DHAKA FRIDAY OCTOBER 16, 2026

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SECOND EDITION



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ELON MUSK on slowdown of Ukrainian drone speeds



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Triumph of early rice varieties in the north

Fast-growing crops eradicated seasonal food crisis, unlocked year-round income for farmers

SUKANTA HALDER

Short-duration rice varieties have transformed livelihoods in northern Bangladesh, allowing farmers to grow an additional crop each year and boost both production and income in a region previously prone to periodic food shortages.

The cultivation of these rice varieties, developed by agricultural scientists at Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI), has helped eliminate "monga" -- the seasonal cycle of food crisis from September to November, which had long plagued the northwestern region, particularly Rangpur division.

The success reflects how agricultural innovation can help increase food production and improve livelihoods. The achievement resonates with the spirit of World Food Day, which is being observed today under the theme, "Innovate today. Nourish tomorrow."

Many farmers in the north said that during the rainy season, they grow short-duration Aman rice, which takes three to four months to mature. They now harvest up to three crops a year.

Agriculture officials said a traditional rice variety requires 136 to 155 days to mature. It yields less -- 4.4 to 5.5 tonnes per hectare -- compared with 5.5 to 6.6 tonnes for short-duration varieties.

"Farmers who previously harvested

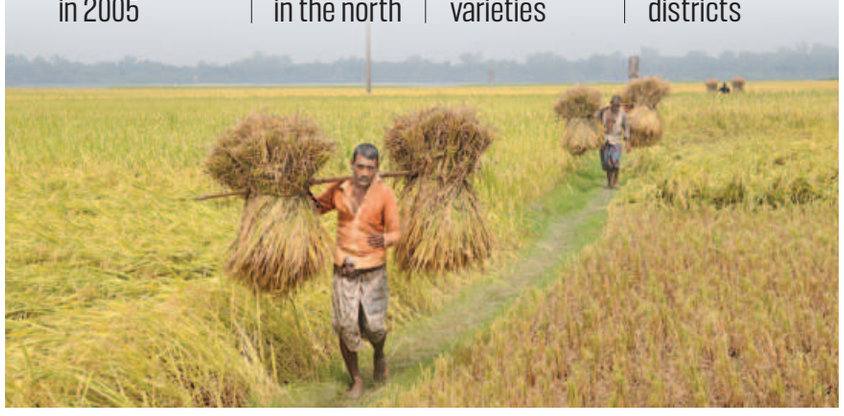
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BRRI launched field trials of short-duration rice varieties in 2005

They account for about 25% of Aman cultivation in the north

They mature in 100-120 days against 136-155 days for traditional varieties

These varieties widely cultivated in 5 northern districts





Police disperse garment workers blocking the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway at Azampur in Uttara yesterday. The workers demonstrated for the third consecutive day, demanding a minimum basic salary of Tk 30,000. Stories on Page 12. PHOTO: **MEHEDI HASAN**

Journalist shot dead in Netrokona

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Netrokona*



Lutfozzaman Fakir Alif

A journalist was shot dead by unidentified assailants in Netrokona's Durgapur upazila last night.

The victim, Lutfozzaman Fakir Alif, from Sunai village in Pogla union of Kalmakanda upazila, was the Netrokona correspondent of private IPTV channel Ruposhi Bangla. He also ran a Facebook page called "Detective Article", where he regularly posted about alleged corruption, irregularities and criminal activities.

The attack took place around 8:00pm at Uttarail Bazar on the Shyamganj-Birishiri Road.

According to police and local sources, Alif was chatting with others at a shop when two young men arrived on a motorcycle and opened fire at him.

Hearing the gunshots, locals rushed to the scene, but the attackers fled on their motorcycle.

Alif was taken to Durgapur Upazila Health Complex, where doctors declared him dead.

Khondokar Shaker Ahmed, officer-in-

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CONSULAR DIALOGUE

Dhaka to press Delhi for Hasina's extradition

TASNIM MOHSIN

Bangladesh is set to seek the extradition of ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal and the alleged killers of Sharif Osman Bin Hadi at the upcoming fifth consular dialogue with India.

It would be the first time Dhaka has raised the issue at a formal meeting of this kind since the July uprising, diplomatic sources in Dhaka and New Delhi told The Daily Star.

Upcoming dialogue to cover cross-border movement, push-ins from India, visa services, repatriation of detained nationals, release of fishermen, the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty, extradition cases, and renewal of the Revised Travel Arrangement.

In December 2024, Dhaka sought their extradition through a diplomatic note verbale and and renewed the request after their convictions.

The meeting will be held at the director-general level in Dhaka ahead of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's possible visit to India.

Bangladesh proposed holding the dialogue in late October, while India wanted it in early November because of the Durga Puja festivities, officials said.

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DURGA PUJA GREETINGS!

We wish our readers a joyous celebration of Durga Puja, one of the biggest festivals of the Hindu community. Let the festivities begin on a note of communal harmony and prosperity.

Bangladesh's progress stalls in reducing hunger

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Bangladesh's progress in reducing hunger has slowed, with rising child wasting undermining gains in other indicators.

The 2026 Global Hunger Index (GHI) ranks Bangladesh 84th among 122 countries, with a score of 19.2 -- down from 20 in 2018. The country remains in the moderate hunger category.

Bangladesh's GHI score has improved by just 4 percent since 2018, compared with a reduction of more than 42 percent between 2000 and 2018.

Meanwhile, child wasting -- a life-threatening form of acute malnutrition -- rose from 8.4 percent in 2018 to 12.9 percent in the latest assessment, its highest level since 2000, according to the report. Wasting, measured by low weight relative to height, is associated with a higher risk of illness and death among young children.

Other indicators showed improvement.

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PHOTO: **PALASH KHAN**

Family members carrying luggage walk along a platform at Kamalapur Railway Station in the capital yesterday as people leave Dhaka for their hometowns to celebrate Durga Puja with loved ones. The five-day festival begins across the country today with Maha Shasthi.

IN FOCUS

Old worries stay as KL reopens labour market

Costs, departure procedures remain unclear; 25 agencies retain control

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Malaysia's labour market has reopened to Bangladeshi workers after more than two years, but the control of key recruitment procedures by 25 selected agencies has revived fears of a return to the system that saddled migrants with exorbitant costs.

The Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment yesterday announced the resumption of recruitment, allowing approved agencies to process applications and prospective workers to undergo medical examinations.

However, the ministry provided no details on recruitment costs, departure dates or the formalities workers must complete.

The government also said Malaysia had agreed in principle to recruit 10,000 workers at zero cost, without specifying the eligibility criteria or selection process.

Experts and agency owners say the arrangement fails to address longstanding concerns over transparency, excessive costs and the dominance of a few agencies.

Migration specialist Asif Munier warned that unclear eligibility criteria for the zero-cost jobs could raise false hopes among prospective workers, while continued reliance on selected processing agencies raised concerns about a recurrence of past irregularities.

An agency owner registered with Malaysia's Foreign Workers Centralised Management System told The Daily Star, on condition of anonymity, that workers will have to pay at least Tk 5 lakh. "Though the government is expected to set the migration cost at around Tk 86,000 this year, but considering the

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China, N Korea open border bridge to boost trade

AFP, *Dandong*

A new four-lane road bridge linking China and North Korea finally opened yesterday, 12 years late, enabling the Asian giant and its isolated nuclear-armed neighbour to step up cross-border trade substantially.

China is its neighbour's largest trading partner and a vital diplomatic and political backer, although relations have not always been smooth with the ruling Kim dynasty.

Hundreds of people gathered yesterday in the northern Chinese border town of Dandong, taking selfies in front of the 3,026-metre (9,927-feet) New Yalu River vehicle bridge before it opened.

Trucks bearing the nations' flags began moving in both directions late morning, AFP reporters at the scene said, some of the North Korean vehicles decorated with flowers.

"It's great," one woman who came to watch told AFP in the town dotted with Chinese as well as Korean shops and restaurants, where residents were relieved the bridge had finally open.



Palestinian school children are ushered away from the site of an Israeli drone strike that killed one Palestinian in Jabalia in the northern Gaza Strip yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Durga Puja festivities begin with Maha Shasthi today

UNB, *Dhaka*

Durga Puja, the biggest religious festival of the Hindu community, will begin in Bangladesh today with Maha Shasthi.

On the first day, devotees will perform Bodhan, the ceremonial awakening and invocation of Goddess Durga, marking the formal beginning of the festivities.

This year, Durga Puja will be celebrated at 33,165 mandaps across the country.

Devotees of all ages are expected to visit the mandaps and offer prayers to Goddess Durga, seeking her blessings for peace, prosperity and the welfare of the country and its people.

Mahalaya, which marks the beginning of preparations for Durga Puja, was observed across the country on October 9. Associated with the ceremonial invocation of Goddess Durga, it is observed seven days before the festival begins.

The main rituals will continue through Bijoya Dashami on October 21, when devotees bid farewell to the goddess. The festival will conclude with the immersion of idols.

This year, Maha Saptami Puja will be observed over two days, October 17 and 18, followed by Maha Ashtami on October 19 and Maha Nabami on October 20.

Security has been tightened to ensure peaceful celebrations, with members of various law enforcement agencies deployed at puja mandaps across the country.

A total of 212,118 members of the Bangladesh Ansar and Village Defence Party have been deployed during the festival, with eight personnel assigned to each high-risk mandap and

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Triumph of early rice varieties

FROM PAGE 1

two crops annually are now producing three," said DAE Deputy Director (Rangpur Region) Sayada Sifat Zahan.

She said more and more farmers are growing Rabi or winter crops after harvesting early-maturing Aman.

Aman, which makes up 40 percent of annual rice production, was cultivated on 621,690 hectares across five districts of Rangpur Division this year. Short-duration rice varieties accounted for 155,422 hectares or about 25 percent, up from 20 percent five years ago, according to data from the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE).

Agriculture officials said the government began field trials of early-maturing Aman in 2005 to eliminate monga. Gradually, cultivation of such rice varieties expanded across the northern region and other parts.

Farmers harvested a record 1.73 crore tonnes of rice across the country last Aman season as they expanded cultivation of high-yielding and hybrid varieties, according to a recent report by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.

WHAT FARMERS SAY

For Ahad Ali from Kurigram's Dasiar Chhara village, early harvest means he doesn't need to wait longer to grow his next crop.

This year, he planted early-maturing varieties on three bighas of his nine-bigha plot and long-duration varieties on the rest. After harvesting paddy on those three bighas early this month, he immediately prepared the three bighas for winter vegetables: cauliflower, tomatoes and also chilli.

"Now I can harvest Aman about a month earlier and grow winter vegetables afterwards. This allows me to cultivate an additional crop from the same land and increase my income," said 50-year-old Ali, who has been growing short-duration varieties for seven years.

In Lalmonirhat's Karnapur village, 65-year-old Ranjit Debnath recently harvested an early-maturing variety of rice on two bighas of his eight-bigha plot.

"I have been cultivating early-maturing Aman for eight years. I consider it an additional crop because I can earn more from winter vegetables after harvesting the paddy," said Ranjit, who already prepared two bighas for growing cauliflower this year.

Last year, he grew cauliflower on two bighas and made a net profit of Tk 90,000. "If the weather remains favourable, I hope to make a profit of over Tk 100,000 from cauliflower sales this year," he added.

EARLY AMAN TRIALS

With the aim of eliminating monga, BRRI and Rangpur-Dinajpur Rural Service, a non-governmental organisation, launched field trials of a short-duration Aman variety in 2005.

Md Mazid, former chief scientific officer and head of Agronomy Division at BRRI, led the initiative and started testing BRRI Dhan-33 in farmers' fields.

The following year, the DAE, BRRI and several NGOs worked together to expand its cultivation in the north. By 2010, was being cultivated widely across the region.

In northern Bangladesh, particularly in the Rangpur region, a lack of agricultural work during the Bengali months of Ashwin and Kartik (mid-September to mid-November) once triggered seasonal monga.



AI-assisted illustration

Recalling his experience during that period, Md Mazid said, "During my stay in Rangpur in 2002, farmers grew long-duration varieties such as BR-11, which were harvested in Agrahayan (late November to mid-December). Earlier in Kartik, labourers had no work.

"They sold their labour in advance, borrowed rice from moneylenders and had to repay one and a half maunds for every maund borrowed. They even had to sell their cattle to survive."

All that changed through the cultivation of BRRI Dhan-33, which matured a month earlier, creating agricultural work such as harvesting and threshing. It freed land early for growing potatoes, which sold for Tk 80 to Tk 100 a kg instead of about Tk 10 at the peak season, he said.

Khandakar Md Iftekharuddaula, chief scientific officer and head of the Plant Breeding Division at BRRI, said early-maturing varieties ripen 30 to 40 days earlier than the conventional ones.

Farmers can now grow three crops a year on the same land, and in some cases even four, by following cropping patterns that combine Aman, potato, mustard, winter vegetables and Boro, he said.

Abu Fattah Md Rawshan Kabir, deputy director of the DAE in Kurigram, said farmers previously left their land fallow for around three months before planting early winter vegetables.

They are now using that period to cultivate early-maturing Aman, he said, adding that yields from early-maturing Aman varieties have increased from 13-14 maunds per bigha to 16-18 maunds in many cases.

These rice varieties are now cultivated across vast areas of Rangpur, Gaibandha, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat and Nilphamari, and also in parts ofother districts, including Dinajpur, Thakurgaon, Rajshahi, Satkhira and Gopalganj.

Md Obaidur Rahman Mondol, director of the DAE's field service wing, said these varieties are not suitable for all regions, as land conditions and cropping patterns vary, he said. These could be difficult to grow in areas where water levels remain high during the planting season, he said.

WHAT EXPERTS SAY

Wais Kabir, former executive chairman of the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council, said short-duration rice varieties could help farmers reduce losses from flash floods and rising soil salinity.

He stressed the need for adjusting planting dates and choosing the right varieties based on types of soil and weather conditions.

Sharif Ahmed, a cropping systems agronomist at Bangladesh office of the International Rice Research Institute, said the introduction of a third crop during the fallow period between two rice crops could help diversify production and reduce dependence on imports.

He said farmers in several areas have already included mustard and legumes, such as mungbean and lentil, in their cropping systems. Legumes help improve soil fertility, while mustard adds organic carbon through decomposed leaves and crop residues.

These crops add organic matter to the soil, help maintain soil health and can reduce farmers' dependence on chemical fertilisers, he added.

Our Rangpur correspondent S Dilip Roy contributed to this report.

Dhaka to press Delhi for Hasina's extradition

FROM PAGE 1

A foreign ministry official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the two countries had begun a series of bilateral engagements ahead of a possible high-level meeting, including a trade meeting held a week ago.

"At the consular dialogue, Dhaka will seek the extradition of political figures currently taking refuge in India, including Sheikh Hasina, Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal and the alleged killers of Sharif Osman Bin Hadi," the official said.

Hasina has remained in India since fleeing Bangladesh during the mass uprising in August 2024. She and Asaduzzaman were sentenced to death in absentia by Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal in November 2025 for crimes against humanity.

According to Indian media reports, India's courts, rather than its government, will ultimately decide whether to extradite Hasina. The courts would have to determine whether the alleged offences are also recognised under Indian law.

India's extradition law provides for a judicial inquiry. If a magistrate finds a prima facie case, extradition may be recommended; otherwise, the fugitive may be discharged.

Bangladesh's request includes the required legal documents under the 2013 India-Bangladesh Extradition Treaty. The treaty provides for surrender of people charged with or convicted of offences, while excluding certain political offences. However, serious crimes including murder, manslaughter, assault, incitement to murder and crimes against humanity cannot automatically be treated as political offences.

Established in 2017, the consular dialogue is a regular mechanism for discussing consular matters, visa procedures and mutual legal assistance. The two countries have held four rounds, the latest in New Delhi in May 2024, before the July uprising.

The upcoming meeting will also cover border and cross-border movement, push-ins from India, visa services, repatriation of detained nationals, release of fishermen, the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty, extradition cases and renewal of the Revised Travel Arrangement (RTA), officials said. The RTA has been extended every six months since its expiry in 2023.

Esha Srivastava, joint secretary of the consular, passport, and visa division of India's Ministry of External Affairs, and Shah Asif Rahman, director general of the South Asia wing of Bangladesh's foreign ministry, will lead the delegations, officials said.

PUSH-IN, REPATRIATION

Dhaka will raise incidents in which people have been pushed into Bangladesh from India since the July uprising, a foreign ministry official said.

India, meanwhile, has complained that Bangladesh has yet to repatriate people whose names appeared on lists of detained Bangladeshi nationals shared by New Delhi.

The official said some lists contained repeated names or insufficient details, making identification difficult. Bangladesh has repatriated those whose identities it could verify, he said.

"At present, 1,448 Bangladeshis are serving prison sentences in various Indian jails," the official said, adding that the government's policy was to repatriate Bangladeshi nationals found to be residing illegally abroad.

India will seek the repatriation of 25 of its nationals who have completed their sentences in Bangladeshi prisons, and their identities have been verified, according to the consular wing of the Indian High Commission in Bangladesh. These verified Indian nationals are currently lodged as "release prisoners" awaiting repatriation.

Bangladesh has also shared a list of 121 prisoners reportedly identified as Indian nationals whose sentences have been completed.

However, the high commission said insufficient personal details in many cases had made verification difficult.

It has sought consular access to verify their nationality and is awaiting a response from Dhaka. In some cases, sufficient information had been provided, but the process of verifying nationality was still ongoing.

The repatriation of fishermen is another Indian priority. An Indian High Commission official said New Delhi had shared a draft protocol with Dhaka to speed up the process.

"On humanitarian grounds, we want these fishermen to be repatriated at the earliest possible time, as there is no visible border in the sea and they often cross it by mistake," the official said, adding that even short periods of detention affected their livelihoods.

Cruise missile intercepted in Madina region

Says Saudi-led coalition; Houthis deny attack

AFP, *Riyadh*

The Saudi-led military coalition fighting Yemen's Houthis yesterday said it had intercepted a cruise missile in the Madina region, but the Houthis denied carrying out any such attack.

"Interception and destruction of a cruise missile in the Madina region," coalition spokesman Turki Al-Malki wrote on X, with the statement also published by state media.

The Houthis quickly responded by saying they did not target the region yesterday, and had previously vowed to spare the holy cities of Medina and Makkah.

Saudi Arabia has in recent days come under sustained attack from the Houthis, including a strike on Riyadh's international airport that was the kingdom's deadliest in years, as the war with the group escalates.

Riyadh has hit back with strikes against the Iran-backed group's stronghold in the Yemeni capital Sanaa.

"The Yemeni armed forces confirm that they have not carried out any operation today targeting Saudi territory, and that the Saudi enemy's claims of an attack on Madina are a shameless and brazen lie," Houthi military spokesman Yahya Saree wrote on X yesterday.

The Saudi-led coalition also said 20 attacks by the Houthi group on Riyadh airport in October had resulted in 17 fatalities.

Meanwhile, a Saudi foreign ministry official has accused Iran of encouraging the Houthis in their ongoing fight with the kingdom, adding that Tehran continues to arm and train the group.

On Wednesday the Houthis said they had targeted facilities belonging to Saudi oil giant Aramco, with Saudi officials reporting a strike on a building in an area housing the energy giant's operations centre.

As the conflict escalates, a summit between the European Union and Gulf countries in Riyadh has been postponed, Brussels said yesterday.

"The second Summit between the European Union and the Gulf Cooperation Council, originally planned for 24 October 2026 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, has been postponed," said the European Council representing the 27-nation bloc's member states. "A new date will be announced in due course."

Medical libraries ordered to keep books on Zia, Khaleda

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The health ministry has directed all government and private medical colleges and hospitals to keep three books in their libraries -- two on late president Ziaur Rahman and former prime minister Khaleda Zia, and one by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman.

The Health Services Division (HSD) issued the directive on September 27, asking the heads of all agencies under its jurisdiction to take necessary steps, according to the document.

At least one agency, the Directorate General of Nursing and Midwifery, has since directed its subordinate organisations to comply, this newspaper has learnt.

The move followed an application submitted by Jatiyatabadi Prokashona Sangstha, publisher of the books, to State Minister for Health MA Muhit on August 23.

Muhit "strongly recommended" the proposal by writing the words on the application, which bears his seal, signature and date.

Contacted yesterday, Muhit declined to comment on the matter.

