DHAKA TUESDAY OCTOBER 20, 2026



"Next year, I will give one of my SpaceX shares to every kid in America. This will be the first of many."

Tech billionaire
ELON MUSK

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION



REGD. NO. DA 781 | VOL. XXXVI NO. 265 | KARTIK 4, 1433 BS | www.thedailystar.net | JAMADIUL AWAL 8, 1448 HIJRI | 16 PAGES PLUS LIFE STYLE : TK 15.00

Unapologetic, Ishraque quits

Vows to continue anti-drug drives in Dhaka-6

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka-6 lawmaker Ishraque Hossain resigned from the council of ministers yesterday after facing growing criticism over his role in an "anti-drug drive" in which he was seen brandishing a firearm.

Ishraque, who on Sunday denied reports that Prime Minister Tarique Rahman had earlier instructed him to resign, said he had voluntarily expressed his intention to quit as state minister for Liberation War Affairs.

"The official version would naturally be that I was asked to resign on the prime minister's instructions, rather than at my own request," he said at a media briefing at the Jatiya Press Club in the afternoon.

He said he wanted to resign to focus more on an anti-drug campaign and other public activities in Dhaka-6 and surrounding areas, and the prime minister had agreed to let him do that.

Defending his actions, Ishraque, son of former Dhaka City mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka, said he would apologise if he had done anything wrong but maintained that he had committed no mistake during the drive.



Ishraque's resignation letter was sent after the media briefing, said his press officer, Mahfuz Kabir Mukta.

The letter reached the cabinet division at 6:00pm yesterday, said one of its top officials, adding that it was forwarded to the Prime Minister's Office.

A gazette notification related to the resignation could be issued at any time.

The controversy erupted after Ishraque posted a video on his Facebook account on Saturday of himself getting out of a vehicle with a pistol during an anti-drug drive in the capital's Gendaria area.

Other footage appeared to show people accompanying him carrying firearms. In one video, a person was seen threatening to shoot, while another showed a bodyguard kicking a young man.

The following day, several media outlets reported that the prime minister had instructed him in the afternoon to step down.

Ishraque dubbed the news as false and fabricated, but at around 8:30am yesterday, he called the press conference.

There, he said confusion had arisen over the timing and process of the

STRONG MESSAGE ON ACCOUNTABILITY; IT'S TOO HARSH ... PAGE 2 SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Hundreds of illegal battery-run rickshaws lie impounded in an open field in Dhaka's Postogola area. Traffic police have stepped up a crackdown on these unauthorised vehicles to ease congestion and improve road safety. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: **RASHED SHUMON**

Controversy his middle name

ARAFATH SHETU

Inheriting his father's political legacy and popularity in Old Dhaka, Ishraque Hossain rose quickly from party activist to parliamentarian in 2026. But the 39-year-old Dhaka-6 MP had repeatedly embarrassed his party over the years, even as his popularity among its rank and file grew.

Ultimately, it was his pistol-wielding, drug-busting "operation" that cost him his post as state minister for Liberation War affairs.

Ishraque's father, Sadeque Hossain Khoka, was an influential BNP leader with a strong following in the constituency. Ishraque became active in politics around the 2018 national election and soon established himself as a formidable organiser on the streets.

In 2020, he ran for mayor of Dhaka South but lost to the Awami League candidate before challenging the result. He was declared victorious by a court in 2025 but was never sworn in. He then contested the 2026 parliamentary election and won the Dhaka-6 seat.

Here is a look back at some of his most talked-about moments.

THE HERO WHO SNATCHED A WORKER FROM POLICE

On February 13, 2023, a rally was held in front of the National Press Club

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

'Our son was killed without a fair trial'

Family demands return of body from KSA; Dhaka seeks explanation

MASUK HRIDOY

The family of Nazrul Islam, one of the two Bangladeshis executed in Saudi Arabia on October 14, yesterday alleged that Saudi authorities had executed him without notifying them beforehand or giving him an opportunity to defend himself.

Nazrul, 22, the eldest of four siblings, left for Saudi Arabia on November 10, 2022, and worked as a cleaner, according to his family.

Six months after his departure, Saudi police arrested him and a Bangladeshi woman for allegedly committing an "immoral act" at a mosque in Makkah.

More than three years later, his family said it learnt from media reports that he had been executed in Makkah on October 14.

His mother said he spoke to the family by phone from prison every Sunday, but they received no advance notice of his execution.

However, it could not yet be

SEE PAGE 9 COL 2

Curfews in cities as cost of living riots rock France

REUTERS, *France*

French authorities yesterday set curfews in parts of several cities, including Paris, Lille and Nice, as they faced pressure over security failings after a weekend of riots and looting stemming from nationwide anti-government protests.

Prime Minister Sebastien Lecornu had ruled out a blanket curfew in Paris but not a state of emergency, and had said it was more appropriate for now to apply partial and localised curfews.

"My determination to restore order is absolute," he told reporters.

Paris police said they had issued orders barring protests in certain areas of the French capital from 8:00pm (1800 GMT) yesterday and had issued a curfew around the Place de la Republique and Les Halles from 11:00pm Both would remain in effect until 6:00am today.

Italy, Spain and Portugal, where anger over rising prices has also led to protests, were keeping a nervous eye on the developments.

"A police deployment is in place to ensure strict compliance with these measures," the police said in a statement.

A source in Lecornu's office said a curfew for minors had been set between 8:00pm and 6:00am for the next two days in Lille, Douai, Wattignies and Denain with the agreement of the local mayors.

In Nice, mayor Eric Ciotti said in a video posted online that he had signed an order installing a curfew for minors in central Nice overnight.

Marseille banned gatherings and demonstrations. French unions meanwhile called for a new round of strikes and rallies on November 5.

The weekend of looting and violence between some protesters and police followed weeks of student

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

WE DEEPLY MOURN



Abu Nasar Altaf Hossain Siddiqui FCA

(01 March 1942 - 19 October 2026)

From all at

RRH

Rahman Rahman Huq
Chartered Accountants

Houthi attack kills 53 at Yemen govt training camp

More than 200 injured

REUTERS

Fifty-three people were killed and 200 were injured in an attack yesterday by the Iran-aligned Houthis on a government security forces training camp in Yemen's Shabwa province, according to the local authority, as fighting in the impoverished country intensifies.

Video verified by Reuters from Shabwa province showed injured people and bloodied bodies scattered across the ground.

The Houthis and the internationally recognised government, which is backed by a Saudi-led coalition, have been trading attacks since the group advanced in September towards territory near the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, a shipping chokepoint at the mouth of the Red Sea.

Local authority sources who spoke on condition of anonymity said the Houthis had launched three ballistic missiles at security forces during a training exercise.

Shabwa, an energy-rich province in south-central coastal Yemen overlooking the Gulf of Aden, is home to the Balhaf liquefied natural gas facility, Yemen's largest industrial investment.

Houthi military spokesperson Yahya Saree said on X that the group had targeted the training camp, which he said was run by Saudi forces.

Government forces this month began a campaign aimed at recapturing areas controlled by the Houthis, recovering ground near the strait, while the group besieges Taiz, the last major urban stronghold of anti-Houthi forces in the southern highland area of Yemen.

WE MOURN
Mrs. Rowshan Ara Hanif
(1954–2026)



Dhaka Bank family deeply mourns the sad demise of **Mrs. Rowshan Ara Hanif,** wife of late Mohammed Hanif, Former Sponsor Director of Dhaka Bank PLC and mother of Mr. Asif Hanif, Director of Dhaka Bank PLC.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

May Almighty Allah grant her Jannat-ul-Firdous and eternal peace. Ameen.

16474
www.dhakabank.com.bd

DHAKABANK
Transforming Together









From ringing temple bells and glowing lamps to incense-filled prayers and colourful celebrations, devotees immerse themselves in the sights, sounds and fragrances of Durga Puja at mandaps in Old Dhaka, creating moments of devotion, joy and togetherness. The photos were taken recently.

PHOTO: **ABRAR FAIYAZ NILOY**

Sights, sounds and scents of Durga Puja

SABRIN ZAWAD RITU

Colourful lights hanging above narrow lanes, the beat of dhak filling the air and the familiar smell of dhoop drifting out of crowded mandaps -- in Dhaka, Durga Puja arrives through the senses. In places such as Shankhari Bazar, where buildings stand close together and streets are always busy, makeshift mandaps turn the celebration into an intimate affair.

"My friends and I wait for this time of the year," said Arnob Sarker, a resident of Siddheshwari who was visiting a pandal in Old Dhaka.

For them, the lights, the flames of diyas and the fragrance of dhoop are the main attractions of Puja. Sarker said, "Light is linked to hope, knowledge and victory of good over evil. During worship, flame of a diya or the lamp used in arati holds a special place as an offering to the goddess."

Once the lights draw visitors towards the mandaps, there is plenty more to see. Garlands, colourful fabrics, intricate patterns and carefully arranged ornaments create a setting for Goddess Durga.

The smell of dhoop drifts through the mandap as devotees gather for prayers. Thin trails of smoke rise into the light, while bells ring and the dhak beats louder during arati. The priest moves a lamp before the goddess, and for a moment, the sounds, sights and smells come together in a divine setting. In Hindu worship, incense is offered as a mark of respect and devotion. Sometimes, a smell can bring back a memory.

Abinash Kundi, who usually spends Puja in Dhaka, said, "Sometimes, the smell of dhoop takes me back to my childhood. It still signals the arrival of the festive season for me."

Not everyone visits a Durga Puja pandal for the same reason. Some come to pray, others to meet friends or admire the decorations, while many simply enjoy walking through the illuminated streets.

Unapologetic, Ishraque quits

FROM PAGE 1

announcement: an official decision was supposed to be communicated through the prescribed process, but one of his colleagues disclosed the matter ahead of schedule.

Until the prime minister's instructions were formally announced, the matter should be treated as a rumour or untrue, he said, adding that he received the formal decision on yesterday morning.

"Whether it happened yesterday or today, what difference does it make? It happened."

Ishraque defended Saturday's anti-drug operation, saying it had been coordinated with local law enforcement agencies and aimed at dismantling drug distribution networks.

He expressed disappointment that public discussion had focused on the firearm rather than the campaign.

Ghuntighar and Munshitek had become hubs for drug distribution, and the operation targeted drug dens, he said, adding that six people were handed over to police with evidence.

The local officers-in-charge and Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) deputy commissioners overseeing his constituency were aware of and involved in the operation, he said, describing it as part of efforts coordinated through the Dhaka-6 law and order committee.

The DMP, however, ordered an investigation into the incident, assigning the Wari division to look into it.

Ishraque said he had two firearms registered in his name and that one had been carried briefly for his protection.

The Firearms Policy 2025 allows licensed firearms for self-defence but bars their display in ways that may cause fear or annoyance.

He maintained that he had acted properly and wanted to ensure that no one was harmed.

"I believe I did the right thing in the proper way. I went there, risking my life. People may say that, though I do not care. If someone fires from a rooftop, we do not know whose head the bullet will hit."

Locals had applauded the drive, he said, adding that he would continue working to meet their expectations.

He went on to urge the media and the public to focus on identifying the main suppliers behind drug distribution rather than concentrating only on street-level dealers.

Asked whether he was considering contesting the Dhaka mayoral election, the 39-year-old said the decision rested entirely with his party and its chairman.

He contested the 2020 mayoral election and had since worked on the capital's problems under the party's guidance.

"I am 100 percent prepared if the party decides to nominate me for the election," he said, adding that he would make every effort to ensure the victory of whoever the party nominated.

Controversy his middle name

FROM PAGE 1

to protest a move to revoke the gallantry award conferred on BNP founder Ziaur Rahman.

During the rally, police were about to detain a BNP activist injured in a baton charge when Ishraque intervened, jostling with officers and pulling the activist away. He was also injured in the scuffle.

Ishraque later shared a video of the incident on Facebook, which went viral. He declared that neither baton charges nor cannon fire would stop him from protecting a party worker as long as he was alive.

The incident propelled him into the spotlight and earned him immense popularity among BNP activists.

A PRESSER WITH 'BIDEN'S ADVISER'

On October 28, 2023, following clashes surrounding BNP's grand rally, a man named Zahidul Islam, alias Mia Arefi, appeared at the party's Naya Paltan office, claiming to be an adviser to then US president Joe Biden.

He spoke to journalists while seated beside Ishraque and retired lieutenant general Chowdhury Hasan Sarwardy. The next day, police detained Arefi at the airport, and all three were named in a case filed with Paltan Police Station.

Ishraque and Sarwardy were accused of helping Arefi address journalists under a false identity.

The incident caused major embarrassment for the BNP, which issued a statement distancing itself from Arefi's activities. Ishraque later expressed regret on Facebook.

SEIGE OF CITY HALL

After the July uprising toppled the Awami League government and the courts ruled in favour of Ishraque's claim to the mayoral post, his battle for office took a new turn.

On March 27, 2025, Md Nurul Islam, a judge of the First Joint District Judge Court and Election Tribunal in Dhaka, annulled the results of the 2020 Dhaka South City Corporation election and declared Ishraque Hossain the mayor.

Following the verdict, the previous gazette declaring Awami League candidate Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh the winner was cancelled. Subsequently, on April 27, 2025, the Election Commission published a revised gazette declaring Ishraque the mayor.

In May that year, he and his supporters laid siege to city hall after the interim government declined to administer his oath of office. Essential services were disrupted, causing public sufferings.

Ishraque even threatened to swear himself into office. While his loyalists saw the protests as a show of strength, the disruption and mounting public sufferings drew flak.

Eventually, Ishraque backed down without ever assuming office as mayor.

THE ELBOW

Ishraque went viral again on December 22, 2025, but this time for elbowing his own party men to make his way to the front of a crowd.

He had visited the grave of BNP founder Ziaur Rahman to pay respects with the newly formed Bangladesh Jatiyotabadi Muktijoddha Projonmo.

He later expressed regret on Facebook but, as he would do repeatedly, offered an explanation that only deepened his embarrassment. He said he was being "firm" in "setting the lines right".

LATE FOR HIS MP OATH

Ishraque made headlines again during the swearing-in of newly elected members of parliament on February 17, 2026. Arriving late, he missed the oath-taking ceremony with his party colleagues and had to join the opposition and independent MPs instead.

Although Ishraque abstained from taking the oath as a member of the Constitution Reform Council, in line with his party's decision, he appeared unsure what to do next.

Then he spotted independent MP Rumeen Farhana hurriedly gathering her belongings and leaving the hall after taking the parliamentary oath. Ishraque promptly followed her out, seemingly relieved to have found a cue.

SALUTING WITH SERVICE CHIEFS

Last July, after Speaker Hafiz Uddin Ahmad took over as president, he visited the National Memorial in Savar to pay tribute to the martyrs.

Ishraque, then state minister for Liberation War affairs, was among those present, alongside the chiefs of the three defence services.

When the three chiefs lined up and saluted the martyrs, Ishraque, standing alongside them, raised his hand in salute too. It was another viral moment, sparking a flood of memes.

Ishraque's explanation on Facebook only added to the embarrassment. He said his hand rose in salute almost on its "own volition" whenever "freedom fighters" were mentioned, and that he would continue saluting them whenever and wherever he could.

THE SPEECH MARKING JULY

Ishraque's ministry organised a reception for martyrs' families and July fighters at the capital to mark the second anniversary of the July uprising.

Leaders of the National Citizen Party alleged that a documentary screened at the event failed to accurately portray the movement, leading to heated exchanges.

Instead of defusing the tension, Ishraque took the podium and began shouting, further angering the protesters. Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed also failed to calm the situation, and the protesters eventually walked out of the venue.

DRUG BUST GONE BUST

On October 17, 2026, Ishraque jumped out of a car, pistol in hand.

He ran towards men attempting to flee, followed by his team of activists, who manhandled and kicked those they suspected of being drug peddlers. At least one of his associates was also seen brandishing a firearm.

Ishraque pointed his pistol at the suspects, while someone off-camera threatened to shoot.

The close-up video clips suggested that the MP even had his PR team on hand to film his exploits. That such vigilantism could go horribly wrong with the slightest misstep, and that it was entirely beyond his authority, appeared to have escaped the Dhaka-6 MP.

His subsequent statements suggested that he had confused lawmaking with policing. As for his explanation, Ishraque claimed he had drawn the pistol in "self-defence".

Strong message on accountability; it's too harsh

Mixed reaction in BNP after Ishraque quits

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ishraque Hossain's resignation from the council of ministers has drawn mixed reactions within the ruling BNP, with some hailing it as a strong message on accountability and discipline, while others call it "too harsh".

Supporters say the move made it clear that no one is above accountability, regardless of political position or personal ties. Critics, however, fear the decision could make ministers and MPs reluctant to take initiatives or make independent decisions.

These views emerged from conversations with seven ministers, eight MPs and 12 BNP leaders, who wished to remain anonymous.

Both sides support Ishraque's anti-drug stance but differ over his decision to take part in an operation personally while openly carrying a firearm. Some say he should have stayed within his official remit, while others believe he should have been given a chance to correct his mistake.

The controversy began on Saturday when Ishraque, son of prominent BNP leader and late freedom fighter Sadeque Hossain Khoka, was seen displaying a pistol during an anti-drug operation in the capital's Gendaria area. Videos of the incident went viral on social media, prompting questions about his conduct and the legality of carrying a firearm in such circumstances.

On Sunday night, government sources said the prime minister had instructed Ishraque to resign as state minister for liberation war affairs. Although Ishraque initially denied the reports, he announced his resignation at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

Reflecting on the incident, one minister said, "In Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's administration, no one will be given special treatment because of personal relationships."

Describing the resignation as a warning to other government officials, the minister said, "The prime minister will not tolerate anything that could damage the government's image or give the opposition a chance to raise questions."

A standing committee member said Ishraque's public display of a firearm was inconsistent with the standards of conduct expected of a state minister.

"His intention may have been good, and we support his stand against drugs. But after taking the oath as a state minister, it was not right for him to display a firearm in this way."

The committee member welcomed the decision, saying an individual minister's actions could tarnish the image of the entire administration.

Mahdi Amin, the prime minister's adviser and spokesperson for the Prime Minister's Office, said there could be "questions and differences of opinion" over Ishraque's recent methods, but there should be no doubt about the rationale behind the decision.

"The message from the government is quite clear. Even if questions arise over the implementation of a bold and people-friendly initiative by a dedicated and popular young leader who enjoys the confidence of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, accountability is being ensured.

"We believe accountability will continue to be upheld at every level of government as we move forward on the path of nation-building," he said.

