Appeal for help

CITY DESK

Sufia Begum, 59, has been suffering from left breast cancer for six years. She underwent surgery at Tata Medical Center in Kolkata in March 2020 and has since continued treatment in Bangladesh under clinical oncologist Dr Lt Col SM Rokonuzzaman, according to a press release.



She requires regular chemotherapy, hormonal therapy, medicines and medical tests. Her monthly medication costs Tk 12,000-15,000, while tests and chemotherapy cost Tk 30,000-35,000 per session. She is also suffering from osteoporosis and other complications. A recent fall left her bedridden, delaying her treatment.

After years of treatment, her family has exhausted its savings and fallen into debt. Her husband suffered a stroke last year, further worsening the family's financial hardship. They are now struggling to meet both daily expenses and the cost of her continued treatment.

They therefore urge financially capable individuals to contribute whatever they can towards her treatment.

Aid can be sent to Sufia Begum, Account Number: 0041-0310028904, NCC Bank, Rajshahi Branch and to Sufia's daughter, Zinnat Ara, through bKash (Personal): 01762319001.

CHT minister conveys PM's Durga puja greetings

BSS, *Cox's Bazar*

Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs Minister Sa Ching Prue has conveyed Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's Durga Puja greetings to devotees and residents of Cox's Bazar.

He delivered the message while visiting puja mandaps in Cox's Bazar on Monday night.

He also instructed law enforcement agencies to remain alert to ensure the safety of tourists and visitors during "Bijaya Dashami".

He said Durga Puja is being celebrated across the country in a peaceful and solemn atmosphere.

The minister said the largest immersion ceremony (bisarjan) for the idol of Goddess Durga in the country will take place on the beach in Cox's Bazar on Bijaya Dashami.



The college has only 31 teachers against 128 sanctioned posts. PHOTO: STAR

NOAKHALI MEDICAL COLLEGE

Shortage of teacher, poor facilities hamper education

ANWARUL HAIDAR, *Noakhali*

Academic activities at Noakhali Medical College have long been disrupted by an acute shortage of teachers and inadequate infrastructure.

The college has only 31 teachers against 128 sanctioned posts, while its 440 students depend on Noakhali 250-bed General Hospital for clinical training as the institution has yet to establish its own hospital.

According to the principal's office, the Anatomy department has five teachers against 21 posts, Physiology four against 15, Biochemistry three against 14, Pharmacology four against 15, Forensic Medicine three against 15, Pathology four against 15, Microbiology four against 17, and Community Medicine four against 16.

"A major part of medical education is learned at the patient's bedside. Without a hospital or nursing institute on campus, that opportunity has become severely limited for us," said Mushfika Tabassum Khanam, a fourth-year student.

She said travelling to the hospital was particularly difficult for evening ward rounds, when students examine patients, take medical histories and observe doctors at work.

AHM Kefayetullah, another fourth-year student, said the commute left students physically exhausted, affecting their studies at night.

Students also complained about inadequate residential facilities. The campus lacks a boundary wall, canteen, dental unit, prayer halls, recreational facilities and a modern simulation lab. The field becomes waterlogged after rain, while safe drinking water remains scarce.

Established in 2008 with 58 students, the college initially operated from a section of Noakhali General Hospital before moving to its permanent 26-acre campus at Mir Warishpur in Begumganj upazila in August 2013.

Principal Prof Dr Md Saiful Islam acknowledged the problems, saying classes were being managed through temporary postings of officers on special duty arranged by the health ministry.

He said the health secretary was aware of the situation and expressed hope that the problems would be resolved.

Project Director Dr Amjadul Huq said Tk 853.09 crore was allocated under a government project initiated in 2018 to build a 500-bed hospital, nursing institute, morgue, additional student hostels, dormitories and residences for principals and directors.

Construction began in June 2024 under the Public Works Department but was halted shortly afterwards following a directive from the interim government's health adviser, he said.

Dr Huq said the project tenure expired in June this year, and a revised proposal seeking an extension had been submitted to the Planning Commission. Work would resume once the extension was approved.