The books are "President Zia: Rajnoitik Jiboni" and "Begum Khaleda Zia: Jibon O Songram", both by Mahfuz Ullah, and "Sobar Agey Bangladesh", listed as a book by Tarique Rahman.

Their combined cover price is Tk 4,700.

The directive comes three months after a similar order for primary schools was cancelled.

On June 3, the primary and mass education ministry had asked the Directorate of Primary Education to ensure that the three books were kept in government primary-school libraries. On July 6, however, the ministry cancelled the decision.

In the August 23 letter to Muhit, Zahir Deepti of Jatiyatabadi Prokashona Sangstha requested that copies of the three books be purchased and preserved in the libraries of all government and private medical colleges and hospitals, describing them as historical documents on Bangladesh's political history.

"We believe the books are important as timely documents for doctors, nurses, medical students, healthcare seekers and conscious citizens," the letter said.

Citing the application, the HSD instructed the heads of its agencies to take steps to purchase and preserve the books in the libraries of government and private medical colleges and hospitals.

Similar government initiatives involving books on political leaders took place during the Awami League government.

In August 2019, the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education directed officials and teachers to buy 27 books on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman for students of government and non-government high schools and colleges. The books were published by Bangladesh Shishu Academy.

In 2014, the DSHE had also asked educational institutions to collect three books on Sheikh Mujib, written by a bureaucrat.

Bangladesh's progress stalls in reducing hunger

FROM PAGE 1

Child stunting -- low height for age caused by chronic malnutrition and repeated infections during early development -- declined from 29.8 percent in 2018 to 24 percent in the latest assessment. The proportion of the population experiencing undernourishment fell from 12.1 percent to 8.2 percent, while under-five mortality declined from 3.3 percent to 3 percent.

The report describes Bangladesh's long-term progress as "a generational achievement".

Child stunting has fallen from 54.9 percent in 2000 to 24 percent in the latest assessment, a reduction of 30.9 percentage points.

Studies cited in the GHI attribute the long-term decline in stunting largely to improvements in parental education, particularly maternal education, and household living conditions. Improvements in health, sanitation and demographic conditions have also contributed.

Among Bangladesh's neighbours, India scored 24.1, Pakistan 25.5 and Afghanistan 28.6, placing all three in the serious hunger category. Nepal scored 14.5 and Sri Lanka 10.2, both in the moderate category.

South Asia recorded an overall score of 23.5, remaining in the serious hunger category, while the global score stood at 18.1, classified as moderate.

The GHI measures hunger through four indicators: undernourishment, child wasting, child stunting and under-five mortality. Lower scores indicate less severe hunger.

Historical comparisons use recalculated data from different reference periods rather than scores published in earlier annual editions. The latest assessment draws on data from different years, including child-wasting estimates for 2021-2025, a 2025 child-stunting survey value and 2024 under-five mortality figures.

Journalist shot dead in Netrokona

FROM PAGE 1

charge of Durgapur Police Station, said Alif had at least three bullet wounds to his head, neck and chest.

"We are investigating the killing and making every effort to arrest those involved," the OC told The Daily Star.

He said police could not immediately identify the attackers or find a motive behind the killing.

On November 10 last year, Alif had survived an attack near Teribazar Ghat on the Someshwari river in Durgapur. Unidentified assailants hacked him with a knife, while one of his colleagues was allegedly threatened with a weapon when he tried to intervene.

BRTC to launch special Durga Puja bus service from Oct 20

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

For the first time, Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) will launch a special bus service for Durga Puja from October 20 to 24 to ensure safe and smooth journeys during the festival.

The service is being introduced under instructions from the Road Transport and Highways Division, according to a press release signed by BRTC Public Relations Officer Mostakim Bhuiyan, issued yesterday.

Advance ticket sales and reservations will begin today at 22 BRTC bus depots nationwide.



BRTC has kept 200 buses ready for intra-district and inter-district services on routes from Dhaka and Gazipur to Rangpur, Bogura, Gaibandha, Dinajpur, Pabna, Thakurgaon, Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Rajshahi, Naogaon, Panchagarh, Bhurungamari, Madaripur, Gopalganj, Kushtia, Barishal, Khulna, Tangail, Sirajganj, Mymensingh, Netrokona, Kishoreganj, Jamalpur, Sylhet, Sunamganj and Chattogram.

The number of buses will be increased depending on passenger demand, the release added.

BRTC will also keep 60 buses on standby at Motijheel Bus Depot, Fulbaria CBS-2, Sayedabad Bus Terminal, Gazipur Chowrasta, Chandra intersection, and Mohakhali Bus Terminal.



Once a fast-flowing waterway, the Belai river in Bagerhat's Rampal has become heavily silted up, losing much of its navigability. The accumulation of silt has reduced its depth and obstructed the natural flow of water, threatening aquatic biodiversity and local livelihoods while increasing the risk of waterlogging in surrounding areas. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

45th BCS gazette leaves dozens in the dark

Many suspect political affiliations behind exclusion, seek answers from authorities

BAHARAM KHAN *and* MAHATHIR MOHAMMED

Nearly 11 months after the 45th Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) recommendations were published, at least 56 candidates have been left out of the appointment gazette without knowing why.

The Public Service Commission (PSC) recommended 1,807 candidates in November last year, but the appointment gazette issued by the Ministry of Public Administration on Wednesday included 1,702 names, leaving out 105 previously recommended candidates.

According to candidates who maintain communication among themselves, the PSC cancelled one recommendation, while 48 candidates did not appear for medical examinations, leaving the other 56 confused about the exclusion.

During the July movement, I put my political identity aside and took to the streets. Why have I been excluded now because of that political identity?

SAZZAD HOSSAIN, an excluded candidate

While the gazette did not explain the exclusions, many of the excluded candidates said they knew of no reason for being left out, such as criminal cases against them.

The Daily Star could not obtain a specific explanation from the Ministry of Public Administration, but an official said the gazette was published following established procedures.

Around 30 excluded candidates held a rally at the Raju Memorial Sculpture on Dhaka University campus yesterday, demanding that the government resolve their cases and include them in the gazette by 10:00am on Saturday.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

IN BRIEF

4 die with measles-like symptoms

UNB, *Dhaka*

Four more patients died with measles-like symptoms in the 24 hours until 8:00am yesterday, bringing the country's combined tally of confirmed and suspected measles-related deaths to 1,181 this year.

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

With these deaths, the total number of suspected measles deaths has reached 1,077, while confirmed deaths from measles remain unchanged at 104.

A total of 1,306 new suspected measles cases were reported during the 24 hours, bringing the cumulative nationwide total to 2,09,876.

Meanwhile, 86 new confirmed measles cases were recorded, taking the total number of laboratory-confirmed infections to 22,926.

Since March 15 this year, a total of 1,86,583 patients with suspected measles have been hospitalised across the country. Of them, 1,78,869 have recovered, according to the DGHS.

Ten more die of dengue, 1,943 get hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 10 dengue patients died, and 1,943 others were hospitalised in the 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, marking the highest daily death toll again this year, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Of the deaths, four were reported in Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC), three in Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC), two in Chattogram division, and one in Dhaka division.



With the latest deaths and cases, the death toll rose to 331 and the total number of cases to 1,07,259 this year.

Currently, 5,897 dengue patients are receiving treatment at hospitals nationwide.

The country also recorded 10 dengue deaths in a single day on October 6.



Border Guard Bangladesh personnel stand guard in riot gear at the entrance to Ramna Kali Mandir in the capital as visitors walk past yesterday. BGB personnel have been deployed at major temples and puja mandaps across Dhaka to maintain security ahead of Durga Puja.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

34 cases of idol vandalism, temple attacks

Reports Puja Udjapan Parishad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad has reported 34 incidents of idol vandalism, attacks on temples and related violence ahead of Durga Puja, saying arrests have been made in 11 of the cases.

The Daily Star could not independently verify the claims.

"Security cannot be a concern for only the five days of Puja. We must ensure security for all 365 days of the year," said Santosh Sharma, general secretary of the Parishad, at a press conference at Dhakeshwari National Temple in Dhaka yesterday.

The incidents were reported in several districts, including Sylhet, Rajbari, Panchagarh, Netrokona and Tangail. The Parishad also reported attacks and looting targeting Hindu homes, shops and temples in Sunamganj.

A total of 33,851 pujas will be held across Bangladesh this year, including 258 in Dhaka city, down from 261 last year, the Parishad said.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

Personal data of 18 lakh Bangladeshis exposed on dark web

Says CyberStation report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than 18 lakh user records and at least 17,362 sets of login credentials linked to Bangladesh have been found on the dark web, according to a report by CyberStation, cybersecurity division of Brain Station 23 PLC.

The findings were presented at the Bangladesh Cyber Resilience Briefing 2026, held at BRAC Centre Inn in Dhaka yesterday as part of Cybersecurity Awareness Month.

Around 150 representatives from the government, banking, telecommunications, technology and education sectors, along with regulators and cybersecurity professionals, attended the event.

CyberStation assessed 767 domains across 15 sectors and found evidence of exposed personal information across almost all of them. Government services accounted for the largest share of exposed citizen records, while technology and telecommunications had the highest rates of data exposure, according to a press release.

The company said the figures are conservative estimates and that the actual scale of exposure could be higher.

"We cannot address risks that we cannot see. Our goal is to help organisations understand what information has been exposed and act before cybercriminals can misuse it," said Muhibbul Muktadir Tanim, head of cybersecurity services at CyberStation.

MJ Ferdous, executive director of Brain Station 23, stressed the need to reduce dependence on foreign software and strengthen Bangladesh's domestic cybersecurity capabilities.



Enact 'Right to Food Act'

Say speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Ctg*

Speakers at a programme in Chattogram yesterday demanded enactment of a "Right to Food Act" to ensure food security for all citizens.

The demand came at a public hearing on rising food prices and inflation affecting low-income urban populations, held at Chittagong Press Club.

Mohammad Abu Sufian, MP for Chattogram-9, pledged to raise the demand in parliament, according to a press release from the Consumers Association of Bangladesh.

"There is an urgent need to address the food crisis facing low-income people, enhance their purchasing power, and ensure the availability of safe and nutritious food," he said.

The event was organised by Food Security Network Bangladesh, ISDE Bangladesh and Participatory Research and Action Network.

SM Nazer Hossain, executive director of ISDE Bangladesh, presided over the event.



Belal Uddin, a resident of Chattogram, holds up two placards at the busy Kazir Dewri Circle intersection in the port city as part of his solo campaign to raise awareness of issues ranging from environmental pollution to social responsibility and human values. He has been running the campaign on his own initiative since the Covid-19 pandemic. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: **RAJIB RAIHAN**



More patients with severe dengue are being admitted to hospitals this month.

PHOTO: **STAR**

Dengue surge overwhelms CMCH

ARUN BIKASH DEY

Dengue cases in Chattogram are rising sharply, with 1,288 cases recorded in the first 14 days of October as patients face a shortage of beds at Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

The district recorded 98 new cases and two deaths in the 24 hours until 9:00pm on Wednesday, according to health officials.

During a visit to CMCH on Wednesday, this correspondent found its 50-bed dengue ward overcrowded, with 91 patients -- 52 men and 39 women -- admitted. All beds were occupied and some patients had to receive treatment on the floor.

Sirajul Mostafa Suman, 30, from Karnaphuli upazila, said he had been suffering from fever since October 10 and was advised to get admitted after testing positive for dengue. However, he had to stay on the floor as no beds were available.

As of Wednesday, the district's dengue caseload reached 5,754, with 28 deaths recorded this year, according to the civil surgeon's office. Five deaths have been reported so far in October.



With all beds occupied, some patients had to receive treatment on the floor.

PHOTO: **STAR**

The 1,288 cases recorded so far in this month are already more than half the 2,430 cases reported in September, when 16 people died. The district recorded 1,202 cases in August and 536 in July.

Dr Abdullah Abu Sayeed, associate professor of medicine at CMCH, said hospitals are receiving more patients from rural upazilas and the hill districts.

Health officials said intermittent rainfall leaves stagnant water in flowerpots, discarded tyres and open containers, creating breeding grounds for Aedes mosquitoes.

Civil Surgeon Dr Sajedur Rahman said authorities are distributing awareness leaflets based on mosquito-density surveys conducted by the Directorate General of Health Services in June this year.

Captain Ikhtiyar Uddin Ahmed, chief conservancy officer of Chittagong City Corporation, said daily drives are being conducted across wards to destroy mosquito larvae. He urged residents to remove stagnant water around their homes.

3 girls missing from Bandarban rescued in Ctg after 4 days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Bandarban*

Police rescued three teenage girls from two houses in Chattogram city yesterday, four days after they went missing from Lama upazila in Bandarban.

Bandarban Superintendent of Police Md Ohabul Islam Khandaker said police rescued the girls from two houses in the Khulshi Police Station area at night.

He said they were handed over to their families after the necessary legal formalities were completed.

Preliminary findings suggest that the girls had been staying at the houses to work as domestic help, the SP added.

Preliminary findings suggest that the girls had been staying at two houses to work as domestic help.

MD OHABUL ISLAM KHANDAKER
Bandarban Superintendent of Police

Two of the girls are seventh-graders, while the third is a ninth-grader at the same institution.

According to police, the ninth-grader left home on the morning of October 11, saying she was going to collect her registration card for the SSC examination. The other two girls left home later that day.

Their families searched various places but failed to find them and filed general diaries with Lama Police Station on October 13. Police subsequently launched an investigation.

Noakhali struggles with mounting waste

Shortage of trucks, manpower hampers garbage collection

ANWARUL HAIDER, *Noakhali*

Residents of Noakhali municipality have long been suffering due to poor waste management, with garbage piling up along roadsides, clogging drains and causing waterlogging.

Across all nine wards, waste is left to rot in the open, spreading foul odours and creating breeding grounds for pests. During rainfall, garbage washes into drains and spills onto roads, forcing pedestrians to wade through filthy water.

The situation is particularly bad in areas such as Noakhali Circuit House, Lawyers' Colony and Housing Estate, where there are no designated waste bins.

The municipality, established around 150 years ago, has yet to set up a designated waste disposal site.

"We have to pass this area with our faces covered to avoid the foul smell coming from garbage piled up along the roadside daily," said Golam Rabbani, a student.

"If municipal authorities ensured regular waste clean-up and disposal, our ordeals could have been less," said Prof Md Abul Basher, principal of Noakhali City College and a resident of Lawyers' Colony.

On the southern side of Noakhali 250-bed General Hospital, garbage, including medical waste, was seen overflowing from a dustbin, creating an unhealthy environment near the hospital.

Along the Sonapur-Choumuhoni regional highway near Shaheed Bhulu Stadium, waste was seen clogging a roadside drain. Locals said the road becomes waterlogged after rainfall, making it difficult for pedestrians to pass.

According to municipal sources, there are 93 dustbins across the municipality, which generate around 55 tonnes of waste daily.

Belal Ahmmed Khan, executive engineer of Noakhali municipality, said residents often dump household waste in the open and along roadsides instead of using designated dustbins, making collection and disposal difficult.

Saiful Islam, chief executive officer of the municipality, said two of its seven dump trucks had long been out of order and were sent for repairs.

"With only five trucks functional, alongside an acute shortage of manpower for conservancy operations, waste collection becomes difficult from all nine wards," he said.

"However, we are working to address the issues and steps will be taken to improve our waste management system," he added.



Garbage overflowing on to the road from a Secondary Transfer Station (STS).

PHOTO: **STAR**

CCC gives Tk 36.7 lakh in Durga Puja aid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Ctg*

The Chattogram City Corporation yesterday distributed Tk 36.7 lakh in financial assistance among 294 puja mandaps, major celebration committees and Harijan communities ahead of Durga Puja.

Of the amount, Tk 14.7 lakh was allocated for generator fuel, with each mandap receiving Tk 5,000 to ensure uninterrupted electricity during the festivities. CCC Mayor Shahadat Hossain announced the assistance and handed over cheques at an event at the Theatre Institute Chattogram.

MARRIAGE NOTIFICATION

This is to notify the public that Ms. INDRANI DATTA GUPTA, born on 13 September 1986, a citizen of Bangladesh, daughter of Late Mr. BARUN DATTA GUPTA and Mrs. BITHI DATTA GUPTA, residing in Dhaka, Bangladesh, was married to Mr. SOHAM GHOSH, an Indian citizen by birth, son of Late Mr. CHANDAN GHOSH and Mrs. SABITA GHOSH, residing at Hind Motor, Konnagar, District Hooghly, West Bengal, India, on 6 July 2026.
The marriage was solemnized in accordance with Hindu (Sanatan) religious rites and ceremonies, with the consent and blessings of both families, at Prianka Community Center, House No. 52/1, Road No. 3A, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1209, Bangladesh.
The marriage was registered on 16 September 2026 with Mr. Kamol Mazumder, Hindu Marriage Registrar, Dhaka South City Corporation, Anchal (Area)-Gha.
The registration details are as follows: Page No. 59, Volume No. 77/26.
This notification is published for public information and official record purposes.

Date: 15 October 2026
Place: Dhaka, Bangladesh

Soham Ghosh

NOTICE

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO. 1260 OF 2026

IN THE MATTER OF
Sindhu Roy, Managing Director, 4S Design n Development Ltd. -----Petitioner
-VERSUS-
The Registrar of Joint Stock Companies & Firms and another -----Respondents

Please take notice that an application under Section 81(2) read with Section 85(3) of the Company Act, 1994 for condonation of delay in holding Annual General Meeting (AGM) for the financial year ended on 30.06.2024 & 30.06.2025 of 4S Design n Development Ltd. has been filed before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. Upon his Lordship Mr. Justice Syed Mohammed Tazrul Hossain was pleased to admit the application on 08.10.2026.
Any person interested in the matter may appear before the Hon'ble Court on the date of hearing either personally or through duly appointed Advocate.

(Md. Asif Ekbal) Advocate, Supreme Court
Room # 225, 1st Floor, Supreme Court Bar Association Main Building,
Dhaka-1000. Phone: 01712091605

INDEPENDENT UNIVERSITY, BANGLADESH
Purchase & Procurement Department
Plot 16, Block B, Aftabuddin Ahmed Road, Bashundhara Residential Area, Dhaka 1245
Hotline: 09612 939393, Extention: 1651 and 1654

TENDER FOR LAB EQUIPMENT

Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) invites sealed quotations from the authorized distributors/dealers/suppliers for the supply, installation, testing and commissioning of **"one set of UHPLC with PDA and ELSD Detector"** for its Pharmacy Lab of the School of Pharmacy and Public Health.

Detailed specifications and other terms & conditions are provided in the tender schedule. Interested bidders may purchase the tender schedule from the Purchase & Procurement Department, Admin Building, Level 1, Room No. 2031, upon cash payment of Tk.1,000/- (non-refundable) to the Finance & Accounts Department during office hours (9-30 AM to 4.00 PM, Sunday through Thursday) **until October 27, 2026.**

Bidders shall submit their technical and financial bids in two separate sealed envelopes to the Purchase & Procurement Department **at any time before the deadline, but not later than 2:00 PM on November 03, 2026.** The financial bid must accompany an earnest money equivalent to 2.5% of the quoted value in the form of a Pay Order or Bank Draft issued by any scheduled bank in favor of Independent University, Bangladesh. The University authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of the bids without assigning any reason whatsoever.

NOTICE

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO. 1259 OF 2026

IN THE MATTER OF
Sindhu Roy, Managing Director, Maya Organic Agro Industries Ltd. -----Petitioner
-VERSUS-
The Registrar of Joint Stock Companies & Firms and another -----Respondents

Please take notice that an application under Section 81(2) read with Section 85(3) of the Company Act, 1994 for condonation of delay in holding Annual General Meeting (AGM) for the financial year ended on 30.06.2024 & 30.06.2025 of Maya Organic Agro Industries Ltd. has been filed before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. Upon his Lordship Mr. Justice Syed Mohammed Tazrul Hossain was pleased to admit the application on 08.10.2026.
Any person interested in the matter may appear before the Hon'ble Court on the date of hearing either personally or through duly appointed Advocate.

(Md. Asif Ekbal) Advocate, Supreme Court
Room # 225, 1st Floor, Supreme Court Bar Association Main Building,
Dhaka-1000. Phone: 01712091605.

