



68 killed in Spain as two high-speed trains collide

100 hurt; signal fault blamed; death toll may rise

AGENCIES

A high-speed train collision south of Madrid killed 68 people and injured over 100 yesterday, with the toll likely to rise, regional authorities said, in Spain's second such disaster this year.

AFP reporters on the scene in the central region of Castilla-La Mancha saw one train embedded into another and some carriages lying on their side in tangles of metal debris at the bottom of an embankment.

Dozens of emergency services vehicles were racing to and from the site and helicopters hovered above during a frantic search for survivors.

A person briefed on the disaster said

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Emergency services work at the site of a collision between a high-speed Renfe AVE train and an Iryo train near Urda and Los Yébenes, about 150km south of Madrid in Spain's Toledo province, yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

Lax rules, looting pushed banking sector into crisis

Say experts, bankers at conference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Excessive relaxation of rules created room for irregularities and plunder in banks, pushing the sector into its current crisis, said economists, bankers and experts yesterday.

"Many are now calling for looser regulations to tackle the sluggish economy and the liquidity crunch in the banking and industrial sectors. But any easing must come with adequate safeguards so it does not open the door to fresh plunder or irregularities," said Wahiduddin Mahmud, former planning adviser to the interim government.

Support should go to honest and genuine entrepreneurs, he said at the inaugural session of the two-day 11th Annual Banking Conference 2026 at the Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management.

Fresh policies should draw on lessons from Bangladesh's own banking crises and reform experiences, rather than blindly following prescriptions from international organisations.

"The sector should be reshaped in line with the country's own realities."

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Qatar offers Iran new war-ending deal

Says official; Houthi missile fired towards Saudi Arabia's Taif downed

AGENCIES

Qatari mediators presented Iran with a new draft deal yesterday to end the war with the US and Israel, and Tehran is expected to send a response to the draft by the end of the week, an official briefed on the negotiations said yesterday.

The new draft being considered by Iran sets a seven-day timeline addressing both Tehran's and Washington's concerns, laying out daily confidence-building steps that each side must take, the official said.

The timeline could begin early next week and several

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Attacks on political parties undermine democratic gains

They must be allowed to function freely, safely, analysts say

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Attacks on party offices and activists, along with attempted disruptions of meetings and rallies, threaten democratic practices and freedom of expression, political analysts have warned.

Differences of opinion or resentment over a party's past conduct cannot justify violence or restrictions on its activities, they said. Parties that have not been banned must be allowed to operate freely and safely, and the government must protect them, they added.

Their concerns follow incidents involving the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JaSoD) and Jatiyo Party. In some cases, the parties have blamed leaders and activists of the ruling BNP and its affiliated organisations.

Prof Mojibur Rahman of Dhaka University's Institute of Education and Research said the "mob attacks" and vandalism seen after the fall of the Awami League government on August 5, 2024 were expected to end once a democratic government took office.

"But we are still seeing similar incidents in some cases," he said.

"These incidents create obstacles

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ISRAELI ELECTIONS

Netanyahu camp leads but lacks majority

Media forecast shows; Arab parties could emerge as kingmakers after nearly 86pc of votes counted

AGENCIES

The camp of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was ahead of his rival's opposition bloc but still short of a majority yesterday after over two-thirds of the votes were counted in Israel's pivotal general election.

Voters turned out in the highest numbers in decades to give their verdict on Netanyahu, Israel's longest-serving prime

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Batters Shadman Islam and Litton Das (10 not out) walk back to the pavilion with broad grins as Bangladesh ended Day 1 of their first Test against West Indies in a decent position at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium yesterday. The Tigers reached 213 for three in 74 overs before play was called off early due to bad light. Unbeaten on 99, Shadman will have to wait another day for a chance to notch his third Test century and help Bangladesh post a challenging first-innings total. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Malaysia-bound workers may leave from early Nov

Medical tests from Oct 31; govt yet to fix recruitment costs; agencies warn expenses could reach Tk 6 lakh

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Bangladeshi workers may begin travelling to Malaysia in the first week of November, with medical tests set to start on October 31. However, uncertainty persists over recruitment costs, with private agencies warning that actual expenses could far exceed preliminary estimates.

