DHAKA MONDAY OCTOBER 26, 2026



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SECOND EDITION

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Here motherhood costs cricket career

Unlike most other cricket boards, BCB has no policy to support female cricketers' careers during pregnancy and after becoming mothers



"In the BCB's system, there is a stigma against married players. Officials and selectors assume that once a female player marries or has a child, she won't play long, viewing further investment in her as a waste of time."

Former Bangladesh batter **Sanjida Islam Moyna**

SAMSUL AREFIN KHAN

When former Bangladesh pacer Suraiya Azmin emailed Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) on May 9 to request paid maternity leave, she received no response.

After giving birth in August, she found herself dropped from the national contract list, while her leave request and unpaid salary remained unresolved.

Suraiya's experience is not an isolated case.

Her experience exposes a wider gap in Bangladesh women's cricket: the lack of a formal maternity policy to protect players' income, contracts and prospects of returning to the game.

Former Bangladesh batter Sanjida Islam Moyna, who played 16 Women's ODIs and 54 T20Is between 2012 and 2020, married first-class cricketer Mim Mosaddek in 2020, continued playing domestically until 2024 and gave birth in 2025. She has since stepped away from the game to raise her child.

Sanjida believes assumptions about marriage and motherhood shape how

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



PHOTO: **RAJIB RAIHAN**

Glowing sky lanterns float into the night sky as fireworks burst overhead at Nandankanan Buddhist Vihara in Chattogram city yesterday evening, marking Prabarana Purnima, one of the major religious festivals for the Buddhist community. Symbolising self-purification, restraint and goodwill, the occasion is celebrated with religious rituals and the release of sky lanterns, adding to the festive atmosphere.

BB fights on to curb family grip on banks

Submits draft amendment to the Bank Company Act

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Bangladesh Bank has held its ground on curbing family control of private banks in a new reform proposal, resisting pressure from the country's powerful bank owners.

A draft amendment to the Bank Company Act, sent by the central bank to the Financial Institutions Division last week, would allow no more than two members of one family on a bank's board, down from three.

Directorships would be limited to six consecutive years, half the current 12-year limit, with a minimum wait of three years before reappointment.

Both measures were carried over from the reforms drafted under the interim government. On family control and tenure, the central bank under Governor Mostaqur Rahman has kept to the line of his predecessor Ahsan H Mansur, who began the reform drive under the interim administration.

Bangladesh Bank has, however, watered down the earlier proposal on independent directors, giving owners more control over board composition.

Boards could still have up to 20 directors, and the number of independent directors would rise from two to five. The draft prepared under Mansur would have cut boards to 15 seats, at least half of them held by independent directors.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

OVERFLIGHT, LANDING CHARGES

27 carriers leave CAAB chasing Tk 114cr dues

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

The Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) is struggling to recover about Tk 114 crore ($9.23 million) in overflight and landing charges from 27 foreign airlines, most of which have ceased operations.

The billing period stretches from December last year to October 1986, with the majority of the dues -- Tk 63.43 crore owed by 18 defunct airlines, according to a CAAB document.

Besides, three airlines -- India's SpiceJet and Alliance Air, and Turkmenistan Airlines -- that continue to operate flights regularly owe CAAB a combined Tk 42 crore. Another Tk 7.74 crore remains outstanding from six airlines that either suspended operations or merged with other carriers.

SpiceJet accounts for the largest share of the dues, with Tk 34 crore in unpaid landing and overflight charges accrued between June 2021 and November 2025.

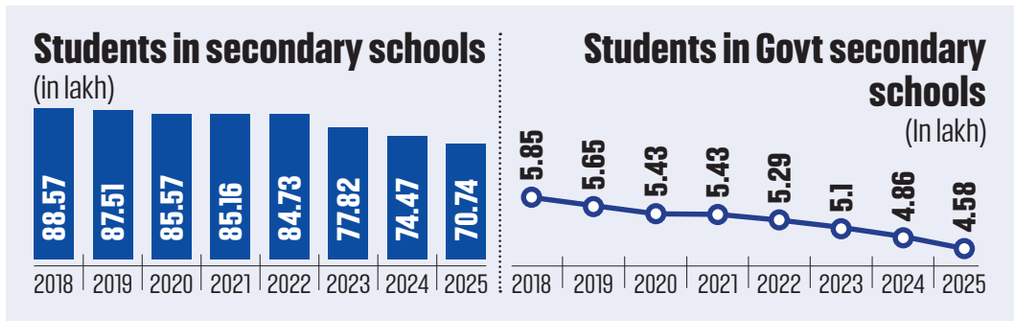
Of the defunct airlines, Air Deccan owes Tk 14.57 crore in overflight dues from November 2004 to September 2008, while Alitalia Airlines owes Tk 12 crore for the period between October 1986 and January 2009.

When contacted, Air Commodore Md Noor-e-Alam,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

Schools up, pupils down

Experts say thorough probe needed to find out why student numbers eroding at secondary schools, increasing at madrasas



MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR *and* **ARAFAT RAHAMAN**

Bangladesh has more secondary schools than it did seven years ago, but far fewer students in them.

Even government secondary schools, where the cost is negligible, are losing pupils. However, enrolment at registered Alia madrasas has increased, according to the latest report of the Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics (Banbeis).

The report shows that the number of students in classes VI-X at government and non-government secondary schools fell by around 17.83 lakh, from 88.57 lakh in 2018 to 70.74 lakh in 2025, or 20.1 percent. The number of general secondary schools stood at 16,737 in 2025, up from 16,186 in 2018.

Talking to The Daily Star, Prof Khan Moinuddin Al Mahmud Sohel, director general of Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE), said the steady decline in secondary-school enrolment required careful examination.

"We will investigate possible contributing factors,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Tongi madrasa teacher denied bail over rape of student

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Gazipur*

A Gazipur court yesterday denied bail to a madrasa teacher accused of sexually abusing a seven-year-old student.

The Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court in Gazipur passed the order after hearing a bail petition filed on behalf of the accused, Moslem Uddin, vice-principal of Qariul Quran International Madrasa in the Madhya Auchpara area of Tongi.

Court Inspector Ahsan Ullah Chowdhury confirmed the matter to The Daily Star.

Investigation Officer Ziaur Rahman said the case was filed with Tongi West Police Station on Thursday under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, 2000, incorporating provisions introduced through the 2025 amendment.



Customers crowd around an OMS truck in the capital's Nilkhet area to buy rice and flour at subsidised prices yesterday. Rice is sold at Tk 30 per kg and a 2kg packet of flour at Tk 55. Each customer can purchase up to 5kg of rice and 4kg of flour per day.

PHOTO: **PRABIR DAS**

Sayeedi case complainant buried under tight police security

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Pirojpur*

Manik Posari, 87, a gazetted freedom fighter and complainant in the war crimes case against former Jamaat-e-Islami leader Delwar Hossain Sayeedi, was laid to rest in Pirojpur Sadar upazila early yesterday amid heightened tensions.

Manik was buried around 2:00am at his family graveyard in Chitalia village under Shankarpasha union under heavy police security after local Jamaat leaders and activists opposed the state honour and sought to disrupt the burial process.

According to family members, Manik had been staying at his son-in-law's home in Tungipara, Gopalganj, after his home in Chitalia village was set on fire following the fall of the Awami League government on August 5, 2024.

He died there around 10:00am on Saturday after suffering from illness for the past two months.

His body was brought to the Pirojpur Sadar Upazila Parishad premises around noon. Following his arrival, local Jamaat-e-Islami leaders and activists gathered there in protest against the decision to accord him a guard of honour.

Police later escorted the body to Pirojpur Police Lines, where Manik received a guard of honour around 5:00pm under tight security.

Meanwhile, a group of people filled in a grave that had been prepared for his burial in Chitalia village on Saturday evening.

Pirojpur municipality Jamaat Ameer Abdur Razzak Sheikh claimed that Manik was a "fake" freedom fighter and said they had opposed both the guard of honour and his burial in the area.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 6

Saudi downs missiles, drones over Riyadh

King Khalid Int'l Airport partially resumes operations despite fresh Houthi threats

REUTERS

Saudi Arabia intercepted drones and missiles over its capital Riyadh and southern areas yesterday, the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen said, as fighting with the Iran-aligned Houthis persisted.

The conflict has become an increasingly destabilising front in the US-Israeli offensive against Iran, turning US ally Saudi Arabia into a pressure point in the wider war.

Yesterday, Saudi civil defence authorities issued emergency alerts for Riyadh, Abha and Khamis Mushait, before announcing minutes later that the danger had passed.

The coalition said two drones and a ballistic missile were launched towards Riyadh, and a cruise missile towards the southern city of Khamis Mushait. It later said it intercepted ten ballistic missiles fired towards southern Saudi Arabia.

The Houthis warned they could again target Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport, which partially resumed operations yesterday following a deadly attack earlier this month. The flight tracking data from Flightradar24 showed little traffic at the airport.

The Houthis said they attacked the airport and Saudi oil facilities on Saturday. Saudi authorities did not comment directly on the Houthi statements.

Houthi military spokesperson Yahya Saree said the airport remained a "military target" and warned all airlines, airport staffers and travellers against using it.

Late on Saturday, the airport said Terminal 1 would be designated for domestic flights and Terminal 2 for international flights operated by national carriers.

The airport halted operations on October 10 following an attack - claimed by the Houthis - that killed 13 people and wounded more than 300 others, the deadliest in the kingdom in more than a decade.

27 carriers leave CAAB chasing

FROM PAGE 1

CAAB's member for Air Traffic Management, said an airline is charged between $300 and $450 for each overflight, depending on the plane's size and weight.

"The fee is a one-time charge for an aircraft's passage from entry to exit, rather than a per-minute charge," he said.

An overflight fee or en-route air navigation charge is a toll levied by a country on an airline for flying through its sovereign airspace without landing in or departing from that country.

An airline is expected to pay the fees within 14 days of CAAB issuing the bill.

Asked what steps CAAB has taken to recover the dues, Mohammad Nazmul Hoque, a member (finance) of CAAB, said the aviation regulator repeatedly approached the embassies of all countries where the debtor airlines are based, asking them to take measures regarding the outstanding bills.

"We wrote to the embassies of the countries concerned regarding the dues. Most recently, we sent such letters in June."

In reply to a query, he said the recovery of dues becomes very difficult if an airline goes bankrupt.

Nazmul pointed out that in some cases, pursuing legal action may cost more than the amount owed.

He also said CAAB sometimes takes steps to withhold approval for remittance to debtor airlines if they fail to clear dues.

Citing an example involving Jet Airways, he said CAAB had alerted Bangladesh Bank when it learnt that the airline had pending remittances, leading to the suspension of a fund transfer.

This correspondent sent emails to three debtor airlines -- SpiceJet, Turkmenistan Airlines and Alliance Air -- that are operating flights regularly.

Only SpiceJet sent a reply. It neither confirmed nor disputed CAAB's figures.

"Reconciliation and discussions are underway, and such issues have been resolved with CAAB in the past," said a spokesperson for the airline.

The unpaid dues persist while CAAB is recording higher earnings from aircraft crossing Bangladesh's airspace.

According to CAAB data, overflight revenue rose to Tk 558.61 crore in January-August this year from Tk 502.32 crore in the same period last year. It was Tk 443.12 crore in January-August 2024.

Overflight movements have also gone up. At least 121,516 flights crossed Bangladesh's airspace in the first eight months of this year, compared with 116,054 during the same period last year.'

Several CAAB officials said the installation of a new radar in January helped expand the regulator's capacity to generate revenue. They, however, noted that the rise in earnings should not be attributed directly to the radar.

HOW OTHER COUNTRIES DEAL WITH ARREAS

India has brought the collection of overflight charges directly under the Airports Authority of India (AAI), replacing the previous arrangement involving the International Air Transport Association.

Since April 1, 2022, route navigation facility charges for aircraft overflying the Flight Information Regions (FIRs) of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai have been collected directly by AAI, according to India's Aeronautical Information Publication.

FIR is a specific block of airspace defined by an aviation authority within which two primary services are provided: Flight Information Service and Alerting Service.

If dues owed by a foreign airline or an operator overflying Indian airspace exceed 75 percent of its bank guarantee, AAI can encash the guarantee and place the operator on a cash-and-carry basis. The policy also provides that the airline's operations may be stopped, said the Airports Authority of India's Credit Policy (Traffic).

Another South Asian country, Sri Lanka, requires aircraft overflying the Colombo FIR to pay en-route navigation charges within 30 days of receiving an invoice, according to the country's En-route Navigation Facility Charges Regulations, 2023.

If an airline fails to pay on time, the unpaid charges could be treated as a debt carrying interest of 2 percent per month. Any outstanding dues from earlier years will also remain payable to the state.

WHAT EXPERTS SAY

Aviation expert ATM Nazrul Islam, a former wing commander, said CAAB could pursue the recovery of unpaid dues through legal action in the country where the debtor airline is based.

"Cases can be filed with courts in that country as there is no separate international financial court for this," he told this correspondent.

Former CAAB chairman M Mafidur Rahman said arrears piled up largely because Bangladesh has yet to introduce an automated billing and payment system.

"In many countries, the process is automated. There is a gateway, and the money comes in automatically... However, billing here is still done manually."

He said airlines that operate flights regularly could be compelled to settle dues by imposing restrictions on their operations. CAAB had recovered dues from a number of such carriers in the past but faced difficulties in cases of airlines that operated irregularly or on a non-scheduled basis.

Acknowledging shortcomings in CAAB's follow-up efforts to recover dues, Mafidur said, "There was a lack of persuasion in some cases. Our people were sometimes less forceful in pursuing these matters. That's one of the reasons why the dues remain pending."

He further said CAAB had previously taken initiatives to automate the system but those did not materialise as the government agencies concerned could not reach a consensus on the revenue collection mechanism.

Mafidur suggested introducing automated billing and payment systems as early as possible, while also engaging counterpart civil aviation authorities and diplomatic channels to collect dues.

NEW RADAR, NEW SCOPE

Noor-e-Alam said a new radar system, which became operational in January, has transformed the tracking system.

With surveillance now extending over a wider area, aircraft movements can be monitored more effectively, reducing the likelihood of unrecorded aircraft movements and missed revenue, he noted.

He further said the integrated radar system linked Dhaka with Chattogram, enhancing communication capability up to about 600 kilometres southwards from the port city.

Schools up, pupils down

FROM PAGE 1

including the impact of Covid-19, subsequent financial difficulties faced by families, rising child labour, and shifts towards other educational institutions."

Educationists point to several other possible reasons, including early marriage and concerns about girls' safety.

Some families may also be choosing madrasas or English-medium schools over general secondary schools, they said.

Prof Siddiqur Rahman, former director of Dhaka University's Institute of Education and Research, said, "The dropping number of schoolchildren is a sign of a lack of planning. We don't know how many schools we actually need, how many students there will be, what types of schools and colleges we need, or what kind of higher education is required."

Non-government institutions account for around 97 percent of Bangladesh's secondary schools.

Government schools, however, remain highly popular, particularly at district and upazila levels. Yet, these institutions are losing students, challenging the notion that free education alone is enough to keep children in school.

The decline is in both boys and girls, but the fall has been considerably steeper among boys.

The number of boys enrolled in government secondary schools dropped from 3.21 lakh in 2018 to 2.33 lakh in 2025, a reduction of 87,824, or 27.4 percent.

Over the same period, the number of girls fell from 2.64 lakh to 2.25 lakh, a decline of 39,018, or 14.8 percent.

Educationists say that although government schools charge nominal fees, families still have to pay for coaching, guidebooks, transportation, school supplies, and other educational expenses.

Talking to this newspaper, Rasheda K Choudhury, executive director of the Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE), said public and social investments in education were not producing the expected results.

"This means that simply making education free does not necessarily ensure that everyone will attend school. Many have come to believe that government schools don't provide quality education."

MADRASA EDUCATION

While enrolment in general secondary schools has fallen, the number of students in classes VI-X at registered Alia madrasas has increased.

However, Banbeis has no official mechanism to track whether students leaving general schools move to Alia madrasas, Qawmi madrasas, English-medium schools or technical institutions, or enter the workforce.

Its data shows that the number of students in classes VI-X at Alia madrasas rose from 3.62 lakh in 2018 to 3.98 lakh in 2025, a rise of 36,660, or 10.1 percent.

Enrolment in classes VI-X at English-medium schools increased modestly, from 22,554 students in 2018 to 24,530 in 2025, a rise of 8.8 percent, according to Banbeis.

However, education officials say these figures do not present the complete picture, as many English-medium schools remain outside the reporting system.

Banbeis also does not maintain official statistics on Qawmi madrasas because the education stream operates outside government regulation, said an official of the organisation.

Education Minister ANM Ehsanul Hoque Milon told parliament on July 14 that there are around 25,000 Qawmi madrasas in the country, with approximately 70 lakh students.

Prof Emeritus Manzoor Ahmed of enrolment is not itself a concern. The priority, he said, is to understand why general secondary schools are losing students.

"We will examine why this is happening and explore ways to improve enrolment and retain students."

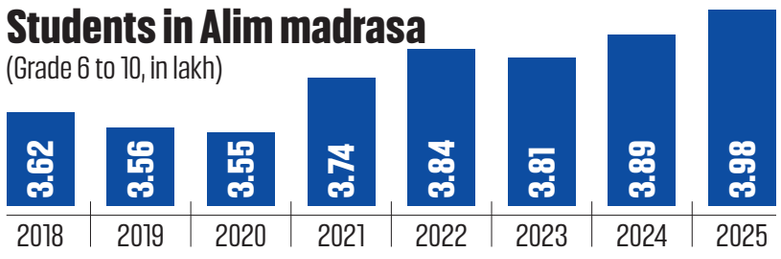
He said the government would also work to promote vocational and employment-oriented education, which could help raise enrolment at the secondary level.

REASONS

Not every child leaving a general secondary school necessarily moves to another institution. For some, the decline in enrolment may mean dropping out.

Educationists say financial hardship, rising living costs, and the need to earn an income can force children out of classrooms and into work.

Prof Siddiqur said, "When parents fall below the poverty line, child labour tends to increase. Nowadays, a family often cannot survive on one person's income."



BRAC University told The Daily Star, "... Students rely on costly private coaching and commercial guidebooks. Those who cannot afford these costs send their children to less expensive madrasas."

Prof Siddiqur also identified the growth of madrasas and the increasing attraction of English-medium education as possible reasons for the decline in general school enrolment.

He said some middle-class parents considered non-government schools better than government institutions, while English-medium schools were often perceived as better.

"Since people have a tendency to send children to madrasas at the lower levels, including primary or Ibtedayi education, and they have a soft corner for religion, the number of madrasa students is gradually increasing.

"Some students may be moving to Qawmi madrasas. Many people believe that Qawmi madrasas place greater emphasis on religious education than Alia madrasas."

Child education activist Rasheda K Choudhury said the enrolment in Alia madrasas, the mainstream madrasa stream, remains stable. "Although madrasas face various kinds of criticism, people still have confidence in Alia madrasas."

For DSHE DG Al Mahmud Sohel, however, the increase in madrasa

Available data suggests that child labour has gone up substantially.

The Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) and Unicef's Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) show that the proportion of children aged five to 17 engaged in labour rose from 6.8 percent in 2019 to 9.2 percent in 2025, an increase of 2.4 percentage points.

Educationists say girls may face additional barriers to continuing their studies, including early marriage, domestic responsibilities, and concerns about travelling long distances to school.

Rasheda K Choudhury cited child labour and early marriage as longstanding challenges at the secondary level.