Health Secretary Md Kamruzzaman said letters had been sent to the department concerned seeking an extension, while the process of recruiting more teachers was underway.

Two babies stolen from Cox's Bazar hospital in 20 days

No arrests made; faulty CCTV cameras hamper probe

MOKAMMEL SHUVO, *Cox's Bazar*

Two babies have been stolen from Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital within 20 days, raising security concerns and leaving parents anxious.

Seven-month-old Rakib was taken from a paediatric ward on September 19, while a six-day-old newborn was stolen from the Special Care Newborn Unit, a restricted ward, on October 9. No arrests have been made.

In the first incident, an unidentified woman allegedly took Rakib, leaving behind a three-month-old baby, later sent to a child care facility in Chattogram.

Rakib's father, Mohammad Rubel Hossain, said his son was admitted with pneumonia on September 15. On September 19, a woman offered to calm the crying child and took him in her arms. Later, she disappeared with the baby.

Police said both cases were under investigation, with no conclusive evidence linking them.

CCTV footage reportedly showed the woman leaving in a CNG-run auto-rickshaw with two other girls. The family searched in Ukhiya after learning the vehicle had headed towards Sonarpara, but found no trace of Rakib. A general diary was filed on September 20.

In the second incident, a woman allegedly took a newborn from SCANU around 11:25pm on October 9.

Hospital records show the suspect was seen near the breastfeeding room before entering the ward and leaving through the emergency department with the baby.

The child's mother, Rozina Akter, said she had fed and cleaned her son before returning to her room. She began searching around 2:30am after someone enquired about the baby.

"I just want my child back in a healthy condition," she said.

Sub-Inspector Rajib Pal, investigating the second case, said the suspect could not be clearly identified from CCTV footage as she wore a mask and burqa. Most hospital cameras were not working, he added.

Police said both cases were under investigation, with no conclusive evidence linking them.

Hospital Superintendent Dr Mong Ting Nyo said repeated requests for police personnel had not secured the required deployment.

Additional Superintendent of Police Ahidur Rahman said four to five officers were stationed at the hospital's police box. He called for reviewing internal security and considering redeployment of Ansar members.

Resident Medical Officer Dr Shantanu Ghosh said a three-member investigation committee had sought more time to collect statements and examine CCTV footage, as several external cameras were faulty or produced unclear images.

Woman accused of killing cat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Cox's Bazar*

A woman has been accused of beating her neighbour's cat to death in Chakaria upazila of Cox's Bazar.

Shamsul Alam, 54, the cat's owner, filed a written complaint with Chakaria Police Station on Monday. According to the complaint, Shamsul, a resident of Kazirpara in Chakaria municipality, chased his neighbour Firoza Begum's dog on Monday morning when it tried to attack two of his cats.

Enraged, Firoza allegedly beat one of the cats to death with a stick, Shamsul alleged in the complaint.

Shamsul later went to the police station with the cat's body in a cage to file the complaint.

He said he had raised the cats with great care and wanted justice.

Chakaria Police Station Officer-in-Charge Arifur Rahman said killing an animal is a punishable offence. Police would investigate the complaint and take legal action accordingly.

50 vehicles robbed in one day on Cox's Bazar road: victims

Police unable to confirm the number

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Cox's Bazar*

Around 50 vehicles were reportedly robbed in two incidents on the Eidgaon-Eidghar-Baishari road in Cox's Bazar on Monday, according to victims.

The incidents took place at Himchhari Dhala in the afternoon, when 10-12 masked men armed with weapons intercepted CNG-run autorickshaws and motorcycles and looted cash, mobile phones and other valuables at gunpoint.

Victims said the robbers took some passengers to a nearby forest, beat them and robbed them of their belongings.

Mohammad Robiul Islam, manager of a private organisation's Eidghar branch, said the robbers stopped his motorcycle while he was travelling from Eidgaon Bazar to Eidghar with a colleague and took Tk 1.2 lakh.