NOTICE

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO. 1258 OF 2026

IN THE MATTER OF
Sindhu Roy, Managing Director, LnS Export Import & Trading Ltd. -----Petitioner
-VERSUS-
The Registrar of Joint Stock Companies & Firms and another -----Respondents

Please take notice that an application under Section 81(2) read with Section 85(3) of the Company Act, 1994 for condonation of delay in holding Annual General Meeting (AGM) for the financial year ended on 30.06.2024 & 30.06.2025 of LnS Export Import & Trading Ltd. has been filed before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. Upon his Lordship Mr. Justice Syed Mohammed Tazrul Hossain was pleased to admit the application on 08.10.2026.
Any person interested in the matter may appear before the Hon'ble Court on the date of hearing either personally or through duly appointed Advocate.

(Md. Asif Ekbal), Advocate, Supreme Court
Room # 225, 1st Floor, Supreme Court Bar, Association Main Building,
Dhaka-1000. Phone: 01712091605.

Bangladesh Lamps PLC.
Head office: House-22, Road-4, Block-F, Banani, Dhaka-1213

Price Sensitive Information

Based on Audited Financial Statements of the Company for the year ended 30th June 2026, the Board of Directors of Bangladesh Lamps PLC. at its meeting held on 14-10-2026 at 3:00 pm, decided to recommend cash dividend of Tk.1.00 per share of Tk.10/- each (i.e. 10%) for the said period.

The date of 65th Annual General Meeting of Bangladesh Lamps PLC. has been fixed on **Tuesday, 15-12-2026 at 11:00 a.m.** through digital platform. The register of members and share transfer book of the Company and the depository register of CDBL will remain closed on **09-11-2026, as Record Date.**

The key financial statistics as per the Audited Financial Statements of the Company are as follows:

	2025-2026	2024-2025
Net asset value (NAV) per share	Tk. 61.02	Tk. 39.93
Earnings per share (EPS)	Tk. 1.64	Tk. (6.22)
Net operating cash flow per share (NOCFPS)	Tk. (3.12)	Tk. (13.86)

The shareholders whose names will appear in the Register of Members of the Company on the Record Date will be eligible to attend the meeting and qualify for dividend.

By order of the Board

Dhaka
14-10-2026

Mohammad Ruhan Miah
Company Secretary

NOTES:

Shareholders bearing BO ID are requested to update their mailing & e-mail address through their Depository Participant (DP); and

Shareholders bearing Folio Numbers are requested to submit their mailing & e-mail address to the Share Department of the Company latest by November 05, 2026.

TRANSTEC
ON and AHEAD

Iran's military says oil tanker on fire in Gulf of Oman

AFP, *Tehran*

Iran's military yesterday said an oil tanker had caught fire in the Gulf of Oman as it was attempting to pass through an area deemed prohibited, according to state television.

"A few hours ago... surveillance teams of army's navy identified a non-compliant oil tanker that had caught fire," state television cited a military statement as saying. "The offending tanker had switched off its tracking systems and was attempting to pass through the prohibited area," it added.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said yesterday that the country was facing its most intense blockade since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, accusing the United States of seeking to provoke public protests.

He accused Washington of seeking to make life difficult for Iranians in order to fuel public anger and trigger unrest.

The US is considering using its biggest non-nuclear bomb against Iran if President Donald Trump should decide to renew combat in the war that has hit a deadlock, CNN reported yesterday.



Protesters stand amid tear gas fired by police during an anti-government demonstration in central Tirana, Albania, yesterday, as protests continued for a third consecutive day over university conditions and demands for the resignation of Prime Minister Edi Rama. PHOTO: **AFP**

Israeli strikes kill four Palestinians in Gaza

AFP, *Gaza City*

Palestinian officials said Israeli strikes killed four people in Gaza on Wednesday evening, days after the anniversary of the declaration of a US-mediated ceasefire.

Two young men died when Israeli forces struck a vehicle near Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip, civil defence spokesman Mahmoud Bassal and Nasser Hospital said.

Two other people, including a woman, were killed when an Israeli aircraft struck an apartment building in Gaza City, according to Bassal and Al-Shifa hospital.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who faces a tight reelection battle this month, has vowed no let-up in targeting Hamas despite the ceasefire that went into effect on October 10, 2025.

Ukrainian strikes spark fire at oil refinery south of Moscow

Six Russian military jets damaged in missile strike on airfield

AGENCIES

- Russia hits Ukraine's Izmail port, cargo vessels
- Two ships ablaze in Romanian Black Sea waters, 7 sailors missing

Russia said Ukraine targeted an oil refinery in Ryazan, around 180 kilometres south of Moscow, in the early hours of yesterday, causing a fire. The hit came after Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelensky told Britain's Financial Times newspaper Kyiv would resume hitting Russian refineries.

US President Donald Trump had last week announced a surprise "energy ceasefire" in the war, with Kyiv backing it but Moscow remaining silent. Russia has targeted Ukrainian power stations this week, causing cuts across the country.

Ukraine's military said yesterday it had damaged six Russian Su-34M military aircraft in an overnight strike on the Borisoglebsk airfield in Russia's Voronezh region.

Meanwhile, tech billionaire Elon Musk called on Wednesday for Zelensky to "go" as Ukraine's leader, after insisting any disruption to the war-torn country's use of his satellite communications system was the fault of the US government, not his company.

In a separate development, rescuers were searching for seven missing crew from one of two chemical tankers that caught fire overnight inside Romanian waters in the Black Sea, after Russian drones strayed into Romanian airspace.

Russia yesterday struck Izmail port in Ukraine's Black Sea Odesa region and has also hit two cargo vessels en route to Odesa, the Russian defence ministry said on Telegram.

NORTHWEST PAKISTAN

School roof collapse kills 32 children, teacher; 45 injured

REUTERS, *Islamabad*

At least 32 schoolchildren and one teacher were killed yesterday when the roof of a school collapsed during morning classes in the northwestern Pakistani city of Peshawar, police and rescue officials said.

Rescue workers spent hours pulling children from the rubble of the privately run Al-Khair Education Center, while panicked parents and relatives gathered outside the building seeking news of their loved ones.

Most of the students killed were under 13. At least 45 people suffered major and minor injuries, said Arif Khattak, regional director of the rescue department.

Television footage showed rescuers clawing through debris with their bare hands and carrying bloodied children to waiting ambulances as relatives and residents crowded the narrow alley where the school stood.

A higher-floor roof collapsed onto students in classrooms below, crumpling two storeys of the building, a rescue official said. "The fatalities include 12 girl students and a female teacher," Lady Reading Hospital spokesperson Mohammad Asim said.

Three children were in critical condition, with head injuries, Asim said, adding that most of the 20 injured brought to that hospital had been treated and sent home.

The incident took place at 8:48 am local time and the rescue operation lasted for four to five hours, Khattak said.

CJP founder free to hold protest at Connaught Place

Delhi High Court rules

AGENCIES

The Delhi High Court yesterday refused to pass an order restraining the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) and its founder, Abhijeet Dipke, from holding a protest at Connaught Place in the Indian capital today.

The court recorded the Delhi police's assurance that it would take "all possible measures" to control the situation. Dipke has called for a nationwide 'Lehra Do Tiranga' demonstration today, urging people to assemble at Central Park in Connaught Place at 5:00 pm with the national flag.

Meanwhile, the Election Commission has ordered a Special Summary Revision of electoral rolls in 17 states and Union Territories ahead of the January 1, 2027 qualifying date.

The exercise covers states due to hold assembly elections early next year and aims to add eligible voters, especially young and first-time electors, while removing duplicate voters.

বাংলাদেশ লোক-প্রশাসন প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্র

সাভার, ঢাকা-১৩৪৩
প্রশাসন অধিশাখা
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বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-০৫.০১.২৬৭২.০০০.১২৫.১১.০০১৬.২৬. ১২৮৬

তারিখ: ৩০ আশ্বিন ১৪৩৩ / ১৫ অক্টোবর ২০২৬

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ লোক-প্রশাসন প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্র, সাভার, ঢাকা-এর রাজস্ব খাতভুক্ত নিম্নোক্ত পদসমূহ পূরণের নিমিত্ত সরাসরি নিয়োগের জন্য বাংলাদেশের স্থায়ী নাগরিকদের নিকট থেকে নিম্নলিখিত শর্তে https://bpatc.teletalk.com.bd এ অনলাইনে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

ক্রমিক নং	পদের নাম ও বেতন স্কেল (জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল ২০২৬ অনুযায়ী)	বয়স	পদের সংখ্যা	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা
১	সহকারী পরিচালক (প্রশিক্ষণ) (গ্রেড-৯ম) ৪৪০০০-১০৫৯০০/-	অনূর্ধ্ব ৩২ বছর	০৩	কোনো স্বীকৃতিপ্রাপ্ত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে লোক-প্রশাসন/রাষ্ট্রবিজ্ঞান/অর্থনীতি/ সমাজবিজ্ঞান/নির্দিষ্ট পদের সংঙ্গে সম্পর্কিত অন্য কোন সংশ্লিষ্ট সামাজিক বিজ্ঞান বিষয়ে প্রথম শ্রেণীর মাস্টার্স ডিগ্রী অথবা দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণীর অনার্সসহ দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণীর মাস্টার্স ডিগ্রী।
২	সহকারী প্রোগ্রামার (গ্রেড-৯ম) ৪৪০০০-১০৫৯০০/-	অনূর্ধ্ব ৩২ বছর	০২	(ক) কোনো স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে কম্পিউটার সায়েন্স/কম্পিউটার সায়েন্স এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং/ইলেকট্রিক্যাল এন্ড ইলেকট্রোনিক্স ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং/ইনফরমেশন এন্ড কমিউনিকেশন টেকনোলজি সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ে অন্যূন দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণি বা সমমানের সিজিপিএসহ স্নাতক (সম্মান) বা সমমানের ডিগ্রি; (খ) কমিশন কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত নিয়োগ পদ্ধতি অনুসরণপূর্বক গৃহীত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ।
৩	পরিবহন তদারককারী (গ্রেড-১০ম) ৩২০০০-৭৭৩০০/-	অনূর্ধ্ব ৩২ বছর	০১	সংশ্লিষ্ট ক্ষেত্রে ৩ বৎসরের অভিজ্ঞতাসহ কোন সরকারী পলিটেকনিক ইনস্টিটিউট হতে অটো-মোবাইল প্রকৌশলে ডিপ্লোমা।
৪	পরিসংখ্যান সহকারী (গ্রেড-১২) ২৪৩০০-৫৮৭০০/-	অনূর্ধ্ব ৩২ বছর	০১	অন্যতম বিষয় হিসাবে পরিসংখ্যান/গণিত সহ কোন স্বীকৃতিপ্রাপ্ত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে স্নাতক ডিগ্রী এবং সেই সংঙ্গে সংশ্লিষ্ট ক্ষেত্রে কমপক্ষে ২ বৎসরের অভিজ্ঞতা।
৫	সাঁটমুদ্রাক্ষরিক কাম-কম্পিউটার অপারেটর (গ্রেড-১৪) ২৩৫০০-৫৬৮০০/-	অনূর্ধ্ব ৩২ বছর	০২	ক) কোন স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হতে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক অথবা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ। খ) সাঁটলিপি গতি: বাংলাঃ প্রতি মিনিটে সর্বনিম্ন ৪৫ শব্দ ইংরেজিঃ প্রতি মিনেটে সর্বনিম্ন ৭০ শব্দ গ) কম্পিউটার মুদ্রাক্ষর গতিঃ বাংলাঃ প্রতি মিনিটে সর্বনিম্ন ২৫ শব্দ ইংরেজিঃ প্রতি মিনেটে সর্বনিম্ন ৩০ শব্দ
৬	কম্পিউটার মুদ্রাক্ষরিক (গ্রেড-১৬) ২১৯০০-৫২৯০০/-	অনূর্ধ্ব ৩২ বছর	০৫	ক) কোন স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হতে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক অথবা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ। খ) কম্পিউটার মুদ্রাক্ষর গতিঃ (**Nikosh BAN font** এ) বাংলা - প্রতি মিনিটে সর্বনিম্ন – ২০ শব্দ ইংরেজি - প্রতি মিনিটে সর্বনিম্ন – ২০ শব্দ
৭	অফিস সহকারী কাম-কম্পিউটার মুদ্রাক্ষরিক (গ্রেড-১৬) ২১৯০০-৫২৯০০/-	অনূর্ধ্ব ৩২ বছর	০৬	ক) কোন স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হতে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক অথবা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ। খ) কম্পিউটার মুদ্রাক্ষর গতিঃ (**Nikosh BAN font** এ) বাংলা - প্রতি মিনিটে সর্বনিম্ন – ২০ শব্দ ইংরেজি - প্রতি মিনিটে সর্বনিম্ন – ২০ শব্দ
৮	গাড়িচালক (গ্রেড-১৬) ২১৯০০-৫২৯০০/-	অনূর্ধ্ব ৩২ বছর	০১	কোন স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হতে মাধ্যমিক স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট বা এর সমমান পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ। ৩ বৎসরের অভিজ্ঞতাসহ অবশ্যই মোটরযান চালানোর বৈধ লাইসেন্স থাকতে হবে।
৯	অফিস সহায়ক (গ্রেড-২০) ২০০০০-৪৮৪০০/-	অনূর্ধ্ব ৩২ বছর	১৮	কোন স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হতে মাধ্যমিক স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট বা এর সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ।

অনলাইনে আবেদনপত্র পূরণ সংক্রান্ত শর্তাবলী:

ক. বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তারিখে প্রার্থীদের বয়সসীমা ১৮-৩২ বৎসর (এক্ষেত্রে সরকার কর্তৃক সর্বশেষ জারিকৃত পরিপত্র অনুসরণ করা হবে)।

খ. ছকে বর্ণিত ক্রমিক ১ ও ২ এর প্রার্থীদের বাংলা ও ইংরেজী ভাষা, তথ্যপ্রযুক্তি, গবেষণা পদ্ধতি, উপস্থাপনা, যোগাযোগ ইত্যাদি বিষয়ে পারদর্শিতা থাকতে হবে। প্রার্থীকে লিখিত, মৌখিক এবং ব্যবহারিক (শ্রেণী/অধিবেশন) পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে হবে। দেশি-বিদেশি জার্নালে পাবলিকেশন আছে এমন প্রার্থীদের অগ্রাধিকার দেয়া হবে।

গ. সরকারি, আধা-সরকারি ও স্বায়ত্তশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানে কর্মরত প্রার্থীকে অবশ্যই যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে অনুমতিক্রমে আবেদন করতে হবে এবং মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় উক্ত অনুমতিপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে।

ঘ. প্রার্থী যে ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ/পৌরসভা/সিটি কর্পোরেশন এর বাসিন্দা সে ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের চেয়ারম্যান বা পৌরসভার মেয়র/কাউন্সিলর কিংবা সিটি কর্পোরেশন এর ওয়ার্ড কাউন্সিলর কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত নাগরিকত্ব সনদপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে।

ঙ. গাড়িচালক পদের ক্ষেত্রে প্রার্থীদের গাড়ির ড্রাইভিং লাইসেন্স থাকতে হবে এবং গাড়ি চালনায় দক্ষ হতে হবে। প্রার্থীদেরকে এ বিষয়ে লিখিত, ব্যবহারিক ও মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে হবে।

চ. সরকারের জারিকৃত অন্যান্য কোটা দাবীর সমর্থনে প্রার্থীকে যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সনদ/প্রমাণপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে।

ছ. আবেদনকারী মুক্তিযোদ্ধা, শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধা ও বীরাঙ্গনার সন্তান হলে মুক্তিযুদ্ধ বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয় কর্তৃক নির্দেশিত প্রমাণকের মূলকপি মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময়ে প্রদর্শন ও সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি দাখিল করতে হবে।

জ. আবেদনকারী মুক্তিযোদ্ধা, শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধা ও বীরাঙ্গনার সন্তান হলে সে মর্মে উপযুক্ত কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত পিতা/মাতা মুক্তিযোদ্ধা, শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধা ও বীরাঙ্গনার সনদের সত্যায়িত কপি এবং সংশ্লিষ্ট ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের চেয়ারম্যান/সিটি কর্পোরেশনের ওয়ার্ড কাউন্সিলর/পৌরসভার মেয়র/কাউন্সিলর কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সম্পর্ক সনদের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি দাখিল করতে হবে।

ঝ. নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে সরকারের বিদ্যমান বিধি-বিধান এবং পরবর্তীতে এ সংক্রান্ত বিধি-বিধানে কোন সংশোধন হলে তা অনুসরণ করা হবে।

ঞ লিখিত, মৌখিক ও ব্যবহারিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য কোনো প্রকার টিএ/ডিএ প্রদান করা হবে না।

ট. লিখিত, ব্যবহারিক ও মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময়সূচি এসএমএস এর মাধ্যমে জানানো হবে।

ঠ. কর্তৃপক্ষ পদের সংখ্যা হ্রাস/বৃদ্ধি ও বিজ্ঞপ্তি বাতিল করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করে। নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত বিষয়ে নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।

ড. বিজ্ঞপ্তিটি পত্রিকা ছাড়াও বাংলাদেশ লোক-প্রশাসন প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্র, সাভার, ঢাকা-এর নিজস্ব ওয়েবসাইটে www.bpatc.gov.bd এবং https://bpatc.teletalk.com.bd অথবা রাষ্ট্রীয় মোবাইল অপারেটর টেলিটকের জব পোর্টাল ওয়েবসাইটে প্রবেশ করে অথবা QR code স্ক্যান এর মাধ্যমে টেলিটকের জবপোর্টাল https://alljobs.teletalk.com.bd ওয়েবসাইটে সরাসরি প্রবেশ করেও পাওয়া যাবে।

ঢ. Online-এ আবেদন করতে কোনো সমস্যা হলে টেলিটক নম্বর থেকে ১২১ নম্বরে অথবা alljobs.query@teletalk.com.bd অথবা diradmin@bpatc.gov.bd এই ই-মেইলে যোগাযোগ করা হবে।

অনলাইনে আবেদনের নিয়মাবলী:

ক. পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণে ইচ্ছুক ব্যক্তি https://bpatc.teletalk.com.bd এই ওয়েবসাইটে আবেদনপত্র পূরণ করতে পারবেন। আবেদনের সময়সীমা নিম্নরূপ:
Online-এ আবেদনপত্র পূরণ ও পরীক্ষার ফি জমাদান শুরুর তারিখ ও সময়: **১৭/১০/২০২৬ খ্রি. বিকাল ০৪.০০টা।**
Online-এ আবেদনপত্র জমাদানের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়: **০৭/১১/২০২৬ খ্রি. বিকাল ৪.০০টা।**
উক্ত সময়সীমার মধ্যে User ID প্রাপ্ত প্রার্থীগণ Online-এ আবেদনপত্র Submit-এর সময় থেকে পরবর্তী ৭২ (বাহাত্তর) ঘন্টার মধ্যে এসএমএস এর মাধ্যমে সরকার কতৃক নির্ধারিত পরীক্ষার ফি জমা দিতে পারবেন।

এসএমএস প্রেরণের নমুনা নিম্নরূপ:
প্রথম SMS: BPATC<space>**User ID** লিখে Send করতে হবে 16222 নম্বরে।.
দ্বিতীয় SMS: BPATC<space>**Yes**<space>**PIN** লিখে Send করতে হবে 16222 নম্বরে।

খ. প্রবেশপত্র প্রাপ্তির বিষয়টি https://bpatc.teletalk.com.bd ওয়েবসাইটে এবং প্রার্থীর মোবাইল ফোনে SMS-এর মাধ্যমে যথাসময়ে জানানো হবে। Online আবেদনপত্রে প্রার্থীর প্রদত্ত মোবাইল ফোনে পরীক্ষা সংক্রান্ত যাবতীয় যোগাযোগ সম্পন্ন করা হবে বিধায় উক্ত নম্বরটি সার্বক্ষণিক সচল রাখা এবং প্রাপ্ত নির্দেশনা তাৎক্ষণিকভাবে অনুসরণ করা বাঞ্ছনীয়।

গ. প্রার্থী SMS-এ প্রেরিত User ID এবং Password ব্যবহার করে পরবর্তীতে রোল নম্বর, পদের নাম, ছবি, পরীক্ষার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থানের/কেন্দ্রের নাম ইত্যাদি তথ্য সংবলিত প্রবেশপত্র Download পূর্বক রঙ্গিন প্রিন্ট করে নিবেন। প্রার্থী প্রবেশ পত্রটি লিখিত পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের সময়ে এবং উত্তীর্ণ হলে মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময়ে অবশ্যই প্রদর্শন করবেন।

ঘ. শুধুমাত্র টেলিটক প্রি-পেইড মোবাইল ফোন থেকে প্রার্থীগণ নিম্নবর্ণিত SMS পদ্ধতি অনুসরণ করে নিজ নিজ User ID, এবং PIN পুনরুদ্ধার করতে পারবেন।
(i) User ID জানা থাকলে:
BPATC<space>Help<space>User<space>User ID & Send to 16222.
(ii) PIN Number জানা থাকলে:
BPATC<space>Help<space>PIN<space>PIN No & Send to 16222.