Prof Manzoor said for some families, moving children to less expensive institutions may be an option. For others, the cost of education may simply become unaffordable.

The financial burden on households is substantial. Families bear 71 percent of total education expenditure in Bangladesh, according to Unesco's Global Education Monitoring Report 2022.

CAMPE's Education Watch studies found that out-of-pocket education expenses increased by 25 percent at the primary level and 51 percent at the secondary level in 2023 compared with 2022.

Here motherhood costs cricket career

FROM PAGE 1

officials and selectors view women players. Some cricketers delay marriage to prolong their careers, while others conceal their marital status.

"In the BCB's system, there is a stigma against married players. Officials and selectors assume that once a female player marries or has a child, she won't play long, viewing further investment in her as a waste of time," Sanjida said.

She believes proper maternity support would allow women to continue playing much longer after marriage and childbirth. Sanjida recently interviewed for a women's divisional coaching position but was not selected, for reasons that remain unclear.

Suraiya's experience reflects the same assumptions about marriage and motherhood. "Once a player gets married or reaches a certain age, people assume she won't play anymore. And if she has a baby, then playing again is completely out of the question."

The board's silence also affected her willingness to continue. "If I saw they had responded positively, if my willingness for return was 60 percent it would have increased to 100 percent," she said. Although encouraged by her husband to seek leave, she felt the board had failed to value her. She last played for Gulshan Youth Club in the 2025 Dhaka Premier Division Women's Cricket League.

Former national cricketer and international umpire Sathira Jakir Jessy also struggled to balance motherhood and cricket. "Even when I got married, I was the vice-captain of the national team, and I had a feeling that I might not be able to continue for long. I continued playing after becoming a mother, but it wasn't easy at all.

"Many are still afraid of having a baby because they feel it could bring their careers to an end."

She added, "Even at the stage I am at now, I think twice about having another baby because I wonder whether BCB would support me during that time, allowing me to return to the level of umpiring I have reached."

LESSONS FROM ABROAD

On June 22, International Cricket Council (ICC) introduced Return to Play Post-Pregnancy Guidelines for female cricketers. Its six stages -- Ready, Review, Restore, Recondition, Return and Refine -- cover recovery, medical assessments, gradual training and monitoring. The guidelines help member boards develop policies but do not guarantee paid leave.

Cricket Australia and New Zealand Cricket provide paid maternity leave to contracted players, while Pakistan introduced a Parental Support Policy in 2021. A year later, Bismah Maroof captained Pakistan at the World Cup, six months after giving birth, with her child and a support person.

Former Bangladesh player and current Qatar women's team head coach Fatema Tuz Jahara, who has worked in Australia and China, said the contrast was stark. In Australia, she said, maternity leave is fully paid, with board-supervised medical care and health and fitness assessments before a player returns.

"In our country, when they get contracted as national players, [they] rely on that salary to support not just themselves but their entire family. So when pregnancy comes up, she has to think ten times." she said.

"That's why our female players get married very late... [and] cannot think long-term about family life or pregnancy during their active playing careers, because there is no security provided in our country. When it comes to protecting women, economically or socially, we are far behind compared to other countries."

WHAT BCB SAYS

BCB Women's Wing chairman Rafiqul Islam Babu said the board would follow ICC guidelines. "In the future, anyone who becomes pregnant or takes maternity leave will certainly be granted leave, and we will follow ICC's policy in this regard," he said, adding that he did not know why a guideline had not been introduced by this time.

Asked about Suraiya's unpaid salary, leave and contract, Babu said her dues would be paid soon. "Everything is under process."

BCB CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury acknowledged the absence of a formal maternity policy. "These matters are being addressed on a case-by-case basis.

"The POSH [Prevention of Sexual Harassment] Policy and the Safeguarding Policy have already been introduced," he added. "As for the other issues, we will implement the other policies as soon as possible."

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ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং সেবা প্রদানে 'ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং কর্ণার' পূবালী ব্যাংকের প্রায় সকল শাখা এবং উপশাখায়



Pedestrians carefully make their way through a heavily excavated road strewn with piles of earth, bricks and concrete slabs in Block E of Mohammadpur, near Asad Avenue in the capital yesterday. The Dhaka North City Corporation has been carrying out drainage development work on sections of the road for over a month, leaving residents and commuters struggling to navigate the hazardous stretch. PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

IN FOCUS

Next polls under caretaker govt

Says Salahuddin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The next national election will be held under a caretaker government, with the system restored through a constitutional amendment, Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed said yesterday.

"Of course, the next election will be held under a caretaker government," he told a press briefing at the home ministry.



Salahuddin said political consensus had already been reached on the issue.

Referring to the Supreme Court's decision on the 13th amendment, he said the court had overturned the earlier judgement by Justice Khairul Haque and judicially revived the caretaker government system. However, a constitutional amendment was needed to formally restore it.

"We are committed to this. Restoring the caretaker government system was one of the demands of our movement," he said.

Asked about social media reports that ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina might return to Bangladesh in December, Salahuddin said the government was aware of the claims.

He said Bangladesh had sent several requests to India through the foreign ministry seeking her

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DAP amendments threaten Dhaka's ecology: BAPA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Recent amendments to the Detailed Area Plan 2022-2035, particularly changes to land-use provisions, open spaces, Wetland Overlay Zones and Floor Area Ratio regulations, could threaten Dhaka's ecological balance and climate resilience, Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (BAPA) warned yesterday.

BAPA demanded public hearings and consultations with environmentalists, urban planners, professional organisations, local communities and other stakeholders before major DAP changes.

In a statement, the organisation expressed concern over the amendments, published in the Bangladesh Gazette on October 14, 2026, and called for a fresh environmental assessment, greater transparency and consultations with relevant stakeholders.

The statement, signed by BAPA President Professor Dr Nur Mohammad Talukder and General Secretary Md Alamgir Kabir, questioned whether the environmental consequences

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

Dengue, measles rage on as govt drives fall short

October sees sharp rise in cases, hospitalisations; experts point to flaws in prevention, vaccination efforts

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Both dengue and measles cases, hospitalisations, and deaths are rising sharply in October, despite the government's launch of a three-month dengue control drive and an intensified measles catch-up vaccination campaign last month.

Dengue cases hit a record daily high for the year yesterday, with 2,249 patients admitted, while the monthly total has already surpassed September's figure.

Meanwhile, daily averages of measles cases and hospitalisations reached a six-month high, while the average daily death toll is the highest since May. The outbreak has so far claimed 1,227 lives, mostly children.

The measles outbreak has been somewhat overshadowed by the sharp rise in dengue cases and deaths. However, the twin outbreaks are straining hospitals, with 14,193 patients -- 8,029 with measles and 6,164 with dengue -- remaining hospitalised yesterday.

Dengue testing should be available at community level, while high-risk patients should be monitored at upazila-level hospitals. For measles, secondary healthcare has to be strengthened. But the necessary steps are missing in both outbreaks.

MUSHTUQ HUSAIN, Public health expert

The rise comes more than a month after the government launched a three-month nationwide dengue prevention and cleanliness campaign on September 12.

Meanwhile, the government launched an intensified measles-rubella catch-up vaccination campaign on September 26 amid rising infections and deaths.

The move followed emergency measles-rubella campaigns in April and May and a mop-up campaign in July, which failed to contain the unprecedented outbreak.

Health experts attributed the

SEE PAGE 9 COL 3

'Implement July charter as per referendum verdict'

Shafiqur questions govt failure to stop cross-border money flow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Leader of the Opposition and Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman yesterday warned that attempts to implement the July charter through constitutional amendments could be struck down by the courts, urging the government to carry out reforms in line with the referendum verdict.

"If you amend it again, a court will completely whitewash it. We are not accustomed to following this futile path and repeating the mistakes of the past," he said at a discussion organised by Jamaat

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

Biman extends Riyadh, Dammam flight suspension till November 4

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Biman Bangladesh Airlines yesterday extended the suspension of all Dhaka-Riyadh and Dhaka-Dammam flights till November 4, citing passenger safety amid continued attacks on Saudi airports.

Biman had earlier suspended Dhaka-Dammam flights scheduled for October 23-25 and all Dhaka-Riyadh flights until October 31.

Meanwhile, the airline said it has been operating two Dhaka-Jeddah flights daily since October 16 in response to passenger demand. The arrangement will continue until November 4.

Regular Dhaka-Madinah flights are also continuing.

Passengers needing urgent travel may use Jeddah or Madinah airports to travel to Saudi Arabia or return to Bangladesh, Biman said. It advised passengers to contact its nearest sales offices for ticketing and travel information.

Further updates on flight operations and schedules would be announced later, the release added.

St Martin's reopens to tourists Nov 1

Daily visitor cap raised to 3,500; environmentalists raise concerns

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Cox's Bazar*

St Martin's Island will reopen to tourists on November 1 for a four-and-a-half-month season ending on March 15.

A maximum of 3,500 tourists will be allowed to visit the island daily, with each visitor required to pay Tk 100 as an environmental conservation fee.

Previously, the island allowed up to 2,000 tourists a day from November 1 to January 31, with overnight stays permitted only in December and January.

This time, however, it remains unclear whether overnight stays will be allowed in November.

The environment ministry yesterday issued instructions to relevant ministries and departments to implement the decisions.

Under the instructions, neither the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority nor the Department of Shipping can permit vessels to operate to St Martin's without approval from the environment ministry.



FILE PHOTO

Authorised tourist vessels will operate from Nuniachhara Ghat, while the Department of Environment has been asked to collect the conservation fee.

Meanwhile, cruise ship operators expressed concern over whether the necessary approvals could be secured before November 1.

Hossain Islam Bahadur, general secretary of the Sea Cruise Operators-Owners Association, said operators hoped to resume services within four days if they received administrative support.

"Three vessels are currently ready to operate and can carry 2,300 tourists cumulatively," he said, adding that at least six more vessels might join the service.

However, Bahadur said obtaining clearances from the DoE, Department of Shipping, BIWTA and district council was complicated. "We are communicating with the relevant departments in this regard," he said.

Businesspeople, politicians and residents brought out a celebratory procession on the island yesterday, welcoming the decision to resume tourism.

However, environmentalists raised concerns over the decision.

Alamgir Kabir, general secretary of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon, said, "We believe the government's decision to increase the number of tourists allowed on the island and extend the tourism season in the interests of businesses conflicts with the need to protect Saint Martin's biodiversity. We hope the government will reconsider its decision."

Probe Purbachal raid, release arrestees

Demand 101 citizens, 4 rights groups

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 101 citizens and four rights organisations have demanded an independent investigation into alleged rights violations during a Detective Branch raid on a house in Purbachal, Dhaka, on October 20, and the subsequent arrests and sentencing of those detained.

The citizens, including teachers, lawyers, journalists, writers and rights activists, expressed deep concern over the arrest of at least 85 people, including 26 women, and their subsequent sentencing through summary trials.

"The allegations that they were denied the opportunity to consult lawyers are also a matter of serious concern," their statement said.

They demanded an impartial investigation into who authorised the operation, its purpose and legal basis, and whether due process was followed in the arrests and sentencing.

The signatories also called for accountability if the investigation found legal violations or abuse of power.

They criticised police for bringing

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1



SM Munna Miah no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

SM Munna Miah, senior sub-editor at Bangla daily Manabkantha and a former cultural correspondent for several newspapers, died early yesterday.

He was pronounced dead at a hospital in Dhanmondi around 3:00am.

Family members said Munna had been suffering from diabetes and high blood pressure and was recently hospitalised with pneumonia.

He is survived by his wife and a daughter.

His namaz-e-janaza was held after Zuhr prayers at Baitul Falah Jame Mosque in Meradia Bhuiyanpara, Banasree. He was later buried at Meradia Graveyard.

Before joining Manabkantha, Munna worked for years as a cultural correspondent at the dailies Samakal and Amar Desh.

He was also a former executive committee member of the Dhaka Reporters Unity.

DRU President Abu Saleh Akon and General Secretary Mainul Hasan Sohel expressed deep condolences to the bereaved family on behalf of the organisation.



A worker carries a plastic drum at a yard on Khulna's Mostafa Road. Traders collect used chemical and oil drums from factories, clean and sell them for household and commercial use, including storing water and rice and planting trees on rooftops. Each drum sells for Tk 1,800-2,000 wholesale. PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Shahadat now CCC administrator

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Chattogram*

BNP leader Shahadat Hossain, who became mayor of Chattogram City Corporation following a court verdict, has been appointed its full-time administrator, according to a Local Government Division gazette.



The appointment comes amid legal and administrative questions over the tenure of the previously elected council and the duration of Shahadat's mandate.

According to LGD records, the first meeting of the CCC council elected in 2021 was held on February 23 that year, meaning its five-year tenure expired on February 22 this year.

Shahadat had earlier claimed his tenure would continue until November 2029 under the court order. However, government documents noted that the court declared him mayor without specifying the duration of his term.

Shahadat contested the mayoral election on January 27, 2021, in which Awami League candidate Rezaul Karim Chowdhury was declared the winner with 3,69,248 votes against Shahadat's 52,489.

Alleging widespread irregularities and vote rigging, Shahadat filed a case with the Election Tribunal on February 24, 2021.

Following the political changeover on August 5, 2024, Rezaul was removed from office, and the Chattogram divisional commissioner was appointed administrator on August 19.

On October 1, 2024, the Chattogram Election Tribunal declared Shahadat the elected mayor, directing authorities to issue a gazette notification within 10 days.

The Election Commission issued a revised gazette on October 8, and Shahadat was sworn in as mayor on November 3.

Sajek blockade enters fourth day

Local admin forms three-member committee

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Rangamati*

The road blockade in Sajek continued for the fourth consecutive day yesterday, while the district administration formed a three-member committee to resolve the situation.

The blockade, called by the Sajek Gano Odhikar Rokkha Committee and Sajek Karbari Association, was enforced along the Sajek-Baghaihat road, protesting the alleged attacks, baton charges and vandalism during Thursday's blockade at Ujo Bazar in Rangamati.

Protesters set fires on the road to restrict vehicular movement from 6:00am.

Bijoy Kanti Chakma, member secretary of the Sajek Gano Odhikar Rokkha Committee, said the blockade would continue until their demands were met.

Tofazzal Hossain, officer-in-charge of Sajek Police Station, said the blockade remained peaceful, with no untoward incidents reported. Law enforcement patrols had been intensified, he added.



PHOTO: STAR

Protesters enforce the blockade by setting fire on the Sajek-Baghaihat road yesterday morning.

Meanwhile, the district administration formed the committee following a meeting with headmen and karbaris at the Rangamati Deputy Commissioner's Office at 10:00am.

The committee comprises Bhabatosh Dewan, vice president of CHT Headman Network; Shanti Bijoy Chakma, its general secretary; and Jyotirmoy Chakma (Kerol), general secretary of CHT Headman Association's Rangamati district unit.

Khagrachhari lawmaker Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan, also chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the CHT affairs ministry, attended the meeting as chief guest, while Rangamati lawmaker Dipen Dewan was special guest.

"The newly-formed committee will hold talks tomorrow [Monday] with those protesting in Sajek," Abdul Wadud told journalists.

"Efforts are underway to remove the armed groups from the area," he added.

Dipen Dewan expressed hope that the issue would be resolved soon through discussions.

Rent dispute turns fatal in Khulna

Landlord detained after striking tenant on head with stick

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

A tenant died yesterday after his landlord allegedly struck him on the head with a stick following a dispute over rent in the Basupara area of Khulna city.

The victim, Rakibul Islam, 24, died while undergoing treatment at Khulna Medical College Hospital in the morning.

Sonadanga Police Station Officer-in-Charge Mohammad Rafiqul Islam said Rakibul was allegedly attacked by his landlord, Majlis Khan, 82, during an argument at a house near Shatarupa intersection in the Bakultala area on Saturday evening.

Ensure legal protection for those facing trials abroad

Demands migrant rights platform

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A migrant rights platform yesterday demanded stronger legal protection for Bangladeshis facing trial abroad and greater accountability from diplomatic missions following Saudi Arabia's execution of two Bangladeshis without prior notification to Dhaka.

At a human chain outside Jatiya Press Club, Probashi Bangladeshi Odhikar Sangstha (Probash) demanded urgent measures to protect migrant workers. It later submitted a memorandum to the foreign ministry.

Nazrul Islam Abdul Basir and Sweety Akhtar were executed in Makkah on October 14.

A list of around 2,500 Bangladeshi prisoners and detainees, shared by Saudi authorities with the Bangladesh Consulate in Jeddah in September and disclosed on October 24, included 22 Bangladeshis marked as convicted. It did not specify their verdicts or sentences.

The consulate sought details on October 20.

পাত্র চাই

মালেশিয়ার অনামধন্য বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় থেকে অনার্স সম্পূর্ণ করে ইংরেজি মিডিয়াম স্কুলে কর্মরত, বয়সঃ ২৫ উচ্চতাঃ ৫'৩, গায়ের রং উজ্জ্বল ফর্সা। পাত্রীর জন্য ইংলিশ মিডিয়াম হতে পাশ করা ৩০ বছরের উর্ধ্বে সম্ভ্রান্ত মুসলিম পরিবারের যোগ্য পাত্র প্রয়োজন।

যোগাযোগঃ
hanifbirdsview@gmail.com

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
Power Division
Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.
Admin-3 Section
www.powerdivision.gov.bd

No. 27.00.0000.043.07.042.25.671 Date: 25.10.2026

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited through the National e-GP Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of following goods:

SL No.	Tender ID	Description	Tender Publish Date	Tender Closing Date
1.	1359656 GR-02	Computer Consumables (Framework Agreement)	25-October-2026 16:00	11-November-2026 14:00
2.	1350274 GR-14	Computer and Equipments	25-October-2026 16:00	11- November -2026 16:10

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted through National e-GP Portal. No hard copy will be accepted. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP Portal have to be deposited through any registered branch of enlisted banks. Further information and guidelines are available on the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Size: DG-1315/7025(5x3)

Md. Masudur Rahman
Deputy Secretary
Power Division
Ph: 02223390024
E-mail:admin-3@pd.gov.bd

GD-2580

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Host and FDMN Enhancement of Lives through Infrastructure Improvement Project (HELP)
Workshop Bhaban (Level-3), Agargaon,
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No.: 46.02.0000.560.07.090.26-6075 Date: 25/10/2026.

e-Tender Notice No. 11/2026-2027 (Corrigendum)

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

Sl. No.	Tender ID & Name of the Project	Description of works	Tender Last Selling (Time & Date)		Tender Closing & Opening (Time & Date)	
			As original	As amended	As original	As amended
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	1340961 HELP	Construction of Mognama Ghat Jetty at Pekua Upazila under Cox's Bazar District. HELP-COX/LS-1	16.00 hrs 01-Nov-26	16.00 hrs 08-Nov-26	14.00 hrs 02-Nov-26	14.00 hrs 09-Nov-26

Other conditions will remain unchanged.

Project Director
Phone: +88-02-55006730
pdhelp.lged@gmail.com

GD-2574

Four new textbooks for classes 4 and 6

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Curriculum Coordination Committee (NCCC) yesterday approved four new textbooks for Classes 4 and 6 for the 2027 academic year, subject to necessary revisions.

The approved Class 4 books are Culture of Bangladesh and Sports, while the Class 6 books are Learning with Happiness and My Technical Education.

NCTB Chairman Prof Mohammad Fakhrul Mawla said the new subjects were designed not to increase students' academic burden and would not be assessed through conventional grading.

