11-party set to hold long march to Kushtia today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jamaat-e-Islami-led 11-party alliance is set to hold a long march from Dhaka to Kushtia today.

The programme will begin with an inaugural rally at the south gate of the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque at 7:00am. Top leaders of the alliance will address the gathering before the procession sets off at 8:00am.

The march will cover 410 kilometres, pass through Shariatpur, Bagerhat, Khulna, Jashore and Jhenaidah, before concluding with a rally at Shaheed Abrar Fahad Stadium in Kushtia at 8:30pm.

Roadside rallies are scheduled at Naodoba in Shariatpur's Zajira, Katakhali intersection in Bagerhat's Fakirhat, Shibbari Mor and Fulbaria in Khulna city, Murali intersection in Jashore, and at Jhenaidah bus terminal.

Around 1,500 vehicles and participants from 19 districts expected to join the long march.

Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Mia Golam Porwar discussed the programme schedule at a press briefing at the party's central office in Dhaka's Moghbazar yesterday.

Porwar said the alliance is organising the programme to press for seven demands -- implementation of the referendum verdict; justice for the July uprising killings; resolution of shortages of electricity, oil, gas and fertiliser; control of rising prices; an end to corruption, extortion and land grabbing; improvement in law and order; and an end to partisan influence in state institutions.



The hospital's paediatric department, comprising wards 8, 9 and 10, has 86 beds but admits around 260 to 300 children daily. PHOTO: STAR

3 to four children share a bed at Rangpur hospital

Overcrowding raises infection risks, strains medical services at the paediatric wards

S DILIP ROY, *Lalmonirhat*

The paediatric wards at Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RpMCH) are struggling to cope with an influx of child patients, with the number of admissions exceeding three times their bed capacity.

The hospital's paediatric department, comprising wards 8, 9 and 10, has 86 beds but accommodates around 260-300 children daily, forcing several patients to share beds or receive treatment on the floor.

During a recent visit, three to four children were seen sharing each bed, while many others lay on the floor.

The overcrowding has strained medical services and increased the risk of infections, particularly among children suffering from pneumonia and bronchiolitis, said Dr ANM Tanvir Chowdhury, an assistant professor at the department.

Hospital records show that 59 children died in the department in September. Authorities said none had measles.

Janufa Begum, 30, from Aditmari in Lalmonirhat, said her five-month-old child, suffering from pneumonia and breathing difficulties, was treated on the floor for four days before getting a bed, which the child has been sharing with another patient for the past two days.

"We are poor and cannot afford a private hospital. The government hospital is our only hope for healthcare," she said.

A shortage of phototherapy machines for newborns with jaundice has further complicated treatment.

Montaz Ali, parent of a newborn from Kurigram, said two babies were being treated under a single machine, raising concerns over infection risks.

Doli Khatun, nurse-in-charge of ward 10, said the ward was accommodating around 182 patients against its capacity of 40 beds.

She warned that the situation could worsen in winter, when pneumonia and other respiratory infections become more prevalent.

Meanwhile, a modern 100-bed children's hospital near the Rangpur City Corporation office remains only partially operational nearly seven years after construction was completed.

Shortages of doctors, nurses, other staff and medical equipment have prevented the facility from becoming fully operational, although it could significantly ease the pressure on RpMCH.

According to divisional health authorities, the hospital has emergency and outpatient services, a laboratory, an operating theatre and specialised units. However, inpatient and full-fledged services have yet to begin.

A proposal seeking 65 staff members was sent to the Ministry of Health in June 2023.

Dr Wazed Ali, acting director of the Rangpur Divisional Health Directorate, said three truckloads of furniture had recently arrived, but there was still no definite timeline for appointing staff or supplying medical equipment.

Country witnessing the rise of 'new autocracy': Nahid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country is witnessing a new autocracy after ousting the previous one, said National Citizen Party Convener and Opposition Chief Whip Nahid Islam yesterday.

"We ousted one autocrat, but now we are witnessing the rise of a new autocracy. However, we have committed to the people that we will defeat both the fallen autocrat and this new one," he said.