ঘোষণা: প্রার্থীকে আবেদনপত্রে ডিক্লারেশন অংশে এ মর্মে ঘোষণা দিতে হবে যে, প্রার্থী কর্তৃক আবেদনপত্রে প্রদত্ত সকল তথ্য সঠিক এবং সত্য। প্রদত্ত তথ্য অসত্য বা মিথ্যা প্রমাণিত হলে অথবা কোনো অযোগ্যতা ধরা পড়লে বা কোনো প্রতারণা বা দুর্নীতির আশ্রয় গ্রহণ করলে কিংবা পরীক্ষায় নকল বা অসদুপায় অবলম্বন করলে পরীক্ষার পূর্বে বা পরে এমনকি নিয়োগের যে কোনো পর্যায়ে প্রার্থিতা বাতিল করা হবে এবং সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রার্থীর বিরুদ্ধে আইনগত ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা যাবে।

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GD-2518

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

Reverse the fall in secondary enrolment

Govt must take effective measures to keep students in school

Our education sector is in a pretty bad shape, with declining education quality, teacher shortages, rising primary school dropout rates and students advancing to secondary school without acquiring grade-level competencies, among other problems. Amid this situation, Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics (BANBEIS) has come up with another concerning revelation: a sharp decline in secondary school enrolment. According to its latest data, the number of secondary-level students fell by more than four lakh in just one year, from over 90.6 lakh in 2024 to 86.4 lakh in 2025. This demands urgent government attention.

This decline is occurring despite an increase in the number of secondary educational institutions. According to BANBEIS, the number of government and private secondary schools, including junior schools, rose from 19,117 in 2024 to 19,211 in 2025. However, enrolment in these schools fell from around 78.5 lakh to 74.4 lakh. Meanwhile, enrolment in independent technical and vocational institutions declined from over 6.76 lakh to 6.5 lakh, despite the government's target of increasing the share of students in technical and vocational education to 30 percent by 2030. In contrast, enrolment in madrasas and English-medium schools has increased. The question is: what is driving students away from mainstream secondary education?

Educationists point to several possible factors, including learning losses caused by the Covid pandemic, child labour, child marriage, financial hardship and curriculum changes, behind the situation. Their concerns deserve urgent attention. Child marriage, in particular, continues to hinder girls' education. Dhaka Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board's investigation into 1,350 candidates who did not sit for the Secondary School Certificate examinations last year found that nearly 41 percent had married. Of them, 97 percent were female students. Poverty also forces children to earn money rather than continue their studies. Students who fall behind academically may also struggle to remain in school without adequate support. To find out other reasons behind the situation, more research is needed.

We urge the government to conduct an in-depth study to determine why secondary school enrolment is falling and technical and vocational institutions are struggling to attract students. The study must find out whether the mainstream education system has adequately addressed pandemic-related learning losses and other barriers to completing secondary education.

We therefore urge the government to conduct an in-depth study to determine why secondary school enrolment is falling and technical and vocational institutions are struggling to attract students. The study must find out whether the mainstream education system has adequately addressed pandemic-related learning losses and other barriers to completing secondary education. It must also examine whether educational resources are allocated properly and institutional expansion is guided by actual needs. Based on the findings, the government must take targeted measures. Financial assistance, including adequate stipends and free or subsidised educational materials, must be provided to students from low-income families. Equally important is the effective enforcement of laws against child marriage and child labour.

Schools should also identify students at risk of dropping out and provide academic support. Moreover, the government must improve education quality and classroom teaching, while ensuring that technical and vocational programmes offer relevant skills and real employment opportunities.

Garment workers deserve a living wage

Protests over unpaid dues expose persistent exploitation in RMG industry

Bangladesh's readymade garments (RMG) success story is usually spoken of in terms of how much of our export basket it contributes to—more than 80 percent—or the fact that factories need to be "greener" in order to retain Western buyers. The issue which is more often skirted around in policy talks is the blatant exploitation that the industry's success hinges on. The low cost of production, which the country has touted for decades as what makes Bangladesh attractive for orders, has been possible due to the extremely low wages, poor working conditions, and lack of dignity suffered by RMG sector workers. The recent protest in Dhaka's Uttara is only the latest in a semi-regular occurrence.

Every few months, workers across the industry are forced to take to the streets to demand their due wages. Most often, they are inadvertently branded as being a nuisance, blamed for "causing suffering" to commuters. During most of these protests, we find that workers had been voicing their demands to factory owners and industry leaders for months, only to be ignored. Not only are workers' demands never fulfilled satisfactorily, but they are often met with violence. We especially condemn the police's use of batons and sound grenades on October 15 to disperse the gathering of protesters on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway. There must not be a repeat of the violence we witnessed during the 2023 protests, when at least four workers were killed by law enforcers.

For as long as the industry has operated, workers' wages have been far below what the cost of living requires. In a sector which rakes in massive amounts of revenue each year, it is unacceptable that there should be no space to accommodate a proper living wage for those who keep the machines running. Indeed, the international brands which place orders with local factories do so under deeply unfair terms, but there is still no justification for months of unpaid wages and workers being forced to work overtime to make up for low wages. We join the Garment Workers' Trade Union Center's call to review garment workers' wages to reflect the rising cost of living and urge that protesting workers' demands be fulfilled without delay. A Made-in-Bangladesh tag should be a source of pride, not a reminder of the exploitation that makes that tag global.

WORLD FOOD DAY

Who will feed the farmers who feed the nation?



Mostafa Shabuj is a journalist at The Daily Star.

■ **MOSTAFA SHABUJ**

Last month, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) classified Bangladesh's food security situation as being in crisis, meaning that many people are at risk of acute food insecurity and malnutrition. One group that remains invisible in such projections is the food growers themselves, who are tasked with feeding the entire nation. They are already facing severe threats to their food security.

Chronically low and unfair prices for their produce, frequent natural disasters damaging crops, exorbitant hikes in production inputs, spiralling costs of daily essential commodities, escalating healthcare expenses, dominance of corporate entities in agriculture, and widespread food adulteration have combined to leave the farming community more food-insecure than ever before.

Smallholders or marginal growers are at the greatest risk. More than half of the country's agricultural producers are small-scale, with an average annual income of Tk 33,639. This means a smallholder farmer or livestock producer earns a meagre Tk 2,804 per month. This raises the obvious question: in today's Bangladesh, where inflation has remained persistently high, how does a family survive on that earning?

A simple calculation offers a clear picture. Let's say the family has four members. If Tk 50 is spent per person for a single meal, one meal for the family costs Tk 200. Daily food expenditure amounts to Tk 600, totalling Tk 18,000 a month. Even for a two-member household, the monthly food bill stands at Tk 9,000. How, then, are half of the country's small producers staying alive?

While no official survey captures this reality, it becomes visible when one looks at the streets in every district town and city today. That cities and towns are congested with auto-rickshaws is not an accident; it is a reality for many farmers, who, having lost their capital in agriculture, migrated to urban centres for survival.

Over the past month and a half, I visited nine northern districts, including Rangpur, Bogura, Naogaon, Gaibandha, Joypurhat, Chapainawabganj, Rajshahi, Kurigram, and Panchagarh, to speak directly with marginal food-growers, who shared that the steep hikes in gas, electricity, and fuel prices, coupled with low market prices for their harvests, have pushed farm households into food insecurity.

Small farmers who previously used LPG cylinders costing Tk 1,350 at home are now forced to purchase them at nearly double the rate. Consequently, many households are trying to cut living expenses by returning to traditional wood or dried tree branches for cooking in rural areas. While many small farmers would previously rear poultry, fish, and cattle to meet their household needs for milk, eggs, and meat, today most of these families are often forced to sell these farm products in the market to cover daily expenses, forgoing their consumption. Many others are simply eating less. Those who do not have farm animals are taking out high-interest loans from non-governmental organisations to keep their families running.

According to data cited in "The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2026," published by several UN agencies, 4.54 crore people or 26 percent of Bangladesh's population experienced moderate or severe food insecurity in 2023–25. But how did Bangladesh's primary food producers fall into such a state?

For the past several years, farmers who grew surplus onions and potatoes faced severe financial losses instead of making profits. Rising production costs and persistent shortages of essential inputs like fertilisers and pesticides have stripped paddy cultivation of profitability as well. Besides, recurring natural disasters have devastated standing crops. Small dairy farmers have incurred heavy losses producing milk, and the ongoing fuel and power crises have pushed up operating costs, driving small and marginal poultry farmers into years of continuous losses, forcing many to shut down operations altogether.

After taking office earlier this year, the BNP government took several initiatives, from farmer cards to waiving agricultural loans, to support the agricultural sector. In July, the central bank created a Tk 3,000 crore fund aimed at establishing an agro-based economic hub in the country's northern region. Among the objectives of the fund are boosting agricultural production, developing export-oriented produce, building processing facilities and supply chains, and generating rural employment and income growth.

While these initiatives deserve recognition, solving the systemic crises facing farmers requires far more than financial allocations. As a recent World Bank report reveals, support in the sector often does not trickle down to the marginalised farmers. For example, subsidy expenditure in the agricultural sector has quadrupled in the last year, but half the fertiliser subsidies go to the biggest 20 percent landholders in Bangladesh, while the smallest 40 percent of landholders receive only 13 percent of the subsidies. This means there are some serious flaws in government programmes.

Therefore, it is crucial that the government rethink its programme, curb the dominance of middlemen in agricultural markets, and ensure direct procurement of paddy and rice from farmers. Furthermore, floor or market prices should be fixed not only for Boro and Aman paddy, but also for Aush paddy and key commercial crops such as onions and potatoes. Adequate cold storage and warehouse infrastructure must be established so that surplus yields do not go to waste, along with steps to expand export opportunities. Most importantly, input prices must be stabilised, adequate supplies ensured, and fair prices guaranteed for farmers' produce.

When rural households consume half the food they require, when they are forced to sell the food meant for their own families, when farmers cannot recover their cost of production, and when farming requires incurring a mountain of debt year after year, this group cannot be called food secure. Food security does not merely mean surviving on two poor-quality meals a day; it means having the economic capacity to easily access adequate nutritional food. If the very population responsible for producing our food cannot have their food security guaranteed, how can the government hope to ensure food security for the rest of the nation?

The theme for World Food Day this year is "Innovate today. Nourish tomorrow." Yet innovation and future nutrition remain unattainable unless the food security of our primary producers is first ensured. True innovation will only happen when growers possess good health and earn a profit from their yields.



PHOTO: **MOSTAFA SHABUJ**

Government support in the agricultural sector often does not trickle down to the marginalised farmers.

Innovation is key to a more resilient food future for Bangladesh

Jiaoqun Shi is a FAO representative.

Valantine Achancho is country director and representative at IFAD.

Coco Ushiyama is resident representative and country director at WFP.

■ **JIAOQUN SHI,**
■ **VALANTINE ACHANCHO,** *and*
■ **COCO USHIYAMA**

Behind every plate of rice, dal, vegetables, and fish in Bangladesh is the work of farmers, fishers, livestock keepers, and food workers. Their decisions, and ours as consumers, influence how we manage land and water, safeguard biodiversity, respond to climate change, and create livelihood opportunities for the next generation. This year's World Food Day theme, "Innovate today. Nourish tomorrow", calls on us to bring science, technology, and traditional knowledge together to secure a healthier, more sustainable food future. Innovation takes many forms: a farmer adopting a climate resilient crop variety, a producer receiving timely weather advice, or a woman accessing finance to grow her enterprise.

Over decades, farmers' ingenuity, supported by research, irrigation, improved varieties, mechanisation, and extension services, has transformed production despite growing pressure on natural resources and exposure to climate and economic shocks. Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) September 2026 Global Information and Early Warning System brief forecasts aggregate paddy production for 2026-27 at 61.9 million tonnes, about 5 percent over the last five-year average. But higher production alone cannot guarantee better nutrition or greater prosperity. Progress must also be measured by whether families can afford diverse, safe, and nutritious diets, whether producers earn decent incomes, and whether food systems withstand shocks. Only 39 percent of women meet minimum dietary diversity, a sign that many diets still lack variety.

Bangladesh must therefore connect agricultural productivity more firmly with nutrition, livelihoods, and environmental sustainability. That means protecting soil health, water, and biodiversity while increasing returns for farmers and rural entrepreneurs. It requires bringing science and data to the field faster, expanding access to climate-resilient and salt tolerant varieties, strengthening timely advisory services, and building producer organisations that help smallholders negotiate better prices. The ambition is to turn innovation into better diets, stronger livelihoods, and a more resilient future.

Bangladesh must connect agricultural productivity more firmly with nutrition, livelihoods, and environmental sustainability. That means protecting soil health, water, and biodiversity while increasing returns for farmers and rural entrepreneurs.

Working with the government, FAO, World Food Programme (WFP), and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) support access to agricultural information, finance, essential services, and market, helping farmers turn innovation into practical gains. In coastal, drought-prone, and char areas, farmers are growing nutritious vegetables year-round through solar-powered irrigation, improved seedling production, and off-season cultivation. Adoption of climate-resilient technologies has reached 86 percent among participating farmers, exceeding by 35 percent adoption among comparable farmers outside the initiatives.

Sensor-based fishpond monitoring, smart irrigation, solar drying, and blockchain-based traceability offer further opportunities to conserve resources, improve production, reduce losses, and access higher-value markets. Combined with finance, training, and nutrition education, these innovations can strengthen livelihoods, improve diets, and expand opportunities for women farmers.

Protecting these gains is equally urgent as floods, cyclones, salinity, drought, and river erosion can quickly undermine years of progress. About 18.1 million people in Bangladesh are projected to face high levels of acute food insecurity between September and December 2026. Preparedness must therefore be central to agrifood investment. Early warning and anticipatory action can deliver cash and advice before a flood strike, helping families protect their assets and livelihoods. Digital assistance platforms, early warning systems, vulnerability analysis, and nutrition-sensitive programmes can further strengthen the speed and targeting of support.

Strong public systems are essential to bring these benefits to scale. The government's Farmer Card and electronic voucher system provide a foundation for delivering support more transparently. By enabling eligible farmers to redeem subsidies for approved agricultural inputs, these tools can improve subsidy targeting and reduce leakage.

Three priorities should guide the next phase. First, connecting weather alerts, agricultural advice, market information, and input support through accessible digital services linked to the Farmer Card platform. Second, combining public, private, and development finance to scale innovations with demonstrated results. We know that there have been income gains of 64 percent where the private sector is engaged, four times those recorded where it is not, highlighting the importance of effective market partnerships. Third, making nutrition an explicit investment objective by supporting production that both nourishes families and generates reliable income.

Success will depend on whether these opportunities reach small producers, including women, young people, and those in remote or climate-vulnerable communities. A smartphone may help a farmer receive a weather alert, find a buyer, or secure working capital. Its real value, however, is the confidence and opportunity it gives a farmer to make better decisions and build a more secure future. For Bangladesh, nourishing tomorrow means producing better, wasting less and making healthy diets more affordable. The government, financial institutions, researchers, businesses, and development partners must work together to bring proven solutions within reach of every small producer.

On World Food Day, the task is to turn the innovation already taking root across Bangladesh into lasting progress. By connecting science with local knowledge, investment with inclusion, and productivity with nutrition, we can build stronger livelihoods, more resilient communities, and a healthier future for Bangladesh.

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What Bangladesh can learn from the 2026 economics Nobel-winning research

MACRO MIRROR



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Views expressed in this article are the author's own.

FAHMIDA KHATUN

Robert E. Hall and Michael Woodford won the 2026 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences for their work on "the microeconomic foundations of macroeconomic stabilisation." Their work helps explain how household and business decisions shape the wider economy, and how public policy can respond when growth, employment, and prices move in harmful directions. Robert E. Hall and Michael Woodford's research transformed how economists understand these policies. They showed that a broad, top-down view of the economy alone is insufficient. Household and business decisions together shape the overall economy. Models based on this idea are called New Keynesian models.

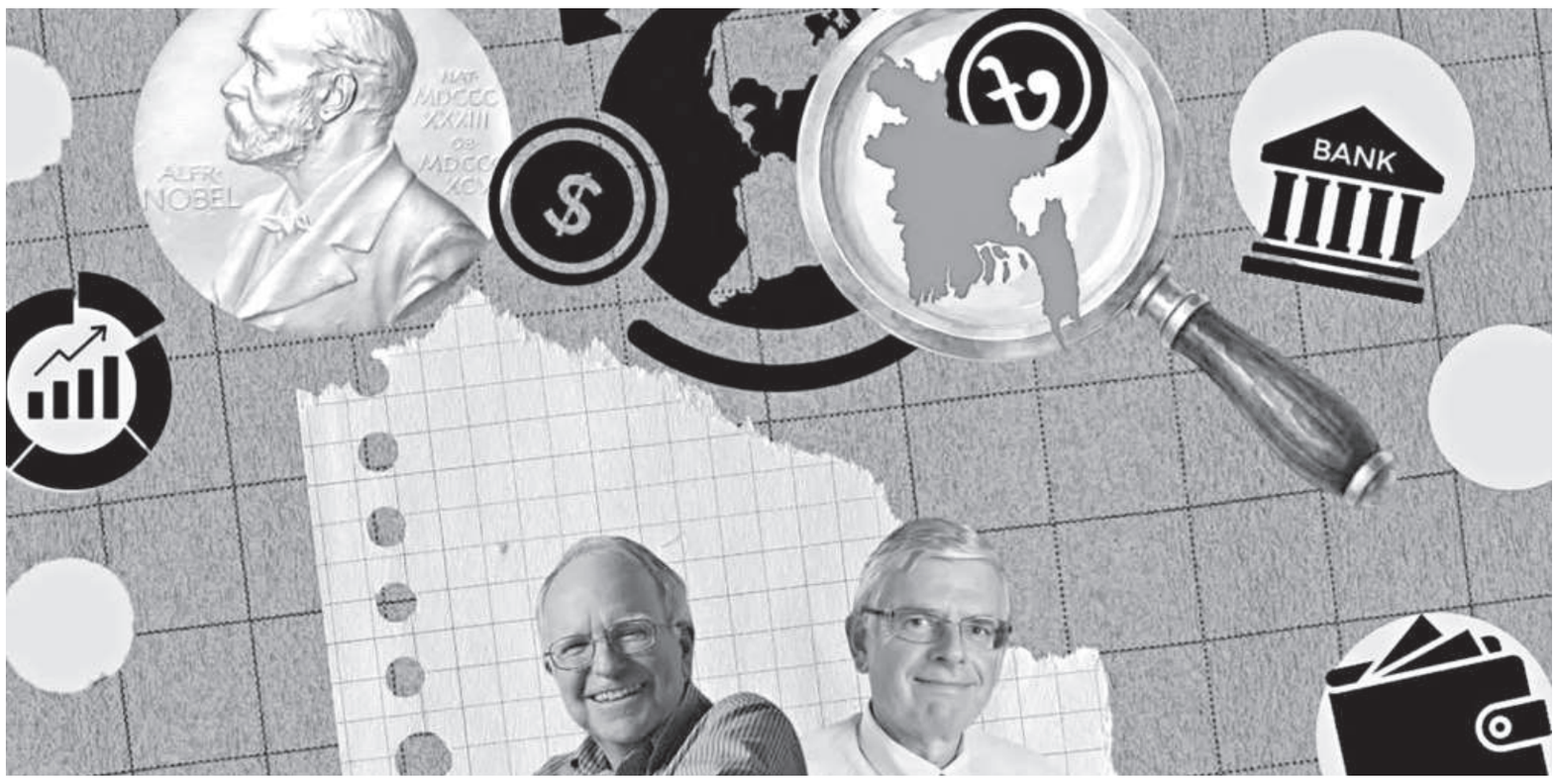
Influential economist John Maynard Keynes argued that insufficient demand for goods and services can increase unemployment and weaken economic growth. When people and businesses spend too little, shops and factories sell fewer goods and services. They may then produce less and hire fewer workers, so unemployment can rise and the economy can slow down. Excessive demand, by contrast, can overheat the economy and push up inflation. Stabilisation policy therefore aims to boost demand when it is too weak and curb it when it becomes excessive.

