা-ইন-ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ হয়ে দেশের বিভিন্ন বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে বিএসসি ইন ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং-এ (১ম সেমিস্টার/বর্ষে) অধ্যয়নরত তাদের নিকট হতে নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্তসাপেক্ষে অনলাইনে আবেদন আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

১। আবেদনের যোগ্যতা :
ক) যে সকল প্রবাসী কর্মী বিএমইটি'র বহির্গমন ছাড়পত্র অথবা ওয়েজ আর্নার্স কল্যাণ বোর্ডের মেম্বারশিপ গ্রহণ করেছেন তাদের সন্তান;
খ) একজন প্রবাসী কর্মীর সর্বোচ্চ ২ (দুই) জন সন্তান শিক্ষাবৃত্তির জন্য আবেদন করতে পারবে।

২। নিম্নোক্ত ছকে বর্ণিত শর্ত সাপেক্ষে শিক্ষার্থী আবেদন করতে পারবে-

ক্রম	ক্যাটাগরি	বিভাগ	বাংলাদেশের কারিকুলাম অনুযায়ী জিপিএ	
			(ক) প্রবাসী কর্মীর সন্তানের ক্ষেত্রে	(খ) প্রবাসে মৃত কর্মীর সন্তানের ক্ষেত্রে
০১	এসএসসি/সমমান ২০২৬	বিজ্ঞান বিভাগ	৫.০০	৪.০০
		মানবিক ও ব্যবসায় শিক্ষা	৪.৭৫	৪.০০
০২	এইচএসসি/সমমান ২০২৫	বিজ্ঞান বিভাগ	৪.৮০	৪.০০
		মানবিক ও ব্যবসায় শিক্ষা	৪.৫০	৪.০০
০৩	ডিপ্লোমা-ইন-ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ২০২৫	-	৩.২৫	৩.০০

৩। আবেদনের সাথে নিম্নোক্ত কাগজপত্রাদি আপলোড করতে হবে:
ক) পিতা/মাতা প্রবাসী কর্মী হওয়ার স্বপক্ষে প্রমাণক হিসাবে বিএমইটি'র বহির্গমন ছাড়পত্র/ওয়েজ আর্নার্স কল্যাণ বোর্ডের মেম্বারশিপ সম্বলিত পাসপোর্ট-এর কপি;
খ) শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান প্রধানের মোবাইল নম্বরসহ অধ্যয়নরত শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে প্রদত্ত প্রত্যয়ন পত্র;
গ) প্রবাসে মৃত কর্মীর সন্তানদের ক্ষেত্রে বিদেশস্থ বাংলাদেশ মিশন কর্তৃক ইস্যুকৃত এনওসি (দূতাবাস সনদ)-এর কপি;
ঘ) শিক্ষার্থীর যে কোনো তফসিলি ব্যাংকের হিসাব নম্বর ও ব্যাংক রাউটিং নম্বরসহ স্টেটমেন্ট (এজেন্ট ব্যাংকিং গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়);
ঙ) শিক্ষার্থীর ০১ (এক) কপি ছবি ও স্বাক্ষর এবং
চ) শিক্ষার্থীর জন্মনিবন্ধন/এনআইডি-এর কপি।

৪। শিক্ষাবৃত্তি প্রদানের মেয়াদ:
ক) এসএসসি/সমমান: একাদশ হতে দ্বাদশ শ্রেণি পর্যন্ত ২ (দুই) বছর, তবে ডিপ্লোমা-ইন-ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং কোর্সের ক্ষেত্রে সর্বোচ্চ ৪ (চার) বছর।
খ) এইচএসসি/সমমান: ডিগ্রি (পাস) কোর্স এর জন্য ৩ (তিন) বছর, স্নাতক এর জন্য ৪ (চার) বছর, তবে এমবিবিএস, বিডিএস (ব্যাচেলর অব ডেন্টাল সার্জারি), ডিভিএম (ডক্টর অফ ভেটেরিনারি মেডিসিন), বি.আর্ক (ব্যাচেলর অফ আর্কিটেকচার) এ ৫ (পাঁচ) বছর এবং অন্যান্য প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রেও ৫ (পাঁচ) বছর এবং
গ) ডিপ্লোমা-ইন-ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং: বাংলাদেশ কারিগরি শিক্ষাবোর্ড হতে ডিপ্লোমা-ইন-ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং এর ক্ষেত্রে বিএসসি ইন ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং পর্যায়ে ৪ (চার) বছর।

৫। অনলাইনে আবেদনের প্রক্রিয়া:
ক) সকল শিক্ষার্থীকে অনলাইনে আবেদন করতে হবে এবং আবেদনের জন্য https://portal.wewb.gov.bd লিংকে ভিজিট করুন।
খ) অনলাইনে আবেদনের সময়সীমা: ২৫ অক্টোবর ২০২৬ হতে ২৪ নভেম্বর ২০২৬ তারিখ পর্যন্ত।

৬। শর্তাবলি:
ক) শিক্ষাবৃত্তির আবেদন শুধুমাত্র অনলাইনে করতে হবে, সরাসরি বা ডাকযোগের আবেদন গ্রহণ করা হবে না;
খ) প্রবাসী কর্মীর পাসপোর্টে উল্লিখিত নামের সাথে আবেদনকারীর সনদে উল্লিখিত পিতা/মাতার নামের গরমিল পরিলক্ষিত হলে আবেদন বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে;
গ) অসম্পূর্ণ এবং ভুল তথ্য প্রদানকৃত আবেদন বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে এবং বৃত্তিপ্রদান সংক্রান্ত বিষয়ে কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে এবং
ঘ) এ সংক্রান্ত যেকোন তথ্যের জন্য প্রবাসী কল সেন্টার (দেশ থেকে: ১৬১৩৫ টোল ফ্রি এবং বিদেশ থেকে +৮৮০৯৬১০১০২০৩০) ও জেলা প্রবাসী কল্যাণ সেন্টারে যোগাযোগ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

০৮/১০/২৬
(মোঃ সাইদুর রহমান)
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