However, several MPs and BNP leaders said Ishraque might have acted emotionally while addressing drug-related problems in his constituency. They argued that his intentions should have been considered before such a strong decision was taken, particularly given his role in sustaining party morale during the Awami League's rule.

One MP said, "To me, this feels like the harshest possible punishment. Although it sends a strong message to ministers and MPs, it may also have negative effects. Many may now hesitate to make independent decisions."

Some lawmakers also argued that the incident should not have been treated like allegations of corruption, extortion or land grabbing, as Ishraque's stated objective was to tackle drug-related crime, a BNP priority.

A female BNP MP said, "A person's entire political career or years of contribution should not be ignored because of one mistake. Instead, they should be given a chance to correct that mistake."

Several leaders expressed sympathy for Ishraque, citing his involvement in BNP's political movements and his ties with grassroots activists.

A central BNP leader said, "Ishraque has been active in grassroots politics for a long time. He has played a role in political movements and struggles. That is why party leaders and activists have a certain level of sympathy for him."

However, some leaders believe the incident could serve as a lesson for Ishraque and make him more cautious in his future political activities.

Ishraque's resignation adds to a series of high-level departures and changes in the government and ruling party over the past eight months.

Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs Minister Dipen Dewan resigned on June 1, citing health problems. Information Minister Zahir Uddin Swapon left his ministerial post in August during a cabinet reshuffle and was appointed political adviser to the prime minister with the rank of minister.

Separately, BNP reserved-seat MP Ferdousy Ahmed Misty resigned from parliament on October 1 following allegations linking her to people involved in an attack on a healthcare centre in Mirpur.

"The message from the government is quite clear. Even if questions arise over the implementation of a bold and people-friendly initiative by a dedicated and popular young leader who enjoys the confidence of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, accountability is being ensured."

Mahdi Amin, the prime minister's adviser and spokesperson for the Prime Minister's Office

Curfews in cities

FROM PAGE 1

demonstrations, rocking France six months ahead of its next presidential election and highlighting pressures from a weak economy and surging debt.

Cost-of-living issues also drove weekend protests in other European countries, including Italy, Belgium and Albania.

The start of school holidays yesterday may provide relief, but students were staging more gatherings and blockades in some places, including the Louvre gallery and Sciences Po university in central Paris.

Lecornu blamed far-left groups for some of France's worst unrest in years. "There is, after all, a far-left movement that wants to cause — we can't put it any more strongly — profound unrest in the country in the run-up to the presidential election," he said.

Hard-left presidential candidate Jean-Luc Melenchon urged him to provide evidence. "Otherwise, he should apologise, keep quiet and stop fanning the flames of unrest," he said on X.

The Federation of Trade and Retail said almost 3,000 shops had been affected over the weekend.

"Behind every ransacked shop are business owners, employees and families who have seen years of work and effort wiped out in a matter of hours," it added, calling for social security and tax relief for affected businesses.

Lecornu said the government would provide furlough measures from yesterday.

Standing before a boarded-up shopfront, Gerard Nouchi, manager of two clothing stores in Marseille, said there weren't enough police to stop the looters.

"They trashed everything, broke things, insulted us," Nouchi said. "It was like a real tornado."

The government ordered platforms selling looted goods to take down announcements and collaborate to prosecute resellers, Junior Digital Minister Anne Le Hénanff wrote on X.

Some 2,400 people were arrested, and one protester died from a cardiac arrest on Saturday while nearly 1,000 officers were injured, according to the Interior Ministry.

French assets were underperforming broader European markets yesterday, though moves were more contained than at some other moments of recent political friction.

Tensions in President Emmanuel Macron's fragile government over apparent security shortcomings -- coming as the government needs to pass a budget bill to rein in its finances -- could further unsettle investors.

Macron's office yesterday said he had turned down his Interior Minister Laurent Nunez's offer to resign, telling him instead to put an end to barricades and looting and be transparent over what Macron called "intelligence and foresight failings".

The mayors of Paris, Marseille and Lyon said in a joint op-ed in the newspaper Liberation that they were used to demonstrations and protests.



Protesters and students from arts and cultural schools block the entrance to the Louvre Museum during a demonstration in support of a high school student movement demanding better school conditions and government action in Paris, France, yesterday.

PHOTO: **REUTERS**

Do not pave way for return of autocracy: PM

Urges opposition to play constructive role

BSS, *Dhaka*

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman yesterday warned that if the opposition paved the way for a return to autocracy while opposing the government, it would amount to betraying the martyrs of both the 2024 July uprising and the 1971 Liberation War.

Calling for constructive opposition, he said political differences should not prevent the government and opposition from working together on national issues, including employment, public safety, healthcare, education and independence.

"If we continue with this old political culture of opposing for the sake of opposition, how can we move the country forward? The opposition must certainly oppose, but its opposition should be constructive," he said.

The PM made the remarks at a public gathering after inaugurating the July Martyrs' Memorial and the renovated Osmani Udyan in the capital.

Questioning the absence of opposition leaders from the programme, Tarique said the government had invited prominent opposition figures to join the event honouring the July martyrs.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 5



Plastic and other waste floats on the Buriganga in Dhaka's Islambagh, yesterday, despite an ongoing eviction and waste-removal drive along the riverbank. Plastic recycling businesses continue to operate, and garbage is still being burned along the bank, threatening the river's ecosystem and undermining restoration efforts.

PHOTO: **MEHEDI HASAN**

IN FOCUS

Dengue deaths mount amid treatment delays

Experts urge early diagnosis, timely referrals

HELEMUL ALAM

Four more people died of dengue yesterday, taking this year's death toll to 352, as health experts warned that delayed hospitalisation, late diagnosis and inadequate treatment facilities were contributing to fatalities.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services, 1,14,251 dengue patients have been hospitalised nationwide this year.

Dhaka Medical College Hospital recorded the highest number of deaths at 99, followed by Khulna division with 65, Dhaka North City Corporation with 46, Chattogram division with 32, Mymensingh with 27, Barishal with 26, Rajshahi with 23, Rangpur with six and Sylhet with four.

Health experts attributed the rising death toll to delayed hospitalisation and diagnosis, the absence of an effective three-tier dengue management system and increasing infections.

- Four more die; dengue death toll reaches 352
- Hospitalisations rise to 1,14,251
- Doctors report surge in critically ill patients
- Experts urge early testing, timely referrals, treatment

A recent death review by the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), led by its Director Prof Quazi Ahmed Zaki, found that more than one-third of 119 patients reviewed died within a day of hospital admission.

The review found that 62.5 percent died from dengue shock syndrome, 31.2 percent from expanded dengue syndrome, 16.1 percent from dengue with bleeding and 12.5 percent from other causes. Many patients also experienced diagnostic delays of at least three days.

HM Nazmul Ahsan, associate professor at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital, said, "If 20 patients arrive, around 15 may be in shock. Approximately 90 percent of the patients we are receiving are critically ill."

He identified delayed referrals and long journeys from remote areas as major factors behind severe complications.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 3

Invest in girls' rights, end child marriage

Speakers call for greater protection, equal opportunities at MJF event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Adolescent girls yesterday called for stronger measures to prevent child marriage and ensure equal access to education, healthcare and safe spaces, saying discrimination and social barriers continued to limit their opportunities.

They made the call at an event organised by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) to mark International Day of the Girl Child 2026 at Alok Auditorium in the capital's Mirpur-2.

Held under the theme "End Child Marriage and Invest in Girls' Rights", the event brought together adolescent girls, civil society representatives and development partners.

MJF Executive Director Shaheen Anam said celebrating girls' achievements meant little without addressing barriers to their rights.

Ayesa Akter, an adolescent girl with a visual impairment, called for accessible learning materials, including Braille and audio resources, stressing that girls with disabilities needed equal opportunities, not sympathy.

"Simply saying that girls will conquer the world is not enough. We must ask how they will achieve that and what opportunities we are creating for them," she said.

Shaheen said child marriage violated girls' fundamental rights and undermined their education, health and employment prospects. She cited poverty, insecurity and a lack of alternatives as factors driving child marriage and called for stronger law enforcement and institutional accountability.

Presenting the keynote paper, MJF Assistant Project Manager Lysa Mahmud Hema cited findings from studies by UNICEF, UNFPA and BBS, which showed that 47.2 percent of women aged 20–24 had married before turning 18, while 13.4 percent had married before turning 15.

Educational completion rates also fell from 91.3 percent at primary level to 75.9 percent at lower secondary and 41.1 percent at upper secondary, she said.

During an intergenerational dialogue moderated by MJF Media and Communication Officer Nusrat Fatima, girls shared experiences of discrimination at home, in schools and online.

Sadia Akter Eva of Maer Achol, who lives in a shelter home, raised concerns about unequal opportunities in school sports, saying boys received more time and facilities.

Tasneem Ferdousi of BISC questioned the social acceptance of marrying

SEE PAGE 9 COL 3

At least 187 killed in mob violence in nine months

Says Human Rights Support Society report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 187 people were killed and 401 injured in 398 incidents of mob violence across Bangladesh in the first nine months of 2026, according to a Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) report released yesterday.

The death toll was more than two-and-a-half times the 73 deaths recorded in political clashes during the same period.

The incidents of mob violence reportedly stemmed from allegations of theft, robbery, mugging, rape and hurting religious sentiments, as well as attempts to establish dominance.

The report, signed by HRSS Executive Director Ijajul Islam, was compiled using reports from 16 national dailies and the organisation's investigations between January and September.

According to the report, 1,013 incidents of political violence left 73 dead and 6,473 injured. Of these, 931 incidents, or 91 percent, involved BNP infighting or clashes with rival parties.

BNP infighting alone accounted for 342 incidents, leaving 40 dead and 2,632 injured. Among the 73 people killed in political violence, 46 were from the BNP, eight from Jamaat-e-Islami and six from the Awami League.

More than 270 political cases named 5,809 individuals and accused 32,433 unnamed people. Of the 5,644 people arrested, 4,827 belonged to the AL.

At least 17 people died in law enforcement custody or in incidents involving torture, shootings and so-called "gunfights", while 10 died while fleeing police chases.

Another 95 inmates, including 55 undertrial prisoners, 20 AL men and one BNP activist, died in jail.

Under the Cyber Protection Ordinance 2025 and Cyber Protection Act 2026, 113 people were sued and 55 arrested in 40 cases. Another 12 were detained over objectionable posts about Prime Minister Tarique Rahman and 24 for allegedly hurting religious sentiments.

Fifty-one journalists were sued in 19 cyber cases. Overall, 518 journalists faced attacks or harassment in 288 incidents, leaving 297 injured and 20 arrested.

Police also foiled 58 rallies, leaving 439 people injured and 46 detained.

Along the Indian border, 43 attacks by the BSF killed 13 Bangladeshis and injured 39. Landmines laid by the Arakan Army along the Myanmar border killed eight and injured five.

The report also recorded abuse of 2,404 women and girls. At least 657 were raped, including 392 minors and 130 gang-rape victims, while 29 were murdered after rape.

Domestic violence claimed the lives of 457 women, while 494 children died in 1,810 incidents of abuse.

Meanwhile, 56 attacks on minorities resulted in the vandalism of 21 temples and 47 homes, while 535 workers died in workplace incidents.

AT A GLANCE

- Political clashes leave 73 dead, 6,473 injured
- BNP infighting accounts for 40 deaths
- 95 inmates die in jail
- 518 journalists face attacks or harassment
- 657 women and girls raped

Govt to constitute committees in upazilas to curb teen gangs

UNB, *Dhaka*

The Ministry of Home Affairs has decided to form committees in all upazilas across the country to prevent juvenile gang activities and strengthen efforts to tackle the problem.

Each committee will be headed by the upazila nirbahi officer, with the officer-in-charge of the local police station serving as member secretary, said Faisal Hassan, deputy chief information officer at the ministry, yesterday.

He, however, did not disclose the total number of members to be included in each committee.

The move comes amid growing concerns over juvenile gang activities in Dhaka and other parts of the country, with gang members allegedly involved in various crimes, including mugging, extortion and murder.

Education reforms must go beyond curriculum

Says state minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Curriculum reforms alone would not improve primary education unless teacher training, school supervision, infrastructure and technology were addressed together, said State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Bobby Hajjaj yesterday.

Speaking at a dialogue, organised by the ministry, Directorate of Primary Education (DPE) and Unicef, at a city hotel, he said the curriculum would place greater emphasis on Bangla, mathematics, English, play-based learning, digital content and practical activities.

The ministry presented findings from consultations across eight divisions and proposed a 12-month practical learning programme covering child protection, road safety, fire and disaster preparedness, environmental protection, water safety, hygiene, first aid, nutrition, digital safety, civic responsibility and community-level problem-solving.

It also plans to introduce a revised curriculum in 2028, with teaching materials and assessments to be tested in 2027.

The ministry proposed common minimum standards for government and non-government primary schools, including

SEE PAGE 9 COL 3



Several pedestrians climb over the two metal bars of a road divider in the capital's Paltan yesterday, despite a footbridge being just a few steps away. *Inset*, the footbridge, however, remains largely unused, with only a vendor on it.

PHOTO: **PRABIR DAS**

ICT rejects review plea by 5 accused

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday rejected a review petition filed by five detained accused, including former lawmaker ABM Fazle Karim Chowdhury, seeking reconsideration of its order framing charges against them.

The tribunal set October 15 for the prosecution's opening statement and recording of the first witness's testimony.

On June 30, the tribunal framed charges against former ministers Hasan Mahmud and Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury Nowfel, and 20 others over crimes against humanity allegedly committed during the July uprising in Chattogram, which left six people dead and more than 100 injured.

The other four detained accused are Jubo League leader Azizur Rahman, Touhidul Islam, Md Firoz and Debashish Pal Debu.

Meanwhile, prosecution witness Mesbah Uddin Ahmed, a BRAC University student, testified before ICT-1 yesterday in a crimes against humanity case against Sajeeb Wazed Joy, former ICT adviser to ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, and former state minister for ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak.

Mesbah described how law enforcement personnel shot private university students in Badda and Rampura on July 18 and 19.

Separately, Sub-Inspector Sheikh Abzalul Haque became the first accused in a crimes

SEE PAGE 9 COL 3

Five more die with measles-like symptoms

UNB, *Dhaka*

The combined number of suspected and confirmed measles deaths in Bangladesh has reached 1,201, with five children dying with measles-like symptoms in the 24 hours till yesterday morning.

Of the total deaths this year, the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) has classified 1,097 as suspected measles deaths and 104 as confirmed deaths from measles.

A total of 1,307 new suspected measles cases were reported during the 24 hours, taking the cumulative number of suspected cases nationwide to 2,14,551

Meanwhile, 35 new confirmed measles cases were recorded in the 24 hours, pushing laboratory-confirmed infections to 23,157.

Since March 15 this year, a total of 1,90,663 patients with suspected measles have been hospitalised across the country, of whom 1,83,042 have recovered, according to the DGHS.

Health experts attributed the continued outbreak to a gap in vaccination coverage affecting children, infections among them outside the campaign's target age group, and inadequate infection prevention and control measures.

Corrigendum

In the Recruitment Circular was published in The Daily Star on 19.10.2026 of BMSRI, House No. 33-35, Road No. 14/A, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka the experience will be10+ years instead of 0+years.

Beyond worship, a call for justice

Chattogram mandap draws attention to violence against women, children





PHOTO: **RAJIB RAIHAN**

The pandal 'Raktanjali' features a sculpture of a little girl sitting beside a doorway, her eyes closed and hands pressed over her ears, symbolising the suffering of victims of violence.

SIFAYET ULLAH

A Durga Puja pandal in Chattogram has used art, protest slogans and newspaper reports to draw attention to violence against women and children and demand justice for victims.

Named "Raktanjali", the pandal in the port city's Khalifa Patti area features a sculpture of a little girl sitting beside a doorway, her eyes closed and hands pressed over her ears, symbolising the fear and suffering of victims of violence.

Beside her, a banner reads, "Stop violence against women" and "We want justice".

During a recent visit, banners bearing protest slogans were seen on either side of the idol of Goddess Durga.

One reads, "Why should my sister and my child live in fear?" Another asks, "Why is the home once filled with the sound of anklets now filled with fear?"

Organisers have also erected a symbolic gallows to demand punishment for perpetrators of violence against women and children.

Newspaper reports documenting such violence have been displayed at the entrance.

Sanchita Dev, a resident of Askar Dighi who works at a community clinic, visited the pandal with her young daughter.

"Although this is part of a religious festival, the organisers have presented the true picture of society."

Saikat Chowdhury, convener of the Khalifa Patti Puja Celebration Council, said, "Violence against women and children has been going on for ages. But what worries us is that its scale is increasing day by day."

"Even though this is a religious festival, we wanted to send a message that women and children are being neglected in society. That was the main reason behind our idea."

He said the organisers also wanted to encourage stronger protests against such violence.

Ctg gears up for PM's puja mandap visit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Ctg*

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman is scheduled to visit the JM Sen Hall puja mandap in Chattogram's Rahmatganj this evening to exchange Durga Puja greetings with members of the Hindu community.

Security has been stepped up ahead of the visit, with officials from the district administration and law enforcement agencies inspecting arrangements since Monday morning.

Chattogram Deputy Commissioner Jahidul Islam Mia yesterday discussed preparations with Puja Udjapan Parishad leaders.

Roads in Kazir Dewri, Jamal Khan, Rahmatganj and Anderkilla have been cleaned, dividers repainted and unauthorised posters and banners removed. Eviction drives have also cleared illegal makeshift shops from footpaths.

The PM is also scheduled to meet local BNP leaders.

JM Sen Hall is a major Durga Puja venue in the city.

Prof Arpan Kanti Banerjee, acting president of the Chattogram City Puja Udjapan Parishad, expressed delight over the visit.

"Due to space constraints inside our mandap, we will not be able to permit more than 300 designated guests inside for security reasons," he said.

Chattogram Metropolitan Police Commissioner Hasan Md Shawkat Ali said police and plainclothes officers had been deployed round-the-clock, with authorities coordinating with organisers to ensure a peaceful event.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges
Road Transport and Highways Division
Admin Section
www.rthd.gov.bd

e-Tender Notice (OTM)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP system portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of Hiring Supplier as mentioned in the following table:

Tender ID	Description	Last Selling Date	Closing Date
1357708	Hiring of Annual Supplier for supplying Stationery, Electronic & Crockeries Material	02 November 26	03 November 26
1357709	Hiring of Annual Supplier for supplying Computer & Internet Accessories, Printer & Printer Toner/ Cartridge etc.	02 November 26	03 November 26

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required.