Older economic models assumed the economy would respond in familiar ways. They expected prices to rise when employment and production were strong, and to fall when the economy weakened. But the oil crises of the 1970s broke this pattern. Oil prices surged, raising the cost of many goods even as businesses cut production and jobs. As a result, inflation and unemployment rose together. Policies built on old assumptions struggled to address this situation. Robert E. Hall showed how expectations influence household spending. He showed that household spending depends not only on current income but also on expectations about future income. If families feel hopeful about the future, they may spend more. Based on this idea, Hall argued that household spending should remain fairly stable unless people receive new information about the future. His theory implies that changes in household spending cannot be accurately predicted. Later research supported his idea.

Michael Woodford's model shows how central banks can influence economic activity. In 2003, Woodford introduced a macroeconomic model of how the economy works, based on decisions by households and businesses. Policymakers can use it to explore questions such as: what might happen to production and inflation if interest rates fall? How much should rates rise to control inflation? The model incorporates Hall's findings on household spending and shows how changes in interest rates can shape families' saving and spending decisions. Woodford's work explains how a central bank can influence economic activity by adjusting its policy interest rate or the amount of money in circulation.

Businesses cannot always adjust prices immediately when demand or costs change. Updating price lists, contracts, or informing customers takes time and money, so prices may stay fixed, a phenomenon economists call price stickiness. If customers buy less, a business may initially keep prices unchanged and instead reduce production or staff hours. Continued declines can reduce both output and employment. Businesses set prices by considering future costs and competitors' prices. Their views about the central bank's future policies can also affect inflation. This is why clear and credible communication from the central bank matters. Woodford used the idea of the output gap. If actual production is above the level the economy can sustain, demand may be too strong, and inflation may rise. If actual production is below that level, the economy may be weak and inflationary pressure may ease. One aim of stabilisation policy is to reduce this gap.

Supply shocks force policymakers to make difficult choices. A sudden increase in energy prices or a disruption to international supply chains can limit an economy's productive capacity. Production may decline as inflation and unemployment rise at the same time. In these circumstances, focusing solely on boosting demand is not enough. Policymakers must also account for inflationary pressure. The most effective response depends on the cause of the shock and the state of the economy.



VISUAL: **ALIZA RAHMAN**

This research by Hall and Woodford provides policymakers with better tools to stabilise the economy. New Keynesian models, building on the work of Hall and Woodford, are now used by central banks and finance ministries in many countries. Policymakers can tailor the models to each country's economic conditions, and further research is needed to improve them. The Nobel laureates' research can help explain Bangladesh's current economic challenges and inform how to respond. Their work helps policymakers understand how people respond to changes in income, prices and interest rates, and how firms adjust prices, production, and investment. This framework helps analyse Bangladesh's current difficulties, but it is not a ready-made policy formula.

Bangladesh faces high inflation alongside weak growth and investment. Inflation rose to 8.34 percent in September 2026, up from 8.26 percent in August 2026. Subdued economic activity, supply and cost pressures, and slow growth in private-sector credit are key challenges. In August, private-sector credit grew by 4.75 percent. Businesses are delaying investment amid high financing costs, energy shortages, infrastructure bottlenecks, and uncertainty about demand. These points indicate that policymakers must take appropriate measures to reduce inflation without further weakening production, investment, and employment.

The Nobel laureates' approach helps show how these pressures affect different parts of the economy. As prices rise, households may spend less, use their savings, or cut essential expenses. Low-income families with limited access to credit have less room to adapt. Businesses, meanwhile, consider interest rates alongside energy costs, access to imported inputs, infrastructure, demand, and policy uncertainty when deciding whether to invest, produce, or hire. Higher interest rates can curb borrowing and demand, but cannot, on their own, fix energy shortages, port delays, or other supply problems.

When inflation is driven mainly by demand outpacing the economy's capacity to supply, tighter monetary policy can help curb spending. But when a supply shock pushes up costs while production and employment remain weak, raising rates further may reduce investment and jobs without addressing the source of inflation. A lower rate is not automatically the answer, either. If households and businesses expect prices to keep rising, inflation may persist. Bangladesh Bank must, therefore, continue to weigh both risks and explain how it will respond to new evidence.

The Nobel laureates' framework also helps understand the need for consistency across public policy. Bangladesh Bank's monetary tools and the government's decisions on taxes, spending, and borrowing serve different purposes, but affect the same economy. When government borrowing boosts demand or competes with businesses for bank funds, it can weaken the effects of monetary restraint.

Bangladeshi policymakers can take three practical lessons from this. First, track inflation by its sources and the groups it affects, drawing on data about household spending, wages, business costs, import prices, and expectations. Second, set interest rates with inflation risks in mind, alongside growth, employment, and credit conditions. Third, strengthen supply and productivity with reliable energy, efficient ports, better transport, and fewer administrative barriers. Targeted support can help protect low-income families as these changes take effect.

The theory applies to Bangladesh because households and businesses everywhere make decisions that shape economic outcomes. However, the country's high informality, limited household savings, reliance on imports, supply constraints, and banking-sector weaknesses call for locally grounded analysis. The key lesson is to use the Nobel laureates' framework to understand how policies influence real decisions, while pairing credible monetary policy with sound fiscal choices and practical steps to address high costs and weak investment.

'Some form of change will have to happen following India protests'

***Jahnavi Sen**, managing editor of The Wire, speaks to **Md. Shariful Hoque** of **The Daily Star** about the ongoing protests in India demanding the resignation of its chief election commissioner and raising concerns over voter deletions and potential disenfranchisement linked to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.*

The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) movement began as a meme and social campaign, but gradually became a major force in Indian political discourse. Do you think it has become more of a political movement now amid the ongoing protests?

CJP started as an online movement, but during June and July, it turned into a street protest. It was barely a few weeks old then. We saw how, in Delhi, it grew into a large sit-in protest, with protesters attempting to march to parliament before being stopped by the police. Quite soon, it became clear that the movement had captured people's imagination and was not going to remain confined to the internet and social media.

The current movement is a little different. CJP is one player in it, and its leaders have come out to say that the right to vote is essential and that they want to put all their strength behind the cause. But different groups also seem to have been involved from the start, organising different kinds of protests and applying different forms of pressure.

For CJP, it still remains a youth pressure group. It still does a lot of online campaigning while holding physical protests. But I don't think the protest this time is as centred around them.

The protests have escalated, especially since October 10, with demands for the chief election commissioner's resignation. Given that BJP has been in power for more than 12 years, how significant a political challenge does this movement pose to the government?

It has turned into an extremely significant challenge. The protests actually started a little earlier, around October 2, when civil society activists tried to gather in Delhi. The police immediately adopted a playbook of preventing any gatherings



Jahnavi Sen

with detentions and roadblocks. Metro stations were closed down and a lot of traffic was diverted.

BJP leaders have been saying that the protests are an attempt to cause anarchy. They have tried to blame it on the leader of the opposition and the main opposition parties. But I don't think anyone watching the footage of protests can say that this is an opposition-driven political agenda, because people from different walks of life have come together at these demonstrations.

They have all been affected by the issue at hand, which is the way the Election Commission has been functioning over the last few years. This has become particularly stark since last year, with the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voter rolls and the inordinate pressure placed on citizens to prove their identities. I don't think the government will be able to ignore the fact that such a basic right of every citizen is, in some way, being seen as under attack.

Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi, along with internet personalities and celebrities, have joined the movement. Is the opposition amplifying a genuine movement or attempting to turn public anger into a broader political campaign of its own?

For this particular movement, it has been easy for Rahul Gandhi to come out and own it, because the voter-roll issue is something that he has been raising for much longer than the past few weeks. He has been holding press conferences and questioning the way voters are being added to and deleted from electoral rolls in different states just before elections. But while opposition parties are playing a big role, many of the street protests are being led by youth groups.

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Does India's response to the protests suggest that the government is becoming increasingly intolerant of dissent?

We have been witnessing intolerance towards dissent for several years now. We have seen cases brought against rights activists and people who have participated in protests. We also saw the big farmers' movement in 2021 and the way the roads to Delhi were blocked.

One of the first glimpses into how far protesters managed to bring this into the heart of the national capital came in July, when pellet guns were fired at student protesters on July 20 as they were trying to march to parliament. Something like that had never happened there before. There was a lot of outrage, and we still have not received a clear answer as to why such force was considered necessary against a peaceful protest.

The Union government has been trying very hard to prevent a similar situation this time, using the Delhi Police and paramilitary forces. However, the police are detaining even small groups of people. They may be allowed to protest for 15 or 20 minutes, raise some slogans and gather, and then they are put on police buses, driven to the outskirts of the city, and let off. There have also been reports of phones being taken and attempts to delete footage. Many journalists and lawyers have been detained.

What has led to the erosion of trust in the EC? What evidence supports allegations that CEC Gyanesh Kumar has favoured BJP, and how should we distinguish legitimate concerns about institutional neutrality from allegations that have yet to be established?

The issues with the Election Commission predate Gyanesh Kumar's appointment. During the 2019 general elections, one of the three election commissioners, Ashok Lavasa, suddenly resigned. It was later revealed that he had wanted notices to be issued to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other top BJP leaders over speeches violating the model code of conduct. Likewise, we have seen different ways in which the commission has been used to favour BJP.

Creating a voter roll from scratch is an extremely complicated exercise. Anyone willing to do it seriously would give it adequate time and care. An interesting finding emerged from transparency activist Anjali Bhardwaj, who asked the Election Commission for the documents or notes on which the decision to conduct the SIR was based. The response was that the commission had no record of such a decision being taken. The question, then, is who decided that this exercise should take place in certain states where elections were approaching and that it should be conducted in such a rushed manner. West Bengal is one of the states where the extent to which this was used to keep people off the voter list was particularly stark. We saw how Muslim-majority areas experienced much larger numbers of deletions.

BJP has portrayed CJP and the youth-led protests as part of an anti-Modi agenda, while some have questioned whether the movement is influenced by foreign interests. How effective has this attempt to delegitimise the movement been?

BJP keeps insisting that the Election Commission of India is an autonomous and independent body. But all the defence of what has happened at the Election Commission has come from BJP leaders. None of the election commissioners has held a press conference. There has been just one press note, which did not really refute any of the allegations.

There was a report that two of the three election commissioners—not Gyanesh Kumar, but the other two—had dissented against EC decisions at least 14 times in 10 months. That is an extremely serious matter, something that the EC must answer for. There has certainly been an attempt to change the narrative, but it does not appear to be sticking.

South Asia has witnessed repeated confrontations between citizens and political establishments, from Sri Lanka and Bangladesh to Nepal and now India. What needs to happen for public anger to translate into lasting democratic reform?

South Asia has a very large youth population. There are many reasons why these street protests have captured people's imagination, whether they concern education, public exams or recruitment systems. Quality employment, in particular, has become a major issue. The dream that big investments would mean better jobs and better lives for everyone is slowly being shattered.

As for what it takes for democratic dissent to succeed, a few months ago, the Union education minister had to resign following large-scale protests led by CJP. That was the first resignation of a minister in the Modi years resulting from public protest. The scale of the current protests means that some form of change will have to take place for people to feel that there has been a response. For that to become a lasting change, there needs to be greater investment in education, infrastructure, and healthcare, along with a concerted effort to create the futures people want.

This is an abridged version of an interview conducted by The Daily Star on October 13, 2026. To watch the full interview, visit @TheDailyStarNews.

BEYOND RITUALS: Durga Puja conveys harmony, childhood for showbiz stars



Anima Roy



Tamalika Karmaker



Bidya Sinha Mim



Chanchal Chowdhury

PHOTOS: COLLECTED

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Autumn brings with it the warmth and joy of Sharadiya Durga Puja, a time of devotion, reunion and celebration for the Hindu community.

For some, the festival means visiting temples and soaking in the festive spirit; for others, it is an opportunity to reconnect with their roots and loved ones. Anima Roy, Tamalika Karmakar, Bidya Sinha Mim and Chanchal Chowdhury share what makes Puja special to them, from cherished childhood memories to the simple joy of celebrating together.

ANIMA ROY

For Anima Roy, the joy of Durga Puja lies in the little traditions that make the festival special. From standing in line to receive *prasad* to taking part in *sidur khela,* she looks forward to rituals that bring people together.

"On Ashtami, I will visit Ramakrishna Mission and stand in line to receive *prasad*. There is a special kind of joy in waiting in line for it," she said.

On Dashami, she plans to visit Dhakeshwari Temple with her mother, where she hopes to receive *prasad* as well. She also looks forward to participating in *sidur khela*.

This Puja, she has a special gift for her mother. Having bought her a saree, Anima plans to visit her in Keraniganj and give it to her in person. She also hopes to visit the festivities in Gulshan and Narayanganj, where the celebrations are particularly vibrant.

For the singer, however, the spirit of Puja extends beyond rituals and personal plans. It is about sharing happiness and ensuring that everyone can celebrate in a peaceful, welcoming atmosphere.

"Puja season always makes me happy. This joy is universal and belongs to everyone. My wish is for Durga Puja to be celebrated in a beautiful atmosphere, where we can all come together and enjoy the festive days in harmony," she said.

TAMALIKA KARMAKER

For Tamalika Karmaker, the arrival of Puja brings a deep sense of nostalgia. Living away from Bangladesh, she finds herself thinking of home and the celebrations she enjoyed in years gone by.

"During my teenage years, Puja meant wearing new clothes. That tradition continued as I grew older, when I would receive new outfits as gifts from my parents. I will never experience that same joy again in my life," she said.

Among her fondest memories is the opportunity to spend several days with loved ones, as relatives and friends, both near and far, came together to celebrate.

"What I loved most about celebrating Durga Puja back home was the opportunity to rejoice together. For a few wonderful days, people would come together and spend time with one another. Those memories still bring me happiness," she said.

Although she is now far from home, the approaching festival continues to offer her a sense of comfort and peace. The memories of celebrations past remain close to her heart, reminding her of the connections that make Puja so meaningful.

BIDYA SINHA MIM

For Bidya Sinha Mim, Durga Puja is a celebration best enjoyed together. The excitement surrounding the festival is something she hopes everyone can share, making the most of the festive days in a welcoming atmosphere.

"Puja brings a special excitement, and the festivities begin. I hope that spirit continues throughout the celebrations. Rather than celebrating alone, I hope we can all share in the joy," she said.

Visiting a temple during Puja is part of her annual plans, and this year will be no different. She also enjoys travelling to Rajshahi during the festival, where she has spent memorable moments.

"I believe the joy and festivities of Sharadiya Durga Puja should belong to everyone," she said, extending her love and festive greetings to her fans and to people both near and far.

CHANCHAL CHOWDHURY

For Chanchal Chowdhury, Durga Puja holds a deeply personal meaning, rooted in the village home where he grew up and the family traditions that shaped his childhood.

For him, the festival means reuniting with his siblings, spending time with villagers and sharing the joy of being together. It is an atmosphere he has cherished since childhood and hopes to see preserved for generations to come.

"I grew up witnessing this beautiful atmosphere, and it is something I want to see continue throughout my life," he said.

Yet, the festive season also brings a bittersweet feeling. While Puja once meant unreserved happiness with his family, the absence of his father has changed the way he experiences the occasion.

"Puja felt even more special when my father was alive. Since his passing, I think of him more often during the festival. I miss him especially on these joyful days," he said.

His father was not only a parent but also a teacher, making his memories an inseparable part of the actor's life. Even now, Chanchal finds comfort in the thought that his father continues to bless him from afar.

Despite the longing that accompanies these memories, his wish for the festival remains unchanged: to spend the days surrounded by his loved ones and share in the joy of being together.

For Chanchal, as for many others, Puja is ultimately about family, belonging and the enduring bonds that make the celebrations meaningful.



Vikings to mark 30 years with new album, film

Bangladeshi rock band Vikings will celebrate its 30th anniversary next year with an album and a 45-minute film, both titled ***Vikings Replayed***.

Scheduled for release on January 1, 2027, the album will feature 11 reimagined songs from the band's first two albums, ***Jiboner Kolahol*** (2000) and ***Din Joto Dukkho Toto*** (2002). The film will follow about a week later.

Vocalist Tonmoy Tansen said the new arrangements aim to reconnect longtime fans while introducing the songs to younger listeners.

The film will explore the band's journey, memories, struggles and achievements. Work on the project began in Cox's Bazar in September 2025.

Having remained largely absent from the stage since 2024, Vikings also plans to record new original songs.

EVENTS

'Solo Painting Exhibition by SK Mehedi Kamal'



Gallery Chitrak is hosting a solo painting exhibition by SK Mehedi Kamal, featuring the artist's recent works. Curated by artist and Professor Nisar Hossain, the exhibition offers visitors a chance to explore Kamal's latest paintings. The collection offers a glimpse into the artist's recent practice.

Date: Wednesday–Thursday | October 14–22
Time: 11:00am–8:00pm
Venue: Gallery Chitrak

NEWS

N Korea tests two types of submarine-launched missiles

AFP, *Seoul*

North Korea has test-fired two types of submarine-launched strategic cruise missiles, state news agency KCNA said yesterday.

The agency said the missiles were fired Wednesday into the East Sea, also known as the Sea of Japan, without "any adverse impact on the security of neighboring countries".

The reported launch came after weeks of mounting friction over a landmine explosion along the heavily fortified border between North and South Korea.

Three South Korean soldiers were injured in the September 21 blast in the Seoul-controlled area of the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ), with both countries testing upgraded missile technology in the aftermath.

The latest testing "aimed to examine the current mobilized posture of the underwater combat systems" and served as a Navy training exercise, KCNA said.

The tests showed the "high reliability, trustworthiness and ability of the war deterrents of the DPRK," the agency reported, referring to North Korea by the abbreviation of the country's official name.

Photos released by KCNA showed one missile blasting vertically out of the sea trailed by a thick plume of smoke. Another photo appeared to show a projectile erupting from the water at a 45-degree angle.

Pay hike demo by RMG workers

FROM PAGE 12

Rifa Begum, a garment worker, said they would continue protesting until the government met their demands.

"We want a wage of Tk 30,000," said another worker, Rumi.

Around 12:15pm, police used sound grenades and charged batons to disperse the protesters.

DMP Uttara Division Deputy Commissioner Rezaul Karim said one group agreed to leave the road, allowing traffic to resume. However, some protesters later attacked vehicles and vandalised two cars, prompting police to chase them away.

He denied allegations that police had used batons.

Meanwhile, workers of C-Stage (BD) Ltd blocked the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway in the MC Bazar area of Gazipur's Sreepur for an hour, demanding their unpaid September wages.

More than 1,000 workers arrived at the factory in the morning but found it closed for a general holiday despite repeated assurances that their wages would be paid.

They blocked the highway around 9:00am, causing tailbacks stretching several kilometres.

Industrial police used sound grenades after the workers refused to leave. Traffic resumed after an hour, said Md Kamruzzaman, officer-in-charge of Mawna Highway Police Station.

Mohammad Amjad Hossain, superintendent of Gazipur Industrial Police-2, said police had urged the protesters to clear the road and offered to arrange talks with factory authorities.

Govt working on new wage board

FROM PAGE 12

demanding higher wages as rising prices of essential commodities drive up living costs.

The current minimum wage came into effect in December 2023, when garment factory owners raised the minimum monthly salary from Tk 8,000 to Tk 12,500.

The wage structure is due for review this December, as the amended labour law requires wages across different sectors to be reviewed every three years to adjust for inflation.

A six-member wage board is usually formed, with representation from the government, trade unions and factory owners, along with an economist and an independent representative, to recommend minimum wages across different grades.

Md Towhidur Rahman, president of the Bangladesh Apparels Workers Federation, said the new wage board could be announced next week.

He urged the government to form the board without delay, warning that labour unrest could spread across industrial areas.