Nahid made the remarks at a protest rally organised by the NCP in front of the National Museum in Shahbagh.

Several thousand leaders and activists joined the rally, alongside large processions led by the party's Dhaka North and South City Corporation mayoral candidates, Asif Mahmud Sajeeb Bhuiyan and Nasiruddin Patwary.



Accusing the BNP government and Prime Minister Tarique Rahman of having no plan to run the country, Nahid said, "Tarique Rahman came to Dhaka from London with a plan for how to establish corruption, plunder, extortion, terrorism and occupation in the country."

Referring to ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina's announcement that she would return in December, Nahid said the current government would be unable to confront her. He called on the youth and participants in the July uprising to unite again.

He said rising commodity prices, robbery, power and gas shortages, politicisation of state institutions and deteriorating law and order had made people's lives miserable, accusing the government of failing to ensure public safety.

Holding Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed and Energy Minister Iqbal Hasan Mahmud responsible, he demanded their resignation, threatening nationwide processions.

On relations with India, Nahid said the government had failed to address border killings, unrest in the hills, the persecution of Muslims in Assam and West Bengal, and plans to demolish mosques in Delhi.

He also warned of renewed protests if the Ganges Water Sharing Treaty was not renewed on fair terms in December.

Senior Joint Convener Nasiruddin Patwary, Senior Joint Member Secretary Asif Mahmud and MP Mahmuda Alam also addressed the gathering.

Shakil killing puts BNP MP's family rivalry in spotlight

FROM PAGE 3

Aziz earlier announced Tk 20 lakh in financial assistance for Shakil's family, but the family said justice and security remained its priorities.

"I have lost my son, and nothing can compensate for this loss. I want justice, and I will not compromise...," said Shakil's father, Rabiul Karim, who also sought security for his family.

Nazrul Islam, officer-in-charge of the Natore DB, said police picked up two more suspects for questioning early yesterday.

Police earlier arrested Nooruzzaman, the MP's elder son, and placed him on a three-day remand.

According to police, helmet-wearing assailants hacked Shakil, joint general secretary of the JCD's Gurudaspur upazila unit, with sharp weapons at Chachkoir Bazarpara on October 14.

He was taken to Gurudaspur Upazila Health Complex and later transferred to Rajshahi, where he died on Monday.

PRAYER TIMING
OCTOBER 31

	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

অফিস স্পেস বিক্রয়

ধানমন্ডি ৮নং রোডে দক্ষিণ-পূর্ব কর্ণার প্লটে ৩০৮৩ বর্গফুটের অফিস স্পেস বিক্রয়।
০১৭০৪-১৭০০৭৫
০১৭০৪-১৭০০৭৬

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- ২৭.২১.২৬০৪.৪১৬.১৭.১০২.২৬.১৮৪৬ তারিখঃ ২৭/১০/২০২৬খ্রিঃ

২৩০ কেভি বিদ্যুৎ সঞ্চালন লাইন চালুর সতর্কীকরণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, পাওয়ার গ্রিড বাংলাদেশ পিএলসি কর্তৃক নির্মিত পূর্বাচল -বসুন্ধরা ২৩০ কেভি বিদ্যুৎ সঞ্চালন লাইন আগামী **০১ নভেম্বর, ২০২৬ তারিখ দুপুর ১টা থেকে ২,৩০,০০০ভোল্ট বিদ্যুৎ দ্বারা চালু করা হবে** এবং এরপর সার্বক্ষনিক চালু থাকবে। **এই বিদ্যুৎ সঞ্চালন লাইনটি নিমতলী মঠবাড়ী, স্নানঘাটা, ভাতুড়িয়া, ছোটপলাশিয়া, বাউথার, তলনা, ঢেলনা, মস্তুল, ভোলানাথপুর (২৪ নং সেক্টর) এলাকা দিয়ে অতিক্রম করেছে।** উক্ত এলাকার জনসাধারণকে বর্ণিত বিদ্যুৎ সঞ্চালন লাইনটির তার বা টাওয়ারের সংস্পর্শে না আসার জন্য বিশেষভাবে সর্তক করা হলো এবং টাওয়ারের সাথে গবাদি পশু বাঁধা, কাপড় শুকানো ইত্যাদি থেকে বিরত থাকার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো। বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের পর উক্ত বিদ্যুৎ সঞ্চালন লাইন ও টাওয়ারের সংস্পর্শে এসে অথবা আরোহণ করে কোন প্রকার দুর্ঘটনার সম্মুখীন হলে পাওয়ার গ্রিড কর্তৃপক্ষ দায়ী থাকবে না।