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

19/10/2026
Ajit Deb
Deputy Secretary
Phone: 223385323

GD-2563

বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড
Bangladesh Power Development Board
Directorate of Purchase
Biddut Bhaban (12th Floor),
1 No Abdul Goni Road, Dhaka-1000.
Email: dir.purchase@bpdb.gov.bd.

e-Tender Notice

The Following e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of :

Sl. No	Tender ID No.	Package No	Reference No.	Description of Goods/ Works	Tender Document Last Selling Date and time	Tender Closing Date and time	Tender Opening Date and time
01.	1357899	PSN-1 (FY-26-27)	27.11.0000.304.27.103.26 Date:19/10/2026	Operation and Maintenance Service of BPDB Call Center via Hotline 16200 and Integrated Central Call Center for Distribution Utilities of Power Sector via Hotline 16999 for 02 (two) Years.	09 Nov-2026 14.00	09 Nov-2026 16:00	09 Nov-2026 16.00

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/ hard copies will be accepted.
To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd/) is required.
The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank Branches.
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).
For more details, please contact to the PE's Support Desk (01768595879).

বিপ্রকা / জন- ২৫০ (২)/১৯/১০/২৬

(Md. Shahedul Azim)
ID No.1-01460
Director
Directorate of Purchase
BPDB, Dhaka.

GD-2560

Cumilla man killed in Russia-Ukraine war

Says family

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Cumilla*

A 24-year-old Bangladeshi man from Cumilla, who reportedly quit his job at a bakery in Russia to join the Russian army for a promised Tk 30 lakh, has died in the Russia-Ukraine war, his family claims.

Sagar, from Chhaykot under Chandina municipality, had been working at the bakery for a monthly salary of Tk 70,000 before enlisting in May this year.

His family said a Bangladeshi middleman had offered him Tk 30 lakh to join the Russian army.



SAGAR

On Saturday night, one of Sagar's friends in Russia informed his sister of his death through a text message.

The family has yet to learn how he died or whether arrangements are being made to repatriate his body.

Sagar went to Russia in mid-2025 after his family allegedly paid Tk 6 lakh to a local agent to arrange his travel.

His uncle, Abdul Awal, said he had warned Sagar against joining the army, but he did not listen.

Chandina Police Station Officer-in-Charge Md Nuruzzaman said he learnt of the incident through the media and was looking into it.

Chandina Upazila Nirbahi Officer Mohammad Ashraful Haque said the administration would provide necessary assistance.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA)
Power Division
IEB Bhaban (Level: 9 & 10), Ramna, Dhaka
www.sreda.gov.bd
No. 27.02.0000.013.07.089.25.421 Date: 18 October 2026

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited to the e-GP portal for following goods. Interested tenderers are requested to visit (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd) website for details. APP ID 229832.

Sl	Tender ID, Reference No.	Name of the packages	Tender Publication date	Tender Document last Selling date and time	Tender Opening Date and Time
1	1341317 27.02.0000.013.07.089.25	Procurement of CCTV System	18-10-2026 17:00	28-10-2026 15:00	28-10-2026 17:00

This is an online tender, where only e-tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal. To submit tender, registration in e-GP system Portal is required (www.eprocure.gov.bd).

(Md. Aminur Rahman)
Member (Administration)
Phone: 02-55110337
Email: member.admin@sreda.gov.bd

GD-2540

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Bangladesh Meteorological Department
Storm Warning Center
E-24, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207
www.bmd.gov.bd

No. 23.09.2680.174.07.009.26-2588 Date: 19 October 2026

e-Tender Notice

This is an online Tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal (http: www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents of following package from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank branches upto 01.11.2026, 12:00 on the tender notice.

Sl. No	Package Description	Tender ID	Package No.	Last date & time of selling documents	Last date & time of Submission documents
1.	Supply of Caustic Soda Flakes & Ferrosilicon for Dhaka, Ishwardi and Bogura office.	1358489	Chemical/ 2026-2027	01-Nov-2026 12:00	01-Nov-2026 14:00

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal (http www.helpdesk.eprocure.gov.bd).

(Md. Nurul Karim)
Deputy Director (Current Charge)
Phone: 41025720

GD-2582

Dhaka South City Corporation
Office of the Executive Engineer
Zone-4, Nagar Bhaban, Fulbaria, Dhaka

Ref No. 46.207.007.24.09.06.2026-2027 Dated: 18.10.2026

Re-Tender Notice

e-Tender are invited in e-GP portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) by office of the Executive Engineer, Zone-4 Nagar Bhaban, Dhaka South City Corporation for the procurement of following package, which will be available at e-GP website from date 19-10-2026, 23:00.

Sl. No.	Tender ID, Ref No.	Name of works	Last Selling date and Time	Tender Closing Date and Time
01.	1349090 Z4_WD-07_TC_Zone-04-2026-27	Repair & Maintenance works including related materials supply of Road and infrastructure under Zone-4 in the financial year 2026-2027 through Term contractor (Package-Kha)	10-11-2026 12:00	10-11-2026 15:00

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in E-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.
To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP system portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd).

ডিএসসিসি/পিআরডি/৯৪/২০২৬-২৭

(Md. Mofizur Rahman Khan)
Executive Engineer
Zone-04 (Nagar Bhaban)
Dhaka South City Corporation
+Ph: 223387666

GD-2564

FUNDING CRISIS

WFP cuts food aid to 500,000 in Gaza

REUTERS, *Gaza*

The UN World Food Programme (WFP) has said funding shortages are forcing major cuts to its aid programme in Gaza, leaving about 500,000 people without monthly food support in a territory where two-thirds of the population struggle to get enough to eat.

The WFP said it was reducing the number of recipients of its monthly assistance to 1.1 million people from 1.6 million.

In addition, food rations have been halved, cash assistance has been cut for 75,000 families, and the number of daily hot meals for those unable to cook has fallen to 150,000 from 250,000, with some families in hard-to-reach areas now receiving a hot meal only every other day.

The WFP said about 1.4 million people face crisis levels of food insecurity or worse.



Protesters take part in an anti-government demonstration in central Tirana, Albania, yesterday, as protests continued for a seventh consecutive day over university conditions and demands for the resignation of prime minister. PHOTO: **AFP**

INDIAN VOTER LIST ROW

Delhi magistrate extends detention of two CJP leaders

AFP, *New Delhi*

A New Delhi magistrate extended the detention of two leaders of India's youth-led Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) movement by two days yesterday, after they were remanded in custody five days ago.

CJP activists and opposition parties have defied a security crackdown to demand the resignation of India's chief election commissioner, accusing the poll body of manipulating voter rolls to benefit Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling party.

The commission, which oversees voting in the world's most populous nation, has denied any wrongdoing.

Television footage showed CJP leaders Ashutosh Ranka, 30, and Saurav Das, 27, being taken away in a blue police van from a police station where the hearing took place. "This is an absolute mockery of the justice system," the movement's legal affairs head Ratna Singh told reporters.

Das and Ranka were taken into custody on October 14 for their "alleged repeated attempts to disturb public peace and violate the law", the police said in a statement at the time.

The pair had jumped security barricades to wave the national flag at Jantar Mantar, a decades-old protest site that police have barred people from using.

"Their alleged attempts to instigate others through social media to engage in similar unlawful activities were also taken into consideration," the statement said. Jantar Mantar, in the heart of the capital, has been sealed off with yellow metal barricades for more than a week and guarded by security personnel.

Four killed in Manipur violence

Locals take bodies to CM's house

AGENCIES

The security situation in India's northeastern state of Manipur has deteriorated following a fresh outbreak of violence. At least four people have died in two separate incidents on Sunday night and yesterday morning.

Angry locals placed two bodies outside the chief minister's house in Imphal in protest, but police forcibly removed them.

In the first incident, violence erupted during a musical event in a locality inhabited by Meiteis and Pangal Muslims. A 24-year-old youth later died of bullet injuries, reports NDTV online.

In a separate incident at Khamenlok in Imphal East district, at least three villagers, who had gone to collect firewood in the nearby hills, were reportedly shot dead by suspected militants.

Iran: US responsible for 'insecurity' in Hormuz

AFP, *Tehran*

Iran's top diplomat yesterday accused the United States of being responsible for the "insecurity" in the Strait of Hormuz, which has been at the heart of the conflict between the foes.

"The war imposed by the United States and the Zionist regime (Israel), combined with the economic blockade, constitutes the principal source of insecurity in our region," said Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, having previously referred to "the Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz".

He was speaking during a joint press conference with his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov, who arrived in Tehran earlier Monday, in his first visit since the outbreak of the Middle East war as Moscow seeks to play a mediating role.

Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei said on Sunday that the trip would focus on "regional and international developments".

Lavrov was scheduled to meet Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and hold talks with his counterpart Abbas Araghchi, according to the Russian foreign ministry.

The veteran diplomat has said Moscow's efforts are "aimed at preventing the return of a large-scale war", with talks stalled between Tehran and Washington.

His visit comes after Russian President Vladimir Putin told Pezeshkian in early October that Moscow was prepared to contribute to mediation efforts.

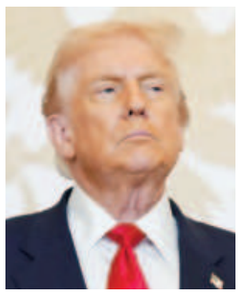
Russia and Iran, two of the most heavily sanctioned nations in the world, maintain close ties.

The Middle East war began in February with US-Israeli strikes on Iran. Despite a ceasefire in April, followed by a US-Iran memorandum of understanding in June, hostilities in and around the Strait of Hormuz have not stopped.

Iran claims control over the strategic waterway -- through which one-fifth of the world's hydrocarbons pass in normal times -- and regularly targets vessels that cross without its authorisation.

In response, Washington has been maintaining a naval counter-blockade on Iranian ports.

The Russian foreign ministry said discussions during Lavrov's visit were expected to focus on "ways to resolve the acute international crisis triggered by the unlawful aggression of the US and Israel against Iran".



"My decision on Russia is a very simple one. I am in the process of negotiating Peace in the war between Russia and Ukraine, and don't want to do anything that will drive, foolishly, Russia away from the bargaining table."

TRUMP on Ukraine war

পাওয়ার গ্রিড বাংলাদেশ পিএলসি
POWER GRID BANGLADESH PLC
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)
Grid Bhaban, Avenue-3, Jahurul Islam City, Aftabnagar, Badda, Dhaka-1212 Web: www.powergrid.gov.bd
স্মারক নং- ২৭.২১.২৭৬৪.৪৫১.০৭.১০২.২৬.৩১৮ তারিখঃ ১৮/১০/২০২৬খ্রিঃ

পরিবর্তিত e-Auction বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পাওয়ার গ্রিডের জিএমডি, দিনাজপুর দপ্তরের আওতাধীন নিম্নবর্ণিত নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তিটি ওয়েব লিংক https://auction.powergrid.gov.bd -এ পাওয়া যাবে।

আইডি	কাজের নাম	সিডিউল গ্রহণ ও খোলার পূর্বঘোষিত তারিখ	সিডিউল গ্রহণ ও খোলার পরিবর্তিত তারিখ
৩৪২	জিএমডি, দিনাজপুর দপ্তরের আওতাধীন পূর্বসাদিপুর গ্রিড উপকেন্দ্রের পুরাতন বাউন্ডারী ওয়াল হতে প্রাপ্ত মালামাল এবং অব্যবহৃত/পরিত্যক্ত ৭টি ভবন (যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে) নিলামে বিক্রয়।	গ্রহণঃ ২০/১০/২৬ বিকাল ০৩:০০টা খোলাঃ ২১/১০/২৬ দুপুর ১২:০০টা	গ্রহণঃ ০১/১১/২৬ বিকাল ০৩:০০টা খোলাঃ ০২/১১/২৬ দুপুর ১২:০০টা

আগ্রহী ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানকে https://auction.powergrid.gov.bd_সাইটের মাধ্যমে নিলামে অংশগ্রহণের জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

মোঃ জাবেদ
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, জিএমডি, দিনাজপুর

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক আদর্শ উচ্চ বিদ্যালয়
বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক কলোনী, ফরিদাবাদ, ঢাকা-১২০৪

প্রধান শিক্ষক নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

তারিখ-১৯/১০/২০২৬

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের অর্থায়নে পরিচালিত বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক আদর্শ উচ্চ বিদ্যালয়, বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক কলোনী, ফরিদাবাদ, ঢাকা-১২০৪ এর প্রধান শিক্ষক পদে চুক্তিভিত্তিক নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে বাংলাদেশের স্থায়ী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছেঃ

ন্যূনতম শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা	অভিজ্ঞতা	বেতন
স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে ০৪ বছরের স্নাতক/স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রী থাকতে হবে। শিক্ষা জীবনের কোন পর্যায়ে ৩য় শ্রেণী/বিভাগ গ্রহনযোগ্য হবে না। বিএড ডিগ্রী অতিরিক্ত যোগ্যতা হিসেবে বিবেচিত হবে।	যেকোন সরকারী/MPO ভুক্ত কলেজের অধ্যক্ষ/উপাধ্যক্ষ হিসেবে কাজের অভিজ্ঞতা অথবা সরকারী/MPO ভুক্ত উচ্চ বিদ্যালয়ের প্রধান শিক্ষক পদে শিক্ষকতার অভিজ্ঞতা অথবা সরকারী/MPO ভুক্ত উচ্চ বিদ্যালয়ের সহকারী প্রধান শিক্ষক পদে ০৩ বছরের অভিজ্ঞতাসহ শিক্ষকতায় সর্বমোট ১৮ বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা অথবা সশস্ত্র বাহিনী কর্তৃক পরিচালিত বিদ্যালয়ের প্রধান শিক্ষক হিসেবে কাজের অভিজ্ঞতা ।	মাসিক বেতন সর্বসাকুল্যে ১,৩০,০০০ (এক লক্ষ ত্রিশ হাজার) টাকা মাত্র। প্রার্থীর যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতার ভিত্তিতে আলোচনা সাপেক্ষে চূড়ান্ত করা হবে। চূড়ান্তভাবে নির্বাচিত প্রার্থীর সাথে চুক্তিপত্রে অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী নির্ধারণ করা হবে।

শর্তাবলী :

১) প্রার্থীকে সভাপতি, বিদ্যালয় পরিচালনা কমিটি, বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক আদর্শ উচ্চ বিদ্যালয়' বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক কলোনী, ফরিদাবাদ, ঢাকা-১২০৪ এর নিকট জীবন-বৃত্তান্ত, ০৩ কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের সত্যায়িত ছবি, জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র, শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সকল সনদপত্র, ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ/পৌরসভা/সিটি কর্পোরেশন কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত জাতীয়তা সনদপত্র ও অভিজ্ঞতার সনদের সত্যায়িত অনুলিপিসহ স্ব-হস্তে লিখিত আবেদনপত্র আগামী ১৫/১১/২০২৬ তারিখ বিকাল ৫:০০ টার মধ্যে পৌঁছাতে হবে। শুধুমাত্র স্ব-হস্তে লিখিত আবেদনপত্রের PDF কপি bbahsoffice@gmail.com এই ঠিকানায় ইমেইল করতে হবে এবং recruit.hrd@bb.org.bd ঠিকানায় cc প্রদান করতে হবে।
২) আবেদনপত্রের সাথে 'প্রধান শিক্ষক, বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক আদর্শ উচ্চ বিদ্যালয়' বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক কলোনী, ফরিদাবাদ, ঢাকা-১২০৪ বরাবর ২০০/- টাকার পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট (অফেরতযোগ্য) সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।
৩) আবেদনপত্রে অবশ্যই প্রার্থীর মোবাইল নম্বর এবং ই-মেইল উল্লেখ করতে হবে।
৪) আবেদনপত্র যাচাইয়ান্তে প্রাথমিকভাবে যোগ্য প্রার্থীদের লিখিত পরীক্ষা আগামী ০৫/১২/২০২৬ তারিখ সকাল ০৮:০০ ঘটিকায় বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক আদর্শ উচ্চ বিদ্যালয়' বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক কলোনী, ফরিদাবাদ, ঢাকা-১২০৪ গ্রহণ করা হবে। একই তারিখে লিখিত পরীক্ষার ফলাফল প্রকাশ করা হবে এবং লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদের ডেমোনস্ট্রেশন ও মৌখিক পরীক্ষা গ্রহণ করা হবে। মৌখিক পরীক্ষার পূর্বে প্রার্থীর সকল মূল সনদপত্র ও দলিলাদি প্রদর্শন করতে হবে।
৫) আবেদনপত্র যাচাইয়ান্তে প্রাথমিকভাবে যোগ্য প্রার্থীদের ই-মেইলে এবং SMS এর মাধ্যমে প্রার্থীর রোল নম্বর অবহিত করা হবে। পরীক্ষার দিন পরীক্ষা শুরুর পূর্বে পরীক্ষার কেন্দ্র হতে প্রবেশপত্র সংগ্রহ করতে হবে।
৬) নিয়োগের জন্য চূড়ান্তভাবে মনোনীত প্রার্থীদের সর্বোচ্চ ০৩ বছরের জন্য চুক্তিভিত্তিক নিয়োগ প্রদান করা হবে। নিয়োগপ্রাপ্ত প্রার্থীর চুক্তিকালীন চাকরি সন্তোষজনকভাবে সমাপনান্তে উভয়পক্ষের সম্মতিতে চুক্তি নবায়ন করা যাবে।
৭) বিদ্যালয়ের ০২ শিফটে দায়িত্ব পালন করতে হবে।
৮) আবেদনকারী প্রার্থীর বয়স সর্বোচ্চ ৬২ বছর এবং প্রার্থীকে শারীরিক ও মানসিকভাবে ফিট থাকতে হবে।
৯) অসত্য ও অসম্পূর্ণ তথ্য প্রদান করলে সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রার্থীর প্রার্থিতা বাতিল করা হবে।
১০) এ নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি কোন প্রার্থীকে চাকরির নিশ্চয়তা প্রদান করে না। কর্তৃপক্ষ কোনো প্রকার কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোনো পর্যায়ে নিয়োগ প্রক্রিয়া স্থগিত/বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।
১১) নিয়োগ পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য কোনো প্রকার টিএ/ডিএ প্রদান করা হবে না।

সভাপতি
বিদ্যালয় পরিচালনা কমিটি
বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক আদর্শ উচ্চ বিদ্যালয়
বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক কলোনী, ফরিদাবাদ, ঢাকা-১২০৪

GD-2562

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়,
গণপূর্ত বিভাগ, পাবনা।
ফোন ঃ ০২৫৮৮৮৪৬০৬৬।