Trade union leaders would submit proposals for wage increases once the board is formed, he said.

MPO pay hike needs Tk 13,392cr more

FROM PAGE 12

The Pay Commission report noted that MPO-enlisted personnel fall outside its direct purview as they are not employees of the republic. However, it stressed the need to consider their pay structure given the size of the non-government education sector.

"Since budgetary allocations are regularly made for MPO staff, necessary provisions should be arranged to improve their living standards through inter-ministerial consultations," the report recommended.

There are currently 30,932 MPO-enlisted institutions employing 444,628 teachers and 157,731 staff.

Air pollution in Dhaka a matter of shame: PM

FROM PAGE 12

decided to identify and preserve the country's mother trees within the next six months.

It also directed the authorities to ensure regular care of planted trees, monitor their survival through field visits and explore ways to expand afforestation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Referring to the plan to plant 25 crore trees, he said the entire population will benefit if the programme is implemented properly.

The meeting also decided that the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change will take steps to cover any shortfall if other ministries fail to meet their tree-planting targets.

Noting that people have limited access to places where they can spend time in nature, Tarique stressed the need to increase such spaces and encourage people to develop rooftop and school gardens, as well as gardens in different buildings.

Public awareness is essential alongside government initiatives to protect the environment, he said, adding that greater awareness will make the work easier.

Tarique also stressed the need for separate public awareness plans to support the implementation of decisions and programmes for environmental and forest conservation.

Police step up patrols

FROM PAGE 12

through the Citizen Information Management System.

It also mentioned the use of the Suspect Identification Verification System to preserve information about arrested offenders and help identify repeat offenders.

The working paper presented yesterday detailed the steps taken by police and the Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) in response to killings, drug trafficking and other criminal activities in Pallabi and Rupnagar.

In August, Pallabi police arrested 29 people in regular narcotics cases, while 280 people were handed various sentences through special magistrate courts for involvement in drug-related offences.

In Rupnagar, six people were arrested in regular narcotics cases, while 114 others received sentences through special magistrate courts.

The DNC filed 34 cases and arrested 35 suspected drug traffickers during operations in Pallabi and Rupnagar between February 17 and September 30. The operations resulted in fines totalling Tk 66,050 and prison sentences totalling 630 days.

According to the department's presentation, it conducted 82,626 anti-drug operations between January and September this year, filing 25,021 cases against 26,270 accused.

It also reported the seizure of large quantities of narcotics, including yaba tablets, cannabis, heroin and other drugs.

The working paper outlined measures to strengthen intelligence gathering, increase surveillance in border areas, identify drug dealers and improve coordination with other law-enforcement agencies.

Apart from crime prevention and narcotics enforcement, the home ministry's working paper highlighted police manpower requirements and progress in taking action against personnel implicated in incidents surrounding the July uprising.

Proposals to create 10,000 constable and 4,000 sub-inspector posts were being processed as part of efforts to address police manpower shortages.

According to the working paper, 147 police personnel, ranging from assistant superintendents to fourth-class employees, were sent into compulsory retirement in the public interest following the 2024 mass uprising.

Besides, 57 personnel were suspended, while another 29 officers arrested in cases linked to the uprising were also suspended.

Of the 57 suspended personnel, 28 were dismissed following departmental proceedings, while one was sent into compulsory retirement in the public interest.

Five police inspectors were dismissed or removed from service over incidents during the uprising, while departmental proceedings were under way against 30 others. Another 73 inspectors were sent into compulsory retirement in the public interest after the uprising.

Separately, five officers of superintendent rank or above, accused in cases before the International Crimes Tribunal, were dismissed, while departmental proceedings were continuing against eight others.

According to the home ministry's press release, the committee reviewed government initiatives to curb cybercrime, including the formation of a separate cyber police unit.



PHOTO: REUTERS

Motorcyclists queue to refuel at a state-owned Pertamina petrol station amid a fuel supply shortage in Badung, Bali, Indonesia, yesterday.

KSA executes 2 Bangladeshis for 'immoral act'

FROM PAGE 12

Agency (SPA).

The ministry said Saudi security authorities arrested the two and subsequently brought charges against them following an investigation. They were then referred to a competent court.

According to the ministry, the court found the charges proven and sentenced them to death under ta'zir, a form of discretionary punishment under Islamic law, citing the gravity of the offence and the violation of the sanctity of the time and place.

The verdict became final after being upheld by the relevant authority, and a royal order was issued for its implementation, the statement said.

The executions were carried out in the Makkah region on October 14.

The official statement did not specify the precise nature of the act, identify the mosque or provide details about when the two Bangladeshis were arrested.

Durga Puja festivities begin with Maha Shasthi today

FROM PAGE 2

six to every other mandap.

Another 104 striking teams will remain on standby to respond quickly to any untoward incident, Ansar Director General Major General Abdul Motaleb Sazzad Mahmud said at a press conference at the force's headquarters yesterday.

Border Guard Bangladesh set up 18 base camps and intensifying patrols to ensure security at around 1,800 puja mandaps within eight kilometres of the country's borders.

BGB Director General Major General Mohammad Ashrafuzzaman Siddiqui announced the plan while talking to reporters after inspecting security arrangements at the Ramna Kali Mandir in the capital on yesterday afternoon.

He said BGB personnel had already visited the mandaps and contacted puja committees in their respective areas to coordinate security measures.

The government has declared a three-day holiday for Durga Puja from October 20 to 22.

With October 23 and 24 falling on Friday and Saturday, the regular weekly holidays, the break will extend to five days, from October 20 to 24.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Health Services Division
Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS)
Office of the Project Director
Upgradation of the Existing Kidney Dialysis Centre of Medical College Hospitals upto 50 beds and Establishment of 10 bedded Kidney Dialysis Centre at District Hospitals
National Institute of Kidney Diseases and Urology (NIKDU),
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh

ABRIDGED TENDER NOTICE

International Competitive Tendering (ICT) through e-GP

IFT No.: DGHS/PDO/Dialysis/ GD1(HD)/2026/ 764 **Date:** 13 October 2026

The tender notice for procurement of 1,030 (one thousand thirty) Hemodialysis Machines (HD Only) with integral rechargeable battery back-up, **Package No. GD-1, e-GP Tender ID No. 1333848,** will be published on **15 October 2026** e-GP website. 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, registration on e-GP system (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is mandatory. For more details contact e-GP Help desk.

(Professor Dr. A.N.M. Ehsanul Karim)
Project Director and Official Inviting Tender
Telephone: 01819-251431.
E-mail: pddialysis@ld.dghs.gov.bd

GD-2517

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Project Director
Construction of Dual Gauge Double Line between Joydebpur-Ishurdi Section Project
Bangladesh Railway, Railbhaban, Dhaka

Memo No - 54.01.0000.688.07.047.26-1738 Date: 15.10.2026

Corrigendum Notice-1

Due to unavoidable circumstances, the following amendments are made in the EOI Notice no: 54.01.0000.688.07.047.26-1715; Date: 10.09.2026 for Construction Supervision Consultants for Construction Supervision for Construction of Dual Gauge Double Line between Joydebpur - Ishurdi Section Project".

Sl	Ref. of the EOI (Clause No, Para No etc)	Existing Clause	To be read as
1.	EOI Notice Clause no: 9	9. The ***duly signed EOI*** with all supporting documents, must be submitted at or ***before 12-00 hours*** (Bangladesh Standard Time) on ***27 Oct 2026*** in sealed envelope marked with the "EOI for Construction Supervision for Construction of Dual Gauge Double Line between Joydebpur-Ishurdi Section Project" to the signatory addressed and any late submission will be returned (unopened). The proposal will include one set main, one set copy and soft copy in removable drive.	9. The ***duly signed EOI*** with all supporting documents, must be submitted at or ***before 12-00 hours*** (Bangladesh Standard Time) on ***10 Nov 2026*** in sealed envelope marked with the "EOI for Construction Supervision for Construction of Dual Gauge Double Line between Joydebpur-Ishurdi Section Project" to the signatory addressed and any late submission will be returned (unopened). The proposal will include one set main, one set copy and soft copy in removable drive.

All other conditions of the EOI will remain unchanged.

(Md. Monirul Islam)
Project Director

GD-2520

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
District: Manikganj
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No: 46.02.5600.000.07.002.26-3615 Date:14/10/2026

Invitation for Tender (works)

e-Tender Notice No.19/2026-2027

e-Tender's are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of the following packages.

SL No.	Tender ID & Package No	Name of Works	Tender Method	Tender last selling & Submission Date and Time
1	1348291 MAN/ST/SATU/4047/13	Construction of 85.150m Long RCC Arch Girder Bridge on Janna Bazar (DR)-jagir UP via Railla Road at Ch:3400m Under Saturia Upazila, District: Manikganj. Road ID No: 356704047 (Salvage Cost=4,32,196.00)	OTM	08-Nov-2026 15:00 & 09-Nov-2026 15:00
2	1345713 MAN/SAD/5149/23	Improvement of Uttar Krishnapur via Char Krishnapur Border School Talebpur UP Road at Ch.00-4700m under Sadar Upazila, District: Manikganj. Road ID No: 356465149 (Salvage Cost=54,19,064.00)		
3	1352004 MAN/SiN/4064/09	Improvement of Road by BC from Gobindol Upazila Road to Baldhara DTW VIA Dhairapara Road from Ch.00-4150m under Singair Upazila, District: Manikganj. Road ID No: 356824064 (Salvage Cost=20,78,436.00)	OTM	01-Nov-2026 15:00 & 02-Nov-2026 15:00
4	1350222 MAN/Maint/01	Part-1: Maintenance of Laxmipur Upazila Road - Ramnagar via Kanainagar Road at Ch.00-1710m under Singair Upazila, District: Manikganj. Road ID No: 356824009 Part-2: Maintenance of Jhitka Natun para-Kalahata Road at Ch.00-268m under Harirampur Upazila, District: Manikganj. Road ID No: 356284006 Part-3: Maintenance of Ghunee-Alamdi Road at Ch.00-400m under Harirampur Upazila, District: Manikganj. Road ID No: 356285021 (2nd Call)		
5	1345715 MAN/SATU/2010/02	Improvement of Road by BC from Baliati DR-Mirzapur GC (Mirzapur Upazila) Via Munshirhar Road at Ch.1248-2110m (Effective Length=862m) Under Saturia Upazila, District: Manikganj. Road ID No: 356702010 (Salvage Cost=20,71,614.00)		
6	1345714 MAN/D/5035/08	Improvement of Road by BC from Bilkalidah GC road-Uail Road at Ch.00-855m under Daulatpur Upazila, District: Manikganj. Road ID No: 356105035 (Salvage Cost. Tk.2,40,141.00)		

These are online Tender's where only e-Tender's will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.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 branch.Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd.)

(Md. Jamal Uddin)
Executive Engineer
LGED, Manikganj.
E-mail: xen.manikganj@lged.gov.bd

GD-2525

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়
পার্বত্য চট্টগ্রাম দক্ষিণ বন বিভাগ
রাঙ্গামাটি।

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং- ০৪ অব ২০২৬-২০২৭ তারিখঃ ১৫/১০/২০২৬ খ্রি.।

আগর গাছ বিক্রয়ের পুনঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারনের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, পার্বত্য চট্টগ্রাম দক্ষিণ বন বিভাগাধীন বিভিন্ন রেঞ্জের আগর বাগানসমূহের আগর গাছ বিক্রয়ের জন্য "আগর বৃক্ষ বিক্রয় নীতিমালা, ২০১২" অনুসরণপূর্বক Sealed Tender এর মাধ্যমে বিক্রয়ের নিমিত্তে প্রকৃত ব্যবসায়ীর নিকট হতে সীলবন্ধ খামে নিম্ন বর্ণিত শর্তাধীনে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। দরপত্র ও আগর বাগানের লট সম্পর্কিত (লটের গাছের সংখ্যা, অবস্থা, অবস্থান ইত্যাদি) যাবতীয় জ্ঞাতব্য বিষয়াবলী নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তর; রেঞ্জ কর্মকর্তা, রাঙ্গামাটি সদর রেঞ্জ/কাপ্তাই রেঞ্জ/কর্ণফুলী রেঞ্জ অফিস এবং স্টেশন কর্মকর্তা, বরকল/বড়ইছড়ি/ঘাগড়া/রাইংখ্যিয়ংমুখ বনশুল্ক ও পরীক্ষণ ফাঁড়ি অফিস হতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে দেখতে ও জানতে পারা যাবে।

ক্রঃ নংঃ	সিডিউল ক্রয়ের সর্বশেষ সময়	দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়	সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের স্থান	যে স্থানে দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে	দরপত্র খোলার সময় ও স্থান
০১	১৬/১১/২০২৬ খ্রি. অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।	১৭/১১/২০২৬ খ্রি. সকাল ১০.০০ ঘটিকা হতে দুপুর ১.৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।	রেঞ্জ কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়- ১। রাঙ্গামাটি সদর রেঞ্জ ২। কর্ণফুলী রেঞ্জ, কাপ্তাই ৩। কাপ্তাই রেঞ্জ, কাপ্তাই	১। জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, রাঙ্গামাটি ২। পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, রাঙ্গামাটি ৩। বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, পার্বত্য চট্টগ্রাম দক্ষিণ বন বিভাগ, রাঙ্গামাটি	১৭/১১/২০২৬ খ্রি. দুপুর ২.৩০ ঘটিকা। বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, পার্বত্য চট্টগ্রাম দক্ষিণ বন বিভাগ, রাঙ্গামাটি।

শর্তাবলী

১। উপরোল্লিখিত তারিখ, সময় এবং নির্ধারিত স্থানে রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাক্সে বন্ধ খামে দরপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে।
২। দরপত্রদাতাগণ দরপত্র বাক্স খোলার সময় ইচ্ছা করলে উপস্থিত থাকতে পারবেন।
৩। নির্ধারিত সিডিউলে দরপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে। দরপত্র সিডিউল পার্বত্য চট্টগ্রাম দক্ষিণ বন বিভাগাধীন রেঞ্জ কর্মকর্তা, রাঙ্গামাটি সদর রেঞ্জ, রেঞ্জ কর্মকর্তা, কাপ্তাই/কর্ণফুলী রেঞ্জ, কাপ্তাই এর অফিস হতে প্রতিটি সিডিউল ১,০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য) নগদ মূল্যে ১৬/১১/২০২৬ খ্রি. তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে ক্রয় করা যাবে। উক্ত সময়ের পর আর কোন সিডিউল বিক্রয় করা হবে না।
৪। প্রতিটি আগর বাগানের লটের জন্য পৃথক পৃথক সিডিউল ক্রয় করতে হবে। প্রতিটি লটের বিপরীতে পৃথকভাবে দরপত্র জামানতের পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট (এমআইসিআর) দাখিল করতে হবে।
৫। দরপত্রের সাথে নিম্নবর্ণিত কাগজপত্রাদি সংযুক্ত করতে হবেঃ
(ক) দরপত্র সিডিউল ক্রয়ের মূল রশিদ।
(খ) জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি।
(গ) নিজ নামে রেজিস্টার্ড মোবাইল নাম্বার দরপত্রে উল্লেখ করতে হবে।
(ঘ) সম্প্রতি তোলা পাসপোর্ট আকারের ০১ (এক) কপি সত্যায়িত রঙ্গিন ছবি।
(ঙ) ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি।
(চ) হালনাগাদ আয়কর পরিশোধকৃত সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি।
(ছ) প্রতিটি লটের বিপরীতে উদ্ধৃত দরের ৩০% হারে জামানত বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তা, পার্বত্য চট্টগ্রাম দক্ষিণ বন বিভাগের অনুকূলে পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট (এমআইসিআর) (Pledged to Divisional Forest Officer, Chittagong Hill Tracts South Forest Division) মূলে দাখিল করতে হবে।
৬। উপরিউক্ত ৫ নং ক্রমিকের 'ক' হইতে 'ছ' পর্যন্ত শর্তে বর্ণিত রেকর্ডপত্র ব্যতিত দাখিলকৃত দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না।
৭। ইহা ছাড়া দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির অন্যান্য সকল শর্তাবলী অত্র দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির শর্ত হিসেবে গণ্য হবে।

(এস, এম, সাজ্জাদ হোসেন)
বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তা
পার্বত্য চট্টগ্রাম দক্ষিণ বন বিভাগ
রাঙ্গামাটি।

GD-2524

ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন

নগর ভবন, ফিনিক্স রোড, ঢাকা।

স্মারক সংখ্যা-৪৬.২০৭.০০০.০৪.০০.২০৭.২০২৬-১৩১ তারিখ ঃ ৩০ আশ্বিন ১৪৩৩ বঙ্গাব্দ / ১৫/১০/২০২৬ খ্রিস্টাব্দ

ইজারা দরপত্র আহ্বান বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের নিয়ন্ত্রণাধীন (ক) আজিমপুর (খ) জুরাইন (ধলপুর ও মুরাদপুর কবরস্থানসহ) ও (গ) খিলগাঁও কবরস্থানে লাশ দাফনের জন্য বাঁশ, চাটাই সরবরাহ ও কবর খনন কাজের নিমিত্ত প্রকৃত সেবাপ্রদানকারী সরবরাহকারী/ঠিকাদার প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে ০৩ (তিন) টি কবরস্থানের জন্য পৃথক পৃথকভাবে ইজারা দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণকারীগণ নিম্নবর্ণিত দপ্তরসমূহ হতে চালানের মাধ্যমে সিডিউল ক্রয় করতে পারবেন। দরপত্রের অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী সিডিউলে উল্লেখ রয়েছে।

১.	সংস্থা ও বিভাগের নাম	:	সমাজকল্যাণ ও বস্তি উন্নয়ন বিভাগ, ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন ।
২.	সরবরাহকৃত মালামালের স্থান	:	(ক)আজিমপুর কবরস্থান (খ) জুরাইন কবরস্থান (ধলপুর ও মুরাদপুর কবরস্থানসহ) ও (গ) খিলগাঁও কবরস্থান।
৩.	সরবরাহকৃত মালামালের সরবরাহের সময়কাল	:	কার্যাদেশ প্রাপ্তির তারিখ হতে ১ (এক) বছর পর্যন্ত।
৪.	সরবরাহের অর্থ যোগান/ পরিশোধ পদ্ধতি	:	বর্ণিত কবরস্থানসমূহে মৃত ব্যক্তির লাশ দাফন করার নিমিত্ত আগত ব্যক্তির নিকট হতে বিল/ভাউচারের মাধ্যমে কার্যাদেশে উল্লিখিত দরে নির্ধারিত অর্থ আদায়।
৫.	দরপত্র আহ্বানের তারিখ	:	১৮.১০.২০২৬ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ/২ কার্তিক ১৪৩৩ বঙ্গাব্দ।
৬.	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	:	০২.১১.২০২৬ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ/১৭ কার্তিক ১৪৩৩ বঙ্গাব্দ।
৭.	দরপত্র তফসিল জমা দেয়ার তারিখ ও সময়	:	০৩.১১.২০২৬ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ/১৮ কার্তিক ১৪৩৩ বঙ্গাব্দ তারিখ সকালঃ ৯.৩০ হতে দুপুর ২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
৮.	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	:	০৩.১১.২০২৬ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ/১৮ কার্তিক ১৪৩৩ বঙ্গাব্দ তারিখ বেলা ৩.০০ ঘটিকা।
৯.	দরপত্র প্রাপ্তির স্থান	:	সমাজকল্যাণ ও বস্তি উন্নয়ন বিভাগ, নগর ভবন, ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন, কেন্দ্রীয় হিসাব বিভাগ এবং আঞ্চলিক নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, অঞ্চল-২,৩ ও ৫, ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন।
১০.	দরপত্র জমা দেয়া ও খোলার স্থান	:	দরপত্র উন্মুক্ত কমিটি, সচিবের দপ্তর, নগর ভবন (৩য় তলা), ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন
১১.	দরপত্র পদ্ধতি	:	উন্মুক্ত পদ্ধতি (OTP)