Three held over rape of 19-year-old

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Netrokona*

Police arrested three people early yesterday in connection with the alleged gang rape of a 19-year-old woman in Netrokona's Kendua upazila on Saturday night.

They are Billal, 22; Harun, 27; and Rubel, 25. All are residents of Kashipur village in Kendua and are van pullers by profession, said Kendua Police Station OC Tarikul Islam.

The victim is from Ishwarganj upazila of Mymensingh.

The OC said the victim was acquainted with Billal. She arrived in Kendua from Ishwarganj on Saturday night to meet him. Billal took her to the Kashipur village Eidgah ground, called over his two friends, Harun and Rubel, and the three raped the woman.

Police said the accused fled the scene after the rape. Later that night, the woman went to Kendua Police Station and lodged a written complaint against the three. Acting on the complaint, police conducted raids early yesterday and detained them.

The OC said a rape case was registered over the incident and the three detainees were arrested. The process of producing them before a court is underway.

Imam gets life term over rape of girl

UNB, *Jamalpur*

A tribunal in Jamalpur yesterday sentenced an imam of a mosque to life imprisonment for raping a 15-year-old student.

The convict is Musa Mia, hailing from Harichandi village of Gaibandha. He worked as an imam at a mosque and taught at a maktab at Mondolpara village in Jamalpur.

Muhammad Abdur Rahim, judge of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-1 in Jamalpur, pronounced the judgement, said Public Prosecutor Fazlul Haque. It also fined him Tk 5 lakh.

According to the prosecution, Musa used to send the other students home every morning and keep the girl at the mosque to do cleaning work.

Taking advantage of the situation, he raped her on November 28, December 1 and December 2, 2020, after luring her with the promise of marriage, the prosecution said.

After the girl's family learned about the incident, her mother filed a case with Dewanganj Police Station on December 8.

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- ২৭.২১.০০০০.৬৮৪.০৭.০০১.২৬.৭৯৫ তারিখঃ ১৯/১০/২০২৬খ্রিঃ

e-Tender বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পাওয়ার গ্রিডের জিএমডি, চট্টগ্রাম (সেন্ট্রাল) দপ্তরের আওতাধীন নিম্নলিখিত দরপত্র e-GP পোর্টালে প্রকাশিত হয়েছে।

ID	Reference	Title of Works	Closing Date and Time
1358608	27.21.0000.684.07 .001.26.791, Date:19/10/2026	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 170 kW On-Grid Solar Systems of different capacities with Net Metering at Grid Bhaban Chattogram and different grid substation under GMD Chattogram (Central) , Power Grid.	04 Nov 2026 at 14:00

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

মোঃ মাহমুদুর রহমান
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী (অঃদাঃ), জিএমডি, চট্টগ্রাম (সেন্ট্রাল)

বাংলাদেশ অভ্যন্তরীণ নৌপরিবহন কর্তৃপক্ষ
BANGLADESH INLAND WATER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY
www.biwta.gov.bd

বি,আই,ডব্লিউ,টি,এ ভবন
১৪১-১৪৩, মতিঝিল বা/এ
পোস্ট বক্স ৭৬, ঢাকা-১০০০

BIWTA BHABAN
141-143, MOTIJHEEL C/A
POST BOX 76, DHAKA-1000

File No. 18.11.0000.311.14.161.2026-797 Date: 25-10-2026

Time Extension-I

Ref.: Invitation Reference No.: 18.11.0000.311.14.161.2026.660; Dated: 07- Oct-2026

e-Tender has been invited in the national e-GP system portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the Procurement of 05 (five) Nos. 20-inch Cutter Suction Dredgers and Ancillary Vessels with Other Accessories (Tender ID: 1346529). In response to the request for time extension, times have been extended as follows:

Field Name	Old Value		New Value	
	Date	Time	Date	Time
Tender Document last selling date & time	22/11/2026	16:00	02/12/2026	16:00
Pre-Tender Meeting End Date & Time	25/10/2026	16:00	01/11/2026	16:00
Tender Closing/Opening Date & Time	23/11/2026	14:30	03/12/2026	14:30
Last date & time for Tender Security Submission	23/11/2026	13:30	03/12/2026	13:30

2. All other terms and condition of the tender shall remain unchanged.

25-10-2026
(Md. Moznu Miah)
Addl. Chief Engineer (Marine)
Dredging Department, BIWTA
Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh

GD-2575



Mourners react during the funeral at Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City of three Palestinians who were killed in an Israeli strike on the Islamic University yesterday. Separately, Gaza's civil defence agency reported that four others were killed in an airstrike in the southern city of Khan Yunis.

PHOTO: **REUTERS**

IN BRIEF

Obama blasts Trump's 'chaos, cruelty'

AFP, *Washington*

Former US president Barack Obama delivered scathing criticisms of Donald Trump at rallies Saturday in Ohio and Michigan to support Democratic candidates ahead of the midterm elections.

Trump votes in person in Florida after using mail-in ballot in primary

"After two years of chaos and cruelty and corruption and incompetence, the likes of which we have not seen in the modern era, you get a chance to say, 'Enough is enough,'" Obama said in Cleveland.

Meanwhile, Trump and his wife, Melania, on Saturday voted early in his home state of Florida for the elections.



Brazilians vote in presidential election runoff

AFP, *Rio De Janeiro*

Brazil held its breath yesterday as voters went to the polls to decide between leftist leader Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva or his right-wing challenger Flavio Bolsonaro.

It is the final electoral battle for Lula, who turns 81 on Tuesday and is hoping to pull off a dramatic turnaround after coming in second to the son of former president Jair Bolsonaro in the first round of voting.

Final polls showed the two candidates neck-and-neck. Yesterday's runoff will determine whether Brazil remains one of Latin America's few leftist nations or joins a regional swing to the right.

US drone downed over port city of Bandar Abbas

Iran claims; FM Araghchi says renewed war would not change Tehran's stance after Trump's threat

AGENCIES

Iran's army claimed Sunday that its air defense forces shot down and destroyed a US Lucas-type drone over the southern port city of Bandar Abbas, the semi-official Tasnim news agency reported.

Citing the military's public relations department, the agency said the drone was destroyed "by the fire of the Air Defense Force's systems, under the country's integrated air defense network."

The reported incident came after US President Donald Trump said Saturday that Washington could strike Iran as soon as yesterday or reach a "big, beautiful" agreement with Tehran, amid reports that he was considering renewed attacks on the country.



Meanwhile, Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said yesterday that a potential resumption of war with Israel and the United States would not change his country's positions.

"Recently, there has been talk of a new war, but I am already thinking about the post-war period. Whether there is war or not, our policies remain the same," said Araghchi during a televised event in Tehran.

"They have already done so twice and have seen the results. If they want to try again, they know they will achieve no different outcome from those of the past."

An April 8 ceasefire between Iran and the US put an end to the most intense fighting, apart from sporadic exchanges of fire in and around the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

In a separate development, Iran's armed forces attacked bases belonging to an Iranian Kurdish opposition group in Iraq's Kurdistan region using drones, a media outlet in Tehran reported yesterday.

"As part of a drone operation carried out by the Revolutionary Guards' ground forces, the headquarters of the terrorist and separatist group Komala, located in the Balisan region, was targeted last night," the Mehr news agency said.

Government of the People`s Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD
Bandarban Road Division, Bandarban.
Email: eebanrhd@gmail.com

Memo.No-35.01.0300.401.16.014.26-1904 Dated: 25-10-2026

e-Tender Notice

This is to notify that the below mentioned e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP system portal (http://www.e-procure.gov.bd) for Procurement of works/goods under Road Division Bandarban. Interested persons/firms can see details of the Tenders to visit the website www.eprocure.gov.bd

Sl. No	Tender No & Tender ID	Name of work	Tender Document Last selling Date & Time Closing and opening Date & Time
01	1359186 LTM/22/EE/ RHD/Bban/ 2026-2027	Repair of U-Shape Brick massonry Drain (without Top Slab) at chainage: 20+130 (Location: Lama Colege) of 21st km of Chiringya (Fasiakhali)-Lama Alikadam Road (Z-1005) of Bandarban Road Sub-Division-01 under Bandarban Road Division during the Year 2026-2027.	04-Nov-2026 16:30:00 PM 05-Nov-2026 12:00:00 PM
02	1359188 LTM/23/EE/ RHD/Bban/ 2026-2027	Estimate for Renovation work by Painting of Existing Bridge Golden Temple and Sangu Bridge according to 56th KM(p) & 60th KM(p) of Rangamati (Ghagra)-Chandragona-Bangalhalia-Bandarban (R-161) Road under Bandarban Road Division during the Year 2026-2027.	04-Nov-2026 16:30:00 PM 05-Nov-2026 12:00:00 PM
03	1359249 OTM/25/EE/ RHD/Bban/ 2026-2027	Estimate for existing road providing by flexible pavement carpeting with seal coat (two side bridge approach) at 1st km (Ch. 00+513 to 0+633)= 120 m at 1st km (Ch. 00+708 to 0+833)= 245 m and protective toe wall (Ch. 00+917 to 0+932)= 15 m Tewarikhil-Rajvila Road (Z-1014) under Road Division Bandarban during the year 2026-2027.	04-Nov-2026 16:30:00 PM 05-Nov-2026 12:00:00 PM

২৫/১০/২৬
Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Bandarban.

GD-2582

বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয়
সদস্য ভবন শাখা
www.parliament.gov.bd

'উন্মুক্ত নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি'

	প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম	:	বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয়
১.	নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তির নম্বর ও তারিখ	:	নম্বর-১১.০০.০০০০.০০০.৬০৯.৪৫.০০১৩.২৬.২৩০ তারিখ: ২৫ অক্টোবর ২০২৬
২.	দরপত্রের নাম	:	নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি;
৩.	নিলামের সংক্ষিপ্ত বিবরণ	:	জাতীয় সংসদ ভবন এবং নাখালপাড়াস্থ সংসদ সদস্য ভবন এলাকার ১৮৪টি আম গাছ, ১৫৫টি কাঁঠাল গাছ এবং ২১৪টি নারিকেল গাছে যে সকল ফল হচ্ছে/হবে তা ০১ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৬ হতে ৩০ নভেম্বর ২০২৭ পর্যন্ত (এক বছর) সময়ে যে সকল ফল (যেমন- আম, কাঁঠাল ও নারিকেল) উৎপন্ন হবে তা বিক্রয়ের নিমিত্ত নিলাম;
৪.	নিলাম কার্যাদি সম্পাদনের স্থান	:	এলডি হল, শের-ই-বাংলা নগর (এমপি হোস্টেল), জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা;
৫.	নিলামে অংশ গ্রহণের যোগ্যতা	:	(ক) যে কোন ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠান নিলাম ডাকে অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবেন; (খ) ব্যক্তির ক্ষেত্রে জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র এবং প্রতিষ্ঠানের ক্ষেত্রে ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, টিআইএন এর ফটোকপি জমা প্রদান করতে হবে; (গ) উন্মুক্ত নিলাম ডাকে অংশগ্রহণে ইচ্ছুক ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্রতিনিধি কর্তৃক নিলাম ডাকের পূর্বে নগদ ১,০০,০০০/- (এক লক্ষ) টাকা জামানত হিসেবে নিলাম কমিটির নিকট জমা দিতে হবে; (ঘ) উন্মুক্ত নিলাম ডাক সম্পাদন হওয়ার ০৭(সাত) কার্যদিবসের মধ্যে সফল ডাককারীকে ডাকের সমুদয় অর্থ জমা প্রদান করতে হবে; এবং (ঙ) সফল ডাককারীর ১,০০,০০০/- (এক লক্ষ) টাকা জামানত হিসেবে কর্তৃপক্ষের নিকট এক বছরের জন্য জমা থাকবে। নির্দিষ্ট মেয়াদ শেষে জামানতের টাকা ফেরত প্রদান করা হবে।
৬.	নিলাম ডাক সম্পাদনের তারিখ ও সময়	:	(ক) আগামী ১২.১১.২০২৬ তারিখ সকাল ১১:০০ টায় প্রকাশ্যে এলডি হলে উন্মুক্ত নিলাম ডাক অনুষ্ঠিত হবে; (খ) উন্মুক্ত নিলাম ডাকে অংশগ্রহণে ইচ্ছুক ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্রতিনিধি নিলাম ডাকে অংশগ্রহণের পূর্বে আম, কাঁঠাল ও নারিকেল গাছ সরেজমিনে দেখতে পারবেন।
৭.	বিশেষ শর্তাবলী	:	(ক) উন্মুক্ত নিলাম ডাকে আগ্রহীগণ প্রয়োজনে নিম্ন স্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তর হতে প্রাসঙ্গিক তথ্যাবলী জানতে পারবেন; (খ) কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে নিলাম ডাক বাতিল কিংবা শর্তাদি পরিবর্তনের সকল ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

২৫/১০/২০২৬
(কফিল উদ্দিন মাহমুদ)
সিনিয়র সহকারী সচিব
ফোনঃ ০২-৫৫০২৮৯৮৯

GD-2576

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Bangladesh Police
Office of the Superintendent of Police
Meherpur.

Memo No- 4660/E Date: 25/10/2026

e-Tender Notice

e-Tenders is invited in the national e-Gp portal (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of the following Goods.

SL. NO	Tender Id No	Name of Good	Type, Method	Last Selling Date and Time	Closing Date and Time
1.	1359034	Repair and painting works of kumaridanga police camp upder Gangni police station in Meherpur district.	NCT OTM	09/11/2026: 15:30	10/11/2026: 12:00
2.	1359037	Repair and painting works of Dhala police camp upder Gangni police station in Meherpur district.	NCT OTM	09/11/2026: 15:30	10/11/2026: 12:00
3.	1359069	Repair and painting works of Ratanpur police camp upder Mujibagar police station in Meherpur district.	NCT OTM	09/11/2026: 15:30	10/11/2026: 12:00

1. This is an Online tender, where only-e-tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline hardcopies will be accepted.
2. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (http://www.eprocure.gob.bd) is required.
3. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP Portal have to be deposited through online at any branches of registered Bank.
4. Further information and guidelines are available in National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

25.10.2026
Ali Haider Chowdhury
BP-8210126903
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Meherpur District
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GD-2577

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

Ramp up health worker recruitment

Coordinated planning is a must to improve healthcare services

Our healthcare system cannot provide quality services with inadequate healthcare workers to meet patients' needs. Despite an increase in the number of doctors, nurses and midwives in recent years, the country remains far below the World Health Organisation's recommended threshold. According to the latest health ministry data, the country had only 15.16 doctors, nurses and midwives per 10,000 people in 2025, against the WHO benchmark of 44.5. At the current pace of training and recruitment, this density is projected to reach 31.77 by 2030, leaving a substantial gap. To match the country's growing healthcare needs, the government therefore needs a comprehensive workforce plan.

While the recommended ratio is one doctor to three nurses and midwives and five allied health professionals, including laboratory and imaging technologists, our hospitals have fewer than one nurse or midwife for every doctor and fewer than two allied health workers. Successive governments have often emphasised recruiting doctors without giving equal attention to nurses and other essential professionals. In our public hospitals, wards designed for around 24 patients sometimes accommodate 48 or more, while doctors at upazila health complexes may have to see 100-150 outpatients a day, leaving them barely a few minutes for each consultation. Specialist services are similarly overstretched, with patients waiting months for appointments and some specialists attending to hundreds of patients a day. Such conditions are hardly conducive to proper diagnosis, treatment and follow-up care. They also place an unreasonable burden on existing health workers.

Successive governments have often emphasised recruiting doctors without giving equal attention to nurses and other essential professionals.

The growing disease burden makes these gaps even more concerning. Non-communicable diseases require regular monitoring and long-term treatment, while maternal and child healthcare needs remain high. The country must also address communicable diseases and recurring dengue outbreaks that put additional pressure on hospitals. Without sufficient health workers, these multiple healthcare needs will continue to overwhelm facilities and limit access to timely treatment, particularly for people in rural areas who have fewer alternatives to public healthcare.

However, the government's acknowledgement of the shortage and announcement of plans to create around one lakh additional posts for health workers is positive. It has decided to recruit 5,000 doctors, while proposals to create 15,000 nursing posts and recruit around 25,000 midwives over the coming years are under consideration or in progress. These initiatives must translate into actual appointments within clear timelines. The authorities must also expand training capacity, improve working conditions and ensure health workers are supported well enough to remain in public service.

Workforce planning must also guide the government's recent decisions on hospital expansion. The government's plan to expand upazila health complexes to 151 beds each cannot succeed without adequate doctors, nurses, medical technologists, equipment, space and operating budgets. In other words, we need a balanced, adequately staffed workforce capable of meeting patients' needs at every level of care.

Why relax safeguards in shipyards?

Reconsider the decision to reclassify shipbreaking

The government's recent decision to downgrade shipbreaking yards from "red" to "orange" category, potentially easing the environmental assessment requirements, is a dangerous move that may backfire. In fact, we fail to see how this move could be justified when recent incidents raised the need for stricter safeguards. In an industry widely known for being occupationally and environmentally hazardous, risking workers' safety and known environmental damage is indeed baffling.

The stakes are quite clear. Even with the existing safeguards, at least 150 workers have been killed and 264 injured in shipbreaking accidents in Chattogram's Sitakunda—where most of the country's shipbreaking yards are located—between 2015 and 2026 (till October), according to records maintained by the Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS). In August this year, 10 workers died from toxic gas exposure while dismantling a scrapped ship at Ferdous Steel Ship Recycling Yard. Ferdous Steel was one of the 23 "green" yards, which means it had checked all the safety boxes on paper. However, safety deficiencies were identified during an inspection six months before the accident. Ferdous Steel was also flagged by the authorities for repeatedly flouting labour law. If even certification cannot guarantee basic safety, the government should be strengthening monitoring rather than relaxing scrutiny.

Under the Environment Conservation Rules 2023, shipbreaking activities and yards fall under the red category because of their potential impacts on the environment and human health. The existing approval process includes an environmental impact assessment (EIA), public consultation, and scrutiny by the Department of Environment. Reclassifying the industry may make the EIA discretionary rather than obligatory, depriving regulators and the affected communities of a crucial means of assessing risks. Industry representatives argue that environmental clearance takes around 90 days and imposes financial costs. These concerns certainly deserve attention, but the solution is making approvals faster and more transparent, not lowering safety standards. Moreover, a decision affecting coastal ecosystems, public health and workers' safety should not have been made without consulting the relevant experts.

Lowering safeguards to boost industrial growth and attract investment can never be a solution. Strict enforcement of the existing measures is essential, including regular independent inspections, adequate protective equipment, effective emergency response and meaningful penalties for violations. A competitive shipbreaking industry should be measured by its ability to protect the workers and the environment, not by the speed and volume of business it brings in.

A roadmap for closing the skills gap in our logistics sector



Ahamedul Karim Chowdhury is former head of Kamalapur Inland Container Depot and Pangaon Inland Container Terminal, and an adjunct faculty member at Bangladesh Maritime University.

■ **AHAMEDUL KARIM CHOWDHURY**

A new container terminal, a faster railway connection or a modern customs platform may improve Bangladesh's logistics capacity. Still, none can deliver its full value if the people operating the equipment, processing cargo, managing data, and coordinating across institutions are not adequately prepared. Developing a skilled workforce is not a supporting activity to be addressed after infrastructure investment. It is part of the infrastructure that makes logistics work.