নিলাম দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

নিলাম দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং- ০৪(চার) অর্থ বছর ২০২৬-২০২৭ইং

এতদ্বারা পাবনা গণপূর্ত বিভাগের অধীনস্থ পাবনা মানসিক হাসপাতাল এলাকায় অবস্থিত পুরাতন জরাজীর্ণ ব্যবহারের অযোগ্য পরিত্যক্ত ১৫(পনেরো) টি ভবন **(যাহা ১৫ (পনেরো) গ্রুপে বিভক্ত)** যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে সেই অবস্থায় নিলামে বিক্রয় এর জন্য আগ্রহী ব্যক্তি/ঠিকাদার/ফার্ম এবং গণপূর্ত অধিদপ্তরের সকল শ্রেণীর ঠিকাদার/ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হইতে সীলমোহরকৃত নিলাম দরপত্র আহবান করা যাইতেছে।

১।	কাজের নাম	ঃ	পাবনা গণপূর্ত বিভাগের অধীনস্থ পাবনা মানসিক হাসপাতাল এলাকায় অবস্থিত পুরাতন জরাজীর্ণ ব্যবহারের অযোগ্য পরিত্যক্ত ১৫(পনেরো)টি ভবন অপসারণ এর নিলাম (গ্রুপ লিস্ট সংযুক্ত)।
২।	নিলাম দরপত্র বিক্রয়কারী দপ্তরের নাম	ঃ	নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর অফিসসহ নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, গণপূর্ত বিভাগ-১,২ রাজশাহী /নাটোর/নওগাঁ/ চাঁপাইনবাবগঞ্জ/বগুড়া/জয়পুরহাট/সিরাজগঞ্জ ।
৩।	নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তির সূত্র	ঃ	১। তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী, গণপূর্ত সার্কেল, পাবনা এর স্মারক নং-৪৭২,৪৭৩ তারিখ- ২৩/০৫/২০২৬ খ্রিঃ। ২। তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী, গণপূর্ত সার্কেল, পাবনা এর স্মারক নং-৪৯৮,৪৯৯ তারিখ-০৭/০৬/২০২৬ খ্রিঃ। ৩। তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী, গণপূর্ত সার্কেল, পাবনা এর স্মারক নং-৭০০,৭০১,৭০২ তারিখ-১২/১১/২০২৫ খ্রিঃ। ৪। তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী, গণপূর্ত সার্কেল, পাবনা এর স্মারক নং-৭১২ তারিখ-১৩/১১/২০২৫ খ্রিঃ। ৫।তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী, গণপূর্ত সার্কেল, পাবনা এর স্মারক নং-৭৪৯,৭৫১,৭৫২,৭৫৩,৭৫৪,৭৫৫,৭৫৬ তারিখ-২০/১১/২০২৫ খ্রিঃ।
৪।	দরপত্র আহবানের স্মারক নং ও তারিখ	ঃ	স্মারক নং-১১৬০ তারিখ- ১৮/১০/২০২৬ খ্রিঃ
৫।	দরপত্র গ্রহণের স্থান	ঃ	১। নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, গণপূর্ত বিভাগ, পাবনা। ২। জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, পাবনা। ৩। পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, পাবনা।
৬।	নিলাম দরপত্র তফশীল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	ঃ	০৮/১১/২০২৬ খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত (অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে) ।
৭।	নিলাম দরপত্র গ্রহনের তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ	০৯/১১/২০২৬ খ্রিঃ বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত ।
৮।	নিলাম দরপত্র খোলার স্থান	ঃ	নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, পাবনা গণপূর্ত বিভাগ, পাবনা।
৯।	নিলাম দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ	০৯/১১/২০২৬ খ্রিঃ সময় বেলা ৩.০০ ঘটিকা।
১০।	নিলাম দরপত্র তফশীলের মূল্য	ঃ	গ্রুপ লিস্ট এর প্রতিটি লটের জন্য নিলাম দরপত্র তফসিল মূল্য টাকা ঃ ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) মাত্র (অফেরতযোগ্য)
১১।	জামানতের টাকা	ঃ	উদ্ধৃত দরের মোট মূল্যের উপর ২০% (শতকরা বিশ ভাগ) টাকা নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, গণপূর্ত বিভাগ, পাবনা এর অনুকূলে যে কোন তফশীল ব্যাংক হতে ব্যাংকে ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার নিলাম দরপত্রের সাথে অবশ্যই দাখিল করতে হবে ।
১২।	কর্তৃপক্ষ সকল বা যে কোন দরপত্র কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে গ্রহণ বা প্রত্যাখান করার অধিকার/ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন/ রাখেন।		
১৩।	নিলাম দরপত্রের সঙ্গে নিলাম দরপত্র ক্রয়ের মূল রশিদ অবশ্যই সংযুক্ত করিতে হইবে।		

অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী নোটিশ বোর্ড/অফিসে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে দেখতে পাওয়া যাবে।

(মোঃ রাশেদ কবির)
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী
গণপূর্ত বিভাগ, পাবনা।

GD-2550

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

Don't gamble with Dhaka's future

Latest amendments to the city's DAP raise concerns

What is the purpose of the Detailed Area Plan (DAP)? From what we understand, DAP defines the dos and don'ts of development in the Dhaka metropolitan area, specifying land use, building construction limits, and use of water bodies and open and/or green spaces. That would mean DAP was designed to guide a balanced, sustainable development of our capital city. But the latest round of revision of this crucial urban planning framework put this concept into doubt.

The amendment in question, gazetted on October 14, introduces changes in three key provisions of the current DAP (2022-2035): i) the floor area ratio (FAR) has been raised by up to 0.5 for plots measuring five kathas or more in Purbachal and Jhilmil housing projects, if residential plot owners apply for building-plan approval within six months from October 15; ii) three plots in Ailbahar mouza under Shyampur and Kadamtali, which lie along the Buriganga River, have been reclassified from open spaces to heavy industrial areas, and iii) revision of rules involving water flow overlay zones. These revisions have drawn criticism from urban planners. Raising FAR can have a significant impact on a given area's population density and access to amenities such as roads, drainage, and utility services. And in a city that houses 3.66 crore people, where only 8 percent of its area provides open spaces and industrial pollution poses a major urban public health challenge, how justified is converting open spaces along a river into heavy industrial areas?

Dhaka desperately needs a development plan that leaves some room to breathe. Without adequate infrastructure, environmental safeguards and public services, making the aforementioned changes will only worsen congestion, waterlogging and other problems that plague the city.

Equally troubling is the allegation that the amendments have been issued bypassing the required technical review and approval process, raised by a source within the Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk), the authority in charge of the capital's development. According to the source, the industrial classification was done without acquiring no-objection clearances from the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority and the city corporation. Also, there was no site inspection and assessment of potential impact on the local ecosystem. As of this writing, Rajuk has not provided any clarification regarding its decision. If it has indeed skipped these necessary steps before finalising the changes, it must explain why.

Experts have alleged that business interests have been prioritised over public welfare. This is not the first time such allegations have been raised. Experts and advocates have repeatedly cautioned against compromising Dhaka's liveability just to favour commercial gains. These concerns deserve a transparent and substantive response. We urge the authorities to properly investigate these allegations. Dhaka desperately needs a development plan that leaves some room to breathe. Without adequate infrastructure, environmental safeguards and public services, making the aforementioned changes will only worsen congestion, waterlogging and other problems that plague the city. The relevant authorities must disclose the technical assessments, consultations and approvals underlying the latest amendments. An independent review should establish whether due process was followed and whether the changes truly serve public interest. If they don't, the amendments should be withdrawn pending proper review. Urban planning must be guided by evidence, professional expertise, and accountability to citizens only.

Cyber law must not muzzle dissent

Heed stakeholders' advice for amending the law

One would be forgiven for losing count of how many shapes Bangladesh's "cyber/digital security" laws have taken since the draconian Digital Security Act, 2018 was enacted. Still today, we find ourselves repeating the same concerns about the infringement of citizens' rights, as if by rote. The recently amended Cyber Security Act, 2026, is based on the interim government's Cyber Protection Ordinance, 2025, which, at the time, was criticised for lacking adequate stakeholder consultation before enactment. The BNP government then adopted this controversial ordinance as law in April, amended it once in June, and proposed further changes last month.

It should be noted that, for the last eight years, rights groups and news media have called for much of the same: mainly broader definitions, exclusion of vague terms (such as "dignity" and "rumour"), guarantee of press freedom and freedom of speech and expression. Based on the government's latest proposal to criminalise defamation and introduce prison terms and fines for "humiliation" and "bullying", it seems that the calls have fallen on inattentive ears. Even after witnessing the local and global backlash faced by the Awami League for enacting such restrictive cyber laws—which directly contributed to the people of Bangladesh rising against the regime in 2024—how can any subsequent government fail to read the room?

According to Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), 101 people were accused and 64 arrested in 44 cases under the cyber law between March and September. Worryingly, the motivation behind the law and its proposed amendments seems to be to further consolidate power, not to truly ensure justice for victims of cybercrimes. Indeed, the country's vaguely-termed cyber laws have historically been used primarily to impinge on the freedom of the press and to silence dissent.

Prior to approving the latest amendment to the Cyber Security Act, 2026, we urge the government to heed the warnings and advice of its own media committee and those of relevant stakeholders and the Editors' Council. It is unacceptable that our primary cybercrimes law should be so focused on limiting press freedom and citizens' free speech, as well as outlining disproportionate punishment for vaguely-defined crimes. The internet must indeed be made safer for users in Bangladesh, and this should be the only sentiment guiding any changes to the current law.

IMF-WORLD BANK MEETINGS

More diagnosis, less relief

MACRO MIRROR



Dr Fahmida Khatun is an economist and distinguished fellow at the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).
Views expressed in this article are the author's own.

FAHMIDA KHATUN

The 2026 Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group, held in Bangkok from October 12 to 18, took place amid a war-driven energy shock, record public debt, rising inflation, and an AI boom that is lifting some economies while leaving others behind. Beyond acknowledgment of these issues, poorer countries need affordable finance, workable debt solutions, and room to protect people while implementing reforms.

The meetings, which covered jobs, investment and growth, public debt, energy and food security, climate risks, and artificial intelligence, broadly diagnosed global challenges but made few binding decisions. The employment challenge was especially stark. World Bank President Ajay Banga at the Annual Meetings plenary said about 1.2 billion young people are expected to enter the labour market over the next 10 to 15 years, while only about 400 million jobs are projected to be available.

The IMF's steering committee called for greater support for countries facing short-term financing difficulties, particularly those affected by conflict and high energy prices. The International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC) Chair said the global economy had weathered shocks better than expected, but its resilience was weakening.

The World Bank reported efforts to expand its lending capacity and attract private investment. But its own figures show the limits of private investment in closing the development gap; for low-income countries, such mobilisation remained at around $3 billion. Poorer economies often lack the infrastructure, stable institutions and financial conditions needed to attract large commercial investments. Cheaper and more flexible public and concessional finance therefore remain essential.

The challenges facing poorer countries must now translate into practical debt relief and affordable financing because the stakes are immediate. High debt costs, expensive imports and limited revenue leave governments with less to spend on health, education, social protection and investment. So, developing countries called for more accessible financing.

Rapid access to finance should be on terms countries can repay without cutting essential services. When debt becomes unmanageable, they also need a timely, predictable restructuring process. However, the meetings did not deliver a major new debt-relief agreement or a clear, funded response to the pressures facing vulnerable countries, leaving urgent concerns over debt, conflict, inflation and access to affordable finance unresolved for developing countries.

Private investment can help when projects are viable and risks are manageable. But it cannot replace concessional finance when expected returns are low, risks are high, or private investors cannot capture the benefits. Poor countries need private investment for projects that can generate a return, and public or concessional finance for essential projects that cannot attract private investors.

Notably, Bangladesh has requested a new IMF-supported programme, but the amount and date are not officially confirmed. On June 3, 2026, the IMF confirmed the request and ongoing policy discussions, but its July mission statement did not mention any finance amount or timetable. Per the IMF's lending guidance, staff-level agreements are not final without conditions and until the IMF Executive Board approves them.



Demonstrators attend a protest against the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank Group in Bangkok on October 16, 2026, as the IMF Annual Meetings take place in the Thai capital. PHOTO: **AFP**

Earlier in January 2023, Bangladesh entered into an IMF-supported programme which was later expanded, bringing total financing under its three facilities to about $5.5 billion, prioritising revenue mobilisation, exchange-rate flexibility, financial-sector stability, and climate resilience. In May 2025, it said completing the third and fourth reviews depended on prior actions related to tax revenue and exchange-rate reforms.

Bangladesh has proposed implementing reforms in phases. Phasing could make difficult changes more manageable, provided it includes clear deadlines, public reporting, and protection for households affected by price or subsidy changes. If subsidy changes raise household costs, targeted support should protect low-income people—a recommendation also made in the IMF's July 2026 statement. Earlier in June 2026, the IMF said the economic and political context had changed substantially since it approved the previous programme and noted that weaknesses in the banking sector and low revenue mobilisation underscore the need for renewed, sustained reform efforts.

The IMF has not yet published the conditions for a new Bangladesh programme, so any list of requirements should be treated as an informed expectation, not as an agreed package. The IMF's July statement identifies likely areas of focus, including stronger revenue mobilisation, rationalising subsidies, greater exchange-rate flexibility, and a credible plan to restructure the banking sector. An IMF programme could also seek better loan classification and recovery, stronger bank supervision, fewer tax exemptions, improved public financial management and protection for low-income households affected by price changes. These are not merely loan conditions but reforms Bangladesh needs to address its own economic problems.

Such reforms are crucial, particularly when Bangladesh faces persistently high inflation, weak economic growth, subdued private investment, and inadequate job creation. The government should therefore own the reform agenda rather than wait for international organisations to prescribe it.

Bangladesh can decide how to reform energy prices. It need not withdraw all support from every group, including poor and vulnerable households. It can replace broad, costly subsidies with targeted assistance, improve energy pricing, collect more revenue, reduce non-performing loans, and strengthen bank governance and supervision. If the government demonstrates commitment and results, it will be better placed to negotiate the pace and design of reforms with the IMF. If the country does not own the reform and pursue it seriously at home, no loan conditions can make it succeed. Delays will weaken the economy and increase the debt burden, ultimately placing repayment costs on citizens who did not create the underlying problems.

While Bangladesh must urgently tackle its economic challenges, its negotiations with the IMF and World Bank highlight a broader question: how can international institutions provide timely, affordable support while giving countries room to tailor reforms to their own circumstances? The annual meetings in Bangkok offered a chance to see whether they are ready to meet that challenge.

The Development Committee chair's statement sets out priorities, including growth, jobs, resilience, and stronger crisis response, without any binding commitments to provide new funds or deliver debt relief by set dates. Developing-country representatives pressed for more. The G24's statement at the meetings called for faster IMF quota realignment, a stronger World Bank lending capacity, broader participation in debt restructuring and reforms to strengthen developing countries' voice and representation, ensuring institutional policies and financing reflect their needs. Bangkok was therefore a diplomatic success but delivered limited results. The meetings clarified the scale of the challenges and reaffirmed cooperation yet offered few enforceable steps to meet the expectations of people and countries in the Global South. The test now is whether the institutions and their shareholders can turn recognition into affordable finance, fairer decision-making, and timely results.

We need a lasting safe water system

Mo Hoque is senior lecturer in hydrogeology and environmental geoscience at the University of Portsmouth, UK. He can be reached at mo.hoque@port.ac.uk

Ashraf Dewan is director of research at the School of Earth and Planetary Sciences, Curtin University, Australia. He can be reached at a.dewan@curtin.edu.au.

MO HOQUE *and* **ASHRAF DEWAN**

Bangladesh may be approaching an important new phase in its long struggle to ensure safe drinking water for all. On October 8, Local Government Minister Abdul Moyeen Khan said the government was discussing an integrated programme worth about $2.1 billion, or Tk 25,000 crore, with UNICEF, World Bank, WaterAid and other development partners. The proposed initiative aims to ensure access to safe drinking water for the country's 18 crore people, amid growing challenges from drying rivers, upstream water withdrawals, and rising salinity in the south.

Around the same time, a Prothom Alo-WaterAid roundtable on water security and integrated water-resource management called for longer-term planning, stronger coordination, better information-sharing, local participation, maintenance, and accountability. One point was particularly important: access to water is not enough; it must also be safe, reliable and sustainable.

The proposed investment, therefore, raises a practical question: will it make sure that a family still has safe water five or ten years after the projects are completed?

For decades, rural water programmes have understandably focused on visible outputs: tubewells installed, treatment plants constructed, and households nominally covered. But a water point that stops working, becomes contaminated, or is no longer accessible does not provide a safe-water service. Bangladesh now needs to move beyond projects that provide infrastructure towards a system that continuously manages access to safe water.

This is important because rural supply will remain highly distributed. Millions of households depend on individual or shared tubewells, and the government cannot routinely test and certify every private well. Nor does it need to. Instead, every village could have a minimum network of recognised, tested, accessible and functional safe-water sources. These could include government deep tubewells, rehabilitated wells from earlier projects, verified community sources and, where owners agree, privately owned safe wells made available to neighbours.

The policy question would then change. Instead of asking mainly how many new wells were installed, planners could ask what proportion of households currently have reasonable access to a verified, functioning safe-water source. The acceptable distance could vary with settlement density, population and local hydrogeology.

That change would also alter investment decisions. Before drilling another well, authorities could ask whether a suitable public well already exists nearby, whether it is still functional, when its water was last tested, and whether a damaged pump or platform could be repaired. Bangladesh has invested in safe-water infrastructure for decades; repairing and reusing existing infrastructure could free up funds for communities that genuinely need new facilities.

Managing such a network, however, requires a digital backbone linking users, water points and the institutions responsible for keeping them safe and functional. A user-friendly platform should help households determine whether their water source may be unsafe, locate the nearest verified safe-water source, and check whether it is functioning. Community volunteers could report damaged or inaccessible water sources. Health workers could identify households still using unsafe water and direct them to safer alternatives. Local officials could see maps of coverage gaps, testing needs and non-functional water sources, while national planners could identify where rehabilitation or new construction should take priority.

Some foundations already exist. The Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) lists digital systems for water-quality testing and reporting, rural water supply and water-point management, while iArsenic allows users to estimate the arsenic risk of tubewell water. These functions need to be connected so that risk information leads directly to safe-water options, functionality monitoring, and institutional response.

Technology alone, however, cannot provide accountability. The Prothom Alo-WaterAid roundtable also emphasised the need for clearer standards, stronger oversight, and greater accountability for DPHE and WASA. Bangladesh should consider establishing an independent drinking-water regulatory function, either by strengthening existing arrangements or through a dedicated regulator.