The government is yet to finalise recruitment costs, with initial estimates of Tk 3–4 lakh through private agencies and Tk 1.55–1.60 lakh through state-run Bangladesh Overseas Employment and Services Limited (BOESL). The government-fixed rate during the previous recruitment period was Tk 78,990.

State Minister for Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Nurul Haque Nur disclosed the estimates yesterday, clarifying that the figure for private agencies was his personal assessment, not an official rate, while the BOESL estimate was based on preliminary discussions.

An owner of a recruiting agency approved under Malaysia's recruitment system told The Daily Star, "The government may fix the cost at Tk 3–4 lakh, but we are paying around 10,000 ringgits [around Tk 3.04 lakh] in commission against each work order. Once airfare and medical expenses are added, the cost will be no less than Tk 6 lakh."

The agency owner, whose firm has received job orders for around 15,000 workers, expects to complete recruitment procedures by the first week of November.

Meanwhile, questions have emerged over the government's much-publicised plan to send 10,000 workers, selected according to Malaysia's skill requirements, through BOESL at zero migration cost, as they will still have to pay for airfare, medical tests and a small service charge.

Migration expert Asif Munier said the lack of clarity over the zero-cost promise could create confusion and opportunities for exploitation.

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গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
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নথি নং- নিয়োগ-২০২৪(অংশ-২)/কঅ-১৯/২০২৬-২০২৭/ ১১২৩

তারিখঃ ১২ কার্তিক, ১৪৩৩ বঙ্গাব্দ / ২৮ অক্টোবর, ২০২৬ খ্রি.

"নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি"

অর্থ মন্ত্রণালয়, অভ্যন্তরীণ সম্পদ বিভাগ, কর-১, শাখা এর স্মারক নং- ০৮.০০.০০০০. ০০০.০৩৭.১১. ০০০১.২৪.৯০, তারিখঃ ০৯/০৩/২০২৬ খ্রি., স্মারক নং- ০৮.০০.০০০০.০০০.০৩৭.১১.০০০১.২৪.৩৩৪, তারিখঃ ১৩/০৯/২০২৬ খ্রি. এবং স্মারক নং- ০৮.০০.০০০০.০০০.০৩৭.১১.০০০১.২৪.৩৮৩, তারিখঃ ০৬/১০/২০২৬ খ্রি. অনুযায়ী প্রাপ্ত ছাড়পত্রের ভিত্তিতে কর অঞ্চল- ১৯, ঢাকা এর অধীনে গ্রেড-১৩ হতে গ্রেড-২০ পর্যন্ত বিভিন্ন শূন্য পদে সরাসরি কোটায় অস্থায়ী জনবল নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে ঢাকা জেলার প্রকৃত স্থায়ী বাসিন্দাদের নিকট হতে পদের যোগ্যতা সম্পন্ন প্রার্থীদের শর্ত সাপেক্ষে (https://tax19.teletalk.com.bd) ওয়েবসাইটের মাধ্যমে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে :

ক্রমিক নং	পদের নাম ও গ্রেড (জাতীয় বেতনস্কেল, ২০২৬ অনুযায়ী)	পদের সংখ্যা
১.	কম্পিউটার অপারেটর (গ্রেড-১৩)	০১ (এক) টি
২.	ব্যক্তিগত সহকারী (গ্রেড-১৩)	০৩ (তিন) টি
৩.	প্রধান সহকারী (গ্রেড-১৩)	০৯ (নয়) টি
৪.	উচ্চমান সহকারী (গ্রেড-১৪)	১০ (দশ) টি
৫.	সাঁটমুদ্রাক্ষরিক কাম-কম্পিউটার অপারেটর (গ্রেড-১৪)	১২ (বারো) টি
৬.	অফিস সহকারী কাম-কম্পিউটার মুদ্রাক্ষরিক (গ্রেড-১৬)	১২ (বারো) টি
৭.	অফিস সহায়ক (গ্রেড-২০)	১৩ (তেরো) টি

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Online -এ আবেদনপত্র জমাদানের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	:	২১ নভেম্বর ২০২৬ খ্রি., বিকাল ০৪:০০ টা।

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