This is an area that needs significant work. The National Logistics Policy (NLP) 2025, approved by the interim government, devotes an entire chapter to human resources and skills development. Last month, the BNP government formed five working groups to implement that policy, including one tasked with identifying logistics skills gaps and assessing workforce requirements. Bangladesh therefore needs neither a fresh policy declaration nor another committee. It needs an executable skills roadmap.

That roadmap should be driven by the newly formed skills development working group, with the National Skills Development Authority (NSDA) as its technical anchor, consistent with the government's formal allocation of responsibilities. NSDA's legal mandate already covers forecasting skills demand, coordinating public and private training, occupational standards, assessment, certification and recognition of prior learning. Its task should not be to teach every course itself, but to connect institutions and employers through one coherent national framework.

The problem we face is not an absolute absence of training. Chittagong Port Authority has its training institute (CPATI); Bangladesh Maritime University (BMU) offers education in port management and logistics; DCCI Business Institute provides supply-chain and trade courses; while companies and professional associations organise their own programmes. The weakness is that these initiatives do not yet constitute a sufficiently integrated, demand-led system spanning public agencies, port users and the wider supply chain. A certificate earned in one setting may not correspond to a recognised occupational standard or a clear path to advancement elsewhere.

So, the first step should be to map the workforce before undertaking any training programmes. Within its first 100 days, the working group should approve an occupational mapping exercise covering ports, terminal operators, shipping agencies, freight forwarders, customs-facing service providers, inland container depots, off-docks, warehouses, road and rail transport, and export-oriented supply chains. Public and private employers should identify job roles, existing qualifications, vacancies, emerging technologies and likely changes in demand. The resulting baseline should guide all subsequent investment.

The second step is to agree on the skills each occupation requires. Crane and reach-stacker operators need equipment competence, safe lifting practices, and practical assessments. Yard planners need knowledge of cargo flow and terminal systems. Shipping and forwarding staff must understand bills of lading, manifests, delivery procedures, multimodal documents, and international commercial practice. Warehouse and Inland Container Depot (ICD) staff need inventory control, discipline in bonded operations and safety. Supervisors need performance management, problem-solving and the ability to manage exceptions rather than merely follow routine instructions.

Digitalisation makes this exercise more urgent. Bangladesh is introducing or expanding electronic platforms across customs, ports, and trade processes. Training a person to click through a screen is not the same as teaching that person the legal and operational logic behind a declaration, cargo release or container movement. Training programmes must distinguish ordinary system users from process owners and super-users, and from the ICT specialists responsible for data exchange, interoperability, cybersecurity, and system continuity. Every major digital rollout should have a corresponding workforce-transition plan, with practice environments, trainers and post-launch support.

The third step is to turn job requirements into nationally recognised competency standards and modular qualifications. NSDA can guide the standards, provider approval and independent assessment, while employers help validate the content. Recognition of Prior Learning is essential: experienced operators, documentation specialists and logistics workers should have a credible way to demonstrate competence without repeating everything they have learned on the job. Short, stackable credentials can allow young entrants and mid-career employees to progress towards larger qualifications.

A meaningful partnership with industry is indispensable. Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and other exporter groups can specify factory-to-port logistics requirements; Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) and Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) can mobilise businesses and regional training demand; Bangladesh Freight Forwarders Association (BAFFA) can contribute freight-forwarding expertise; shipping-agent associations can shape shipping documentation and port-call courses; and Bangladesh Inland Container Depots Association (BICDA), customs clearing and forwarding (C&F) agents' associations, transport operators and terminal companies can provide practical training opportunities at their operating facilities. These bodies should nominate practitioners, validate curricula, provide apprenticeships, and help finance training—not simply attend consultation meetings.

Delivery should be distributed, not monopolised. CPATI could serve as a port-operations and equipment-skills centre, while BMU supports managerial learning, research, and executive education. Customs authorities can support compliance and digital-declaration modules for public officials and private users alike. Chambers, associations and accredited vocational providers can deliver specialist courses in Dhaka, Chattogram, Mongla and other logistics clusters. The working group's role would be to set priorities, connect providers and measure results.



VISUAL: **SALMAN SAKIB SHAHRYAR**

International practice offers adaptable lessons here. UN Trade and Development's TrainForTrade Port Management Programme, for example, brings public and private port-community professionals into common learning networks and develops local instructors. Singapore's Maritime Cluster Fund co-finances workforce development by maritime companies. FIATA has internationally benchmarked freight-forwarding diplomas, although local delivery requires its formal validation. Bangladesh can learn from these approaches without importing another costly institutional structure.

Funding arrangements must reward outcomes. A modest, transparent programme could combine government skills allocations, development-partner assistance and employer co-financing. Public support should prioritise agreed occupations and accredited courses, with companies contributing training places, equipment access, instructors or cash. Training contracts should be judged not only by attendance and certificates but by fewer documentation errors, safer cargo handling, higher equipment productivity, more reliable digital transactions, job placement and career progression.

The programme must also include people who are frequently overlooked: women entering operational and technical occupations, experienced workers without formal certificates, smaller freight and transport businesses, and seafarers seeking suitable shore-based careers. The transition to automated equipment and electronic documentation should be accompanied by reskilling, not treated as a procurement exercise disconnected from employment. Better English, communication, customer-service and leadership skills are equally important in a sector that connects Bangladesh to global supply chains.

The implementation calendar should be explicit. In the first 100 days, confirm the working group's responsibilities and industry participation, commission the skills map, and select three to five pilot occupations. Within 12 months, complete the initial employer-demand study, publish draft standards, train instructors and launch pilot assessments in both a digital role and an equipment or operations role. Over three years, expand recognised qualifications, apprenticeships and regional delivery centres, supported by an NSDA-linked logistics skills dashboard that reports employment and operational outcomes.

There is no reason to wait until another port is built or another software system goes live. The NLP has already recognised the human-capital challenge; the new working group provides a mechanism for action. What is now needed is disciplined coordination between NSDA, operational agencies, education providers and the businesses that employ logistics workers. Bangladesh's ambition to become a competitive trade and logistics hub will depend as much on the competence of its people as on the capacity of its infrastructure.

COP31 must prioritise climate displacement



Farah Kabir is country director at ActionAid Bangladesh.

■ **FARAH KABIR**

By 2050, Bangladesh could see 1.33 crore of its population becoming internal climate migrants, according to the Asian Development Bank's Asia-Pacific Climate Report 2026. The report links this risk to rising seas, water scarcity, and declining agricultural productivity. Who pays when people lose homes, land and livelihoods to a crisis they did little to create?

Disasters already displaced people within Bangladesh 1.47 crore times between 2014 and 2023. These are displacement movements, not distinct individuals. Separately, an assessment by the International Organization for Migration, together with the Bangladesh government, estimated that nearly 50 lakh people were internally displaced by disasters when data were collected from September and October in 2025. Nearly 63 percent were displaced before April 2020. The last figure covers disaster-induced displacement, not climate-attributable displacement alone.

Displacement strips away far more than a home. Families can lose land, income, savings, education, healthcare, and the social networks that sustain them. Women lose the few assets they may have, as well as compensation rights, while shouldering more unpaid care. Persons with disabilities, older people and marginalised communities face further barriers when assistance and infrastructure are inaccessible. Communities are not passive victims. They diversify livelihoods, draw on family networks, borrow money, sell assets, move temporarily for work, or migrate when staying becomes untenable. These strategies show ingenuity, but also the limits of adaptation when households exhaust savings, take on debt, or leave home to survive.

Mobility can be part of adaptation when people have information, resources, rights, and genuine choices. Without safe shelter or viable livelihoods, distress-driven displacement deepens impoverishment. Policy must support people before, during and after movement.

Bangladesh has established foundations for action. Its National Strategy on Internal Displacement Management, 2021 and National Action Plan (2022-2042) provide a framework for durable solutions. The National Adaptation Plan (2023-2050) and Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 offer further instruments. The National Framework and Action Plan for Locally Led Adaptation, launched in February 2026, offers an opportunity to connect community priorities with public investment. It is critical to integrate development plans with climate action. The test is whether commitments reach people where they live and those already forced to move. That requires a shift in how adaptation is financed.

Funding must support community-led risk reduction, resilient housing, freshwater, livelihood diversification, early warning, and social protection. It must also recognise mobility as a legitimate adaptation response where staying is no longer safe or viable. Local organisations and displaced people need accessible, predictable funding and real influence over decisions.

The adaptation fund and other mechanisms must turn locally led adaptation commitments into support for displaced and displacement-prone communities. The Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage has a different, complementary role: addressing harms that cannot be prevented through mitigation and adaptation alone. Its resources must help people recover from destroyed homes, lost land and livelihoods, disrupted communities, and cultural losses. Neither form of finance should be reduced to emergency relief after disaster strikes.

Durable solutions require more. Destination towns need affordable housing, decent work, transport, healthcare, education, and social protection. National policies must anticipate movement, preparing likely destination towns and cities with climate-resilient infrastructure and essential services, alongside social protection systems that can reach newly displaced people and host communities.

At COP31, leaders must confront the gap between climate promises and people already adapting, moving and rebuilding. Major emitters who continue to emit must cut emissions faster and honour climate finance obligations. Finance must be adequate, accessible and grant-based, without adding to the debt burdens constraining public investment.

Bangladesh must implement its plans and prepare towns and cities receiving displaced people. But disasters don't strike a level playing field: they deepen existing inequalities, push already disadvantaged households further into poverty, and make recovery harder with every successive shock. That's precisely why the country cannot be left to finance a global crisis alone. Those who contributed least to climate change must not be left to bear its greatest human costs—first through the loss of home and livelihood, then through systems that fail to protect their rights and support recovery.

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Dhaka built flyovers and a metro, but forgot the bus



Dhrubo Alam is deputy transport planner at Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority.

■ DHRUBO ALAM

More than a decade ago, four of us at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) wrote a paper titled "Bus Rapid Transit (BRT): What is it and Why Do We Need it for Dhaka." The argument was not complicated. Dhaka had over 1.5 crore people making about 2.1 crore trips a day. Buses were only 9.7 percent of the vehicles on the road but carried 77 percent of public transport users. More than 5,500 buses and minibuses were run by a crowd of small companies with no schedule at all. The low-income group, 48 percent of the population, made 73 percent of walking trips and 41 percent of transit trips. Fix the bus, we said, and you fix the city for the people who need it most.

Look at where we are now. We could not even restructure bus operations. We could not make the government see what the industry should look like, or accept that it needs public money to get there. We built flyovers, an expressway, and a metro, while ordinary people, the urban poor, above all, are still stuck in traffic.

Where the money went

MRT Line-6 cost Tk 33,472 crore. On September 16, Ecnec approved three more metro lines with a combined cost of nearly Tk 2.5 lakh crore. Construction cost of the Dhaka Elevated Expressway alone was estimated at Tk 8,940 crore. The bus, meanwhile, has received pilot projects and press conferences, and the contrast is not presented here as an argument against the metro. In fact, Line-6 carried a record 499,756 passengers on September 10, 2026, and it is a good service. But it is one corridor, and its fare of Tk 5 per km is about double the bus rate. Prothom Alo reported last month that an end-to-end metro trip costs Tk 90, against a government bus fare of about Tk 50 for the same distance, and that poor people are rarely seen on the trains.

The report also stated that ticket revenue was around Tk 400 crore last fiscal year, against loan instalments of between Tk 465 crore and Tk 740 crore a year from 2025 to 2031. If the state is willing to carry that gap for a line used mostly by the middle and upper-middle class, it cannot claim that supporting buses is unaffordable. Congestion is the bill we already pay. Buet's Accident Research Institute (ARI) put the annual loss at Tk 37,000 crore in 2018 and about Tk 56,000 crore in 2020. The World Bank found average speeds had fallen from 21 km/h to under 7 km/h in a decade. In 2018, the institute's then director, Prof Dr Moazzem Hossain, argued that a Tk 1,000 crore subsidy in the transport sector could return Tk 5,000 crore. Nobody took up the offer.

The BRT that never was

Critics would say, pointing to the Gazipur–Airport BRT, that attempts have been made to improve bus transit, but failed. ECNEC approved the project in December 2012 at Tk 2,040 crore. Revisions pushed the cost to Tk 4,268 crore, and The Daily Star reports that around Tk 2,800 crore of that has already been spent. Ecnec sent back a fourth revision of Tk 6,598 crore. A Buet review this year (2026) recommended dropping BRT operations altogether and turning the lanes into a tolled road. Not one dedicated bus was bought. Before even operating for a single day, the project was scrapped.

That is a failure of planning and execution, not of buses. A 20 km stub that ends at the airport, never connected to the city and never given an operator, was never going to work. In 2006, when Bogotá launched its BRT system TransMilenio, the number of buses on its busiest link was reduced from 650 to about 270 an hour and yet speed increased from 18 to 26 km/h, because the system ran as a network with one operating logic. Guangzhou's BRT raised bus speeds by 29 percent. Converting our corridor into a toll road for cars would turn a bad project into a permanent loss for bus users, or rather for all public transport users.



A city **of over two crore people, with the majority urban poor, moves on buses that are badly needed.** FILE PHOTO: **RASHED SHUMON**

An industry built to race

Only 98 of Dhaka's 418 approved bus routes are operational, served by more than 7,000 buses. Most crews work on daily deposit, the "chukti" or "zoma" system. The owner is paid a fixed sum each day, and the crew keeps only what is left after fuel and roadside payments. So, they race, block the road, and stop wherever a passenger waves. The owners' association promised in 2019 to end daily contracts. It did not. Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) estimated in March 2024 that Tk 1,059.37 crore is extorted from private buses each year, a figure TIB itself called "very conservative", and found politicians involved in managing about 92 percent of the largest bus companies. After August 2024, the faces at the top of the owners' association changed. The system did not.

This is why Dhaka Nagar Paribahan stalled. It started on December 26, 2021, with 50 buses on the Ghatarchar–Kanchpur route, but private operators did not join, and in February 2025 it was relaunched on a single route because owners resisted. We asked owners to give up daily cash for a franchise with no guaranteed income. No sensible operator accepts that deal.

What must happen now

The prime minister ordered one designated company per route: franchises for 32 routes finalised within two months, and the full system running within six months. We welcome it. Here is how we can make this attempt different.

First, use gross-cost contracts. Pay operators a fixed rate per km for running scheduled services to a set standard, and send fare revenue to a public account. When income stops depending on how many passengers a driver grabs, the race ends. Second, make salaried crews a condition of every franchise. Third, fund the gap. Since the publication of our paper, the city fare has followed diesel from Tk 2.45 per km down to Tk 2.42, then up to Tk 2.53 and now Tk 2.70. Every rise hammers the poorest riders. The World Bank's $290 million Clean Air Project already plans 400 electric buses under gross-cost contracts, but unfortunately the procurement has slipped. This needs to be approved, because it will change the shape of the bus sector and the look of the buses in Dhaka.

Other countries treat bus subsidy as normal. Jakarta has kept the Transjakarta fare at 3,500 Indonesian rupiah since 2005, and the city pays about 9,700 Indonesian rupiah per passenger on top. India's PM e-Bus Sewa scheme puts 10,000 electric buses on gross-cost contracts, backed by a 3,435 crore Indian rupees fund that guarantees operators are paid even if a city defaults. In addition to similar subsidy models, the draft Route Franchise Act should be finalised and approved, buses should get priority lanes, and the routes should be enforced.

A city of over two crore people, a great many of whom are urban poor, cannot move on metros and flyovers alone. It moves on buses, and it needs them badly. The people standing at Mohakhali in the rain do not write columns or sit on committees, and the bus is the only service the state offers them. Somebody has to make the case for it. A chance like this does not come around twice, and if we let this one go, we will be writing the same article in 2040.

Crop insurance needs a clear plan before it can take off



Swarupam Barua is an economics research professional working on climate finance, monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL), and socioeconomic data analysis in Bangladesh.

■ SWARUPAM BARUA

On March 18, Agriculture Minister Amin Ur Rashid said at a rice distribution event in Cumilla that farmers whose crops are lost to floods or other disasters will be compensated through insurance. On May 8, State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Aninda Islam Amit reiterated the pledge while inaugurating the government's Boro paddy procurement drive for the current season. The Farmers Card, which lists agricultural insurance among its 10 promised benefits, is supposed to carry this insurance.

There is no information yet on who will pay the premium, what will trigger a payout, who will sell the policy, or who will regulate it. That the second announcement came from a power minister at a paddy procurement event suggests that no ministry has claimed the design. But these decisions will determine whether the scheme survives or not, and Bangladesh already has a case showing how it could go wrong.

The state-owned Sadharan Bima Corporation (SBC) ran a crop insurance scheme from 1977 to 1995. It insured 18,782 farmers in all and claims averaged 508 percent of premiums a year. Premium rates were capped at 3 to 5 percent, below what the risk required, and the scheme had no government subsidy and no reinsurance. SBC carried the losses itself and suspended the scheme in 1995. Weak demand played a part, but design may be the bigger cause since a product priced below cost would have struggled even with willing buyers.

The pilots since then show that delivery is possible. In 2014, SBC and the Asian Development Bank enrolled at least 9,641 policyholders in Rajshahi, Sirajganj, and Noakhali, backed by 20 weather stations and a 50-percent premium subsidy. Green Delta Insurance has gone further, as its weather-index programmes grew from 215 farmers in 2015 to 15.3 lakh in 35 districts by 2025, with about Tk 18.8 crore paid to 3,36,000 claimants.

If those numbers hold, delivery would no longer be a weak point. What is still missing is public backing, that is, a legal basis for index cover and premium support for farmers who cannot pay. Trust is a second gap, because a farmer who loses a crop while the index pays nothing is unlikely to renew.

My view is that premium support should go to the poorest farmers only, with an end date and with the budget naming where the money comes from. The trigger decides whether farmers believe in the product or not. An index pays on rainfall or river levels, and what it records can differ from what happened in a farmer's field.

The first question is about who pays. According to the Finance Division, revenue collection by the National Board of Revenue (NBR) was only 6.78 percent of GDP, while expenditure stood at 11.33 percent at the end of last year. India has shown how the bill grows, since its crop insurance scheme cost the government roughly 25,000 to 30,000 crore Indian rupees a year in 2022-24, or about $2.6 billion to $3.1 billion as per the current rate, and several states, including Bihar, Jharkhand, and West Bengal, have opted out of the scheme.

My view is that premium support should go to the poorest farmers only, with an end date and with the budget naming where the money comes from. The trigger decides whether farmers believe in the product or not. An index pays on rainfall or river levels, and what it records can differ from what happened in a farmer's field.

The 2014 pilot relied on 20 weather stations across three districts. In a choice experiment on one coastal island, most farmers were averse to insurance, and those who did choose cover preferred physical verification of losses to an index. The study dates from 2017 and covers one island, so it is a warning, not a verdict. Farmers who distrust the trigger may not renew.

The study of the aforementioned ADB pilot found a higher uptake of crop insurance schemes by farmers where NGOs and microfinance institutions acted as intermediaries. At a roundtable held last year, SBC's general manager said that regulators must clarify how microfinance institutions can legally distribute cover and be paid for it. The then chairman of the Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority (IDRA) offered one answer: a corporate agent model in which microfinance institutions and banks sell policies for a commission of up to 15 percent. Indeed, a generous commission would push premiums up and cancel part of any subsidy.

Of course, the law is yet to catch up. The same IDRA chairman said parametric cover falls outside the current indemnity-based insurance law and that the Insurance Act is being amended. Microfinance institutions answer to a different regulator, the Microcredit Regulatory Authority, so cover sold through them can fall between two rulebooks. The World Bank said in 2018 that the legal, regulatory and supervisory environment would need strengthening before any scheme. The government has not said whether its cover will be parametric. If it is, the amendment is what I would watch, because until it passes the scheme has no clear legal footing.