As argued in an earlier article, the organisation responsible for providing a public service should not be the sole judge of its performance. The safety of drinking water makes this separation particularly important. An independent mechanism should be able to conduct risk-based and random testing, audit compliance, investigate persistent failures, publish performance data, and require corrective action. While the digital system would help target inspections, independent testing would lend credibility to any water point labelled "verified safe".

The proposed national investment is, therefore, an opportunity to build four things together: infrastructure, a managed network of safe water sources, a digital backbone, and independent assurance and regulation. Different regions will still require different technologies because arsenic, salinity, groundwater depletion, and climate pressures vary widely. But whatever technology is chosen, people ultimately need a service that works every day.

This time, success should not be determined by the number of projects completed. Years after the investment programme closes, every family should still know where to find safe drinking water and whether it is genuinely safe. If Bangladesh builds a system that keeps answering these questions, safe water can become a continuously managed and available public service.

The Daily Star Reg. No. DA 781 | **EDITOR & PUBLISHER: Mahfuz Anam** Printed by him on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd at Transcraft Ltd, 229, Tejgaon Industrial Area, editor@thedailystar.net | **Registered & Head Offices:** The Daily Star Centre 64-65 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215 Phone: 09610222222 | **Newsroom:** Fax- 58156306 reporting@thedailystar.net | **Advertisement:** 01711623910 advertisement@thedailystar.net GPO Box: 3257 | **Subscription:** 01711623906 | thedailystar.net bangla.thedailystar.net/

Why stronger family planning services matter more than family size targets



Dr Md Nuruzzaman Khan is a senior research fellow at the Nossal Institute for Global Health of Melbourne School of Population and Global Health at the University of Melbourne, and an associate professor of population science at Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University.

■ NURUZZAMAN KHAN



'Bangladesh's earlier family planning programmes helped transform the country's demographic future. The next phase should respond to today's evidence.'

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Bangladesh is preparing to renew its family planning campaign, with rallies, fairs and contraceptives delivered to homes, under the slogan: "No more than two children, one is better". The trigger is clear. The Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2025 shows that the total fertility rate has risen to 2.4 births per woman, from 2.3 in 2019. Contraceptive use among married women has fallen to 58.2 percent, from 62.7 percent, and the adolescent birth rate has risen to 92 per 1,000 girls aged 15-19, from 83. Contraceptive shortages have made headlines nationwide. Exposure to family planning messages fell from 44 percent to 22 percent of women between 2004 and 2018. Reliance on the private sector has also grown, from 42 percent of modern-method users in 2011 to 57 percent in 2022.

Bangladesh's population of more than 17.5 crore, and its high density, make population growth a legitimate policy concern. Reproductive choice, rather than a numerical target, is the most effective way to address it. At current fertility, much of the country's future growth will come from population momentum: a large young generation is entering reproductive age, so births remain numerous even if each couple has about two children.

Renewed attention, therefore, is overdue. However, the harder question is whether the upcoming campaign's slogan fits Bangladesh's present demographic circumstances. The evidence suggests it does not.

Slogans have long been part of Bangladesh's family planning programme. "A small family is a happy family" dates from soon after independence. It was followed by "Boy or girl, two children are enough" from the 1980s, and by "No more than two children, one is better" from 2004 until 2018. These slogans helped make the two-child family a social norm and raised demand for contraception, and fertility fell from 6.3 births per woman in the mid-1970s to 2.7 in 2007 and 2.3 in 2011. Yet the decline in fertility did not necessarily mean that people had greater control over their reproductive decisions. In 2017-18, about one in five recent births was mistimed or unwanted, and one in four followed an interval shorter than three years. Women's desired fertility has been estimated at 1.7 births, below the actual rate of 2.3. The programme reduced births without closing the gap between the kind of families women wanted and the kind they had.

That gap explains why the purpose of family planning has changed. When women had six children, persuading couples to want fewer was central to the programme. With fertility now near replacement level, the task is to ensure that people can have the number of children they want, when they want them. Bangladesh endorsed this principle at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, which recognised the right of individuals and couples to decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing and timing of their children. The National Population Policy 2025 was presented as a shift from population control to rights and choice, and it carries no numerical fertility target. The National Family Planning Strategy 2025-2030 aims for zero unmet need. The revived slogan, declaring one child better than two and more than two undesirable, sits outside these commitments.

Survey data support this shift. Most couples already want small families: in 2022, 72 percent of married women with two children wanted no more. The desire to stop childbearing has eased, from 65 percent of married women in 2011 to 57 percent in 2022, so preferences may play some part. The clearer change, however, is in access. Between 2019 and 2025, contraceptive use fell and need met with modern methods dropped from 77.4 percent to 73.5 percent. Unmet need rose from 13.7 percent to 16.2 percent. Official data showed that 27 percent of Directorate General of Family Planning posts were vacant and that its regional warehouses held no pills, IUDs or implants. No study has yet tested whether these gaps raised fertility. UNFPA has suggested that service disruptions during the Covid pandemic contributed. Whatever the cause, a slogan cannot restock a warehouse or fill a vacant post. A slogan about family size leaves these gaps unaddressed.

Bangladesh's population of more than 17.5 crore, and its high density, make population growth a legitimate policy concern. Reproductive choice, rather than a numerical target, is the most effective way to address it. At current fertility, much of the country's future growth will come from population momentum: a large young generation is entering reproductive age, so births remain numerous even if each couple has about two children. Demographic evidence shows that momentum slows mainly through later first births and fewer unintended pregnancies. Both are outcomes of reproductive choice. Neither depends on persuading couples who already want two children to stop at one, as the slogan urges. UNFPA estimates that every $1 invested in family planning in Bangladesh saves $14 in health and social costs, and could prevent 30 percent of maternal deaths and two-thirds of unintended pregnancies. Population goals and reproductive rights point in the same direction.

The slogan can also shape how frontline services set priorities. Where posts are vacant, remaining workers cover the households of absent colleagues, with gaps of many months between visits. Under such workloads, a campaign built around "two, preferably one" may lead workers to concentrate on couples who already have two children, where results are most visible. Newly married women, adolescents, women with disabilities and families in remote areas could then receive less attention. No published evidence shows that workers are currently assessed against family-size targets, so this is a risk to monitor, not an established effect. The programme still offers payments to people who adopt implants and permanent methods. Incentives combined with a slogan stating that one child is better could create pressure that weakens informed consent.

For families, the slogan's main weakness is what it leaves out. For young women, the most pressing question is often not how many children to have, but when to have the first. The adolescent birth rate rose between 2019 and 2025, although the share of women aged 20-24 who gave birth before 18 fell slightly, from 24.2 percent to 22.3 percent. Half of young women still marry before 18, and the median interval between marriage and first birth has shortened to about two years. A newly married 17-year-old who wants to delay her first child is not helped by a slogan urging her to stop at one. For couples who want a third child, the slogan implies that their choice is a failure. How families will receive the slogan is not yet known, but it does not support informed, voluntary decisions.

The campaign's practical content should continue, because restoring procurement, delivering supplies to homes and filling vacant posts respond to rising unmet need. What should change is the slogan. Instead of a number, it could promise choice: every pregnancy planned, every method available, every couple informed. Bangladesh's earlier family planning programmes helped transform the country's demographic future. Its next phase should respond to today's evidence. The decline in contraceptive coverage, persistent unintended pregnancy, rising adolescent childbearing and geographical inequalities all justify stronger services. None requires a slogan that prescribes how many children a family should have. Bangladesh now needs to move from a population control framework to a reproductive choice framework, consistent with its changing demographic circumstances and reproductive rights commitments. The success of the next campaign should be measured by how many people can have the children they want, when they want them, rather than by how many families follow a prescribed number.

Can COP31 deliver on climate finance and trade justice?



Palash Kanti Das is senior advisor at Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSA) and managing partner at Lexington Advisory Group. He can be reached at palash@cansouthasia.net.

■ PALASH KANTI DAS

The 31st United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP31) begins in Antalya, Türkiye, on November 9 with a persistent gap between promised climate finance and what is actually delivered. Two questions will decide whether COP31 succeeds: who funds the transition, and will trade rules help or hinder the flow of money to those who need it most? Climate action rests on three pillars: mitigation, adaptation, and loss and damage. Under the Paris Agreement and in line with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, developed countries are obliged to finance all three in developing countries.

At COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, developed countries agreed to take the lead in mobilising at least $300 billion a year by 2035; developing countries had asked for $1.3 trillion. At COP30 in Belém, the "Baku-to-Belém Roadmap" for reaching $1.3 trillion was merely "taken note of", with no binding milestones. Most developed countries have yet to announce new pledges. Multilateral development banks provided a record $103 billion in 2025, but mostly as loans, adding to heavy debt burdens. The Bonn talks in June failed to even set up the climate finance work programme agreed upon in Brazil. The hardest fight, over what developed countries now owe, lands squarely in Antalya.

For frontline countries, adaptation is where the gap is felt the most. COP30 agreed to at least triple adaptation finance by 2035, five years later than many had wanted, while leaving open questions of both the baseline and about who pays. Developing countries need $310 billion to $365 billion a year to adapt, yet only $26 billion was available in 2023. Even where finance exists, access is a severe hurdle, as Pacific leaders stressed at the pre-COP in Fiji.

Loss and damage are the least-funded pillar of all. The Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage holds only $250 million in its start-up phase, and replenishment is not due until 2027. But communities are losing homes, land, and livelihoods now. Bangladesh has more at stake than most, and our eventual graduation from the Least Developed Country (LDC) category could also reduce our access to concessional support. Graduation reflects income, but eligibility for climate finance should be based on risk, not income.

While finance remains the primary battleground, a much larger front has opened in trade. The flashpoint is the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), which began pricing embedded carbon in imports in January. The G77 and China oppose such unilateral measures, warning that a levy collected at Europe's border could move money from South to North. That concern is legitimate, but CBAM can also work in our favour. By putting a price on carbon at the border, CBAM rewards producers who decarbonise early. Exporters that invest in renewable power, efficiency, and credible emissions data can turn it from a cost into a competitive edge and a source for green investment. It also spurs the emissions-tracking systems that unlock carbon markets and climate finance.

Trade can cut the finance bill in two further ways. First, lower tariffs on solar panels, batteries, and grid components reduce what a project must borrow. The second is the cost of borrowing itself. Clean energy costs are almost entirely upfront, so interest rates decide whether a project is viable, and developing countries could end up paying more to borrow than rich ones. Steady hard-currency earnings from green exports cut currency risk and the cost of capital. We must be clear about the limits. Trade gains mostly help revenue-earning mitigation, not embankments or disaster recovery, which still need grants. Nor should they ever be counted against developed countries' finance obligations.

For Bangladesh, the trade question is immediate. LDC graduation is scheduled for November 24 this year, or in 2029 if a pending deferral request is approved. It starts the clock on duty-free access to the EU, which bought an estimated 19.4 billion euros of our apparel in 2025. Three years after graduation, most garments will face tariffs of around 9.6 percent unless Dhaka secures GSP+ status or a trade agreement. CBAM does not yet cover garments, but its logic is already spreading through European buyers' demand for low-carbon supply chains. Moving early on cleaner power and verified green factories would protect the export earnings that underpin our credit standing and make Bangladesh a preferred low-carbon sourcing destination.

Bangladesh should therefore push for three priorities. First, affordable clean technology through lower barriers to clean equipment, so that we have less to borrow. Second, future trade terms, including GSP+, that recognise verified green production. Third, a share of CBAM revenue channelled to help exporters decarbonise, so that border measures support countries rather than penalise them just as they lose LDC status.

Ultimately, for COP31 to deliver, a move from pledges to delivery is essential. This requires, firstly, an agreement on the scope of the climate finance work programme. Then comes a delivery path for tripling adaptation finance, a credible replenishment plan for the loss and damage fund, and a just transition mechanism with money attached. On trade, lower clean-tech tariffs and recycled border revenue can turn CBAM from a grievance into a lever for cheaper finance and faster transition. South Asia also needs a coordinated voice on finance and trade, given our shared vulnerabilities. We can no longer rely on promises. For LDCs and other frontline countries, as their leaders made clear in Fiji, COP31 will be judged not by what is promised, but by what arrives.

Dhaka Bus Rapid Transit PLC
Road Transport & Highways Division
House-04, Road- 21, Sector- 04, Uttara, Dhaka-1230
www.dhakabrt.gov.bd

DHAKA LINE
TRANSFORMING TRAVEL

e-GP Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited to the National e-GP System (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of works mentioned below under Dhaka Bus Rapid Transit PLC:

SL No	Tender ID	Package No	Name of Work	Last Selling Date & Time	Closing & Opening date & Time
01	1353755	DBRT/ Shifting/ 2026	Shifting and Relocation of Dhaka BRT Head Office from Uttara to Gazipur BRT Depot, including Dismantling, Packing, Transportation, Unpacking and Reinstallation of Existing Fittings, Furniture, Documents and Air-Conditioning Systems, Installation of New Thai-Aluminum partitions, Electrical and Sanitary Fittings, and All Related Works.	09-11-2026	10-11-2026 at 12.00 PM

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System portal (http//www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online branches of any registered bank branches. Further information and guidance are available in the National e-GP System portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

19/10/2026
(Md. Mohiuddin)
General Manager
Dhaka Bus Rapid Transit PLC

GD-2561



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Hamin Ahmed becomes first Bangladeshi elected to APMA executive committee

Miles frontman to represent Bangladesh in Asia-Pacific music creators' alliance for the 2026–2029 term

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

Hamin Ahmed, frontman of the legendary Bangladeshi band Miles and an advocate for music creators' rights, has been elected to the executive committee of the Asia-Pacific Music Creators Alliance (APMA) for the 2026–2029 term.

He is the first representative from Bangladesh to join the alliance's executive committee, marking a milestone for the country's representation in regional music policy and copyright advocacy.

"When I received the call from CISAC, I was elated. Representatives from over 20 countries are currently cooperating through this organisation, and I will put my best foot forward to ensure that our voice is heard," said the musician.

CISAC is the International Confederation of Societies of Authors and Composers.

Hamin's election places a Bangladeshi music industry leader in a key regional forum dedicated to protecting songwriters' and composers' rights. Whether he will take on an additional leadership role remains under discussion.

"That is still an ongoing conversation. It is currently under discussion whether I will hold a specific leadership post or not," he said.

Hamin already serves as CEO of the Bangladesh Lyricists, Composers and Performers Society (BLCPS) and president of the Bangladesh Musical Bands Association (BAMBA). His election to the APMA executive committee is expected to strengthen Bangladesh's voice in discussions on intellectual property rights across Asia.

Established in November 2016 during the World Creators Forum in Beijing, APMA is a regional coalition of music creators and their representative organisations. It is affiliated with the International Council of Music Creators (CIAM) and CISAC, two international bodies dedicated to advancing creators' interests and rights.

"APMA works to address critical challenges such as unfair copyright buyouts, inadequate remuneration for private copying, and the value gap between the revenue generated by digital music platforms and the income received by creators," Hamin explained.

"The alliance also promotes awareness of creators' moral and economic rights and supports the development of collective management organisations in territories where such systems are still emerging."

These issues are particularly relevant to Bangladesh, where ensuring fair compensation remains an ongoing challenge—one that the Miles musician has been working to address for over a decade. Under Hamin's leadership, BLCPS is in the process of obtaining CISAC membership.

The current APMA committee brings together representatives from organisations involved in music rights and collective management across countries and territories including Australia, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Macau, the Philippines, South Korea and Thailand.

For Bangladesh, Hamin's election offers an opportunity to expand its participation in global discussions that increasingly shape how music is created, distributed, licensed and monetised. As digital platforms continue to transform the industry, regional cooperation on copyright protection and fair remuneration has become vital to the livelihoods of songwriters, composers, performers and other music professionals.



Liberation DocFest Bangladesh to screen 17 documentaries

The 13th Liberation DocFest Bangladesh will run from October 29 to 31 at the Liberation War Museum in Dhaka's Agargaon, featuring 17 documentaries under the theme ***Presence in Absence***.

Selected from 188 submissions, the films will screen in national and international competition sections and the Best of the Fest category.

One film in each competition section will receive Tk 100,000. A youth jury will also select a best film for a crest and certificate.

A seminar on documentary filmmaking as a classroom assignment in higher education will take place at 4:00pm on October 30.

Launched in 2006, the festival promotes films about liberation and human rights while encouraging young filmmakers and connecting local talent with international documentary cinema, organisers said.

RAZZ, TUSHI starrer 'Ice Cream' arrives on OTT 10 years after theatrical release

Ice Cream, starring Sariful Razz and Nazifa Tushi, arrives on Chorki at midnight, October 20, 10 years after its theatrical release.

Written and directed by Redoan Rony, the film opened in cinemas on April 29, 2016, marking the film debuts of Razz, Tushi and Uday.

Reflecting on the experience, Tushi said she entered the industry knowing little about filmmaking but wanting to act. Razz described ***Ice Cream*** as the foundation of his career, recalling rehearsals, nerves and Rony's guidance.

The cast also includes the late ATM Shamsuzzaman, Diti and Sayem Sadat, alongside Omar Sani and Nadia Khanam. Its soundtrack features vocals by Arnob, Armeen Musa, Sharmin Sultana Sumi and Minar Rahman. Rony also wrote the film's story, screenplay and dialogue.





EVENTS

'Listening Beyond Sight'



Reimagining the world through memory, sound, and sensory perception, Arif Abdullah's solo photography exhibition explores the challenges of traditional ways of seeing. The showcase invites audiences to discover how creative expression endures beyond sight, translating internal landscapes into compelling visual narratives.

Date: Friday – Tuesday | October 16 – 20, 2026

Time: 3:00pm– 9:00pm

Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka, Dhanmondi

NEWS

Religion is for the individual, state is for all

FROM PAGE 12

security, while citizens also have a responsibility to look after one another and work together to take the country forward.

Recalling the Liberation War, the premier said people fought for the country's independence without asking whether their fellow fighters were Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists or Christians.

He said people also stood together, irrespective of religion, during movements to restore democracy and establish political and voting rights.

Referring to the mass uprising of August 5, 2024, Tarique said hundreds of thousands of people had taken to the streets without asking one another about their religious beliefs.

"People of all religions were there that day," the PM said, adding that the July Uprising Memorial, which he inaugurated at Osmani Udyan earlier in the day, commemorated people from different religious communities who sacrificed their lives for people's rights.

He urged people to remain united in working for the country's development, saying that everyone will benefit if Bangladesh and the lives of its people improve.