Abdul Hakim, an accountant at another NGO's Eidghar branch, said the robbers intercepted the autorickshaw he was on with two others, took Tk 1.5 lakh, and beat them in a nearby forest.

Jasim Uddin, acting chairman of Eidghar Union, said police arrived after receiving information and launched an operation.

Eidgaon Police Station Officer-in-Charge ATM Shifatul Majdar confirmed the incidents, saying the robbers fled into the forest. Several police teams were searching for them, but no one had been detained as of Monday night.

The officer could not confirm the number of vehicles targeted, but victims estimated it at around 50.

Police and local sources said patrols had been stepped up and teams were searching the surrounding hills.

Locals said robberies, abductions and looting frequently occur along the 17-kilometre road through Ramu and Eidgaon upazilas. Locals usually stop using the road after dusk because of security concerns.

Ishraque had good intentions, but shouldn't display firearm

Says Shafiqur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Ctg*

Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer and Leader of the Opposition Shafiqur Rahman yesterday said BNP lawmaker Ishraque Hossain may have acted with good intentions, but should not have displayed a firearm in public.

"There is no reason to view his actions negatively. However, as a public representative and a state minister, he openly carried a firearm and aimed it at someone. He may have done so with good intentions, but there is no shortage of evil people who could use this as a reference," he said.

Shafiqur was speaking to reporters after attending a reunion of Islami Chhatra Shibir members at GEC Convention Hall in Chattogram.



Members and organisers of the Jatiya Press Club cut a cake to celebrate the 72nd anniversary of the organisation in Dhaka yesterday. PHOTO: COURTESY

BANGLADESH PETROLEUM CORPORATION
Joy Pahar Estate, Sarson Road, Chawkbazar, Chattogram
Office of Project Director
Modernization and Expansion of Eastern Refinery Limited
E-mail: pderlexpansion@gmail.com

Memo No: 28.25.0000.000.014.01.0001.26/10 Date: 19/10/2026

Notice of Cancellation for REOI and RFP

This is to notify all concerned that the Procurement process for the service named "Selection of an International consulting firm for Rendering Consultancy Services as Project Management Consultant (PMC) for the Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) works of the "Modernization & Expansion of Eastern Refinery Limited (ERL)" project at North Patenga, Chattogram, Bangladesh" including the Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) Ref no: ERPLC/M&E/PMC/EOI/01 dated 25 May 2026 and Request for Proposal (RFP) Ref. no: BPC-ERPLC/M&E/PMC/RFP-2026 dated 07 September 2026 has been cancelled as per the ITC clause no- 51.1 of the RFP document.
All concerned are requested to take note of the above.

(Asma Ara Begum)
Project Director,
Modernization and Expansion of Eastern Refinery Limited

GD-2566

Notice of Public Consultations
Environmental and Social Impact Assessment of
Laldia Container Terminal Project

The Project
The Laldia Container Terminal is a major greenfield port infrastructure proposed to be developed under a public-private partnership (PPP) by the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) and APM Terminals, together with QNS Container Services. The project aims to raise Chattogram Port's container handling capacity by building a new terminal at Laldia Char, which will also strengthening country's port logistics.
Haskoning, in association with the Institute of Water Modelling (IWM) and BRTC-BUET, is carrying out the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for this Project, in accordance with the Environment Conservation Rules (ECR) 2023.

Public Consultations:
A public consultation workshop will be held in Chattogram for consultation with the local community and relevant stakeholders.
Date: 16th November, 2026
Location: Hotel Saint Martin, 25-33 Sheikh Mujib Road, Agrabad C/A, Chattogram 4100 The consultation meeting will share key environmental and social impacts of the Project and proposed mitigation measures for the construction and operation phases. All concerned and interested stakeholders are invited to take part in the process.
Comments:
Stakeholders are invited to review the ESIA report available on the project website https://www.apmterminals.com/en/laldia/project-information/ESIA-documents and concerned DOE website https://doe.gov.bd for comments. However, comment sheets will be available at the consultation workshop and can be submitted at the venue or sent to the address provided below.