The obvious objection is cost. Reportedly, the agriculture ministry has shown reluctance regarding index cover, citing undue claims and existing subsidies. Waiving VAT on premiums has been proposed since 2022. Green Delta says dropping the 15 percent tax could widen cover, and a UNDP official said at the abovementioned roundtable it would cost revenue. These are fair points, and they are reasons to name a payer. Donors cannot be the plan, since the then IDRA chairman advised after COP30 last year that Bangladesh should expect to rely on its own resources. The recent pledge suggests the ministry's view has shifted, and it should say so.

The Ministry of Agriculture should publish a design note that answers the four questions by December 15, before Boro planting gathers pace. The Finance Division should show a premium-support line, with an end date, in the budget due in June 2027. Lastly, the IDRA should publish a timetable for the Insurance Act amendment by November 30. Without those answers, the pledge may only be a repetition of the 1977 venture, with better technology and the same arithmetic.

Regional Public Administration Training Centre
49 New Eskaton, Dhaka-1000
https://rpatcdhaka.portal.gov.bd

Ref No. 05.01.0000.061.07.031.25.677 Date: 19/10/2026

An e-GP Tender is hereby invited by the Deputy Director, Regional Public Administration Training Centre (RPATC), Dhaka, for the procurement of the following package(s). The Tender Document will be available on the National e-GP Portal (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd) from 25 October 2026 at 14:00 hours.

Sl	Tender ID & Ref No.	Name of package	Tender Publication date & time	Tender document last selling/	Last date and time for tender security submission	Tender Closing date & time
1)	**Tender ID: 1354421** Ref: 05.01.2672.000.061.07.003 1.25.01	Procurement of Training Materials (Training Bag, Name Badge, Pen and Note Pad) for RPATC, Dhaka	25/10/2026 14:00:00	11/11/2026 14:00:00	11/11/2026 15:00:00	11/11/2026 16:00:00
2)	**Tender ID: 1352131** Ref: 05.01.2672.000.061.07.003 1.25.29	Purchase of Printers for Office Use in RPATC, Dhaka	25/10/2026 14:00:00	11/11/2026 14:00:00	11/11/2026 15:00:00	11/11/2026 16:00:00
3)	**Tender ID: 1357184** Ref: 05.01.2672.000.061.07.003 1.25.15	Procurement of Seminar/Workshop Folder/Bag for Participants	25/10/2026 14:00:00	11/11/2026 14:00:00	11/11/2026 15:00:00	11/11/2026 16:00:00
4)	**Tender ID: 1357192** Ref: 05.01.2672.000.061.07.003 1.25.21	Printing of Annual Report of RPATC, Dhaka	25/10/2026 14:00:00	11/11/2026 14:00:00	11/11/2026 15:00:00	11/11/2026 16:00:00
5)	**Tender ID: 1357194** Ref: 05.01.2672.000.061.07.003 1.25.43	Procurement of Certificate Cover, Certificate Pages for Core Courses	25/10/2026 14:00:00	11/11/2026 14:00:00	11/11/2026 15:00:00	11/11/2026 16:00:00

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

(Mr. Mohammad Mahbubul Alam Majumder)
Deputy Director
E-mail: rpatcdhaka@yahoo.com

GD-2579

Lapse in security taints stellar concert: 'Rock & Rhythm 5.0' at JFP

SHAHBAZ NAHIAN



PHOTOS: SHAHBAZ NAHIAN

As I tried to enter the concert premises at Jamuna Future Park, a large group surged through security barriers made of bamboo poles tied with rope and covered with thin black fabric. A policeman was being overwhelmed and assaulted by a group. On the other end of the spectrum, a lone law enforcement officer waved his stick at people trying to flee. Elsewhere, armed police and security personnel stood watching, while some merely blew their whistles.

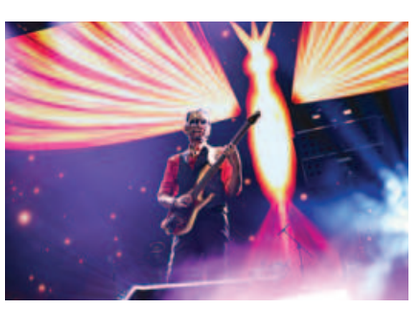
It took me more than 30 minutes to reach backstage. By then, I had missed a lot of the action.

The stark contrast between what happened on stage and off it defined ***Rock & Rhythm 5.0: No Limits in The Zone***. Organised by Adventor Communications at the Carnival Arena of Jamuna Future Park on Friday, October 23, the concert offered memorable performances alongside troubling security failures.

"Looks like they have overbooked the venue," a performer from one of the night's standout acts remarked during a conversation in the green room.

From intimate, ticketed concerts in living rooms to large festivals, audiences have been finding different ways to engage with the arts. Young people have been a visible part of that participation. Friday's concert offered another reminder of the enthusiasm surrounding live music—and the responsibility that comes with bringing so many people together.





Beyond the disorder, the night delivered musical moments that a social media reel could only partly convey.

The programme opened with A K Rahul featuring Black Zang, followed by Hasan with Ark. Oni Hasan's band, featuring Jamshed Chowdhury, then tore through the venue with the heaviest setlist of the night. Later, Shunno took to the stage with original member Shaker Raza for a mesmerising performance.

During Aurthohin's set, Shishir ascended on a boom lift to perform atop four stacked shipping containers. Bassbaba emerged through the middle of the stage on a scissor lift, performed his signature bass flip, and played with his teeth.

Warfaze followed, bringing Oni Hasan on stage midway through their set. Like Bassbaba, he emerged from the middle of the stage. For roughly 25 minutes, ***Na***, ***Purnota***, and ***Boshey Achi*** brought an earlier chapter of the band's history back into view. It was a chance for younger listeners to experience that lineup and for longtime fans to revisit it.

Another standout was Dibbomoy Chakraborty Rizu, the new drummer in Oni Hasan's band. Playing his first major show, the teenager delivered one of the night's most commanding performances.

In the final hour, James held the crowd spellbound with Nagar Baul classics.

The staging was ambitious. The lifts and towering containers gave the performances a striking visual dimension, while entrances from beneath the stage added an element of surprise. Yet those moments sat uneasily alongside the disorder at the entrance.

Adventor Co-founder Nehal Hossain acknowledged that the evening had not gone as intended.

"As organisers, we always try to add new things to our audience's concert experience. This time, we also tried to host the biggest open-air concert of the year, bring in a memorable lineup, and try things that have never been done before. We tried our best, but things didn't go as planned. I am having mixed feelings. We will try to recover from this," he told The Daily Star.

He also appealed to those forcing their way into concerts:

"To the people who mob and ruin everyone's concert experience – please at least try to respect the artistes and organisers. We put a lot of effort and funding into arranging a show. We never oversell tickets, but because of the mobs, we get a lot of blame. I hope they will stop."

The performances gave the audience plenty to remember, but the scenes outside the stage area served as a stark reminder that a great concert experience also depends on being able to enter, watch, and leave safely.

EVENTS

'The Fold Fest Bangladesh'



Celebrating World Origami Days 2026, Kun Creative Studio presents ***The Fold Fest Bangladesh***, an independent showcase of paper-folding art. Through hands-on workshops, mathematical seminars, and collaborative installations, the festival turns simple paper sheets into intricate sculptures, blending geometry, imagination, and community craft.

Date: Saturday–Wednesday | October 24–November 11, 2026
Time: 5:00pm–9:00pm
Venue: Kun Creative Studio, Zigatola

'Animal Farm' returns to Shilpakala for two shows



Animal Farm, presented by the theatre department of Tagore University of Creative Arts, returns to the stage with two performances at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy today and tomorrow.

Both shows will begin at 7:00pm at the main auditorium of the National Theatre Hall in Dhaka.

Directed by Saidur Rahman Lipon, the play has been adapted by Nazrul Syed from George Orwell's political allegory ***Animal Farm***, published in 1945.

The production explores the abuse of power, the betrayal of revolutionary ideals, political deception, the distortion of history and the denial of ordinary people's rights—themes that continue to resonate today.

NEWS

BB fights on to curb family grip on banks

FROM PAGE 1

The new draft also tightens the conditions for anyone seeking to become a bank director or managing director.

Cabinet members, members of parliament, and local government representatives would be barred from serving as bank directors, a measure intended to limit political influence over lending decisions.

In a separate change, the central bank would be able to relax the current 10 percent cap on individual shareholdings for "strategic institutional investors" if it judged this beneficial for the sector. That could open the way for larger stakes by foreign or domestic institutions.

The proposals come as Bangladesh tries to clean up a banking system weighed down by bad debt. Non-performing loans stand at about 32.8 percent of the total, according to a September 15 report by Moody's Ratings.

Economists blame much of that on families and conglomerates that have used their banks to lend to their own businesses.

The Bangladesh Association of Banks, which represents owners, has lobbied hard against the reforms.

It argues that limiting family representation on boards would disrupt established ownership arrangements, shorter tenures would deprive boards of experience, and independent-majority boards would curtail shareholders' control.

- Only two family members to be allowed on bank board
- Directorships would be capped at six years

At a September 20 meeting at the Financial Institutions Division, the owners sought a three-seat limit for their families and a nine-year tenure for directors. Minutes of the meeting suggest officials were receptive to those arguments.

A senior finance ministry official told The Daily Star yesterday that an inter-ministerial meeting would review the draft before it goes to the cabinet.

"The goal is to place and pass the bill in the upcoming parliamentary session," the official said.

The cost of the banking crisis to the state has been rising. The interim government merged five failing private lenders into Sammilito Islami Bank, backed by Tk 20,000 crore from the budget.

The sector would need Tk 60,000 crore a year in public funds for the next five to eight years to make up for money plundered from banks, Governor Mostaqur said on October 10.

Moody's estimates the cost of recapitalising the system at about 10 percent of GDP.

Rules on bank governance have shifted with the political cycle. Following pressure from the owners, the tenure of bank directors was raised from six to nine years in 2018. The then government again pushed through a last-minute amendment in 2023, raising the tenure to 12 years.

Opposition lawmakers walked out of parliament in protest, with one of them calling bank directors the "masterminds of bank looting".

Jeddah mission

FROM PAGE 12

Arabia on October 14 without prior notification to Dhaka, according to the information presented to the committee.

They had been detained since August 2023 over separate allegations, one involving "cybercrime" and the other "adultery".

The foreign ministry informed the committee that Saudi Arabia had sent a list of around 2,500 prisoners about 14 days before the executions. The names of the two Bangladeshis were on the list, but their cases were not properly identified.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, committee chairman Zohra Adib Chowdhury said members wanted to know why the consulate had not acted earlier and whether there had been any negligence or shortcomings in the process.

"Bangladesh has good relations with Saudi Arabia. So why were we not informed earlier?" she said, adding that the incident pointed to weaknesses in the overall process.

Referring to the exchange of information 14 days before the executions, she said the ministry had acknowledged that the report had not been properly examined.

Asked why officials had mistaken the cases of the two executed Bangladeshis for ones carrying prison terms, a foreign ministry official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told The Daily Star that Saudi Arabia can impose the death penalty for cybercrimes involving online activities deemed to be directed against the kingdom.

"However, cybercrimes such as hacking, data theft or online fraud do not necessarily carry the death penalty," the official said.

"Saudi Arabia does have a history of imposing the death penalty for adultery, although such sentences are extremely rare. Available records show that Saudi courts have handed down prison sentences for adultery in previous years. So, it was difficult to realise from the conviction details that the two Bangladeshis had been sentenced to death, particularly as the sentence column was left blank in the shared lists," the official added.

The parliamentary committee also discussed reports of abuse of Bangladeshi women workers in Saudi Arabia and other Middle Eastern countries.

The foreign ministry informed the committee that around one to two per cent of Bangladeshi women workers in Saudi Arabia faced abuse. The committee asked the ministry to take necessary measures to bring such incidents down to zero.

Arrests in overdrive

FROM PAGE 12

groups of young people, many clad in all-black, attacking businesses in Barcelona after gathering in the city centre for a rally that had not been declared to the authorities.

In Portugal, police again cleared tents set up by protesters against skyrocketing housing prices overnight yesterday, with organisers criticising the brutality of the officers involved, reports Reuters.

In a message on X, the police said officers had "intervened early this [Sunday] morning... to put an end to these illegal encampments".

"Once dialogue ended, the operation led to 31 arrests for disobedience," the police added.

According to the force, 11 people were injured, of whom eight were civilians with the remaining three police officers, while 171 structures were taken down.

Cited in the Portuguese press, organisers of the movement put the toll at 37 protesters injured as a result of the police raids, most of them in Lisbon.

The protesters have accused the government of failing to act to tackle Portugal's housing crisis and trying to push through rent reforms to make eviction easier.

Marine Le Pen, France's far-right candidate to succeed President Emmanuel Macron in elections in six months, was due to give her first campaign speech later yesterday, a day after protests sweeping the country again flared into violence.

Le Pen -- the frontrunner according to surveys -- is seen to be benefiting in the polls from the convulsions France has been going through for weeks, punctuated by mass rallies and violent clashes on Saturday and a week earlier.

Two DGFI men

FROM PAGE 12

the toilet, the report said.

Shortly after, Mamun, Nuruzzaman, Mukul and another accused allegedly entered the flat, confined Sharif and threatened him and demanded Tk 10 lakh.

Sharif handed over Tk 70,000 in cash that he had brought to buy the motorcycle, according to the report. The accused then allegedly assaulted him and again demanded Tk 10 lakh.

Sharif then called his family and tried to arrange the money, the report said.

Around 3:00am yesterday, Mamun, Nuruzzaman, and Mukul allegedly took Sharif out of the flat and forced him into a white Toyota Probox driven by Ziaul. Mahfuzur was also in the vehicle.

They drove to a tea stall across the Shishu Hospital in Shyamoli and kept him in the car while the accused had tea, the report said.

Spotting a police pickup, Sharif jumped out of the car and told police what had happened.

Police detained Mamun, Nuruzzaman, Mukul, Mahfuzur, Ziaul, and seized the car.

Rasel Islam, a sub-inspector of the Mohammadpur Police Station and the investigating officer of the case, said Sharif filed the case accusing eight people -- the six arrestees and a woman and another person who were in the flat.

Sohel was also arrested around 7:00am, Rasel said in the report.

Tarique to meet Takaichi

FROM PAGE 12

On arrival, he is expected to meet separately with the president of the Japan-Bangladesh Parliamentary Friendship League and the chairman of the Japan-Bangladesh Committee for Commercial and Economic Cooperation.

He will later call on the president of the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

In the evening, he will attend a dinner hosted by the honorary chairman of the Nippon Foundation and the Sasakawa Peace Foundation.

He will then travel to Futtsu city in Chiba to visit JERA's LNG terminal and power plant. He is also scheduled to visit a Nippon Express logistics hub in Ichikawa City before returning to his residence.

On the third day, the prime minister will call on the president of the Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

He will also visit UNIQLO's Ariake office and meet its president and board members, followed by a meeting with the president of the Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO).

Tarique is scheduled to meet representatives of major Japanese companies, including Mitsui & Co, Sumitomo Corp and JERA.

He will also attend the Bangladesh-Japan Economic Forum at JETRO.

On the final day of the visit, he will visit a Toyota factory before departing for Dhaka.

During the visit, Dhaka and Tokyo are expected to sign five to eight instruments, according to officials involved with the proceedings.

The instruments are likely to include memorandums of understanding (MoUs) and memorandums of cooperation (MoCs) covering loans and financial support, agriculture, civil aviation, business climate development, development at the upazila level, official security assistance (OSA) for the Bangladesh Coast Guard, and energy cooperation, the officials said.

Bangladesh is expected to seek financial support, investment and development cooperation, while Japan is likely to focus on regional connectivity and improving the business climate.

The two countries are likely to agree on around $2 billion in loans and financial support, according to the officials.

The proposed package is expected to include $300 million in budgetary support, infrastructure development, and cooperation in energy and maritime security.

Mob kills 2

FROM PAGE 12

cause of death.

"According to preliminary information from local residents, the two men died after being beaten by a mob following the alleged theft of an auto-rickshaw," the OC said.

According to police and local residents, Sohel Mia, a resident of Bagpur Bagherhat village, noticed an auto-rickshaw being taken from his house early yesterday and raised the alarm. An announcement was then made over a nearby mosque's loudspeaker warning residents about the suspected theft.

Responding to the announcement, locals, including those who gathered for Fajr prayers, chased the two men as they fled with the vehicle.

The pair later abandoned the auto-rickshaw on the road and attempted to escape. However, locals caught them in a paddy field at Pukur Khurir Dola in the Uttar Panapukur area, about half a kilometre west of Sohel Mia's house.

They were subsequently beaten, killing them on the spot, witnesses said.

Comilla univ

FROM PAGE 12

did not die by suicide.

According to her family, Farzana married Nazmul, a former student of the same department, three years ago. The couple had been living in a rented house in Bhui Ghar for the past two and a half months because of Nazmul's job.

Her elder brother, Mohammad Ariful Islam, alleged that Nazmul had mistreated and physically assaulted Farzana. He said she had once left her husband's home and stayed with their parents in Brahmanbaria for four months before returning following a family settlement.

Farzana filed a case against Nazmul at the Senior Judicial Magistrate's Court in Brahmanbaria on January 23, 2026, alleging torture and dowry-related abuse. Her brother said she later withdrew the case.

Ariful said the family had been unable to reach Farzana by phone since 7:00pm on Saturday. Around 10:30pm, Nazmul called and told them that she had died by suicide. Ariful called for a thorough and fair investigation into her death, saying the possibility of a planned killing should be examined.

Sayeedi case

FROM PAGE 2

However, Sohrab Hossain Jewel, secretary of the district Jamaat's publicity and media department, denied the party's involvement, saying Jamaat did not support such activities.

At around 1:00am yesterday, police transported the body to Manik's home. About an hour later, he was buried in a re-excavated grave in the presence of family members and local residents.

On August 11, 2009, Manik filed a case against Sayeedi and four others with the court of the chief judicial magistrate in Pirojpur, accusing them of crimes committed during the 1971 Liberation War.

The International Crimes Tribunal later sentenced Sayeedi to imprisonment until death in the case. He died on August 14, 2023, while undergoing treatment in custody.



Residents, volunteers and municipal workers clear debris in a damaged residential area following a Ukrainian drone attack overnight in Belgorod, Russia, yesterday. Two people were killed and 13 others wounded, Russian authorities said. PHOTO: AFP

Dengue, measles rage on as govt drives fall short

FROM PAGE 3

continued spread to vaccination gaps, infections among children outside the target age group, and inadequate infection prevention and control measures.

Public health expert Mushtuq Husain said the dengue prevention drive remained largely symbolic and promotional, rather than scientific.

Dengue prevention requires year-round surveys to identify places where water accumulates and mosquitoes breed. Workers also need proper training to clean these sites instead of simply sweeping roads and public spaces, he said.

To reduce deaths, the government must decentralise treatment and strengthen primary and secondary healthcare, he said.

"Dengue testing should be available at the community level, particularly in densely populated areas, while high-risk patients should be monitored at upazila-level hospitals."

On measles, Mushtuq said the catch-up campaign lacked proper microplanning. Relying on estimates and telephone information instead of door-to-door surveys to identify children who had missed doses could leave vaccination gaps.

He also stressed the need to strengthen secondary healthcare, particularly for malnourished children and those in densely populated areas where infections spread rapidly.