"When someone suffers, we don't look at their religion. Likewise, when people are doing well, we don't look at their religions. We see that you are human, and I am human," Tarique said.

Extending greetings to members of the Hindu community on Durga Puja, the PM described the occasion as a celebration of joy and togetherness.

Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed and Social Welfare Minister AZM Zahid Hossain also spoke at the programme.

From sports ground to 'drug den'

FROM PAGE 12

an alternative, said the stadium had lost its former atmosphere. "There was a time when the stadium was full of excitement during cricket and football matches, but that scene has changed completely. The pavilion and washrooms have turned into dumping grounds and are choked with weeds," he said, adding that the lack of facilities was discouraging aspiring athletes.

Imran Hossain, a young footballer from Chandnighat in Moulvibazar Sadar upazila, said the hard ground, overgrown grass, grazing livestock and lack of drinking water made regular practice difficult.

ALLEGATIONS OF DRUG USE AFTER DARK

Residents allege that groups gather in secluded corners of the stadium after sunset to consume and sell cannabis, Yaba and Phensedyl. Claims of theft and mugging have also discouraged people from visiting after dark.

"We cannot take our children to the grounds because we fear what might happen. The stadium is no longer a place for sports; it has turned into a marketplace for drugs," said Sanaullah, a Saudi expatriate, adding that those protesting against the alleged activities faced counter-threats. Residents have called for regular police raids and stronger action.

Liakat Ali, a retired army officer living nearby, said the activities had persisted for years after dusk. "Even during the day, 50 to 100 players can be seen here; however, they leave before evening sets in. Once the stadium becomes deserted, these illicit activities take over," he said.

A NATIONAL PROBLEM OF MAINTENANCE

The 18,000-capacity stadium reflects wider concerns over public sports infrastructure. The National Sports Council (NSC) has built 63 district stadiums and 125 upazila-level mini stadiums, with work under way on another 201.

Residents allege that groups gather in secluded corners of the stadium after sunset to consume and sell cannabis, Yaba and Phensedyl.

In March, The Daily Star reported that a sports facility in Tangail's Bhuapur upazila had turned into a marketplace, highlighting similar concerns about the upkeep of public grounds.

"We must think about why we build stadiums if there is no process for maintenance. We must think about open grounds rather than structures," an NSC official said, speaking anonymously.

The NSC reportedly allocated Tk 18 crore for nationwide repairs this year, Tk 4 crore more than in the previous fiscal year. However, much of the funding goes towards upgrading venues for international events. DSAs receive only Tk 3 lakh to Tk 4 lakh annually, which must also cover office maintenance, leaving little scope for major repairs.

AUTHORITIES ACKNOWLEDGE THE NEED FOR RENOVATION

Syed Sipon, a stadium office assistant, said only two temporary staff members were responsible for upkeep and that a grass-cutting machine had been stolen.

Hanif Mohammad Khan Niyaz, member secretary of the Moulvibazar DSA, said the stadium urgently needed renovation and modernisation, adding that the association had informed the local MP.

Monwar Ahmed Rahman, a Bangladesh Cricket Board councillor, said some repairs had been carried out and the gates were now kept locked following earlier thefts. He said the stadium could host national and divisional competitions if its playing field, galleries and dressing rooms were renovated. Stolen electrical fittings and livestock entering the grounds remained concerns.

Deputy Commissioner Touhiduzzaman Pavel cited budget constraints as a barrier to improvements. Although his office had received no formal complaints about alleged drug activities, he said a team would investigate and relevant drug-prevention authorities could be involved.

BUILDING STADIUMS IS NOT ENOUGH

An NSC project report describes sports as vital to health, vigour, strength, discipline and character. Yet the stadium's deteriorating condition raises questions about whether public investment is delivering those benefits.

Without sustained maintenance, effective oversight and action on residents' concerns, the facility risks remaining underused rather than serving athletes and the wider community. The broader question is whether Bangladesh needs more sports grounds or better use of the facilities it has already built.

Fishermen attack MP in anti-hilsa fishing drive

FROM PAGE 12

drive in the Zajira stretch of the Padma around 4:00am, with the local MP accompanying them. Before the operation, the MP had visited several riverside areas and held street meetings to raise awareness about protecting mother hilsa.

According to the fisheries officer, the team found fishermen gathered at Char Kolikal with boats, nets and other fishing equipment. When the drive began, the fishermen fled.

As the team attempted to seize nets, boats and other equipment left along the riverbank, a group of fishermen returned carrying brickbats, sticks and machetes and launched an attack.

The fishermen struck the team's boats with sticks and brickbats, injuring two people participating in the operation. The team was forced to retreat in the face of the attack.

Additional river police and two army teams later arrived at the scene and joined the operation. The attackers fled when the joint forces launched a fresh drive, the district fisheries officer said.

Asked why he joined the operation, MP Sayed Ahmed Aslam said he had received allegations that a syndicate was helping fishermen circumvent the ban on catching mother hilsa by influencing the administration and other authorities.

"Most of those fishing are not genuine fishermen but outsiders. I joined the drive myself to verify the allegations," he said.

The MP said he had joined the operation around 3:00am and that 41 people had been detained during raids in different areas. Although the detainees claimed to be fishermen, he said, the authorities had found no evidence to establish their identities as such.

A large number of those detained had come from other districts, he alleged, adding that a local syndicate had hired them to fish in the area.

He said specific allegations had been raised against the Majhirghat and Sureshwar river police outposts, with complainants claiming that the people involved had been allowed to fish after managing the relevant authorities.

The MP said he had asked the authorities concerned to investigate the allegations and take departmental action against those found responsible.

He added that his purpose was not merely to detain fishermen but also to counsel them and explain why they should not destroy the country's natural resources.

Assistant Superintendent of Police Saeed Ibn Reza of the River Police's Chandpur region told The Daily Star that 27 cases had been filed in the area over illegal hilsa fishing in the past 12 days.

He suggested that the allegations might have been made by the detainees, their relatives and family members because cases had been filed against those detained.

"I do not think there is any truth to these allegations. I am not aware of them," he said.

However, he said the river police would take departmental action if an investigation established the allegations to be true.

Following today's attack, the MP said the authorities would intensify their operations.

Kyiv got 'no early warning' from allies

FROM PAGE 12

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio denied earlier yesterday that there had been any suspension of intelligence sharing with Ukraine, reports AFP.

"There has been no pause," Rubio told reporters in Uzbekistan when asked about Ukraine's claims, calling on Zelensky to "focus" on ending the war with Russia.

A Russian air strike killed a woman in Ukraine's Kyiv overnight while also hitting a subway station on the left bank of the capital city and damaging a 25-storey residential building, Mayor Vitali Klitschko said on Telegram.

The attack, which also saw non-residential buildings and a medical facility hit, injured three other people in Kyiv, he said. A Reuters witness heard explosions in the city.

Meanwhile, Russian President Vladimir Putin has proposed a summit next month with US President Donald Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping to negotiate an end to the four-year-old Ukraine conflict that would favour Moscow, the Wall Street Journal reported on Sunday, citing people familiar with the discussions.

The proposed summit comes amid warming ties between Trump and Putin especially after the US President announced a deal to buy Russian diesel and signed an order on Friday waiving key sanctions on Moscow.

Woman

FROM PAGE 12

Police were initially told that Swarna had strangled her children before dying by suicide. Investigators, however, suspect that Shakil wrote a message on a wall, posing as his wife and claiming that she had killed the children, to mislead them.

Swarna and Shakil had been married for about four years and frequently quarrelled over family matters, the OC said.

The bodies were sent to the morgue of Dinajpur Medical College Hospital for autopsies.

Jubo Dal leader

FROM PAGE 12

Moniruzzaman, former president of Narayanganj district BNP.Ripon was the supporter of MP Mustafizur.

The dispute intensified recently over whether certain names should be included in the guest list for a religious gathering, they said. Tensions flared between the two groups on Sunday night.

Ripon was chased by his rivals and critically injured with sharp weapons, said AHM Salauddin, officer-in-charge of Rupganj Police Station.

Family members took him to a local hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

When contacted for comment, neither MP Mustafizur nor Moniruzzaman responded to our phone calls.

BNP leader Mahfuzur told The Daily Star that the killing stemmed from a dispute over political dominance.

"There had been tensions between the two groups before, and the conflict intensified recently over a waz mahfil," he said.

Victim's son Shawon filed a murder case with Rupganj Police Station yesterday evening, naming seven accused and 30-40 others who were not identified.

Bomb threat diverts Tel Aviv flight to Bulgaria

REUTERS, *Vienna*

A bomb threat forced an Austrian Airlines flight from Tel Aviv to Vienna to divert to Sofia late on Sunday, though a search found nothing dangerous so the plane took off again and flew onwards, the airline and Bulgaria's BTA news agency said.

BTA said the flight's crew reported receiving a bomb threat when the aircraft was approaching the Romanian border, and the Bulgarian Air Force scrambled MiG-29 fighter jets. Israeli newspaper Haaretz said the threat was "called in by an Austrian national who was not on board", without identifying its source.

Man arrested over rape of 13-yr-old boy

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Netrokona*

Police have arrested a man on charges of raping a 13-year-old boy who worked at his medicine store in Purbadhala upazila of Netrokona.

The accused, Abdullah Al Mamun Dulal, 53, was produced before a court yesterday after being arrested in a case filed by the victim's father.

Dulal owns a medicine store and is the founder of Rawzatul Akfal Noorani Hafizia Madrasa, where he also teaches.

According to the case statement, the boy went to Dulal's house behind the medicine shop around 9:00pm on Sunday after it closed. The accused's wife and children were away visiting relatives at the time. The boy went to sleep in a room after dinner. Around 9:30pm, Dulal called him into his bedroom and raped him.

Mohammad Sentu Mia, inspector and in-charge of Shyamganj Police Investigation Centre, told The Daily Star that locals attacked the accused's house and shop after learning about the incident. Police rushed to the scene after receiving information and detained Dulal, he said.

Our son was killed without a fair trial

FROM PAGE 1

independently verified what charges Nazrul faced, whether he received legal assistance, or whether he was given an opportunity to defend himself before his execution.

The Bangladesh government has yet to officially verify the identities of the two people executed.

Nazrul's father Abdul Basir said, "If my son was executed without just cause, I want justice."

Rahima Begum, Nazrul's mother, has repeatedly broken down in tears since learning of her son's death. The family also said Nazrul's paternal aunt, Abeda Begum, died of a heart attack after hearing the news on Wednesday night.

The family has urged the government to investigate the circumstances surrounding his execution and arrange for his body to be brought home at state expense. Neighbours have also called for support for the family.

Nazrul's father, who had borrowed Tk 7 lakh to send his son to Saudi Arabia, also spoke of how the creditors were now pressuring him to repay the debt.

Contacted, Brahmanbaria Deputy Commissioner Md Abu Sayeed said, "We have received no instructions from higher authorities, and the family has not submitted any application either. If the body is brought back to Bangladesh, we will provide assistance in accordance with the rules, as he was a resident of Brahmanbaria."

GOVT YET TO CONFIRM IDENTITIES

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh government has yet to officially confirm that the two people executed in Saudi Arabia were Bangladeshi nationals and has sought an explanation from Riyadh over an apparent lapse in information-sharing.

Speaking to reporters at the foreign ministry yesterday afternoon, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Humaiun Kobir said media reports had identified the two as Bangladeshis, but the government was still seeking further details.

An official at the Bangladesh mission in Jeddah, speaking on condition of anonymity, told The Daily Star that both were executed on charges of "adultery".

The official said Saudi authorities had provided only names and offences, making it difficult to verify their identities or establish whether they were the two who had been executed.

Stressing that the two countries maintain strong bilateral ties and are both signatories to the Vienna Convention,, Humaiun said,"So why was there a gap in the exchange of information? We have sought an explanation from Saudi Arabia.

"There is definitely a gap here, a lapse somewhere in the process, and we are trying to determine the extent of the issue. At the same time, it is deeply disappointing that the executions took place over these alleged offences."

The state minister also said Bangladesh expected Saudi Arabia to share information about detained Bangladeshi nationals, just as Dhaka would if Saudi nationals were detained in Bangladesh.

"If we detain any Saudi national here, we will certainly inform Saudi Arabia so that consular services can be extended to that person. Similarly, we expect the same for Bangladeshis."

According to the foreign ministry, the two were accused of committing "adultery" inside a mosque in Makkah.

Saudi authorities arrested, tried and executed them without notifying Dhaka in advance. Bangladesh learnt of the executions on October 14 and subsequently sought details from Riyadh.

Opposition Leader and Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman yesterday questioned the roles of the government and the Bangladesh mission in Saudi Arabia following the execution of two Bangladeshis.

In a Facebook post around 7:30pm, Shafiqur said, "The government and the Bangladesh embassy are bound to make their positions clear on this matter."

He pointed out that a large number of Bangladeshis work in Saudi Arabia and other Middle Eastern countries, and that Bangladesh maintains diplomatic missions abroad to safeguard the interests of expatriates, as well as the country's dignity and national interests.

Do not pave way for return of autocracy: PM

FROM PAGE 3

"You did not need to sit on this stage with the government. You could have maintained your distance from us; there is no problem with that. But if you truly uphold the spirit of July, you could have come and sat among the families of the July martyrs," he said.

He said opposition leaders and lawmakers had gained public recognition partly through the sacrifices of those killed, injured or blinded during the uprising.

"Yet we cannot see you among these people today," he said, adding that people were watching whether the opposition was opposing the government merely for the sake of opposition.

He called for an end to the politics of blame, saying neither side should claim to be the sole representative of the people.

He said the government was providing treatment for those injured in the July uprising and supporting martyrs' families through employment opportunities and other assistance.

Earlier, Tarique inaugurated the July Martyrs' Memorial alongside Abu Sayed's father Md Mokbul Hossain, Mir Mahfuzur Rahman Mugdho's father Mostafizur Rahman, Shahriar Khan Anas's mother Sanjida Khan Dipti and Wasim Akram's father Mohammad Shafiul Alam.

The 90-foot-high memorial, built on about one acre, bears the names of those killed in the uprising. Twenty symbolic grave markers stand before it.

Its relief sculptures depict the Language Movement of 1952, the mass uprising of 1969, the Liberation War of 1971, the mass movement of 1990 and the July uprising of 2024.

The PM also planted a sapling before inaugurating the renovated 23-acre Osmani Udyan, which now features water bodies, additional trees, green islands, around 3.1 kilometres of walking paths, an exercise area, public toilets, parking facilities and a rainwater-harvesting system with a capacity of 50,000 litres.

PRAYER TIMING
OCTOBER 20

	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	4-50	12-45	4-00	5-36	7-15
JAMAAT	5-25	1-15	4-15	5-39	7-45

SOURCE: **ISLAMIC FOUNDATION**

নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বিজ্ঞ জেলা জজ আদালত, মানিকগঞ্জ।
জারী মানি ডিং নং ০২/২০২৩

বাংলাদেশ হাউজ বিল্ডিং ফাইনান্স কর্পোরেশন, ২২ নং পুরানা পল্টন, ঢাকা-১০০০। পক্ষে: শাখা ম্যানেজার, মানিকগঞ্জ শাখা, সমন্বিত সরকারি অফিস ভবন (কক্ষ নং ৫১৫-৫১৯), বেউথা, মানিকগঞ্জ। ..... ডিক্রীদার

বনাম

দেওয়ান রফিকুল ইসলাম, পিতা - মৃত আবেদ আলী কারী, মাতা- মৃত সামছুর নাহার, বর্তমান ঠিকানা: ২৫/১, দাশড়া, মানিকগঞ্জ সদর, মানিকগঞ্জ। স্থায়ী ঠিকানা:- গ্রাম: গোবিন্দল, পোস্ট: সিংগাইর, থানা: সিংগাইর, জেলা: মানিকগঞ্জ।

..... দায়িক

ডিক্রিকৃত টাকার পরিমাণ : ২১,০৫,২৯২.৬১ (একুশ লক্ষ পাঁচ হাজার দুইশত বিরানব্বই টাকা একষট্টি পয়সা) টাকা (৩০.০৬.২০১৯ ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত) এবং ০১.০৭.২০১৯ ইং তারিখ হতে কর্পোরেশনের প্রচলিত বিধি মোতাবেক আদায়কালতাক সুদসহ।

নিলামের স্থান: মানিকগঞ্জ জেলা জজ আদালতের নেজারত প্রাঙ্গণ। নিলামের তারিখ: ২৫.১০.২০২৬ ইং, নিলামের সময়: বেলা ১২:০০ ঘটিকা।

এতদ্বারা সর্ব সাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাইতেছে যে, নিম্ন তফসিল বর্ণিত সম্পত্তি উপরোল্লিখিত স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়ে প্রকাশ্য নিলামে বিক্রয় করা হইবে। ডিক্রীদার পক্ষের ডিক্রীকৃত টাকাসহ হিসাব মোতাবেক ৩০.০৬.২০১৯ ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত পাওনা ২১,০৫,২৯২.৬১ (একুশ লক্ষ পাঁচ হাজার দুইশত বিরানব্বই টাকা একষট্টি পয়সা) টাকা ও তৎসহ হাল তারিখ পর্যন্ত নির্ধারিত হারে আদায়কালতক সুদ এবং অন্যান্য খরচাদিসহ (মামলার খরচ) সমুদয় পাওনা টাকা। ইচ্ছুক ক্রেতা সাধারণকে উক্ত তারিখ ও সময়ে মানিকগঞ্জ জেলা জজ আদালতের নাজির অফিসে উপস্থিত থাকিয়া নিলাম ডাকে অংশ গ্রহণ করিতে অনুরোধ করা যাইতেছে।

নিলাম ডাককালীন সর্ব্বোচ্চ নিলাম ডাক গৃহীত হইলে তাৎক্ষনিকভাবে নিলাম ডাকের আংশিক টাকা (নির্ধারিত হারে) এবং অবশিষ্ট টাকা আদালতের নির্ধারিত সময়ের মধ্যে জমা দিতে হইবে। ডিক্রিদার বাংলাদেশ হাউজ বিল্ডিং ফাইনান্স কর্পোরেশন, শাখা অফিস মানিকগঞ্জ অথবা জেলা জজ আদালত হইতে নিলামের বিস্তারিত বিবরণ জানা যাইবে।

বন্ধকী সম্পত্তির তফসিল ও চৌহদ্দী

জেলা: মানিকগঞ্জ, থানা - মানিকগঞ্জ, মৌজা - দাশড়া: জেএল নম্বর- সাবেক ৩৩৩, আরএস ১৩৫: সি.এস খতিয়ান নং ৩১১, সি.এস দাগ নং ৯৬৬: এস.এ খতিয়ান নং ২১১/২২৭, এস.এ দাগ নং ১০৫৩: আরএস খতিয়ান নং ১০৪, আরএস দাগ নং ১৫৯৬: খারিজ খতিয়ান নং ১৩৫৮, খারিজ দাগ নং ১৫৯৬। জমির পরিমাণ ঃ অচিহ্নিত ও অবিভাজ্য ০৫ (পাঁচ) শতাংশ ভূমির আনুপাতিক ১/৩ অংশসহ তদস্থিত নির্মিত ০৪ (চার) তলা ভবনের ৪র্থ তলার সম্পূর্ণ অংশ বা মোট ১৩৮৬ বর্গফুটের ০২ (দুই) টি সম্পূর্ণ ফ্লাট/ইউনিট এবং নিচতলায় গ্যারেজের আনুপাতিক ১/৩ অংশ বা ১৬৪ বর্গফুট ও অন্যান্য নাগরিক সুবিধাদী। যাহার চৌহদ্দীঃ উত্তরে- রাস্তা, দক্ষিণে- মোঃ রমজান আলী গং, পূর্বে- মোঃ উজ্জ্বল গং, এবং পশ্চিমে- রাস্তা ।

আদালতের আদেশক্রমে-
প্রশাসনিক কর্মকর্তা, জেলা জজ আদালত, মানিকগঞ্জ

GD-2551

Dengue deaths mount amid treatment

FROM PAGE 3

Some patients travel five to six hours from district towns and other areas, reaching hospitals in shock or decompensated shock after their conditions deteriorate during the journey.