মালামাল সরবরাহের বিবরণ ঃ

সরবরাহকৃত মালামালের বিবরণ	সিডিউলের মূল্য	জামানতের পরিমাণ
আজিমপুর, জুরাইন (ধলপুর ও মুরাদপুর কবরস্থানসহ) ও খিলগাঁও কবরস্থানে ১ (এক) বছরের জন্য মৃত ব্যক্তির লাশ দাফন করার নিমিত্ত বাঁশ, চাটাই সরবরাহ ও কবর খনন কাজ।	১,০০০/- (চালানের মাধ্যমে জমাকৃত এবং অফেরত যোগ্য)	(ক) আজিমপুর কবরস্থানের ক্ষেত্রে ২,৯০,০০০/-(দুই লক্ষ নব্বই হাজার) টাকা (যা ফেরতযোগ্য); (খ) জুরাইন কবরস্থানের ক্ষেত্রে (ধলপুর ও মুরাদপুর কবরস্থানসহ) ১,১৫,০০০/-(এক লক্ষ পনের হাজার) টাকা (যা ফেরতযোগ্য); (গ) খিলগাঁও কবরস্থানের ক্ষেত্রে ২৮,০০০/-(আটাশ হাজার) টাকা (যা ফেরতযোগ্য)।

২। দরপত্রদাতাদের হালনাগাদ নবায়নকৃত ১ম শ্রেণির ঠিকাদার ও সরবরাহকারীর ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, হালনাগাদ আয়কর, ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন, টিআইএন/ইটিআইএন সনদ, ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সার্টিফিকেট, অভিজ্ঞতা সনদ (যদি থাকে) ও মালিকের জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র (প্রতিটি প্রথম শ্রেণির গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত কপি) দরপত্রের সাথে অবশ্যই দাখিল করতে হবে।
৩। দরপত্রের নির্ধারিত নিরাপত্তা জামানত যেকোন সিডিউল ব্যাংক হতে প্রশাসক, ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের অনুকূলে পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট আকারে দরপত্রের সাথে জমা দিতে হবে।
৪। দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত যে কোন তথ্য অফিস চলাকালীন সমাজকল্যাণ ও বস্তি উন্নয়ন বিভাগ হতে জানা যাবে।
৫। দরপত্র খোলার সময় দরদাতা/ প্রতিনিধিগণ উপস্থিত থাকতে পারবেন।
৬। সিডিউল ক্রয়ের জন্য সিডিউলের টাকা প্রধান সমাজকল্যাণ ও বস্তি উন্নয়ন কর্মকর্তা/আঞ্চলিক নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তাগণ/প্রধান হিসাবরক্ষণ কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক স্বাক্ষরিত চালানের মাধ্যমে চলতি হিসাব নং-১৬২৩২০০০১৭৮৩৯ সোনালী ব্যাংক লিঃ, নগর ভবন শাখায় জমা প্রদান করতে হবে।
৭। ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন কর্তৃক কালো তালিকাভুক্ত কোন প্রতিষ্ঠান দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবে না।
৮। আজিমপুর, জুরাইন (ধলপুর ও মুরাদপুরসহ) ও খিলগাঁও এই ৩ (তিন) টি কবরস্থানের জন্য পৃথক পৃথকভাবে দরপত্র জমা দিতে হবে এবং দরপত্রের খামের উপর সুনির্দিষ্ট কবরস্থানের নাম উল্লেখ করতে হবে ডি।
৯। কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা সকল দরপত্র বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করবে ।

ডিএসসিসি/পিআরডি/৯০/২০২৬-২৭

সচিব
ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন
ফোন ঃ ০২-২২৩৩৮৩৫০৭
secretary@dscc.gov.bd

GD-2526



PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

River erosion along the Padma has swallowed hundreds of homes in Balupur village of Shibganj upazila, Chapainawabganj, leaving stretches of the riverbank near No 12 Pakha Union Parishad vulnerable despite the presence of geobags. Erosion has continued for nearly a month as water levels recede. New geobags have been ferried to the riverbank to prevent further erosion. The photo was taken yesterday.

Sajek road blockade halted for Durga Puja

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Rangamati*

The road blockade on the route to Rangamati's Sajek Valley tourist centre, called by the Sajek Karbari Association and the Sajek Gano Odhikar Rokkha Committee, has been suspended from today until October 21 for Durga Puja.

Sajek Karbari Association President Natun Joy Chakma and Sajek Gano Odhikar Rokkha Committee Convener Babudhan Chakma made the announcement in a press release yesterday.

Tourists will be able to visit Sajek from today.

In a joint statement, the two organisations said the blockade on the Sajek tourist road was suspended from today to October 21 at the request of the Sajek Machalong



FILE PHOTO

Bazar Durga Puja Celebration Committee and out of respect for Sharadiya Durga Utsab, the main religious festival of the Hindu community across the country.

Natun and Babudhan said the blockade programme was called to ensure the security, lives, and property of Sajek residents.

Therefore, if the administration fails to meet the demands of Sajek residents, the programme will be resumed after Durga Puja. The schedule will be announced in due course.

They urged the administration to promptly implement the three-point demand of the two organisations and the people of Sajek without delay to restore a peaceful environment.

4 sent to jail over rape of Jhenaidah girl

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Jhenaidah*

A Jhenaidah court sent four people to jail in a case filed over the rape of a three-year-old girl.

The four also allegedly tried to cover up the incident, police and locals said.

The accused are Shukur Ali Mondal, 68; his two sons, Md Rezaul Mondal, 42, and Md Tizarat Mondal, 39; and Shukur's brother, Abdur Rahman, 65. All are residents of a village in Jhenaidah Sadar upazila.

According to the case statement, Shukur Ali raped the child at his house on October 13. When an attempt was made to detain him, his sons and brother helped him escape. Later, Abdur Rahman tried to cover up the incident by offering money to the victim's family.

On Wednesday, the child's mother filed a case with Jhenaidah Sadar Police Station, said Sheikh Billal Hossain, additional superintendent of Jhenaidah district police (finance and administration).

45th BCS gazette

FROM PAGE 3

They threatened to take their own lives at Shahbagh if no decision was made by the deadline.

Ekram Gazi Hridoy, recommended for the administration cadre, said the protesters had no criminal cases against them or links to militancy.

At least 10 excluded candidates spoke to The Daily Star, with several suspecting their past political affiliations had led to their exclusion despite having no criminal cases.

Their concerns came despite Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed's assurance that political identity would not lead to discrimination in BCS recruitment. He made the remarks on October 1 after protests over the exclusion of 46 candidates from the 49th special BCS, most of whom were later included in the gazette.

Fazle Iffat Anik of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology said he had been compelled to join Chhatra League to secure dormitory accommodation.

"Why am I being excluded while I took part in the July uprising, and the home minister assured that none would be excluded for political reasons?" he said.

Two other excluded candidates, Sazzad Hossain of Sir Salimullah Medical College and Shams Uddin Sajjad of Bangladesh Agricultural University, also acknowledged past involvement with the now-banned Chhatra League and said they had participated in the July uprising.

"During the July movement, I put my political identity aside and took to the streets. Why have I been excluded now because of that political identity? No one else in my family is involved with politics either," said Sazzad.

However, not all excluded candidates had political affiliations.

Sri Krishna Chaitanya Nandi of Sylhet Agricultural University said he had no criminal cases or political affiliations. "I cannot even guess why I was excluded," he said.

Nur-e Alam Miazi, a Rajshahi University student who participated in the 2018 quota reform movement and the July uprising, said he had learned that a government agency reported him as an active Chhatra League activist.

The Daily Star also spoke to two other excluded candidates who had already joined government service through different BCS batches.

Iftekharul Islam, recommended for the administration cadre through the 45th BCS, said he was already working as an assistant surgeon after joining through the 48th special BCS.

"My name is not associated with any criminal case, and my family has no direct involvement in politics," he said.

Another candidate, Nur-e Alam, said he was serving as an assistant director in the Ansar cadre after joining through the 44th BCS.

"If I was recruited through the 44th BCS, how could I be excluded from the gazette for the 45th BCS?" he asked at the rally.

Contacted last night, Public Administration Secretary Quamruzzaman Chowdhury said the gazette had been issued following established procedures.

"No one was excluded. You have seen earlier as well that we followed the meritocracy declared by the prime minister, and this time was no exception," he said.

Asked whether another gazette would be issued, he said he could not say for certain, adding that the process was ongoing.

PRAYER TIMING
OCTOBER 16

	Fazr	Juma	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	4-50	12-30	4-00	5-38	7-15
JAMAAT	5-25	1-15	4-15	5-41	7-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

34 cases of idol vandalism

FROM PAGE 3

The Parishad said it had issued 22 security guidelines to its district- and upazila-level units, including round-the-clock volunteer deployment, CCTV installation where possible, adequate lighting and firefighting equipment, and immediate reporting of incidents to authorities.

It welcomed a Tk 1 crore increase in the allocation for the Hindu Welfare Trust but reiterated its demand to transform the trust into a foundation. The organisation also called for year-round security for religious minorities and exemplary punishment for those responsible for attacks.

The Parishad reiterated its eight-point demands, including a minority protection law, a National Minority Commission and a three-day public holiday for Durga Puja.

The festival began with Bodhon yesterday, while Bijoya Dashami will be observed on October 21, with idol immersion scheduled for the same day.

Old worries stay as KL reopens labour market

FROM PAGE 1

situation right now, they will have to pay at least Tk 5 lakhs."

During the 2022–2024 recruitment period, workers spent an average of Tk 5.44 lakh to secure jobs in Malaysia against the government-fixed cost of Tk 78,990, according to a survey by the US-based non-profit Verité.

Malaysia suspended new recruitment from Bangladesh on May 31, 2024, following allegations of irregularities and excessive costs. At least 16,970 Bangladeshis were unable to enter Malaysia before the deadline despite obtaining government clearance and completing other formalities.

Under the new arrangement, Malaysia has approved 25 private agencies and the state-run Bangladesh Overseas Employment and Services Limited (BOESL) as the main processing agencies, leaving 312 other recruiting agencies dependent on them for key procedures.

The 25 agencies and BOESL will process e-visas and issue no-objection certificates required for clearance from the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET).

The ministry said the arrangement would encourage wider participation, competition and accountability while preserving recruiting agencies' independence.

It said Malaysian authorities had selected the agencies according to their own eligibility criteria under the existing bilateral memorandum of understanding (MoU). Bangladesh had earlier submitted a list of 423 recruiting agencies for consideration and sought broader participation.

However, Mohammed Fakhrul Islam, former joint secretary general of the Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies, alleged that the government had effectively revived the previous system dominated by a limited number of agencies.

He said the 312 agencies would still depend on the 25 selected agencies for essential visa processing, effectively reducing them to sub-agents.

"The only difference is that the 312 agencies will now be able to obtain BMET clearance under their own licences. Otherwise, the system remains largely unchanged," he told The Daily Star.

Fakhrul criticised the selection process, questioning why all legitimate and qualified recruiting agencies had not been allowed to participate.

He also questioned the government's failure to establish a mechanism to regulate migration costs.

"Who will decide how much workers have to pay? Will the recruiting agencies themselves determine the amount?" he asked.

RECRUITMENT PROCESS STILL UNCLEAR

Despite yesterday's announcement, agency owners said it remained unclear when medical examinations, visa processing and other formalities could begin.

KM Mobarak Ullah Shimul, owner of Abed Air Travels and Tours, said Malaysian employers had secured worker allocations, but Bangladeshi agencies still lacked clear guidelines on medical examinations, calling visas and government clearance, creating a gap between employers' expectations and recruitment arrangements.

He warned that prolonged uncertainty could jeopardise Malaysia's demand for at least two lakh Bangladeshi workers.

Shimul said the government had also yet to fix migration costs, taking into account airfare, processing charges and exchange rate fluctuations.

Agency owners earlier said around 350 Malaysian employers had applied for worker quotas, with more than 6,000 positions already allocated. Some demand letters had also been sent to the Bangladesh High Commission in Kuala Lumpur for attestation.

On September 29, the mission attested a demand for 28 workers from Malaysian supermarket chain NSK Trade City.

Another agency owner warned that some job allocations had already expired due to delays, and further setbacks could prompt employers to recruit from other countries.

The owners urged the government to allow zero-cost and regular private-sector recruitment to proceed simultaneously. One suggested offering financial incentives for zero-cost recruitment instead of imposing additional charges on Malaysian employers already covering workers' travel and other recruitment expenses.

Meanwhile, the ministry said medical examinations would initially be conducted at centres on Malaysia's existing approved list, excluding those identified as controversial or linked to past irregularities.

Representatives from Malaysia's health, human resources and home ministries would later visit Bangladesh to inspect medical facilities before finalising a new list.

The government also pledged to prevent any single centre from monopolising medical examinations and take action against facilities violating regulations.

QUESTIONS OVER ZERO-COST RECRUITMENT

Asif Munier welcomed the resumption of recruitment but said key questions concerning worker protection remained unanswered.

He urged the government to clarify whether the 10,000 zero-cost jobs were intended for new applicants or workers who had previously paid but failed to travel.

"Without clear eligibility criteria, the announcement could encourage unrealistic expectations among jobseekers," he added.

Munier also questioned whether the arrangement involving 25 processing agencies and 312 recruiting agencies differed substantially from the previous system.

Simply increasing the number of participating agencies would neither guarantee transparency nor prevent exploitation without effective monitoring and accountability mechanisms, he said.

He called for greater scrutiny of the agency selection process to address potential conflicts of interest and avoid repeating past controversies.

Munier also stressed that Bangladesh should ensure Malaysia respected its concerns and the interests of Bangladeshi workers rather than merely accepting recruitment terms set by Kuala Lumpur.

An official announcement from Malaysia confirming the arrangements would also help resolve uncertainty over their implementation, he said.

With the existing bilateral MoU, signed in December 2021, set to expire this December, Munier called for a legally binding agreement clearly defining both countries' responsibilities and accountability.

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বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-০১/২০২৬ তারিখঃ ১৫.১০.২০২৬

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এ. এইচ. এম আসলাম হোসেন
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GD-2519

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ID	Title of Works
1349993	Construction of Open Yard Store at Bakerganj 132/33 kV Sub-station Under GMD, Power Grid, Barishal.
1351050	Repair & Maintenance Work of Boundary Wall, Open Store, Car Garage of Barishal (N) 230/132 kV Grid Sub-station Under GMD, Power Grid, Barishal.
1350056	Construction of Water Reservoir at Patuakhali and Barguna 132/33 kV Grid Sub-station Under GMD, Power Grid, Barishal.
1350064	Construction of Store Fencing at The South Side of The Switchyard at Patuakhali 132/33 kV Grid Sub-station Under GMD, Power Grid, Barishal.
1350073	Supply of Re-filled LPG Gas Cylinder in Different Grid Sub-Station Under GMD, Power Grid, Barishal.

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নং-০৫.০৪.০০০০.০০৯.১১.০০২.২২(অংশ)/১৭০৬ তারিখ: ৩০ আশ্বিন ১৪৩৩ / ১৫ অক্টোবর ২০২৬

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

মুদ্রণ ও প্রকাশনা অধিদপ্তরের ১৩তম হতে ২০তম গ্রেডের নিয়োগ পরীক্ষার সময়সূচী ও প্রবেশপত্র ডাউনলোড বিষয়ে অবহিতকরণ

মুদ্রণ ও প্রকাশনা অধিদপ্তরের শূন্যপদে জনবল নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে গত ২৩ অক্টোবর ২০২৩ তারিখে ০৫.০৪.০০০০.০০৯.১১.০০১.২৩/২২৩২ সংখ্যক বিজ্ঞপ্তি এবং ১৬ জুন ২০২৬ তারিখের ০৫.০৪.০০০০.০০৯.১১.০০২.২২ (অংশ)/১০১৪ সংখ্যক বিজ্ঞপ্তি মোতাবেক নিম্নবর্ণিত ২১ ক্যাটাগরির পদে জনবল নিয়োগ পরীক্ষা ছকে বর্ণিত সময়সূচী অনুযায়ী একযোগে ঢাকা মহানগরীর বিভিন্ন কেন্দ্রে অনুষ্ঠিত হবে:

তারিখ ও সময়	গ্রুপ	পদের নাম
৩০ অক্টোবর ২০২৬ তারিখ সকাল ১০টা হতে ১১টা পর্যন্ত	গ্রুপ-১ ১৩টি পদ	সাঁটমুদ্রাক্ষরিক-কাম-কম্পিউটার অপারেটর, লাইব্রেরিয়ান (ইউ.ডি.এ), সহকারী লাইব্রেরিয়ান (ইউ.ডি.এ), গাড়ি চালক, অফিস সহকারী-কাম-কম্পিউটার মুদ্রাক্ষরিক, সহকারী স্টোরকিপার, অফিস সহায়ক, নিরাপত্তা প্রহরী, পোর্টার, পরিচ্ছন্নতা কর্মী, সহকারী চেকার, মেকানিক (মেকানিক্যাল), কাউন্টার (প্রেসের জন্য)
৬ নভেম্বর ২০২৬ তারিখ সকাল ১০টা হতে ১১টা পর্যন্ত	গ্রুপ-বি ৮টি পদ	কম্পিউটার অপারেটর, সাঁটলিপিকার-কাম-কম্পিউটার অপারেটর, হিসাব সহকারী (এল.ডি.এ), সেলসম্যান, পানি পাম্প চালক/পাম্প চালক, কপিহোল্ডার, ইলেকট্রিশিয়ান, বাইন্ডার

প্রার্থীগণকে অবশ্যই নিম্নোক্ত নির্দেশনাবলী অনুসরণ করতে হবেঃ

ক. পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণে আগ্রহী প্রার্থীগণকে আবেদন দাখিলের সময় SMS-এ প্রেরিত User ID এবং Password ব্যবহার করে http://dpp.teletalk.com.bd ওয়েবসাইট হতে রোল নং, পদের নাম, ছবি, পরীক্ষার তারিখ, সময় ও ভেন্যুর নাম ইত্যাদি তথ্য সংবলিত প্রবেশপত্র ডাউনলোডপূর্বক প্রিন্ট (সম্ভব হলে রঙিন প্রিন্ট) করতে হবে। প্রার্থীকে উক্ত প্রবেশপত্র লিখিত, ব্যবহারিক ও মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের সময় অবশ্যই প্রদর্শন করতে হবে।

খ. প্রবেশপত্র ডাউনলোড করতে কোন সমস্যা হলে টেলিটক নম্বর থেকে ১২১ অথবা alljobs.query@teletalk.com.bd মেইলে যোগাযোগ করা যাবে।

(মোহাম্মদ রুহুল আমিন)
পরিচালক
ও
সদস্য সচিব
বিভাগীয় নির্বাচন কমিটি
মুদ্রণ ও প্রকাশনা অধিদপ্তর

GD-2527

DHAKA FRIDAY OCTOBER 16, 2026, ASHWIN 31, 1433 BS

SPORT



"Where can Hamza go? I just don't know where Hamza's meant to go. I have to be super careful because maybe what I might want to say, I don't say.

Sheffield United coach **CHRIS WILDER** regarding Hamza Choudhury's sending off

Jahanara seeks return to national fold

SPORTS REPORTER

Jahanara Alam, who has been away from the country's cricket scene for a few years, has expressed her interest to the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) in returning to the national fold. The former Bangladesh women's team captain last played for the Tigresses during the three-match home T20I series against Ireland in 2024.

The 33-year-old pacer has taken 48 WODI wickets and 60 WT20I wickets since making her international debut in the 50-over format in 2011. In January last year, Jahanara informed the board that she wanted a break from the national team, citing mental health issues. Late last year, she came into the limelight after alleging sexual harassment by members of the team management.

The BCB took steps following an investigation by its independent inquiry committee.

BCB women's wing chairman Rafiqul Islam Babu confirmed that the pacer had communicated with the board about returning to the national team.

"Yes, she has communicated with us. But she will have to pass fitness tests as well," Rafiqul told The Daily Star.



"She has to come and play domestic tournaments before she can take the next steps. She has expressed interest in playing domestic cricket, but at the end of the day, selectors make the call on who makes the teams.

"There is a procedure to follow once someone has taken a break, but the time she played in the national team, she did well," Rafiqul added.

The BCB has several domestic tournaments coming up, but board sources said Jahanara would have to decide which tournament to participate in as she seeks to make her case for a return.