"But the necessary steps are missing in both outbreaks," he told The Daily Star.

DENGUE

At least seven dengue patients died, and 2,249 others were hospitalised in the 24 hours until 8:00am yesterday, the highest single-day figure of the year, according to the Directorate General of Health Services.

This takes the year's dengue death toll to 384 and reported cases to 1,23,948.

Despite the prevention drive launched last month, October's dengue cases have already surpassed September's total.

The country recorded 44,328 cases in the first 25 days of October, against 43,774 in September. The daily average rose to around 1,773 from 1,459.

October has recorded 139 deaths so far, compared with 148 in September. The average daily death toll rose to around 5.56 from 4.93.

MEASLES

At least five patients died with measles-like symptoms in the 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday while 1,356 were detected with measles or symptoms.

October has recorded the highest daily averages of measles cases and hospital admissions in the last six months, according to DGHS data.

A total of 31,313 measles cases and 26,903 hospital admissions were recorded in the first 25 days of October.

The daily average of measles cases rose to 1,253 in October from 1,198 in September, exceeding May's average of 1,220.

The daily average of hospital admissions also rose to 1,076, compared with 1,045 in September and 1,023 in May.

The average daily death toll rose to 4.76 in October from 4.50 in September. The country recorded 119 deaths this month.

May remained the deadliest month, with 309 deaths and a daily average of 10.

DGHS Director General Prof Pravath Chandra Biswas could not be reached for comments.

PRAYER TIMING
OCTOBER 26

	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	4-50	12-45	4-00	5-32	7-15
JAMAAT	5-25	1-15	4-15	5-35	7-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Probe Purbachal raid, release arrestees

FROM PAGE 3

cameras to private gatherings during so-called anti-drug drives and media outlets for publishing participants' identities and portraying them as drug users before any offence had been established.

Such practices violated individuals' rights to privacy, dignity and protection of personal data, they said.

It described punishment based on personal disapproval of clothing, lifestyle or entertainment choices as "moral policing".

The signatories demanded copies of the sentencing orders, urgent judicial review and action against those responsible for unlawful disclosure of personal data.

Among them were economist Anu Muhammad, Transparency International Bangladesh Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman, Dhaka University teachers Tanzimuddin Khan and Rushad Faridi, rights activist Khushi Kabir, photographer Shahidul Alam, writer Rehnuma Ahmed and Supreme Court lawyers Sara Hossain and Sharif Bhuiyan.

Separately, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), Human Rights Support Society (HRSS), Naripokkho and Sopran demanded an independent investigation into possible abuse of power and rights violations.

They sought legal action under the Personal Data Protection Act, 2026, against those responsible for unlawfully collecting and circulating detainees' photographs, videos and identities.

DAP amendments

FROM PAGE 3

had been adequately assessed, particularly as Dhaka faces air and river pollution, shrinking waterbodies and open spaces, waterlogging, rising temperatures and unplanned development.

BAPA expressed particular concern over a provision allowing a designated open space in Shyampur to be used as a heavy industrial zone.

It warned that expanding heavy industries near the Buriganga, an Ecologically Critical Area (ECA), could worsen pollution from industrial waste, wastewater discharge, air emissions, noise and heavy vehicle movement, threatening the river ecosystem and public health.

Questioning additional FAR incentives of up to 0.5 for the Purbachal and Jhilmil residential projects, BAPA said such incentives should depend on whether local infrastructure could accommodate additional development, rather than solely on economic benefits or development potential.

The organisation urged RAJUK to disclose amendment proposals, technical assessments, committee recommendations, meeting records, expert opinions and institutional approvals.

It also demanded public hearings and consultations with environmentalists, urban planners, professional organisations, local communities and other stakeholders before major DAP changes.

Next polls

FROM PAGE 3

return under the extradition treaty.

"Our stance is clear," he added.

On Sajek, Salahuddin said the law and order situation had been brought under control.

He said several groups, including the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti, the United People's Democratic Front and their factions, had been involved in internal disputes and attempts to establish control over different areas during the tourism season.

The government and army had taken measures to maintain law and order, while talks with local leaders and headmen were continuing, he added.

Asked about allegations against an additional deputy inspector general of police over a raid at his house in Purbachol, Salahuddin said the officer had been attached and departmental proceedings would be initiated.

"We will follow all legal procedures. We will not consider anyone's identity," he said.

Implement July charter

FROM PAGE 3

at Jatiya Press Club to mark the first anniversary of the signing of the July charter.

Referring to the special committee formed to amend the constitution, Shafiqur said the opposition was being asked to join a process that could leave the referendum verdict unimplemented.

He argued that the existing constitution had not only given birth to fascism but also sought to make it permanent.

"The government will be bound to implement this referendum verdict," he said, adding that Jamaat would continue its movement to establish people's rights rather than pursue party-specific demands.

Shafiqur also responded to Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's remarks in Rajshahi on October 20, when the premier alleged that the ousted regime was sending money from across the border to a political party accused of spreading misinformation and trying to create instability.

"If money is coming from across the border, why are you in government? Why can't you stop it from entering the country?" Shafiqur said.

He also questioned the government's failure to prevent weapons and drugs from being smuggled across the border.

"A government that is incapable of preventing such unwanted activities has no right to govern the country," he added.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Export Promotion Bureau, Dhaka
TCB Bhaban, 1, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215
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File No. 26.02.0000.055.53.056.24.402

Date: 25/10/2026

Invitation for Applications for Allotment of Space in Pavilions, Stalls and Restaurants at the 31st Dhaka International Trade Fair (DITF) 2027

The **31st Dhaka International Trade Fair (DITF) 2027**, a month-long event, will be held from **01 to 31 January 2027** at the **Bangladesh-China Friendship Exhibition Center (BIGWAVE), Purbachal, Dhaka**. The Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), in collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, hereby invites applications from interested local and foreign companies, firms, entrepreneurs, businesspersons, sole proprietors, and government and non-government organizations for the allotment of space in various categories of pavilions, restaurants, stalls, and corners at DITF 2027.
Interested applicants are requested to submit their applications in accordance with the prescribed terms and conditions. Details regarding the available categories of space, application procedures, eligibility criteria, fees, and other relevant information are provided below.

1. Online Application:
1.1. Application Submission Link: https://mocservices.gov.bd/
1.2. Application Period:
- **Opening Date:** 27 October 2026
- **Closing Date and Time:** 11 November 2026, 04:00 p.m. (Bangladesh Standard Time, BST).

Applications must be submitted online through the designated portal within the stipulated application period. Applications submitted after the closing date and time will not be considered.

(A) Type/Category, Size, Application Processing Fee and Floor Rate of Pavilions, Restaurants and Stalls (Local):

Sl. No.	Type/Category of Pavilion/Restaurant/Stall	Size (Feet)	Application Processing Fee (Including VAT and Tax) (Non-refundable)	Floor Rate (Lowest Rent/Royalty, excluding VAT and Tax)
1	Premier Pavilion Platinum (PPP)	50' × 50'	Tk. 20,000/-	Tk. 22,00,000/-
2	Premier Pavilion Gold (PPG)	65' × 36'	Tk. 20,000/-	Tk. 21,00,000/-
3	Premier Pavilion Silver (PPS)	56' × 36'	Tk. 20,000/-	Tk. 21,00,000/-
4	Industrial Pavilion (IP)	36' × 36'	Tk. 20,000/-	Tk. 15,00,000/-
5	Industrial Mini Pavilion (IMP)	36' × 17'	Tk. 14,000/-	Tk. 11,00,000/-
6	General Pavilion (GP)	36' × 36'	Tk. 20,000/-	Tk. 15,00,000/-
7	Mini Pavilion (MP)	36' × 17'	Tk. 14,000/-	Tk. 11,00,000/-
8	Restaurant (R)	50' × 50'	Tk. 16,000/-	Tk. 17,00,000/-
9	Mini Restaurant (MR)	20' × 20'	Tk. 12,000/-	Tk. 6,50,000/-
10	Premier Stall (PS)	20' × 20'	Tk. 7,000/-	Tk. 4,50,000/-
11	Premier Mini Stall (PMS)	20' × 10'	Tk. 7,000/-	Tk. 3,30,000/-
12	General Stall (GS)	20' × 20'	Tk. 7,000/-	Tk. 4,00,000/- (Fixed)
13	Coffee Shop (CS)	20' × 20'	Tk. 7,000/-	Tk. 4,00,000/-

1.3. Security Deposit for Pavilions, Restaurants, Stalls and Coffee Shops Listed in Table "A"
Applicants shall deposit, in advance, a **refundable security deposit equivalent to 25% (twenty-five percent) of the quoted rent/royalty**. Where an applicant submits quotations for multiple choices, the security deposit shall be calculated on the basis of the highest quoted rent/royalty among those choices.

1.4. Instructions Regarding Online Payment
(a) The security deposit shall be paid along with the application through the "Sonali Payment Gateway" of Sonali Bank PLC, using any of the methods: Counter Payment, Account Payment, Mobile Financial Services (MFS), Debit/Credit Card.
(b) For payments made by card, bank account or internet banking, the applicant must ensure that the concerned bank has approved a sufficient transaction limit to cover the amount payable before initiating the payment.
(d) For counter payments, the applicant shall select the *Counter Payment* option and download the payment voucher generated by the system. The payment must be completed at any branch of Sonali Bank PLC within 03 (three) working days of voucher generation. Failure to make payment within the stipulated period will result in cancellation of the payment request. Upon successful payment, the application will be submitted and confirmed automatically through an SMS notification to the applicant's registered mobile number.
(e) For payments through mobile banking or Mobile Financial Services (MFS), the applicable transaction limits shall be followed.

2. Manual/E-mail Application:
2.1. Application Submission Start Date: 27 October 2026
2.2. Application Submission Closing Date and Time: 11 November 2026, 04:00 p.m. (Bangladesh Standard Time).
2.3. Collection of Application Forms:
Application forms may be collected directly from the Administration Section of the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) and the DITF Secretariat from 27 October 2026. Alternatively, applicants may download the application forms from the EPB website (ইপিবি নোটিশ ফরম এর মধ্যে ডাউনলোড/ডাউনলোড নোটিশ ফরম এর) or the official EPB Facebook page (www.facebook.com/epb.gov.bd).
2.4. Submission of Applications (where applicable):
Completed application forms, along with the required supporting documents and proof of payment, shall be submitted through any of the following channels:
(a) Office of the Secretary (Deputy Secretary), Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), Dhaka;
(b) Ministry of Commerce, Building No. 03, Room No. 127, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka; or
(c) Office of the Additional Divisional Commissioner (General), 1st 12-Storied Government Building, Room No. 303, Segunbagicha, Dhaka.
Alternatively, completed applications may be submitted by e-mail to **ditf@epb.gov.bd** or sent by post/courier service to any of the designated submission offices mentioned above.
Applications received after the stipulated closing date and time shall be treated as invalid and shall not be considered for allotment.

(B) Type/Category, Size, Application Processing Fee and Floor Rate of Pavilions, Stalls and Restaurants (Foreign):

Sl. No	Type/Category of Pavilion/Stall/Restaurant	Size (Feet)	Application Processing Fee (Including VAT and Tax) (Non-refundable)	Floor Rate (Lowest Rent/Royalty, excluding VAT and Tax)
1	Foreign Pavilion (FP)	36' × 36'	US$ 400.00	US$ 19,000.00
2	Foreign Mini Pavilion (FMP)	36' × 17'	US$ 270.00	US$ 10,000.00
3	Foreign Premier Stall (FPS)	20' × 20'	US$ 135.00	US$ 7,000.00
4	Foreign Mini Restaurant (FMR)	20' × 20'	US$ 200.00	US$ 7,500.00

2.5. Security Deposit for Foreign Pavilions and Stalls Listed in Table "B"
Applicants seeking allotment of space under the categories of Foreign Pavilion (FP), Foreign Mini Pavilion (FMP) and Foreign Premier Stall (FPS), Foreign Mini Restaurant (FMR) shall deposit, in advance, a **refundable security deposit equivalent to 25% (twenty-five percent) of the quoted rent/royalty** along with their applications.
The security deposit shall be paid in US dollars (USD) in favour of **"DHAKA INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR FUND"** through the following foreign currency (FC) bank account:
- **Name of Bank** : Prime Bank PLC
- **Branch Address** : 54, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh
- **Account Number** : 2113511003077
- **SWIFT Code** : PRBLBDDH010

Applicants shall ensure that the security deposit is remitted to the above-mentioned account and that the relevant payment evidence is submitted along with the application.

(C) Type/Category, Size, Application Processing Fee and Fixed Floor Rate of Reserved Mini Pavilions and Stalls (Local):

Sl. No.	Type/Category of Pavilion/Stall	Size (Feet)	Application Processing Fee (Including VAT and Tax) (Non-refundable)	Fixed Floor Rate (Lowest Rent/Royalty, excluding VAT and Tax)
1	Reserved Mini Pavilion (RMP)	36' × 17'	Tk. 14,000/-	Tk. 11,00,000/-
2	Reserved Stall (RS)	20' × 20'	Tk. 7,000/-	Tk. 4,50,000/-

2.6. Security Deposit for Local Applicants Seeking Reserved Mini Pavilions and Stalls Listed in Table "C"
Applicants seeking allotment of Reserved Mini Pavilions (RMP) and Reserved Stalls (RS) shall deposit, in advance, a **refundable security deposit equivalent to 25% (twenty-five percent) of the quoted rent/royalty or the applicable floor rate**, as applicable, along with their applications.
The security deposit shall be paid in favor of **"DHAKA INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR FUND"** through any branch of BRAC Bank PLC into the following bank account:
- **Name of Bank** : BRAC Bank PLC
- **Account Type** : SND Account
- **Account Number** : 1501102485103001
- **Account Number** : "DHAKA INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR FUND"

3. Documents to Be Submitted by Local Applicants (Online/Manual/E-mail Applications)
Applicants shall submit their applications along with scanned copies of the following documents, as applicable:
(a) Deposit slips or payment receipts for the application processing fee and security deposit; (b) Valid and up-to-date Trade License; (c) National Identity Card (NID); (d) VAT Registration Certificate; (e) Up-to-date Income Tax Clearance Certificate for the Tax Assessment Year 2025–2026; (f) Up-to-date Bank Solvency Certificate; and (g) Membership Certificate of a Chamber of Commerce or relevant Trade Association, where applicable.
Applicants submitting downloaded application forms shall also enclose the above-mentioned supporting documents with their applications. **Original copies of the submitted documents shall be produced for verification during the scrutiny of applications**, as and when required by the concerned authority.

4. Documents and Application Procedures for Foreign Applicants:
4.1. Foreign applicants shall download the prescribed application form from the DITF section of the EPB website (ইপিবি নোটিশ ফরম এর মধ্যে ডাউনলোড/ডাউনলোড নোটিশ ফরম এর) and submit the completed form with the required supporting documents by e-mail to ditf@epb.gov.bd. Where e-mail submission is not possible due to unavoidable circumstances, applications may be submitted by fax, courier or post.
4.2. Applications submitted by e-mail shall be routed through the concerned Bangladesh Mission abroad or the applicant's country's diplomatic mission in Dhaka, as applicable, and must include scanned copies of the payment receipts for the application processing fee and security deposit.
4.3. The importation of exhibits shall be subject to applicable customs duties, taxes and procedures prescribed by the competent Customs Authority.
4.4. Applicants from countries where Bangladesh has no diplomatic mission, or whose countries have no diplomatic mission in Dhaka, shall submit applications through the competent government authorities, chambers of commerce or relevant trade bodies of their respective countries.
5. Reserved Pavilion/Stall Allotment Process
A limited number of Mini Pavilions, Stalls shall be reserved for allotment to government and semi-government entities, autonomous bodies and organizations, scheduled banks, recognized trade associations and bodies, women entrepreneurs, and other eligible entities, as determined by the Fair Authority.
Applications received for the reserved Pavilions; Stalls shall be scrutinized by the fair authority. Applicants meeting the prescribed eligibility criteria and whose applications are found valid shall be considered for allotment at the applicable floor rate.
The decision of the Fair Authority regarding the scrutiny of applications and allotment of reserved spaces shall be final.
6. Date, Time and Venue for Opening of Applications:
All applications received for the 31st Dhaka International Trade Fair (DITF) 2027 shall be opened on **[12 November 2026] at 11:00 a.m.** at the Conference Room of the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), TCB Bhaban, 1 Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215, in the presence of applicants or their authorized representatives, if any.
7. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS:
7.1. Premier Pavilions, Industrial Pavilions, General Pavilions, Industrial Mini Pavilions Mini Pavilions, Restaurants, Mini Restaurants, Premier Stalls, Premier Mini Stalls, Coffee Shops, Foreign Pavilions, Foreign Mini Pavilions, Foreign Premier Stalls and Foreign Mini Restaurants (FMRs) shall be allotted through auction to the highest eligible bidders, subject to compliance with the prescribed terms and conditions.
7.2. General Stalls (GS) shall be allotted among eligible applicants through a lottery. Priority shall be given to women entrepreneurs, small and cottage industries, exporters, manufacturers, manufacturing associations, government and autonomous bodies, chambers of commerce, trade associations, banks and assemblers, in accordance with the prescribed procedures.
7.3. The DITF 2027 Layout Plan, showing the location and availability of exhibition spaces, shall be available at the DITF Secretariat, on the EPB website (ইপিবি নোটিশ ফরম এর মধ্যে ডাউনলোড/ডাউনলোড নোটিশ ফরম এর) and on the official EPB Facebook page (www.facebook.com/epb.gov.bd).
7.4. Quoted rates shall not be lower than the applicable floor rates specified in Tables A, B and C. Applicants shall indicate their preferences in order of priority. Successful bidders/selected applicants shall pay applicable VAT at 15% and tax at 10% on the quoted amount, in addition to the quoted amount, in accordance with government rules.
7.5. Except for manufacturers, each participant shall be allowed to display products from only one product group approved by the Fair Authority. The Fair Authority's decision regarding product groups shall be final.
7.6. Transfer or assignment of an allotted Pavilion, Stall, Restaurant or other exhibition space to any person or entity, including through a power of attorney, shall not be permitted. Violation shall result in cancellation of allotment and forfeiture of the security deposit and rent paid, subject to the applicable rules and allotment conditions.
7.7. Applicants having outstanding dues from previous DITFs shall not be eligible to participate in the application or bidding process for DITF 2027 unless all such dues have been paid in full. No space shall be allotted to applicants with outstanding dues.
7.8. Participants shall not use or display another organization's, enterprise's or company's name, brand, logo or sign on signboards, banners, festoons or other promotional materials without proper authorization. Violations shall result in appropriate legal or administrative action.
8. OTHER CONDITIONS FOR LOCAL AND FOREIGN PARTICIPANTS:
8.1. Security deposits shall be refundable after the fair, subject to compliance with the prescribed terms and conditions stated in the application form, schedules, allotment letter and advertisement.
8.2. Applicants not selected for allotment shall receive a refund of their security deposits in accordance with the prescribed refund procedure.
8.3. If a selected applicant withdraws, fails to participate, or fails to complete the requirements of allotment, the security deposit shall be liable to forfeiture in accordance with the prescribed conditions.
8.4. Selected participants shall deposit the full quoted rent/royalty, together with applicable VAT and tax, in favor of **DHAKA INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR FUND** within seven (7) days of issuance of the primary allotment letter, using the designated bank account and prescribed deposit procedure.
8.5. Local participants shall not display or sell imported foreign goods without valid customs documentation.
8.6. Applicants for Restaurants and Premier Mini Restaurants shall submit, in addition to the documents specified in Clause 3, a written undertaking on Tk. 300 non-judicial stamp paper to sell food and beverages at rates approved by the Fair Authority. Applicants must be professional restaurant owners or food suppliers and possess the appropriate licenses.
8.7. An applicant may apply for more than one category of exhibition space; however, the Fair Authority reserves the right to allot space for only one product group.
8.8. Goods manufactured in Bangladesh shall not be displayed or sold in foreign Pavilions or Stalls.
8.9. Illegal, unauthorized or health-hazardous goods shall not be displayed or sold at DITF 2027.
8.10. Participants shall display or sell only products approved by the Fair Authority.
8.11. Submission of forged or false documents shall render the applicant liable to cancellation of allotment, forfeiture of the security deposit and other penalties under applicable law.
8.12. Food items shall not be sold from spaces other than designated Restaurants or food Stalls, unless the Fair Authority grants prior approval. Its decision in this regard shall be final.
8.13. Awards for the best Stalls and Pavilions shall be given in accordance with the decision of the Fair Authority.
8.14. If the duration of DITF 2027 is extended, participants shall pay additional rent/royalty proportionately for the extended period.
8.15. In Halls A and B of the Bangladesh-China Friendship Exhibition Center (BIGWAVE), participants shall decorate only the allotted, pre-built shell-scheme booths/Stalls. Additional construction, including digging or damaging the hall floor, shall not be permitted.
8.16. Applications not accompanied by the required documents, or otherwise incomplete, shall not be accepted.
8.17. Entrepreneurs, enterprises or companies declared ineligible by EPB or blacklisted by EPB shall not be eligible to apply.
8.18. All processing fees, rents and other applicable payments shall be deposited into the Fair Fund using the prescribed deposit slip available through the EPB website or official Facebook page. Payments made otherwise may not be accepted as valid deposits.
8.19. Participants shall comply with all applicable government taxes, duties and other statutory requirements relating to sales from their allotted exhibition spaces.
8.20. The Fair Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications without assigning any reason.
8.21. The Fair Authority reserves the right to change the dates and times of the fair, as necessary.
8.22. The Fair Authority reserves the right to cancel this advertisement or the entire application process without assigning any reason.
8.23. The Fair Authority may allot available warehouse space within the DITF premises to interested participants for storage purposes, subject to availability, prescribed rental rates, and the terms and conditions determined by the Fair Authority. Interested applicants shall apply to the DITF Secretariat for details regarding availability, rent, allotment procedures, and other applicable conditions.