Laldia Container Terminal Limited
Aziz court, Level 20
88-89 Agrabad C/A
Chattogram, Bangladesh
Email: info.Laldia@APMTerminals.com
Phone: +8801322 895603

Department of Environment
Begum Sonia Sultana, Director
Chattogram Metropolitan Office
Poribesh Bhaban, Zakir Hossain Road,
Foy's Lake Area, Khulshi,
Chattogram-4202
Website: http://doemetro.chittagongdiv.gov.bd
Email: ctgmetro@doe.gov.bd
Phone: 02-333379220, 01818540338

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়
সিলেট বন বিভাগ
সিলেট
www.forest.sylhetdiv.gov.bd

বৃক্ষরোপণে জাতীয় পুরস্কার-২০২৬ প্রদানের জন্য দরখাস্ত আহ্বান

সিলেট, সুনামগঞ্জ, হবিগঞ্জ ও মৌলভীবাজার জেলার সর্বসাধারণের এবং বিভিন্ন সরকারি, আধাসরকারি, স্বায়ত্তশাসিত ও বেসরকারি সংস্থার/প্রতিষ্ঠানের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, প্রতিবছরের ন্যায় এ বছরও বৃক্ষরোপণে অবদানের স্বীকৃতিস্বরূপ "বৃক্ষরোপণে জাতীয় পুরস্কার প্রদানের নীতিমালা (সংশোধিত)-২০২৫" অনুযায়ী "বৃক্ষরোপণে জাতীয় পুরস্কার-২০২৬" প্রদান করা হবে। নিম্নবর্ণিত ০৭ (সাত)টি শ্রেণীর প্রতিটি শ্রেণীতে ১ম, ২য় ও ৩য় পুরস্কার প্রদানের জন্য প্রণীত নীতিমালার ভিত্তিতে পুরস্কার প্রদানের ব্যবস্থা রাখা হয়েছে। এতদুদ্দেশ্যে নির্ধারিত ফরমে আবেদনপত্র আগামী ৩০/১১/২০২৬ খ্রিঃ তারিখের মধ্যে সংশ্লিষ্ট উপজেলা নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা/নিকটবর্তী রেঞ্জ বন কর্মকর্তার নিকট জমা দেয়ার জন্য অনুরোধ জানানো যাচ্ছে। আবেদন পত্রের নির্ধারিত ফরম বিনামূল্যে বিভাগীয় বন কার্যালয়, সিলেট, সহকারী বন সংরক্ষকের কার্যালয়, সিলেট সদর/শ্রীমঙ্গল/হবিগঞ্জ/সুনামগঞ্জ: রেঞ্জ কার্যালয়, এস.এফ.এন.টি.সিএ ভারপ্রাপ্ত কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয় এবং সকল উপজেলা নার্সারী কেন্দ্র হতে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে।

যে ০৭ (সাত)টি শ্রেণিতে পুরস্কার প্রদান করা হবে তা নিম্নরূপ ঃ

(ক) প্রাথমিক বিদ্যালয়/উচ্চ বিদ্যালয়/এবতেদায়ী মাদ্রাসা/সিনিয়র মাদ্রাসা/কলেজ/বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় (খ) ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ/উপজেলা পরিষদ/জেলা পরিষদ/পৌরসভা/সিটি কর্পোরেশন/অধিদপ্তর/পরিদপ্তর/সেক্টর কর্পোরেশন/এনজিও/ক্লাব/স্বেচ্ছাসেবী সংস্থা (গ) ব্যক্তিগত পর্যায়ে বৃক্ষরোপণ (ঘ) ব্যক্তি মালিকানাধীন নার্সারি (ঙ) ব্যক্তিগত/প্রাতিষ্ঠানিক পর্যায়ে সৃজিত ছাদ বাগান (চ) বন বিভাগ কর্তৃক সৃজিত বাগান (ছ) বৃক্ষ গবেষণা/সংরক্ষণ/উদ্ভাবন।

(মোহাম্মদ আবদুর রহমান)
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