WHAT TO WATCH

T SPORTS
Bangladesh Football League
City Club vs Bashundhara Kings
Live from 2:45 pm

World Championship of Legends
Semfinal 1: England vs South Africa
Live from 5:30 pm

Semifinal 2: West Indies vs Australia
Live from 9:30 pm

LaLiga
Deportivo VS Levante
Live from 1:00 am (Saturday)

PHOTO: REAL MADRID/FACEBOOK

Real break Roma hearts

STAR SPORTS DESK

Jose Mourinho and Antonio Rudiger enjoyed a Roma reunion to remember as Real Madrid scored three goals in seven minutes late on to claim a thrilling 4-3 Champions League win yesterday.

Masters of late comebacks, Los Blancos were trailing 3-1 before Carlos Espi struck in the 83rd minute. From there, Endrick and former Roma defender Rudiger completely flipped the script at Stadio Olimpico as Mourinho got one over on his old club.

Marten de Roon gave the hosts the lead in the 20th minute before Kylian Mbappe struck back five minutes later to level the scores at the break.

Two Donyell Malen strikes in the space of six minutes early in the second half seemed to take the game away from the 15-time European champions but Real scored three goals in the final seven minutes, all stemming from corners, to turn the game on its head.

- Real Madrid have now won five European Cup/UCL games after trailing by 2+ goals, more than any other team.
- Los Blancos overturned a 2-goal deficit after the 82nd minute, the latest an away side has done so in the UCL (excluding extra time).
- Roma have lost consecutive major European games despite scoring 3+ goals (both 4-3 defeats, to Bologna and Real Madrid in 2026).
- At 27 years 298 days, Mbappe became the youngest to reach 100 UCL appearances, beating Lionel Messi's age of 28 years 84 days in 2015.
- Since his January 18 Roma debut, Donyell Malen has scored 23 goals across all competitions. Only Harry Kane (37) and Raphinha (24) have scored more in that time for a big-five European league club.

'Lucky' PSG thump City

AFP, *Manchester*

PSG boss Luis Enrique said the European champions rode their luck to beat Manchester City 4-2 and maintain a perfect start to their defence of the Champions League.

The visitors ran riot in the first half of City's first home game since being found guilty of breaking Premier League financial rules as they raced into a 3-0 lead.

Desire Doue, Ousmane Dembele and Vitinha were on target in a near flawless first 45 minutes by the French champions.

But City roared back after the break as Erling Haaland struck twice, while they also hit the woodwork twice and were denied by a brilliant goalline clearance by Nuno Mendes.

"We could have lost this match if they scored the chances that they created. The way they play, it's amazing.," said Luis Enrique.

Maghnes Akliouche briefly restored PSG's three-goal lead in the second half, while Ferran Torres also missed a late penalty for the visitors.

"We try to win every single match. We try to score. We don't stop if we score one or two goals," added Luis Enrique.

"It's very nice to feel that but I have to repeat, today we were lucky because in the second half we could have conceded more goals."

- PSG have scored 10 goals in the Champions League this season, the most by any side in the competition's first two matches of a campaign.
- Haaland has scored 38 Champions League goals for City, surpassing Sergio Aguero's 36 to become the club's top scorer in the competition.



Tigers back in tri-series business, with WC in mind

SAMSUL AREFIN KHAN

Bangladesh in recent years have had little opportunity of playing a tri-series, which brings a distinct challenge as teams get little time to adjust to conditions and devise plans for different opponents.

Since winning their maiden tri-nation title in Ireland in 2019, the Tigers have not played an ODI series. Their last tri-series came in the T20 format in 2022, when Pakistan beat hosts New Zealand in the final ahead of the T20 World Cup in Australia.

Bangladesh's upcoming campaign, beginning against Zimbabwe in Abu Dhabi on Saturday, offers a chance to sharpen their adaptability ahead of next year's ODI World Cup in South Africa.

- Bangladesh appeared in a tri-series for the first time in 1997 in Kenya involving the hosts and Zimbabwe. They lost all four matches to get knocked out before the final.

In this tournament, featuring a single round-robin format, Bangladesh will play Afghanistan on October 21 before the final on October 23, both fixtures taking place in Sharjah.

Chief selector Habibul Bashar sees the competition as an important step towards the marquee event, with every match between now and then carrying weight.

"Right now, our primary focus is the ODI World Cup... Whether it's a tri-series or a bilateral series, every match leading up to the World Cup is extremely important for us," Habibul told The Daily Star on Thursday.



"In terms of preparation, I think we are doing well. The 2019 tri-nation series is an inspiration. And this series is a good opportunity for us ahead of the Asia Cup and the World Cup. Winning a tri-nation series like this would give us a lot of confidence going into those tournaments."

MOSADDEK HOSSAIN, Bangladesh all-rounder

"Although we play fewer tri-nation series now, we have the Asia Cup coming up, so this acts as a valuable dress rehearsal.

"Nowadays, teams play each other frequently... Strategies mainly adapt based on pitch and weather conditions," he said.

Bangladesh, drawn in Group B, are scheduled to open their World Cup campaign against England in Namibia on October 8 before travelling to South Africa for the remainder of their group-stage fixtures, running from October 12-23, involving the likes of New Zealand, Sri Lanka, and co-hosts South Africa.

The former Bangladesh captain wants Bangladesh to play a similar tri-series in Namibia before the World Cup, arguing that exposure to the conditions could prove valuable in the opening phase of the tournament.

"I thought about it because we haven't played much in Namibia, though we have played in South Africa," Habibul said. "Namibia is slightly different from South Africa -- it has a higher altitude, and the pitches aren't quite as good as South Africa's.

"In this World Cup, we must perform right from the first match; if we drop behind early, making a comeback will be very difficult. Therefore, playing a tri-nation series in Namibia would benefit our World Cup preparation, though it depends on whether other boards agree to align. Since our opening World Cup match is against Namibia, starting on top is essential."

The Tigers' record in tri-series suggests that winning the tournament will be no simple task. They have claimed just one title in 13 attempts, while losing to Sri Lanka in the finals of 2009 and 2018.

There have, however, been landmark moments. Bangladesh's first-ever ODI victory came against Kenya in the Coca-Cola Triangular Series in India in 1998, while their famous win over Australia in Cardiff during the NatWest Series remains one of the most celebrated results in the country's history.

KHALEDA ZIA IHF NATIONS TROPHY

26-year wait nears end for women's handball

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will host a senior women's international handball tournament for the first time in 26 years when the Begum Khaleda Zia IHF Nations Trophy (Asia Zone – 2) begins at Shaheed Captain M Mansur Ali Handball Stadium on Sunday.

Since hosting the South Asian Women's Handball Championship in 2000, the country has staged several age-group international tournaments but no senior women's competition.

The four-team tournament, sanctioned by the International Handball Federation (IHF), will follow a round-robin format, with the top two teams contesting the final and the other two playing for third place.

Bangladesh Handball Federation (BHF) general secretary Salahuddin Ahmed said Afghanistan withdrew on Wednesday after the IHF declined to accept five Iranian players in their squad.

The hosts trained for three months under Spanish coach Ana Alonso Fragua, who focused on individual skills initially before shifting to team play.

"We trained under a foreign coach for the first time," Bangladesh captain Ismat Ara Nishi said, adding that she considers India as favourites. Bangladesh will face Nepal on October 18, India on October 19 and Maldives on October 20.

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

SME FOUNDATION

নং- ৩৬.১২.০০০০.০০০.০৩৫.১১.০০০১.২৬-১৫৫২ তারিখ: ১৫ অক্টোবর ২০২৬

ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক

এসএমই ফাউন্ডেশন শিল্প মন্ত্রণালয়ের অধীন একটি উদ্যোক্তা উন্নয়ন সংস্থা, যা কোম্পানী আইন-১৯৯৪ এর ২৮ ধারার আওতায় অলাভজনক প্রতিষ্ঠান হিসেবে ২০০৬ সালে প্রতিষ্ঠিত হয়। এসএমই ফাউন্ডেশন সারাদেশে নতুন উদ্যোক্তা তৈরিতে সহায়তা প্রদানসহ বিদ্যমান মাইক্রো, ক্ষুদ্র ও মাঝারি উদ্যোক্তাদের দক্ষতা ও সক্ষমতা বৃদ্ধিতে প্রশিক্ষণ প্রদান করে। এই ফাউন্ডেশন পণ্যের মানোন্নয়ন ও বহুমুখীকরণসহ স্থানীয় ও আন্তর্জাতিক বাজারে বিক্রয়-বিপণন, প্রান্তিক উদ্যোক্তাদের অনুকূলে সহজশর্তে ঋণ বিতরণ, এসএমই বিষয়ক গবেষণা ও নীতি সহায়তা প্রদান ইত্যাদি কর্মসূচি বাস্তবায়ন করছে।

এসএমই ফাউন্ডেশনের 'ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক' পদে চুক্তিভিত্তিতে নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে যোগ্য ও আগ্রহী প্রার্থীদের নিকট হতে আবেদন আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। প্রধান নির্বাহী হিসেবে ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক ফাউন্ডেশনের সংঘবিধি ও চাকুরী বিধিমালাসহ সংশ্লিষ্ট বিধি-বিধানের আলোকে কার্যসম্পাদন করবেন এবং কার্যাবলীর জন্য তিনি সরাসরি পরিচালক পর্ষদের নিকট দায়বদ্ধ থাকবেন।

শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা: অন্যূন দ্বিতীয় বিভাগ/শ্রেণিসহ মাস্টার্স বা সমমানের ডিগ্রি (অধিকতর উচ্চ ডিগ্রীধারী প্রার্থীদের অগ্রাধিকার প্রদান করা হবে)।

অভিজ্ঞতা: প্রাইভেট সেক্টর এবং এসএমই সেক্টরে কাজের অভিজ্ঞতাসহ প্রথম শ্রেণির নির্বাহী হিসেবে কমপক্ষে ১৫ (পনের) বছর চাকুরীর অভিজ্ঞতা। দারিদ্র্য বিমোচন, জনগণের জীবনযাত্রার মান ও আয় বৃদ্ধি, দেশজ উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধি, সরকারি ও বেসরকারি খাতে শিল্পায়নে তাঁর অবদানের বিষয় আবেদন পত্রে উল্লেখ করতে হবে। প্রার্থীর বাংলাদেশের এসএমই খাত সম্পর্কে গভীর ও বাস্তবভিত্তিক জ্ঞান থাকতে হবে, যার মধ্যে রয়েছে খাতের কাঠামো, প্রধান চ্যালেঞ্জ এবং সংশ্লিষ্ট নীতি ও আর্থিক ব্যবস্থা।

বয়স: বয়সসীমা ন্যূনতম ৪৫ বছর (২৯ অক্টোবর ২০২৬ তারিখ অনুযায়ী)। **শিল্পায়ন এবং/অথবা এসএমই উন্নয়নে বিশেষ যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন প্রার্থীর ক্ষেত্রে শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা, অভিজ্ঞতা ও বয়স পরিচালক পর্ষদ শিথিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।**

বেতন: বেতন আলোচনা সাপেক্ষ।

প্রাথমিকভাবে চুক্তির মেয়াদ হবে ০৩ (তিন) বছর। চাকুরিকাল ০৬ (ছয়) মাস সম্পূর্ণ হওয়ার পর কার্যক্রম মূল্যায়নের ভিত্তিতে অবশিষ্ট সময়ের জন্য নিয়োগ চূড়ান্ত অনুমোদন (Confirm) করা হবে। পরবর্তীতে পর্ষদের সিদ্ধান্ত অনুযায়ী চুক্তির মেয়াদ বৃদ্ধি করা যেতে পারে।

চাকুরিরত প্রার্থীগণকে উপযুক্ত কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে হবে। আবেদন পত্রের সাথে সদ্য তোলা ০২ কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজ ছবি, অভিজ্ঞতা সনদ, জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র, সকল শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সত্যায়িত কপি সংযুক্ত করতে হবে। অসম্পূর্ণ আবেদনপত্র সরাসরি বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।

আবেদনের সময়সীমা: আগামী ২৯ অক্টোবর ২০২৬ বিকাল ৪:০০ টার মধ্যে চেয়ারপার্সন, এসএমই ফাউন্ডেশন, পর্যটন ভবন (লেভেল ৬ ও ৭), ই-৫ সি/১, আগারগাঁও, ঢাকা- ১২০৭ বরাবর আবেদনপত্র ডাকযোগে/সরাসরি প্রেরণ করতে হবে।

বিশেষ দ্রষ্টব্য: ইতোপূর্বে প্রকাশিত বিজ্ঞপ্তির পরিপ্রেক্ষিতে যাঁরা আবেদন করেছেন, তাঁদের পুনরায় আবেদন করার প্রয়োজন নেই।

মোঃ নাজিম হাসান সাত্তার
ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক (অঃ দাঃ)

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Air pollution in Dhaka a matter of shame: PM

UNB, *Dhaka*

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman yesterday urged people from all walks of life to come forward to protect the environment and forests, calling Dhaka's persistent air pollution a matter of shame for the country.

The capital ranked first or second among the world's most polluted cities for many years, he said at a meeting to review the progress and implementation of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change's activities.



"This is a matter of shame for the country," Tarique said, while stressing the need for greater public awareness and collective efforts to build a liveable Bangladesh for future generations.

He urged government officials to take initiatives beyond their assigned duties to protect the environment and forests.

"Allah has given us an opportunity to do something for this country and its people. You may work from nine to five [9am-5pm]. Nobody will say anything if you do nothing beyond that. But if the environment deteriorates, future generations will suffer, because your next generation will also live in this country."

The meeting, held at the ministry's conference room,

SEE PAGE 8 COL 3

NATURE QUEST



KING OF THE MANGROVES

A saltwater crocodile crawls through shallow water towards a muddy bank in the Sundarbans, Khulna. The world's largest living reptile, it inhabits mangrove swamps, estuaries and rivers across eastern India, Southeast Asia and northern Australia. An excellent swimmer, it can travel long distances at sea. Males can grow over six metres long. Armed with powerful jaws and a muscular tail, this ambush predator feeds on fish, crabs, birds, mammals and occasionally sharks. It can remain almost completely submerged while watching for prey. As an apex predator, it helps maintain ecological balance by regulating prey populations. Although classified as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List, habitat destruction, illegal hunting and human-wildlife conflict continue to threaten its survival. PHOTO: **HABIBUR RAHMAN**

Govt working on new wage board for RMG workers

Move comes ahead of Dec pay review

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

The government is forming a new wage board within two to three days to recommend a revised pay structure for garment workers, amid demonstrations demanding higher wages.

"The process is ongoing," said a senior official of the Labour and Employment Ministry, requesting anonymity.

Fazlee Shamim Ehsan, president of the Bangladesh Employers' Federation, said the labour ministry had sent him a letter yesterday seeking his opinion and a nomination for a representative on the proposed wage board.

Mahmud Hasan Khan, president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), told The Daily Star that the association had no objection to forming a new wage board for garment workers.

He said the BGMEA had not yet received a letter from the ministry, but one could arrive within two to three days as discussions continued.

Garment workers have been demonstrating in various industrial areas,

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

MPO pay hike needs Tk 13,392cr more

Over 6 lakh teachers, employees to benefit; implementation timeline remains uncertain

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

An additional Tk 13,392 crore will be needed to bring 602,359 MPO-enlisted teachers and employees under the new pay scale, according to the National Pay Commission report.

Of the amount, Tk 12,518 crore will be required for salaries and allowances, while the rest will go towards pension support.

Although the government began implementing the new pay scale in four phases last July, allowing government employees to receive revised salaries and arrears this month, the timeline for MPO-enlisted teachers and employees remains uncertain.

A finance ministry official said implementing the revised pay scale for MPO staff took six months in 2015.

"Efforts are underway by both the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Education to roll out the benefits by this December," the official added.

The government currently spends Tk 19,227 crore annually on MPO-enlisted personnel, including Tk 12,930 crore for secondary schools and colleges, Tk 5,530 crore for madrasas and Tk 767 crore for technical institutions.

Under the Monthly Pay Order system, teachers and employees of non-government educational institutions receive 100 percent of their basic salaries, along with medical and other allowances, through government grants.

- Govt working to roll out benefits by Dec
- Annual MPO expenditure now Tk 19,227cr
- 30,932 institutions under MPO system
- Pay Commission urges inter-ministerial consultations

Last year, their house rent allowance was raised to 15 percent of basic pay from a flat Tk 1,000 per month.

While financially solvent institutions provide additional remuneration from their own funds, most lack the capacity to do so.

Under the proposed pay structure, basic salaries and house rent allowances will increase according to existing grades, levels and subject categories.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 3

Pay hike demo by RMG workers enters third day

5 factories shut; police use batons, sound grenades to disperse protesters

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Garment workers in Uttara continued their protests for the third consecutive day yesterday, demanding a minimum basic salary of Tk 30,000 and blocking the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway, causing severe traffic congestion.

Amid the protests, authorities of five garment factories in the area decided to shut their units indefinitely following three consecutive days of work disruption, said Mahmud Hasan Khan, president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA).

"Owners took the decision in line with the law, as the factories could not operate for the last three days due to the workers' protests," he told The Daily Star.

Workers from several factories took to the highway in the Azampur and Rajlokkhi areas around 10:00am, forcing many commuters to walk to their destinations.

The protesters said rising commodity prices had made it difficult to survive on their current wages, while repeated appeals to the authorities had yielded no results.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

Police step up patrols, surveillance in Dhaka

JS panel reviews crime situation, anti-drug ops

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR *and* **MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN**

Police have increased patrols, set up checkpoints and strengthened intelligence surveillance in Dhaka, alongside regular and special drives to arrest members of teen gangs, extortionists, muggers, and other suspected criminals.

Special drives target teen gangs, extortionists, muggers | Police install CCTV cameras, set up checkpoints | Govt moves to recruit 14,000 more police personnel | 5,381 rape, 2,659 murder cases recorded in Jan-Sept

The measures were presented yesterday before the parliamentary standing committee on the Ministry of Home Affairs chaired by Zainul Abedin.

Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed briefed the committee on the activities of law enforcement agencies and the progress made, according to a home ministry press release.

Between January and September, rape cases in Bangladesh soared 30.9 percent year-on-year to 5,381, while murder cases declined 8.7 percent year-on-year to 2,659, according to official statistics placed before the committee.

Police have increased foot, mobile, and motorcycle patrols across Dhaka. CCTV cameras have been installed at important locations, while checkpoints are being used to gather intelligence and monitor suspicious activities.

Regular and special operations are also being conducted to arrest suspected criminals, including those involved in extortion, mugging, drug trafficking and gang activities.

Police have also increased surveillance of known offenders and suspects, while community policing, beat policing and meetings with residents are being used to strengthen crime prevention.

Initiatives have been taken to collect information on house owners and tenants

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4



A rescuer carries a child during a search operation after a roof collapsed at a school in Peshawar yesterday. At least 27 pupils and a teacher were killed in the incident. PHOTO: **AFP**

IN FOCUS

4 arrested after man beaten to death in Ctg

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Ctg*

Four people were arrested yesterday over the death of a 21-year-old man who was beaten after being accused of trying to steal from a roadside shop in Chattogram's Bakalia area.

Police recovered the body of Md Emon from beneath a bridge in the Bakalia-Kalpalok residential area on Wednesday afternoon.

Bakalia Police Station Officer-in-Charge Md Shahinur Alam said Emon was accused of stealing from the shop and was assaulted by a group of people on Tuesday.

"He was beaten severely and died on the spot," the OC said.

Following a murder case filed by Emon's family, police arrested four suspects -- Abdur Rahman Zisan, 21; Yasin Arafat, 23; Md Hasan, 33; and Md Mizanur Rahman, 27.

A video circulating on social media shows Emon with his hands tied, being escorted by several men, some carrying sticks. He is later seen tied up and beaten.

The OC said police were investigating the incident.

KSA executes 2 Bangladeshis for 'immoral act'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Saudi Arabia executed two Bangladeshi nationals on Wednesday after convicting them of what authorities described as an "immoral act" inside a mosque in Makkah.

The Bangladesh Consulate General in Jeddah said it had not been notified of the executions beforehand and had formally sought acknowledgement from Saudi authorities.

"The consulate was not notified by the Ministry beforehand," a mission official told The Daily Star via WhatsApp yesterday.

"In this regard, we have submitted a note verbale to the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs, requesting formal acknowledgement of the matter," the official said.

The executed Bangladeshis were identified as Nazerul Islam Abdul Basir and Siti Akhtar, according to a statement issued on October 14 by the Saudi Ministry of Interior and carried by the state-run Saudi Press

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