25/10/2026
Secretary (Deputy Secretary), EPB
&
Director, 31st Dhaka International Trade Fair 2027 Secretariat
TCB Bhaban, 1, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh
Phone: 02-55013420, PABX: 02-9144822-24, 8180084, 8180087, 8180090, Extension: 114, Fax: 880-2-55014024, E-mail: secy@epb.gov.bd

GD-2578

Bangladesh-Germany relations in a changing world order

Dr Rüdiger Lotz, German Ambassador to Bangladesh, speaks to The Daily Star about Bangladesh's growing significance in Germany's Indo-Pacific outlook, opportunities to deepen bilateral trade and investment, democratic transition and institutional reform, cooperation in renewable energy and skilled migration, the Rohingya crisis, and lessons from German reunification.

The Daily Star (TDS): As the global order becomes increasingly multipolar and Asia gains greater economic and geopolitical significance, how does Germany view Bangladesh's role in its broader Indo-Pacific strategy?

Rüdiger Lotz (RL): We have seen a significant shift in world politics. When I grew up in the 1980s, we lived in a world dominated by two major power blocs, the East and the West, with non-aligned countries in between. Today, we have a truly polycentric world order with multiple centres of influence, and Asia is becoming vastly more important.

Asia is crucial not only because of its population, with South Asia alone accounting for about a quarter of the world's population, but also because it is the primary growth region of the 21st century. While Europe maintains a high level of economic development, sustaining it requires investment in dynamic new growth markets.

On the political front, Berlin prioritises its bilateral relationship with Bangladesh, viewing it on its own merits rather than through the lens of its relations with other countries. We seek to work closely with partners who share our core values: the rule of law, democracy and a rules-based international order. Bangladesh has impressively demonstrated these shared values through its transition to a democratic government and democratic elections.

TDS: Bangladesh and Germany have built a longstanding economic partnership, particularly in the ready-made garment sector. Which sectors offer the greatest potential for diversifying bilateral trade and investment, and how can the two countries strengthen cooperation in technology transfer?

RL: It is remarkable that Bangladesh has built an internationally competitive ready-made garment (RMG) sector. Even as we talk about diversification, Bangladesh should maintain this sector. About 20 per cent of all textiles sold in German shops are produced in Bangladesh, so the RMG sector is definitely here to stay.

However, economic diversification is essential. The lowest-hanging fruit for expansion is likely the leather sector, which holds excellent potential. Additionally, I see strong opportunities in agro-industry, light manufacturing and pharmaceutical products. Expanding into these sectors will also facilitate important forms of technology transfer between our nations.



Dr Rüdiger Lotz, German Ambassador to Bangladesh PHOTO: STAR

TDS: As Bangladesh approaches graduation from least-developed-country status, how can Germany support its transition in terms of EU market access and trade preferences? What reforms would help Bangladesh attract greater German investment?

RL: When I was growing up, Bangladesh was synonymous with a poor country facing severe living conditions; today, it is, in macroeconomic terms, a middle-income country that has achieved impressive development.

To ensure a smooth economic transition regarding EU market access, negotiations on a free trade agreement (FTA) are set to begin very soon. Currently, Bangladesh benefits from tariff-free access under the EU's "Everything But Arms" (EBA) initiative. Because large-scale RMG production operates on thin margins, where even minor cost increases affect competitiveness, securing an FTA is key to retaining trade preferences and mitigating risks when LDC preferences expire.

To attract further German investment, the overall business climate must be addressed. Over the past few decades, Bangladesh has maintained an impressive rate of annual economic growth. If this trend continues over the next 20 to 40 years, the country could rank among the world's 20 largest economies, supported by a middle class of more than 40 million people. To realise this potential, foreign investors need good governance, clear regulations, legal certainty and a reliable rule of law, under which legal disputes are resolved fairly and predictably in court. Furthermore, greater investment in infrastructure and education is required to develop the skilled workforce needed for more sophisticated manufacturing.

TDS: Bangladesh is undergoing a significant political transition following the February elections. How does Germany view these developments, and what opportunities exist for strengthening democratic institutions, governance and engagement between the two countries?

RL: A major Asian country returning from autocracy to democracy is a significant and uncommon event in today's global landscape, and one that has a positive regional impact. Working together with partners who share fundamental democratic values is naturally easier and more effective.

Sustainable development requires political stability. Since the new government took office following the February elections, Bangladesh has experienced a period of considerable stability compared with previous periods in its history, which is commendable and crucial for building long-term, sustainable bilateral relations.

Regarding institutional strengthening, Germany supports Bangladesh through development projects focused on areas such as access to justice and institutional independence. Beyond traditional government-to-government diplomacy, the key opportunity lies in fostering ongoing dialogue across different sectors of society, enabling experts and civil society members from both nations to engage directly with one another.

TDS: Renewable energy and energy efficiency have long been important areas of Bangladesh-Germany cooperation. How can the two countries expand this partnership to help Bangladesh meet its growing energy demand while advancing its climate and sustainability goals?

RL: Recent global events have highlighted the risks of relying heavily on fossil fuels and concentrating energy supplies in regions vulnerable to crises. Renewable energy and energy efficiency have long been core components of our bilateral cooperation portfolio, and they will remain central to our joint efforts to combat climate change.

Although per capita energy consumption in Bangladesh is currently relatively low by international standards, it could double or triple over the next 20 years as the economy grows. Meeting this growing demand sustainably requires greater reliance on clean energy sources. Our cooperation focuses particularly on initiatives such as rooftop solar installations, which offer considerable potential.

TDS: As European consumers and businesses place increasing emphasis on environmental, social and labour standards, how can Bangladesh strengthen its position as a sustainable manufacturing hub and maintain its competitiveness in the European market?

RL: European consumers are increasingly conscious of social, environmental and labour standards in producing countries. For European companies, sourcing from facilities associated with poor working conditions presents serious reputational and economic risks.

This shift offers Bangladesh a major competitive opportunity to position itself as a sustainable manufacturing hub. By ensuring that "Made in Bangladesh" signifies clean, environmentally friendly and socially responsible production, the country can strengthen its international reputation. While Bangladesh is still making progress towards meeting these standards fully, moving in this direction is vital for maintaining long-term market access.

TDS: Germany faces growing demand for skilled workers, while Bangladesh has a large and increasingly skilled workforce. How can the two countries build mutually beneficial pathways for skilled migration, professional training and the recognition of qualifications?

RL: Demographics present a natural opportunity: Germany's median age is 46, whereas Bangladesh's median age is 26. Germany requires young workers, and Bangladesh has a vibrant youth population. Already, around 7,000 Bangladeshi students are studying in Germany, a number that continues to grow.

However, key challenges must be navigated to build effective pathways, starting with the German language, which requires dedicated effort but is well within reach for bright young individuals.

A more significant hurdle is aligning skill levels with German labour market expectations because of Germany's highly structured dual vocational training system, under which people entering trades such as electrical work or plumbing undergo three years of combined classroom instruction and practical training. To bridge this gap, Bangladesh needs a comprehensive, holistic national approach to vocational training. Rather than copying the longstanding German model directly, Bangladesh should develop a system tailored to its own economic needs. Germany supports these efforts through development projects focused on vocational skills development.

TDS: Beyond humanitarian assistance, what diplomatic initiatives could Germany and the EU pursue, together with Bangladesh and regional partners, to help create conditions for the safe, voluntary, dignified and sustainable repatriation of Rohingya refugees to Myanmar?

RL: Bangladesh has performed a tremendous humanitarian service by accommodating 1.3 million displaced Rohingya refugees. The international donor community must continue supporting these efforts and keep the issue prominent on the global agenda, a task aided by Bangladesh's Foreign Minister serving as President of the UN General Assembly. Non-traditional donors should also be encouraged to contribute alongside Western nations.

At present, safe, voluntary repatriation remains unfeasible due to prevailing conditions inside Myanmar. However, keeping more than a million displaced people in cramped conditions for nearly a decade carries serious long-term risks of radicalisation and security challenges.

While full long-term integration is a politically sensitive topic, my advice would be to explore pragmatic measures that grant displaced individuals basic work permits and broader educational or livelihood opportunities, giving them a sense of direction and hope while they remain in Bangladesh.

TDS: Germany's reunification offers important lessons in democratic transformation, reconciliation and institution-building. Drawing on that experience, what lessons might be relevant to Bangladesh as it navigates its own political and institutional transition?

RL: German reunification in 1989 and 1990 was an immense historical blessing. Today, it has resulted in a stable democracy with strong institutions established across the entire country. For the younger generation, including my children, the division between East and West is no longer a defining mental barrier.

Several lessons from Germany's experience may resonate with Bangladesh's transformation. Unifying societies with different historical experiences and perspectives is a gradual process that requires patience and reconciliation. Societal attitudes cannot be changed overnight, and lasting progress depends on bringing all citizens along rather than declaring one side superior to the other.

Equally important is the establishment of strong, independent public institutions that can ensure long-term stability.

Major societal transformations also require practical, incremental progress. As the saying goes, even a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. Above all, sustainable change depends on continuous, open dialogue across all levels of society, allowing people with different experiences and perspectives to contribute to shaping a shared future.

The interview was taken by **Ystiaque Ahmed** *and* **Khairul Hassan Jahin.**

TARIQUE RAHMAN'S JAPAN VISIT

The next frontier of Bangladesh-Japan relations

MD SHARIFUL ISLAM

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's scheduled visit to Japan on 26 October 2026 comes at a significant moment in Bangladesh-Japan relations, as Dhaka seeks to deepen economic and strategic engagement with Tokyo. During the visit, Bangladesh is set to propose a US$14 billion investment and cooperation package spanning 12 priority sectors, including transport, technology and energy. The visit provides an opportunity to assess the evolving bilateral partnership and identify avenues for expanding cooperation in an increasingly complex regional geopolitical environment.

Bangladesh's strategic location at the crossroads of South and Southeast Asia holds considerable significance for regional and global powers, including Japan. This importance has long been recognised in Japan's official foreign policy assessments. The 2021 Diplomatic Bluebook describes Bangladesh as "geopolitically very important as an intersection between India and ASEAN" (MOFA, Japan, 2021, p. 79). Bangladesh's geographical position, together with its growing geostrategic relevance amid evolving regional dynamics, has also been a key consideration underpinning Japan's Bay of Bengal Industrial Growth Belt (BIG-B) Initiative, which places Bangladesh at the centre of its regional connectivity and economic development strategy.

DEEPENING BANGLADESH-JAPAN INVESTMENT TIES

According to a survey conducted by the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), 73.2 per cent of the 57 companies interviewed said Bangladesh was their top priority for business expansion; 61 per cent said the country had high growth potential. The survey covered Japanese firms across 20 countries in Asia and Oceania. Among these 20 countries, Bangladesh ranked second in terms of profitability for Japanese companies, owing to low wages and production costs. Bangladesh has also taken steps to create a more favourable investment environment. One notable example is the Bangladesh Special Economic Zone (BSEZ) in Araihazar, Narayanganj, developed in partnership with Japan to attract Japanese and other foreign investors.

In recent years, several leading Japanese companies have expressed interest in investing in Bangladesh or expanding their existing operations in the country. Japanese businesses are also exploring opportunities in Bangladesh and neighbouring markets as part of their "China Plus One" strategy, which seeks to diversify production and investment beyond China and reduce dependence on a single market. Bangladesh and Japan signed an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) in February 2026, marking an important step towards deepening bilateral economic cooperation. Its effective implementation could further strengthen trade and investment ties and generate mutual economic benefits.

PROMOTING TRADE RELATIONS

Trade between Bangladesh and Japan has expanded steadily over the past decade, driven largely by growing demand for competitively priced Bangladeshi garments. Bangladesh's exports to Japan have increased significantly since 2011, when Japan relaxed its rules of origin for knitwear imports from least-developed countries (LDCs), enabling Bangladeshi products to benefit from duty-free market access. According to data from the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) and Bangladesh Bank (BB), Bangladesh's annual exports to Japan first exceeded US$1 billion in FY2015–16, rising sharply to US$2.8 billion in FY2021–22. Japan is now Bangladesh's ninth-largest export destination globally and second-largest in Asia.

Nevertheless, there is ample scope to expand Bangladesh-Japan bilateral trade. For instance, Bangladesh has considerable potential to increase its exports of ready-made garments and pharmaceuticals to the Japanese market. Japan's Finance Ministry data show that the country imported US$24.72 billion worth of apparel, with the bulk (US$22.96 billion) coming from Asia, including US$13.57 billion from China alone. China's share of Japan's textile product imports fell below 50 per cent in 2025, reaching a 31-year low. The resulting gap is increasingly being filled by Southeast and South Asian countries. Vietnam's share rose by 7.7 percentage points over the past decade to 17.4 per cent, while Bangladesh gained two percentage points to reach only 4.3 per cent. It is also encouraging that Bangladesh has already begun exporting ICT products to Japan, which could become another promising area of bilateral trade.



Prime Minister Tarique Rahman meets a Japanese delegation led by Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Shimada Tomaki at the Prime Minister's Office in Dhaka on 1 July 2026. Discussions covered bilateral cooperation in energy, airport infrastructure development and Rohingya repatriation. PHOTO: PMO

EXPANDING BANGLADESH-JAPAN LABOUR COOPERATION

From Bangladesh's perspective, labour migration and diaspora connections are critical to its relations with Japan. According to BMET, between 1976 and 2020, of the 1.3 crore Bangladeshi migrant workers who went abroad for employment, only 0.02 per cent went to Japan. Several factors make Bangladesh a promising source of skilled workers to meet Japan's growing labour demand.

First, Bangladesh offers a large pool of semi-skilled and skilled workers, while Japan faces a severe shortage of people of working age. According to a joint survey by Persol Research and Consulting and Chuo University, Japan will face a shortage of approximately 6.44 million workers by 2030. The proportion of people aged over 65 had already reached 28 per cent, one of the highest in the world, as reported by *The Washington Post*. Although there is considerable discussion about the Fourth Industrial Revolution, in which machines may replace human workers, human resources remain essential. The demand for human labour is unlikely to disappear anytime soon. Therefore, to address its labour shortages, Japan has increasingly opened its doors to foreign workers. In this context, Japan introduced legal amendments in 2018 to grant visas to more foreign workers and address its tightening labour market.

Against this backdrop, labour migration presents a promising avenue for cooperation between Bangladesh and Japan. Encouragingly, in August 2019, Bangladesh and Japan signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) to facilitate the recruitment of Bangladeshi workers under Japan's Specified Skilled Worker (SSW) programme across 14 sectors. Bangladesh was the ninth country to sign such an MoC with Japan as a sending country for specified skilled workers. In addition, in May 2025, Bangladesh and Japan reached an agreement to recruit at least 100,000 Bangladeshi workers over the following five years to help address Japan's severe labour shortage.

Building on these bilateral arrangements for labour cooperation, Bangladesh and Japan signed a five-year Memorandum of Cooperation on Employment Skills Development (ESDP-MoC) on 17 October 2026. The agreement, which will be automatically renewable for another five years, aims to facilitate the recruitment of Bangladeshi workers in Japan from 1 April 2027. The agreement marks a significant step towards expanding employment opportunities for Bangladeshi workers in Japan. With a formal framework for labour cooperation now in place, Bangladesh needs to focus on its effective implementation to maximise the opportunities it offers.

SECURITY AND BLUE ECONOMY COOPERATION

The Bay of Bengal and the wider Indian Ocean region have become increasingly important arenas of strategic competition among regional and extra-regional powers. Against this backdrop, closer cooperation between Bangladesh and Japan is essential to address growing non-traditional security challenges, including climate change, piracy and illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

During Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's visit to Bangladesh in September 2014, the two countries agreed to strengthen cooperation in the blue economy. However, progress in this area has remained limited despite its growing strategic and economic significance. Bangladesh continues to face constraints in investment, technology and skilled human resources, limiting its ability to harness marine resources sustainably. As a major maritime nation with advanced technological capabilities and expertise, Japan is well positioned to support Bangladesh in developing its blue economy while strengthening maritime cooperation.

Looking ahead, Bangladesh and Japan should move beyond immediate economic gains to deepen cooperation in maritime security, technology transfer and sustainable development. Japan has much to offer in terms of technology, expertise and institutional experience, while Bangladesh brings a young workforce, a growing market and a strategically important position in the Bay of Bengal. The challenge lies in translating these complementary strengths into a lasting partnership grounded in mutual respect and shared prosperity.

Dr Md Shariful Islam *is Associate Professor and Chairman of the Department of International Relations at the University of Rajshahi. He can be contacted at shariful_ruir@ru.ac.bd.*

DHAKA MONDAY OCTOBER 26, 2026, KARTIK 10, 1433 BS

SPORT



I wanted to apologise to our fans for my words during the World Cup. They were a mistake on my part, both in the way I said them and in the timing.

JULIAN ALVAREZ, after scoring in Atletico Madrid's 1-0 LaLiga win over Deportivo yesterday.

Ashraful's removal leaves more questions than answers

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammad Ashraful oversaw Bangladesh's training on Saturday ahead of their crucial two-Test series against West Indies. By night, he had been removed as national batting coach without prior notice or any reason publicly stated by the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), raising fresh questions over its handling of a role marked by frequent changes.