Nazmul said patients should be stabilised before referral, including through intravenous access and appropriate fluid management. However, some facilities transferred patients without adequate initial treatment.

Nazmul urged high-risk patients, including those with heart, lung, liver or kidney diseases, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease or obesity, as well as pregnant women, infants under one year and older adults, particularly those aged 60-65 and above, to seek hospital admission promptly after diagnosis.

"Early hospitalisation is our main recommendation, particularly for high-risk patients. If we can reduce delays in seeking care and ensure appropriate treatment and stabilisation, we may be able to reduce the number of deaths and severe outcomes," Nazmul said.

Public health expert Mushtuq Hussain suggested piloting free dengue testing at existing primary-care facilities and referring vulnerable patients to hospitals when necessary.

He said reducing deaths required community-level prevention, affordable early testing, timely referrals and proper hospital management rather than relying solely on tertiary hospitals.

Education reforms must go beyond curriculum

FROM PAGE 3

equal instruction time for single- and double-shift schools. Annual teaching hours would range from 750 for Class I to 900 for Class V, subject to approval.

Bobby said a teacher policy was being prepared covering recruitment, training, postings, professional development and evaluation, stressing that teachers should receive training before entering classrooms.

The consultations, held between July 26 and September 10, involved more than 3,200 participants.

A survey of 1,036 monitoring officials found that 86.3 percent could visit no more than 10 schools a month, while 58.2 percent supervised more than 50 schools each.

Another survey found that 84.3 percent of 580 officials wanted lengthy or duplicate reporting requirements reduced. The figures reflect officials' responses rather than verified inspection records.

Planning State Minister Md Zonayed Abdur Rahim Saki said improving teachers' salaries, status and professional skills was essential to raising education quality and reducing dropouts.

DPE Director General Shahina Ferdousi delivered the welcome address. Culture State Minister Ali Newaz Mahmud Khaiyam, parliamentary committee members and Campaign for Popular Education Executive Director Rasheda K Choudhury also attended.

Invest in girls' rights, end child marriage

FROM PAGE 3

off girls after puberty, asking how a 16- or 17-year-old could be expected to manage a household and raise a child.

Ayesa Akter, an adolescent girl with a visual impairment, called for accessible learning materials, including Braille and audio resources, stressing that girls with disabilities needed equal opportunities, not sympathy.

Wadifa Rahman Apshara of SFX Greenherald International School urged joint efforts to improve girls' education and prevent child marriage.

Speakers identified poverty, climate vulnerability and insecurity as factors driving child marriage.

Roksana Sultana, executive director of Breaking the Silence; Nishath Sultana, director of influencing campaign and communications at Plan International Bangladesh; and SM Shaikat, executive director of SERAC Bangladesh, also spoke.

ICT rejects review plea by 5 accused

FROM PAGE 3

against humanity case to be released from jail following an ICT acquittal since the July uprising.

He was released from Kashimpur Central Jail-2 in Gazipur on October 13, Jailer Md Arifur Rahman confirmed yesterday.

ICT-2 acquitted Abzalul on February 5 after he turned state witness in the case over the killing of seven people during the July 2024 uprising in Ashulia on August 4 and 5.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

জাতীয় পেনশন কর্তৃপক্ষ
(মানবসম্পদ ও সেবা শাখা)
৪৩, কাকরাইল, ঢাকা-১০০০
www.npa.gov.bd

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নম্বর- ০৭.০৪.০০০০.০০০.০০১.১১.০০০১.২৫-৫০৭

তারিখঃ ০৩ কার্তিক ১৪৩৩ / ১৯ অক্টোবর ২০২৬

প্রবেশপত্র (Admit Card) ডাউনলোড সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

জাতীয় পেনশন কর্তৃপক্ষের ১০ম থেকে ২০তম গ্রেডের বিভিন্ন পদে জনবল নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে গত ০১-০৭-২০২৬ খ্রি. তারিখ রোজ বুধবার **"দৈনিক যুগান্তর" এবং "The Daily Star"** পত্রিকায় প্রকাশিত নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তির আওতায় **সহকারী হিসাবরক্ষণ কর্মকর্তা, নিরীক্ষক, ব্যক্তিগত সহকারী, হিসাবরক্ষক** এবং **ড্রাইভার** পদে আবেদনকারী প্রার্থীদের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, উক্ত পদসমূহের লিখিত পরীক্ষা আগামী ৩০ অক্টোবর ২০২৬ তারিখে অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। উক্ত লিখিত পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য আবেদনকারী প্রার্থীদের প্রবেশপত্র **(Admit Card)** টেলিটক বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেডের নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত ওয়েবসাইটের **(https://npa.teletalk.com.bd/npa2026/admitcard/)** মাধ্যমে অথবা সংযুক্ত **QR code** স্ক্যান এর মাধ্যমে ওয়েবসাইটে প্রবেশ করে সংশ্লিষ্ট **User ID** ও **Password** ব্যবহার করে আগামী ৩০ অক্টোবর ২০২৬ খ্রিঃ তারিখ শুক্রবার সকাল ১০:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত ডাউনলোড করা যাবে। প্রবেশপত্র ডাউনলোডের জন্য প্রার্থীদের টেলিটক বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেডের নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত ওয়েবসাইটে প্রবেশ করে প্রয়োজনীয় নির্দেশনা অনুসরণ করতে হবে। নির্ধারিত সময়সীমা অতিক্রান্ত হওয়ার পর কোনো প্রার্থী প্রবেশপত্র ডাউনলোড করতে পারবেন না। প্রবেশপত্রে লিখিত পরীক্ষার তারিখ, সময়, কেন্দ্রের নাম ও ঠিকানা এবং পরীক্ষার্থীকে অনুসরণীয় অন্যান্য নির্দেশনা উল্লেখ থাকবে। পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের সময় প্রার্থীকে অবশ্যই ডাউনলোডকৃত প্রবেশপত্র সঙ্গে আনতে হবে।

User ID/Password সংক্রান্ত তথ্য:

কোনো প্রার্থী **User ID** অথবা **Password** ভুলে গেলে/হারিয়ে ফেললে টেলিটক বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেডের নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত ওয়েবসাইটের **(https://npa.teletalk.com.bd)** মাধ্যমে **Recover User ID/Password** অপশন ব্যবহার করে প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্য প্রদানপূর্বক তা পুনরুদ্ধার করতে পারবেন। প্রবেশপত্র ডাউনলোড সংক্রান্ত কোনো সমস্যা হলে টেলিটক বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেডের নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত ই-মেইলে **(alljobs.query@teletalk.com.bd)** যোগাযোগ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো। প্রার্থীদের নির্ধারিত সময়ের মধ্যে প্রবেশপত্র ডাউনলোড করে পরীক্ষার প্রস্তুতি গ্রহণের জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

(মোবাশ্বের আলম)
ব্যবস্থাপক (মানবসম্পদ ও সেবা)
জাতীয় পেনশন কর্তৃপক্ষ
ও সদস্য সচিব
গ্রেড-১০ থেকে গ্রেড-২০ এর শূন্যপদে জনবল
নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত বাছাই কমিটি

GD-2547

Promoting Energy-Related Low Carbon Urban Development in Bangladesh Project (LCUD)
Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA)
Level 9 & 10, Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB), Ramna, Dhaka

Expressions of Interest (EoI) for Services

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

1.	Ministry/Division	Power Division	
2.	Agency	International Organization	
3.	Name of Procuring Entity	Promoting Energy-Related Low Carbon Urban Development (LCUD) Bangladesh	
4.	Title of Service	Individual Consultant- Individual Consultant – (Energy Efficiency, Standards & Labelling and Energy Audit) Time Based	
5.	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka	
6.	Expression of Interest for Selection of	Individual Consultant	Time - Based
7.	EoI Ref. No.	27.02.0000.000.023.14.0015.26.141	
8.	Date	15 October 2026	
	KEY INFORMATION		
9.	Procurement Sub-Method	Selection of Individual Consultants (SIC)	
	FUNDING INFORMATION		
10.	Budget and Source of funds	Development Budget	
11.	Development Partner	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), GEF	
	PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
12.	Project/Programme Code	224417700	
13.	Project/Programme Name	Promoting Energy-Related Low Carbon Urban Development (LCUD) Bangladesh	
14.	EoI Closing Date and time	10 November 2026, Time: 12:00 (BST)	
	INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT		
16.	Brief Description of the Assignment	Overall management and coordination of all activities for Promoting Energy-Related Low Carbon Urban Development (LCUD) Bangladesh	
17.	Qualification and Experienced Required	Details is in the ToR, which is in SREDA website, (Notice Section & Project Box). SREDA website: www.sreda.gov.bd	
18.	Other Details	Details is in the SREDA website, (Notice Section & respective Project Box). SREDA website: www.sreda.gov.bd	
19.	Association with foreign firms is	Not Applicable	
	PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
20.	Name of the Official Inviting EoI	Engr. Md. Muzibur Rahman	
21.	Designation of the Official Inviting EoI	Project Director, LCUD Bangladesh	
22.	Address of the Official Inviting EoI	Level 9 & 10, IEB, Ramna, Dhaka	
23.	Contact Details of the Official Inviting EoI	02-55110343, lcud2024@gmail.com	
24.	Submission Procedure	Interested parties are requested to submit the EoI in person in the EoI Box at the SREDA office or Via email, if the EoI is submitted by email, the subject line must be clearly specified.	
	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any all EoI(s).		

Sd/-
Engr. Md. Muzibur Rahman
Project Director, LCUD

GD-2558

Promoting Energy-Related Low Carbon Urban Development in Bangladesh Project (LCUD)
Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA)
Level 9 & 10, Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB), Ramna, Dhaka

Expressions of Interest (EoI) for Services

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

1.	Ministry/Division	Power Division	
2.	Agency	International Organization	
3.	Name of Procuring Entity	Promoting Energy-Related Low Carbon Urban Development (LCUD) Bangladesh	
4.	Title of Service	Individual Consultant- National Consultant - Technical expert 2 (Renewable Energy and Policy)Time Based	
5.	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka	
6.	Expression of Interest for Selection of	Individual Consultant	Time - Based
7.	EoI Ref. No.	27.02.0000.000.023.14.0015.26.142	
8.	Date	15 October 2026	
	KEY INFORMATION		
9.	Procurement Sub-Method	Selection of Individual Consultants (SIC)	
	FUNDING INFORMATION		
10.	Budget and Source of funds	Development Budget	
11.	Development Partner	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), GEF	
	PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
12.	Project/Programme Code	224417700	
13.	Project/Programme Name	Promoting Energy-Related Low Carbon Urban Development (LCUD) Bangladesh	
14.	EoI Closing Date and time	10 November 2026, Time: 12:00 (BST)	
	INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT		
16.	Brief Description of the Assignment	Overall management and coordination of all activities for Promoting Energy-Related Low Carbon Urban Development (LCUD) Bangladesh	
17.	Qualification and Experienced Required	Details is in the ToR, which is in SREDA website, (Notice Section & Project Box). SREDA website: www.sreda.gov.bd	
18.	Other Details	Details is in the SREDA website, (Notice Section & respective Project Box). SREDA website: www.sreda.gov.bd	
19.	Association with foreign firms is	Not Applicable	
	PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
20.	Name of the Official Inviting EoI	Engr. Md. Muzibur Rahman	
21.	Designation of the Official Inviting EoI	Project Director, LCUD Bangladesh	
22.	Address of the Official Inviting EoI	Level 9 & 10, IEB, Ramna, Dhaka	
23.	Contact Details of the Official Inviting EoI	02-55110343, lcud2024@gmail.com	
24.	Submission Procedure	Interested parties are requested to submit the EoI in person in the EoI Box at the SREDA office or Via email, if the EoI is submitted by email, the subject line must be clearly specified.	
	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any all EoI(s).		

Sd/-
Engr. Md. Muzibur Rahman
Project Director, LCUD

GD-2555

The Gen Z guide to your first investments

MAISHA ISLAM MONAMEE

Your first salary teaches you how to spend. Your first tax season teaches you how to save.

One day, you are budgeting for coffee runs, concert tickets, and weekend trips. Months later, you are in the office listening to colleagues discuss Sanchaypatra, mutual funds, DPS, tax rebates, and insurance as if they are experts. Suddenly, everyone seems to know where to park their money and why interest rates matter.

If you are a young professional earning your first steady income, the world of saving and investing can feel surprisingly opaque. Personal finance is not something you are expected to know on day one. Like much of adulthood, it is a series of habits built over time. The key is starting with the right building blocks instead of chasing every investment trend on your LinkedIn feed.

BUILD YOUR EMERGENCY FUND BEFORE YOU BUILD YOUR PORTFOLIO

Before your money starts working for you, it needs to be there when you need it. An emergency fund should be your first financial milestone. Think of it as a buffer against life's surprises: a medical emergency, a family expense, an unexpected move, or a gap between jobs. It gives you breathing room without dipping into investments or borrowing.

A simple target is three to six months' worth of essential expenses. If your rent, food, transport, and utility bills total BDT 30,000 a month, aim to build between BDT 90,000 and BDT 180,000.

Accessibility matters more than returns here. An accessible savings account or short-term deposit makes more sense than a long-term investment. This is not the fund that earns the highest return; it is the fund that earns you peace of mind. With that cushion in place, investing becomes less stressful.

LET A DPS TURN SAVING INTO A HABIT YOU NEVER HAVE TO THINK ABOUT

Saving consistently often matters more than saving dramatically. A Deposit Pension Scheme (DPS) is one of the easiest ways to automate that consistency.

Many banks in Bangladesh let you choose a monthly contribution, perhaps BDT 2,000, BDT 5,000, or BDT 10,000, and a tenure of several years. With an automatic deduction, the money moves into savings each month. At maturity, you receive your deposits and accumulated interest, subject to the scheme's terms.

The beauty of a DPS is its simplicity. Once set up, the monthly decision disappears. Your savings move before your spending does, leaving less room for impulse purchases to eat into your goals. Choose an amount that fits your budget rather than stretching yourself. As your salary grows, you can consider opening another DPS or increasing contributions where permitted. Five years of steady deposits can do more for your future self than one ambitious year followed by long stretches of inactivity.

MAKE TAX SEASON THE MOMENT YOU LEARN ABOUT INVESTING

For many young professionals, tax filing is their first introduction to structured investing. As colleagues discuss rebates, eligible investments, and declarations, it becomes clear that tax planning is not reserved for accountants. It rewards people who start early.

Bangladesh's tax framework allows certain investments and payments, including eligible life insurance premiums, mutual funds, and government savings instruments, to qualify for tax rebates. In simple terms, you invest for your future while potentially reducing the tax you owe, within applicable limits.



ILLUSTRATION: ZARIF FAIAZ

Instead of scrambling for documents before the filing deadline, find out which investments qualify and what records you need. Your HR or finance department may offer guidance, while official tax resources can clarify the rules. Treat filing as an annual financial check-up: a chance to review your savings, rebalance investments where necessary, and set goals for the year ahead.

START WITH MUTUAL FUNDS INSTEAD OF PICKING INDIVIDUAL STOCKS

The stock market attracts young professionals with stories of spectacular returns. Long-term wealth, however, tends to come from consistency rather than excitement. Mutual funds can be a practical starting point.

Instead of researching individual companies, analysing quarterly reports, and deciding when to trade, you invest in a professionally managed portfolio. Your money is pooled with that of other investors and spread across different holdings, helping you diversify rather than depend on a single stock.

Many asset management companies in Bangladesh offer open-ended mutual funds with accessible minimum investments. You can also contribute regularly rather than waiting to accumulate a large sum. Treat mutual funds as a long-term commitment, not a short-term experiment. Market movements may feel less intimidating over five, ten, or fifteen years, although returns are not guaranteed. For someone balancing a full-time job with a busy life, mutual funds provide a way to invest without becoming a full-time market analyst.

LET SANCHAYPATRA DO THE HEAVY LIFTING FOR LONG-TERM GOALS

At some point in your first year at work, someone in your family will almost certainly ask, 'Have you thought about buying Sanchaypatra?' There is a reason it comes up so often.

National Savings Certificates (Sanchaypatra) are government-backed savings instruments that offer a predictable return over several years. Different schemes serve different investors and financial goals, making them familiar to long-term savers across Bangladesh.

Sanchaypatra can suit goals with a clear timeline: higher studies, a future home, a wedding fund, or long-term savings. These instruments encourage patience by rewarding those who stay invested until maturity.

Before investing, check the scheme's eligibility rules, limits, early encashment conditions, and tax treatment. Authorised banks and National Savings offices can explain the application process. Not every investment requires daily monitoring. Sometimes the smartest move is choosing an instrument that earns a return in the background while you build your career.

GIVE EVERY SALARY INCREMENT A PURPOSE BEFORE LIFESTYLE CATCHES UP

One of the biggest financial opportunities arrives disguised as a salary increment. A promotion, annual raise, or bonus creates room for better spending. It also creates room for better saving.