His appointment in November last year had drawn criticism, with many questioning whether the former national captain had sufficient coaching experience for such a key position.

Yet, his tenure brought notable results in Test cricket. Bangladesh won five of eight Tests under him and drew one, including a historic victory over Australia in Darwin. They also secured three consecutive ODI series wins at home. However, their struggles away from home, particularly during the recent UAE ODI tri-series, appear to have proved decisive.

Ashraful, speaking after his removal on Saturday, defended his record in the longer format, arguing that Bangladesh's Test side remained settled and that the batters had performed consistently under his watch.

"Since I joined, we have won five of eight Tests and drawn one. Our batters have scored nine centuries and 22 or 23 half-centuries, with a century partnership in almost every Test," he told reporters yeterday.

"The cricket board can best explain why I am no longer there."

The numbers offer a more nuanced picture of his tenure. Bangladesh averaged 202.8 runs per innings across 14 matches under Ashraful, with no totals exceeding 300. In the preceding 14 matches under Mohammad Salahuddin, the average was 217.6. Salahuddin, who previously oversaw batting as senior assistant coach, has now been appointed interim batting coach for the West Indies series.



Mohammad Salahuddin returns as Bangladesh batting coach after just 11 months, as BCB removed Mohammad Ashraful from the role. PHOTO: **FIROZ AHMED**

The change adds to a history of uncertainty surrounding the role. Following Neil McKenzie's resignation for family reasons, the BCB appointed Ashwell Prince, who sources suggest helped several batters. However, Prince resigned in 2022 after the board had already brought in Jamie Siddons as batting consultant a month earlier.

Siddons was expected to address Bangladesh's longstanding batting problems, given his previous stint with the team, but some considered his methods outdated. David Hemp followed, yet concerns persisted within the BCB that his work remained focused on basics without delivering the desired improvements.

Ashraful is the latest to make way. While some believe he has strong mentoring qualities, there are suggestions that players were less receptive to working with him on individual technical issues, having established relationships with domestic coaches before his appointment.

There is also a question of consistency in the board's judgement. Salahuddin was in charge during the recent Asian Games, where Bangladesh's batting failures were also apparent. As the BCB keeps searching for a high-profile batting coach, Ashraful's departure leaves a familiar question unanswered: can frequent changes deliver the stability the team's batting needs?

AWARD CATEGORIES

- The Men's and Women's Ballon d'Or
- The Men's and Women's Young Talent of the Year
- The Men's and Women's Goalkeeper of the Year
- The Men's and Women's Coach of the Year
- The Men's and Women's Club of the Year
- The Men's and Women's Striker of the Year
- Socrates Award



Who will win it this time?

A new winner could emerge on Tuesday as the 2026 Ballon d'Or ceremony, the 70th edition of football's most prestigious individual award, takes place at the London Palladium Theatre for the first time, moving from its traditional home in Paris to honour the inaugural winner, Sir Stanley Matthews. Set to begin at 2:00am Bangladesh time, the ceremony will feature awards across multiple categories, but the spotlight, as always, will be on the player who claims the ultimate prize. Harry Kane, Kylian Mbappe, Lamine Yamal and Michael Olise could all get their hands on a maiden Ballon d'Or, while Lionel Messi could make history by winning the award for a record-extending ninth time. With the 2026 FIFA World Cup also set to play a major role in the race, the final outcome could hinge on performances on the biggest stage in international football. Voted for by journalists representing the top 100 nations in the FIFA rankings, the award often leaves room for surprises, with the final tally determining who comes out on top. Here, we take a look at the leading contenders, their numbers and the titles they have won.



Harry Kane (Bayern Munich and England)

Goals: 73
Assists: 8
World Cup: 6 goals and 1 assist in seven matches, helping England finish third.
Titles won: Bundesliga, DFB-Pokal, and German Super Cup.



Lamine Yamal (Barcelona and Spain)

Goals: 26
Assists: 21
World Cup: 1 goal, 0 assists.
Titles won: FIFA World Cup, LaLiga, and Spanish Super Cup



Kylian Mbappe (Real Madrid and France)

Goals: 58
Assists: 14
World Cup: 10 goals, 4 assists; won Golden Boot as France finished fourth.
Top scorer in LaLiga and Champions League.
Titles won: 0



Lionel Messi (Inter Miami and Argentina)

Goals: 44
Assists: 30
World Cup: 8 goals, 4 assists; one of the best individual performances but Argentina lost in final.
Titles won: MLS Cup



Michael Olise (Bayern Munich and France)

Goals: 26
Assists: 41
World Cup: Record 6 assists, 0 goals
Titles won: Bundesliga, DFB-Pokal, and German Super Cup.

Ronan, Mahe tasked with filling No 9 void

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh coach Thomas Dooley has turned to overseas-based forwards Ronan Sullivan and Mohammed Mahe Khan in a bid to solve the national team's long-standing No 9 problem ahead of the SAFF Championship, which begins in Dhaka on November 5.

The German-American coach has overlooked local forwards such as Sourav Dewan and Shahriar Emon, while promising Raphael Tudu has also missed out, instead banking on the US-based Sullivan and English ninth-tier forward Mahe to provide the goals Bangladesh have been lacking.

Since taking charge in June, Dooley has seen Bangladesh score just four goals in as many international matches. Defender Topu Barman scored twice, while Farhaan Ali Wahid and Shuki Itofusa netted once each.

"Everybody knows that we're looking for a number 9 because we don't have a number 9," Dooley told reporters at a hotel on Sunday, after 21 players from the 28-member preliminary squad reported for the residential camp.

The coach explained that a traditional centre-forward needed the physical presence, courage and positional awareness to compete with defenders and get to the ball first inside the penalty area.

"You have to have as a centre-forward a specific player who needs to go in front of the goalkeeper, in front of the defender, to be the first one to get that ball," he said.

"If you are not afraid to go in there where it hurts, then you are a number 9, then you are a centre-forward, but we don't have that."

Dooley identified Sullivan and Mahe as the two candidates he hopes can fill the role.

"Ronan is one of them and Mahe Khan is also one of them. So those are obviously with us to fulfil that number 9 position that we so desperately need," he said.

Mahe, who recently represented Bangladesh at the AFC U-20 Asian Cup qualifiers, had initially faced uncertainty over his inclusion. Dooley said he wanted the forward to join the camp for assessment but was informed two days later that the final 28-man squad had to be announced, leaving him no time to evaluate the player.

Despite playing in England's ninth tier, Mahe has impressed the coach with his profile as a traditional striker.

"Maybe he doesn't play at the highest level, but he is a typical number 9. He scores goals," Dooley said, adding that he had encouraged the forward to seize the opportunity to establish himself.

Sullivan, who has also represented Bangladesh at the youth level, became an option after the coach received confirmation that his college would release him to join the national team.

"He played for the U-20, scored. He is a typical number 9, fantastic," Dooley said.

The coach believes finding a reliable centre-forward is essential to Bangladesh's hopes of winning the regional title.

"If we go to the SAFF tournament and we don't have a number 9, it will also be very difficult to be successful," he said.





Midfielder Marcus Tavernier celebrates a goal as Bournemouth piled further misery on Michael Carrick's Manchester United with a 3-0 Premier League thrashing at Old Trafford yesterday. The defeat extended United's winless run to eight games across all competitions and left the Red Devils 15th in the table with just seven points from eight matches. It also capped a terrific week for Bournemouth, who beat AC Milan 3-0 at home in the Europa League last Thursday. PHOTO: **AFP**

IN BRIEF

Double delights for Imranur, Shirin

SPORTS REPORTER

Sprinters Imranur Rahman and Shirin Akter completed their campaigns on a high note, winning gold medals in their respective 200m sprints on the concluding day of the Koko 18th National Summer Athletics Championships at the National Stadium on Sunday.

Both athletes completed sprint doubles after winning the 100m events on the opening day of the three-day competition, which saw nine national records set. Bangladesh Army re-established their supremacy, finishing on top with 21 gold, 20 silver and 19 bronze medals. Bangladesh Navy finished runners-up with 18 gold, 17 silver and 10 bronze medals.

Navy's Imranur clocked 21.18 seconds to win the men's 200m gold, his second title in the event. In the women's 200m, Shirin set a new national record by clocking 24.35 seconds.

Naim, Robin hit double hundreds as batters dominate

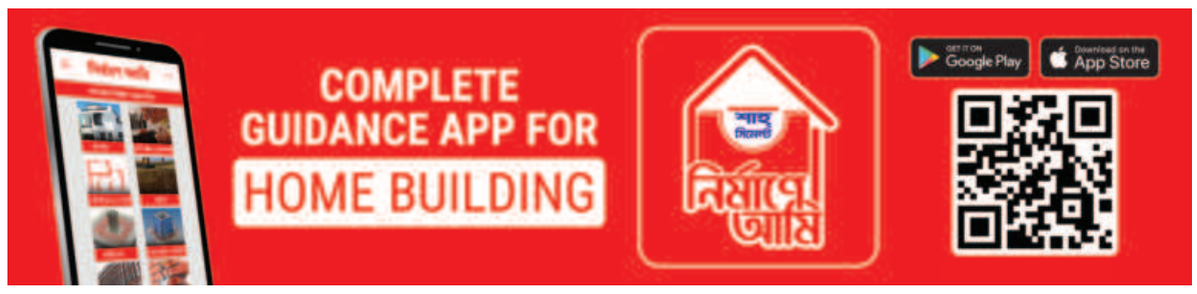
SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammad Naim Sheikh and Mahfijul Islam Robin struck double centuries as batters dominated day two of the fourth round of the National Cricket League (NCL) on Sunday, scoring 282 for Dhaka and 217 for Mymensingh respectively.

Naim resumed on 171 overnight and went on to make 282, missing out on a triple century as Dhaka piled up 521 all out against Rajshahi at Rajshahi Divisional Stadium. Mahidul Islam Ankon also impressed with a 289-ball 165, while Wasi Siddique was the pick of the Rajshahi bowlers with four for 112.

Opener Robin struck a 351-ball 217 as Mymensingh declared on 465 for seven against Chattogram at Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogura. Mahmudul Hasan missed out on a century, scoring 76, as Chattogram reached 134 for two at stumps.





BANGLADESHIS EXECUTED IN KSA

Jeddah mission thought they're serving time

Foreign ministry tells JS body

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Officials at Bangladesh's mission in Jeddah believed that two Bangladeshis executed in Saudi Arabia faced prison terms ranging from six months to 15 years, rather than the death penalty, the foreign ministry told a parliamentary committee yesterday.

The information was shared at a meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The ministry told the committee that the way prisoners were categorised on a list from Saudi Arabia had led officials to believe that.

The ministry has sought answers from the Saudi authorities. The committee asked the ministry to brief the body once the response arrives.

The committee also sought a report on whether there had been any negligence at the Bangladesh Consulate in Jeddah, what action had been taken if lapses were found, and what measures were being taken to prevent similar incidents in the future.

The two Bangladeshi nationals were executed in Saudi

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4



Iron rods of a BIWTA jetty project protrude from the Shitalakkhya riverbed near Demra Bridge in the capital. The construction work remains halted for more than a year. Locals say there was no need to encroach on the river to build a jetty since there is a large jetty just a few kilometres downstream near Kanchpur Bridge. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Tarique to meet Takaichi tomorrow



DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman left Dhaka for Tokyo early today on a four-day official visit to Japan at the invitation of his Japanese counterpart, Sanae Takaichi.

The two leaders will hold a summit tomorrow.

A Biman flight carrying Tarique, his wife Dr Zubaida Rahman and other members of the entourage left Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport around 12:15am, the Prime Minister's Office said in a Facebook post. He is due to arrive in Japan this morning.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

UNREST IN EUROPE

Arrests in overdrive in France, Spain, Portugal

AGENCIES

Police in France, Spain and Portugal made more arrests yesterday as Europe grapples with unrest driven by the cost-of-living crisis, soaring food and fuel prices, a housing shortage, rising rents, declining public services and underfunded schools.

French police arrested 1,314 people in weekend protests across France, the interior ministry said yesterday, adding that 53 officers were hurt in clashes.

It was the second consecutive weekend of unrest in France, which is heading to presidential elections in April and May to choose a successor to Emmanuel Macron, who is reaching his two-term limit.

COUNTRY	ARRESTS SINCE SATURDAY
France	1,314
Spain	128
Portugal	31
Total	**1,473**

The interior ministry said police responded to 75 fires during Saturday's protests, adding that 24 shops were looted, reports AFP.

"Several investigations have been opened," it said in a statement, without giving details. It said that the rest of Saturday night, after the clashes had died down, was "calm".

In Spain, police made 128 arrests overnight in Barcelona for acts of "vandalism", damage to public property" and "looting", the regional Catalan police said yesterday.

Seventy-three of those arrested were minors, with the reports due to be sent "to the juvenile prosecutor's office", Catalan police chief Silvia Cata told Spain's 3CatInfo media outlet.

Footage on social media showed

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NEWS IN FOCUS

EXTORTION ATTEMPT

Two DGFI men among 6 held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested six people, including two personnel of the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI) and an Ansar member, for allegedly confining a motorcycle trader in Dhaka's Mohammadpur, demanding Tk 10 lakh as extortion, and assaulting him.

The arrestees are Sergeant Al Mamun, 39, and Lance Corporal Md Nuruzzaman, 31, of DGFI headquarters; Ansar member Sohel Rana, 32; Mukul Gazi, 26, a security guard at Log Area Security Company; Mahfuzur Rahman, 22, a resident of Kafrul; and driver Ziaul Islam, 35.

All six were sent to jail after police produced them before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka seeking their detention, a court staffer said.

According to a forwarding report submitted to the court, motorcycle trader Mohammad Sharif's neighbour Ansar member Sohel offered to help him buy a motorbike in Chandrima Model Town in Mohammadpur.

On Saturday, Sohel took Sharif to a fifth-floor flat of a building in Chandrima Model Town, saying his sister lived there.

After a while, Sohel left the flat, telling Sharif that he was going to

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

Mob kills 2 over alleged theft

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Lalmonirhat*

Two men were beaten to death by a mob on suspicion of stealing a battery-run auto-rickshaw in Rangpur's Gangachara upazila early yesterday, police said.

The deceased were identified as Ejarul Haque, alias Rezaul Kana, 46, of Kachua Sardarpara village, and Sadikul Islam, 25, of Kolkond union.

The incident occurred in the Pukur Khurir Dola canal area of Bagpur Bagherhat village under Barabil union.

Abdus Sabur, officer-in-charge of Gangachara Model Police Station, said the bodies would be sent to Rangpur Medical College Hospital for autopsies to determine the exact

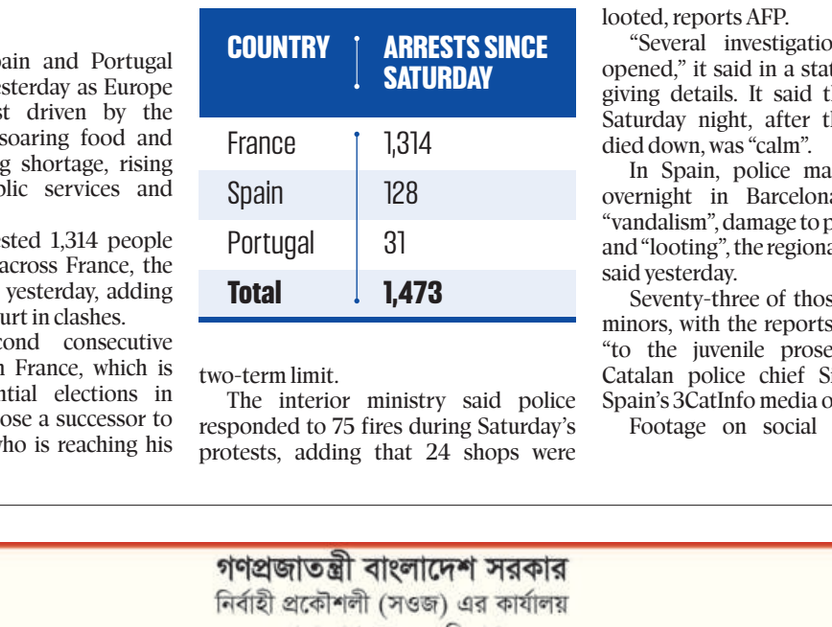
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গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী (সওজ) এর কার্যালয়
নারায়ণগঞ্জ সড়ক বিভাগ
শিমরাইল, নারায়ণগঞ্জ
E-mail: eenarayanganj@gmail.com

গণবিজ্ঞপ্তি

নারায়ণগঞ্জ সড়ক বিভাগাধীন তারাবো-ডেমরা সড়ক (আর-২০১)-এর ১ম কিলোমিটার (চেইনেজ ০+৮৭২)-এ অবস্থিত ডেমরা সেতুর জরুরি মেরামত কাজ প্রসঙ্গেঃ

সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, আগামী ২৭-১০-২০২৬ ইং তারিখ, রোজ: মঙ্গলবার, সকাল ৬.০০ ঘটিকা থেকে ২৮-১০-২০২৬ ইং তারিখ, রোজ: বুধবার, রাত ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত ডেমরা সেতুর জরুরি মেরামত কাজ করা হবে। উক্ত মেরামতকালীন সময়ে মহাসড়কে চলাচলকারী যানবাহনসমূহকে নিম্নোক্ত ম্যাপ অনুযায়ী বিকল্প সড়কসমূহ ব্যবহারের জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।



বিকল্প সড়ক-১: ডেমরা স্টাফ কোয়ার্টার থেকে তারাবোগামী যানবাহন সমূহের জন্য "ডেমরা-স্টাফ কোয়ার্টার-শিমরাইল-কাঁচপুর-তারাবো"
বিকল্প সড়ক-২: তারাবো থেকে ডেমরা স্টাফ কোয়ার্টারগামী যানবাহন সমূহের জন্য "তারাবো-কাঁচপুর-শিমরাইল-ডেমরা-স্টাফ কোয়ার্টার"
বিকল্প সড়ক-৩: যাত্রাবাড়ি থেকে তারাবোগামী যানবাহন সমূহের জন্য "যাত্রাবাড়ি-সাইনবোর্ড-শিমরাইল-কাঁচপুর-তারাবো"
বিকল্প সড়ক-৪: তারাবো থেকে যাত্রাবাড়িগামী যানবাহন সমূহের জন্য "তারাবো-কাঁচপুর-শিমরাইল-সাইনবোর্ড-যাত্রাবাড়ি"

অনুরোধক্রমে-
(আব্দুর রহিম)
পরিচিতি নং ৬০২২২৭
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ
সড়ক বিভাগ, নারায়ণগঞ্জ।

GD-2573

Comilla univ student found dead in N'ganj home

Husband taken into custody

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Cumilla*

Police recovered the body of a postgraduate student of Comilla University from a rented house in Narayanganj's Fatullah upazila on Saturday night.

The deceased was identified as Farzana Islam, 24, who was pursuing postgraduate studies in the university's pharmacy department. She hailed from Banchharampur upazila of Brahmanbaria.

Sub-Inspector Gazi Sumon Mahtab of Fatullah Police Station said police, acting on information, recovered Farzana's body hanging from a ceiling fan inside the house in the Bhui Ghar area. Her body was sent for autopsy to determine the cause of death.

Her husband, Nazmul Islam, has been taken into custody for questioning, and the investigation is underway, he added.

Her family alleged that she was murdered and

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