The smartest approach is deciding where each additional taka will go before it reaches your account. Imagine your monthly salary rises by BDT 10,000. You could put BDT 5,000 towards investments, BDT 2,000 towards travel or learning, and BDT 1,500 towards your emergency fund until it reaches its target. Enjoy the remaining BDT 1,500 through lifestyle upgrades.

This lets your savings grow alongside your income, without dramatic sacrifices or complicated budgeting. Small decisions, repeated over time, can build substantial wealth. Money grows through direction as much as discipline, and each increment offers another chance to point it the right way.

By your second or third tax season, those lunch-table conversations about investments will no longer sound like a foreign language. You may have an emergency fund doing its job, a DPS growing steadily, investments working towards your goals, and a clearer sense of where every taka goes.

Personal finance is not about mastering every product. It is about making thoughtful decisions, repeating them consistently, and giving them time to work. Your first year at work helps you earn your salary. The years that follow teach you how to make that salary earn something back for you.

Thailand becomes first country to launch Microsoft's AI and jobs initiative

NEXT STEP DESK

Thailand has become the first country to launch Microsoft's Elevate AI and Jobs national coalition, bringing together the government, employers, educational institutions, and civil society organisations to connect AI training with employment opportunities.

The initiative, announced on October 15, aims to help students, recent graduates, first-time job seekers, and mid-career workers develop practical AI skills aligned with employers' needs. Its first phase is scheduled to run from October 2026 to June 2027. The coalition will work to strengthen workforce training and recruitment systems as AI reshapes the labour market. It also aims to support Thailand's ambition to meet standards set by the OECD.



IMAGE: MICROSOFT

The Thai initiative will focus on four areas: establishing a coalition and developing a workforce transformation framework; creating AI learning programmes and skills credentials aligned with the European Union's DigComp 2.2 framework; providing practical learning opportunities, including hackathons; and connecting learners with jobs.

Its partners include Thailand's Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation, the Office of the Vocational Education Commission, the Department of Skill Development, the Department of Employment, and the Digital Economy Promotion Agency. Industry groups, employment platforms, and non-profit organisations, including the Federation of Thai Industries, the Digital Council of Thailand, JobsDB by SEEK, Generation Thailand, and Thai Fund Foundation, will also participate.

Anthropic co-founder warns AI's window for oversight is narrowing

NEXT STEP DESK

Anthropic co-founder Jack Clark has said the window for policymakers to regulate advanced AI is shrinking to "a small number of years", warning that the pace of change will feel confusing and disorienting for governments unprepared for it.

According to a Reuters report on the matter, Clark said at the IMF and World Bank annual meetings in Bangkok that an internal Anthropic model forecasts that AI could lift US economic output by nearly 50% by 2030, taking GDP from just over $30 trillion to an estimated $44 trillion. He conceded the figure "sounds very outlandish" but said it assumes the technology keeps improving and that new industries emerge to drive such growth.



IMAGE: REUTERS

Clark called for international cooperation on "unusual and serious rules", citing growing evidence of a "singularity" in which AI development outpaces human control. He said AI would bring "great wealth and potentially great peril", pointing to biological and cyber weapons as risks alongside advances in drug discovery and scientific research.

JOBS SPOTLIGHT

STANDARD CHARTERED BANK
Officer, Inbound, Voice & Virtual
Deadline: October 24
Eligibility:
- Bachelor's degree from a reputed educational institution.

Freshers are highly encouraged to apply.
Minimum experience: N/A

BRITISH COUNCIL
Academic Manager
Deadline: October 29
Eligibility:
- Undergraduate degree or equivalent by experience.

TEFL-Q (Cambridge DELTA/Trinity Diploma TESOL) or British Council-recognised equivalent.
Minimum experience: N/A

ACI PLC
Executive/ Senior Executive, RMIA
Deadline: October 31
Eligibility:
- BBA/MBA in Accounting/ Finance/ Economics/ Statistics, or a related discipline from any public or private university.

Minimum experience: 1-2 years

SHELTECH (PVT.) LTD
Executive/ Senior Executive, Sales
Deadline: October 31
Eligibility:
- BBA/ MBA/ Post Graduate/ Major in Marketing from any reputed university with good academic background.

Minimum experience: 2-4 years

FOR MORE DETAILS AND THE APPLICATION LINKS, SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW



IMAGE: PEXELS

Google to push links higher in AI search results

NEXT STEP DESK

Google will display links to websites and articles more prominently and higher up in AI-powered search results, the company announced last week, as brands and news publishers warn of steep declines in traffic.

Google has integrated AI features into search for over two years, launching AI Overviews in May 2024 and AI Mode in March 2025. Contextual links will now appear more frequently and nearer the top of AI-generated content, while Google will expand its link carousel worldwide and prioritise articles from users' preferred sources.

Chief executive Sundar Pichai said AI Overviews had more than two billion monthly users across 200 countries as of the second quarter of 2025. Studies show AI summaries reduce the rate at which users open suggested links. Consultancy Chartbeat reported a 40% drop in Google traffic to news sites between July 2025 and July 2026.

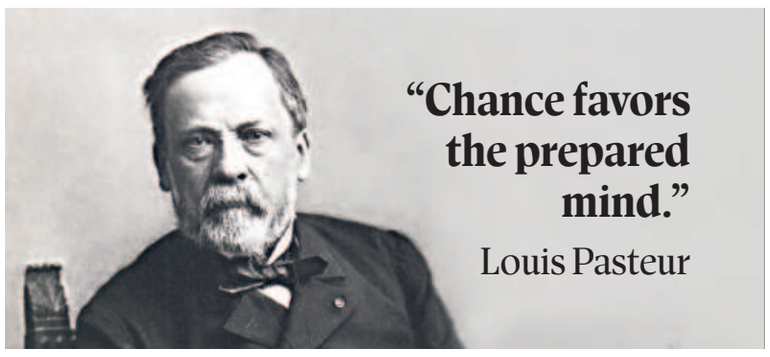
Millions of California students hit by data breach

NEXT STEP DESK

A hacker accessed the personal data of millions of California students by exploiting the systems of a non-profit contractor, the California Department of Education said last week. The compromised records include names, birth dates, addresses, and disability status, and cover all students enrolled in the three previous school years, states a report by Reuters on the matter. More than 5.7 million students were enrolled in California during the 2025-2026 school year.

The contractor, Educational Testing Service, identified the breach on September 25 and began notifying students and families on Friday. According to the education department, an unauthorised party used a compromised login credential to reach a secure file transfer protocol site and copy files at various points between May 22 and September 18, 2026. The breach was discovered late last month but had been ongoing since May.

The department said the testing service has not found that any of the information has been made public, and that Social Security numbers and sensitive financial information were not accessed. In an October 2 letter to county and district school officials, the agency said the testing service had halted normal enrolment data processing. The department said it is working to minimise disruption and resume affected assessment activities promptly. Educational Testing Service administers statewide assessments in California, including English language



DHAKA TUESDAY OCTOBER 20, 2026, KARTIK 4, 1433 BS

SPORT



"This is the most difficult thing I have ever had to share. Everyone knows how much Ukraine means to me. What I have rarely spoken about is what the war has done to me inside."

ELINA SVITOLINA
announcing her divorce from Gael Monfils

'SAFF to better show our progress'



Bangladesh defender Topu Barman is "very optimistic" about November's SAFF Championship on home soil following the inclusion of several expatriate players over the past few years. "Our players are now competing in the domestic league and gaining match fitness, so we should enter the tournament in better competitive shape than we were for the ASEAN Cup," Topu told The Daily Star's Anisur Rahman in an interview, where he reflects on the ASEAN Cup campaign, discusses the national team's tactical evolution under Thomas Dooley and addresses the challenges facing domestic football. He also talks about his role in the team and balancing professional commitments with Durga Puja celebrations.

**** Read the full interview on The Daily Star website.*

Nayeem's maiden ton, Shuvagata's record

SPORTS REPORTER

Nayeem Ahmed struck his maiden first-class century as Rajshahi Division reached 424 for five against Barishal Division on the second day of the third round of the National Cricket League (NCL) 2026-27 yesterday, building a 195-run first-innings lead after resuming on 24 for one.

Nayeem was unbeaten on 176 off 233 balls, hitting 25 fours, while Sabbir Rahman made 86 and S M Meherob Hasan remained not out on 57.

In Cox's Bazar, Mymensingh Division all-rounder Shuvagata Hom became the first Bangladeshi to score 7,000 runs and take 300 wickets in first-class cricket, reaching the milestone on his way to 71. Resuming on 226 for four, Mymensingh slumped to 232 for seven before Shuvagata and skipper Rakibul Hasan (61) added 128 to lift them to 387 against Dhaka Division. Aminul Islam Biplob took four wickets and Sumon Khan three for Dhaka, who reached 120 for three in reply, with Mohammad Naim unbeaten on 64.

In Chattogram, Sylhet Division took a seven-run lead over Rangpur after reaching 34 without loss in their second innings. Rangpur were bowled out for 206 after slipping from 199 for six, with Akbar Ali making 74 and Mim Mosaddeak 59. Off-spinner Nayeem Ahmed claimed four for 33 and Nasum Ahmed three wickets.

In Sylhet, Khulna Division extended their lead over Chattogram to 112, reaching 161 for six in their second innings. Afif Hossain was unbeaten on 58 and Anamul Haque Bijoy made 53. Earlier, Chattogram were dismissed for 250, with Irfan Shukkur, Shahadat Hossain Dipu and Shamim Hossain scoring half-centuries. Sheikh Parvez Jibon took four for 47 for Khulna, while Samiun Basir claimed three wickets.

WHAT TO WATCH



T SPORTS
Pakistan ODI Tri-Series
Pakistan vs England
Live from 2:00 pm

SONY SPORTS 1, 2, 5
UEFA Champions League
Live from 10:45 pm
Fenerbahce vs Slavia Prague
Sabah vs Dortmund
Live from 01:00 pm
PSG vs Barcelona
Man City vs AEK
Liverpool vs Villarreal

PSG host Barca in blockbuster UCL clash

STAR SPORTS DESK

A blockbuster clash headlines the Champions League tonight as back-to-back kings PSG welcome arguably their biggest usurpers -- a flying, flawless Barcelona.

Both giants boast perfect 2026-27 European records so far. Luis Enrique's PSG have dispatched Slovan Bratislava and Manchester City, while Hansi Flick's Barca have utterly dismantled Galatasaray and Feyenoord.

Having scored five and four goals in their first two games, Barca have now netted atleast four in four consecutive Champions League games -- a compeition record.

After a winless three-game domestic start, PSG are now riding a six-game winning streak across all competitions, recently staging a Ligue 1 comeback win against Strasbourg. They've plundered 19 goals during this run, but Enrique's defense has let goals in. The holders have managed one clean sheet in 10 matches and have conceded in four straight.

That fragile backline now faces Europe's most lethal attack. Barcelona are a perfect 11-for-11 across all competitions this season, smashing in a jaw-dropping 48 goals at an average of 4.4 per game.

TEAM NEWS

PSG's three-peat ambitions suffered a devastating blow with Nuno Mendes ruled out for weeks with a thigh injury. However, Enrique will recall a rested sextet -- Willian Pacho, Vitinha, Fabian Ruiz, Achraf Hakimi, Ousmane Dembele, and Desire Doue -- to the starting XI, alongside evergreen captain Marquinhos, all of whom were rested at the weekend.

Barca arrive without Jules Kounde and Eric Garcia, both injured against Real Betis. Gerard Martin and Gabriel Jesus picked up knocks but made the travelling squad. However, Flick may drop Jesus regardless; the electric 14-goal Raphinha returned from a muscle issue on Saturday and is primed to reclaim his frontline spot.





- PSG will face Barcelona for the 17th time in major European competition (W6 D4 L6).
- PSG have won their last two meetings with Barcelona, most recently 2-1 at Camp Nou in the 2025-26 Champions League league phase.
- Among European Cup/Champions League fixtures played at least 10 times, only Ajax-Bayern Munich (3.9) has a higher goals-per-game average than PSG-Barcelona (3.8, 57 goals in 15 meetings).
- PSG are unbeaten in 12 consecutive Champions League games, one short of their competition record.
- Barca have won all 11 games this season, scoring 48 goals at an average of 4.4 per match -- the highest among teams from Europe's top five leagues.
- Flick has the highest goals-per-game average (3.0) and goals-conceded-per-game average (1.6) of any Barcelona manager to oversee at least five Champions League matches.
- Lamine Yamal has five goal involvements in two CL appearances in 2026-27 (one goal, four assists), providing two assists in each game.
- Ousmane Dembele has 33 goal involvements in 42 Champions League appearances for PSG (21 goals, 12 assists).

Can Tigers' middle order bat smarter?

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's middle-order collapse against Zimbabwe has left head coach Phil Simmons looking for better game awareness from his batters as the Tigers seek to bounce back from a 99-run defeat in the ODI tri-series opener. With captain Litton Das ruled out of the series through a hip injury, Bangladesh must find a way to steady their innings and take control of the small but decisive moments against Afghanistan.

"The energy is still good. We had a nice meeting this morning and put things on the table, what we did and didn't do well, and we know what we have to do now. It's not like we've been playing badly; we've been playing very well. We had a day when nothing really went right, so we know how to come back from that," Simmons said ahead of training in Abu Dhabi on Monday.

Litton's absence is a significant setback, given his role in Bangladesh's middle-order partnerships over the past year. Of the eight stands of 50 or more runs between positions four and six in that period, Litton featured in four, including the only century stand, a 160-run partnership with Najmul Hossain Shanto against New Zealand.

Tawhid Hridoy, meanwhile, featured alongside Litton in three of those eight partnerships. But the right-hander has struggled to turn his contributions into match-winning performances, with each of his last three ODI fifties coming in defeats.

Bangladesh failed to build on a decent start against Zimbabwe, struggling to rotate strike as pressure mounted. Hridoy tried to force the pace and fell, triggering a collapse that saw the Tigers bowled out for 172 in 33.4 overs while chasing 272.



Simmons pointed to that lack of awareness as a key reason for the defeat in the tri-series opener, saying Bangladesh had failed to recognise what the situation demanded after their promising start.

"When we batted, we just lacked the understanding of the situation and knowing that with a start like that, we just had to make sure we bat for the fifty overs and we'd have won the game. So just a few little points here and there, but things that add up and you lose the game. So we know that that's the small points we have to make sure that we take control of," he said.

Bangladesh will need to put those lessons into practice against Afghanistan in Sharjah, where another batting stumble could leave their hopes of reaching the final hanging in the balance. The Tigers will also keep an eye on Monday's Zimbabwe-Afghanistan match, which could shape the qualification equation.

There was some encouragement on the personnel front, with all-rounder Mehidy Hasan Miraz returning to training on Sunday after missing the Zimbabwe match with fever. But with Litton unavailable for the remainder of the series, Bangladesh need their remaining middle-order batters to show greater composure and take responsibility when the game is there to be controlled.

No serious damage to Litton's injured hip

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh white-ball skipper Litton Das has received a major boost after scans revealed no serious damage to his injured hip, keeping him in contention for upcoming World Test Championship (WTC) matches.

Ruled out of the UAE tri-nation series on Saturday, Litton returned to the country and went in for an assessment yesterday, yielding positive updates.

"He has been given light exercises and physiotherapy. He has no pain at the moment, but doctors will keep monitoring," a BCB official told The Daily Star yesterday.

Litton will balance resting with his physiotherapy regimen. The BCB medical team will monitor his progress for the next two days before a follow-up assessment.

If he remains pain-free, Litton can begin preparing for Bangladesh's high-priority WTC assignments. The Tigers host the West Indies first, with Tests starting October 28 in Dhaka and November 5 in Sylhet. They will then embark on their tour of South Africa, with Tests scheduled for November 15 and November 23.



Kylian Mbappe celebrates after completing his brace with a cheeky Panenka penalty in Real Madrid's 4-1 victory in their La Liga match against Sevilla at the Santiago Bernabeu yesterday. Arda Guler and Yan Diomande also found the net, with the latter becoming the youngest Real Madrid player this century to register a goal and an assist in a league match, aged 19 years and 338 days. The win keeps third-placed Madrid six points behind leaders Barcelona. PHOTO: REUTERS

U19s win Super Over thriller

STAR SPORTS REPORT

Rubay Islam Rizon's all-round brilliance guided Bangladesh U-19 to a dramatic Super Over victory against Afghanistan in Oman yesterday, securing a 2-0 lead in the four-match Youth ODI series.

After both teams tied on 304 runs in regulation, Bangladesh posted 10 for one in the Super Over. Pacer Rizon then brilliantly restricted Afghanistan to three for one to seal the win.

Earlier, Afghanistan posted 304 for nine, with Noman Salarzai scoring 76 and Rizon claiming 4-72. In reply, despite fifties from Alamin Hossain Rony (71), Ahsan Al Mumin (56), and Abdullah Al Muhi (50), Bangladesh stumbled, needing 15 off the final over. Rizon's unbeaten 19-ball 33 dramatically forced the tie.

পাওয়ার গ্রিড বাংলাদেশ পিএলসি
POWER GRID BANGLADESH PLC
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

Grid Bhaban, Avenue-3, Jahurul Islam City, Aftabnagar, Badda, Dhaka-1212 Web: www.powergrid.gov.bd
স্মারক নং- ২৭.২১.০০০০.৭৫২.১৮.০০১.২৬.৭৬৮ তারিখঃ ১৮/১০/২০২৬খ্রিঃ

e-Tender বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পাওয়ার গ্রিডের গ্রিড সার্কেল, খুলনা দপ্তরের আওতাধীন নিম্নলিখিত দরপত্র e-GP পোর্টালে প্রকাশিত হয়েছে।

ID	Title of Works	Last selling Date and Time	Tender Closing Date and Time
1343743	Repair and Maintenance of Transmission Line (132 kV, 230 kV & 400 kV Dead-Line Checking) of Amtali, Gopalganj and Payra 400 kV Grid Substation under Grid Circle, Khulna, Power Grid.	04 Nov 2026 at 16:00	05 Nov 2026 at 16:00
1349065	Supplying, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 10 kWp On-Grid Solar System at Amtali 400 kV Switching Station & Payra 400/132/33 kV Substation Under Grid Circle, Khulna.		
1353689	Cutting Jungles and Shrub of Switchyard and Surrounding Area on Annual Basis at Gopalganj 400/230/132 kV Grid Substation under Grid Circle, Khulna.		

আগ্রহী ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানকে www.eprocure.gov.bd সাইটের মাধ্যমে দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণের জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

মোঃ আরিফুর রহমান
তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী (অঃদাঃ), গ্রিড সার্কেল, খুলনা