মোঃ ফরিদ আহম্মদ
প্রকল্প পরিচালক ও প্রধান প্রকৌশলী (অঃদাঃ)
৪০০/২৩০/১৩২ কেভি জিএনডি প্রকল্প

Planning and Development Division
Khulna University, Khulna

Tender No : KU/PD-189/2017-1846 Date : 29/10/2026

e-Tender Notice No. 21/2026-2027

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP system portal (http:/www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of

Tender ID No.	Package No.	Name of the Work	Online Tender Closing and Opening date
1361872	GR17-KU/PD-463/2026	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Ophthalmic and General Medical Equipment for Medical Centre of Khulna University (Re)	Date : 08-Nov-2026 Time : 11:00 AM

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

(Prof. Dr. Kazi Saiful Islam)
Director (In Charge)
Planning & Development Division
Khulna University

GD-2630

Government of The People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD.
Road Division, Shariatpur.
☎ - ০২-৪৭৮৮১৫৩১৪
e-mail: eesar@rhd.gov.bd

স্মারক নং: ৩৫.০১.৮৬৬৯.৪৬৮.০৭.০০২.২৬-১৩৬৭ তারিখ: ২৫-১০-২০২৬

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the below works.

Tender ID No	Package No.	Name of Work/Package Description	Last Selling date & time	Opening date & time	Remarks
1359943	e-GP-01/EE/SRD/2026-2027 Development WP-01	Re-Construction & New Construction of Flexible Pavement at 23rd (P) to 31st (P) km (Ch. 22+045 to 30+590m), 03 nos Bus-Bay and Construction of 12 Nos R.C.C Box Culvert at Gap No-23/1, 24/1, 24/2, 25/1, 26/1, 27/1, 27/2, 27/3, 28/1, 29/1, 29/2 & 31/1 Extension of 07 Nos R.C.C Box Culvert at Gap No-25/1, 26/1, 26/2, 27/1, 28/1, 28/2 & 28/3 & Earth work with Protective work of Shariatpur-(Monohar Bazar)-Ibrahimpur Ferry Ghat Road (R-860) under Shariatpur Road Division, during the year 2026-2027. (WP-01).	29-11-2026 16:00 PM	30-11-2026 14:00 PM	e-GP Only online tender.

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP help desk (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd).

25/10/26

(Md. Monowarul Islam)
ID No-602245,
Executive Engineer (C.C), RHD
Road Division, Shariatpur.

GD-2627

প্রকল্প পরিচালকের কার্যালয়
"হাজী মোহাম্মদ দানেশ বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের উন্নয়ন" শীর্ষক প্রকল্প
হাজী মোহাম্মদ দানেশ বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, দিনাজপুর।
Cell: 01713163329, Email: emdadul.hassan@yahoo.com, Website: www.hstu.ac.bd

Memo No: HSTU/Dev. Project/04 Date: 29.10.2026

e-Tender Notice-01(QCBS-eREoI)

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

Tender ID No.	Name of Works	Tender Publication Date & Time	Tender Closing Date & Time	Tender Opening Date & Time
1351716	Selection of a Consulting Firm for the Development Project of Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science & Technology University.	29-Oct-2026 15:15	15-Nov-2026 15:15	15-Nov-2026 15:15

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/Hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. All the other information of the tender is in Tender Document Sheet (TDS).

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

(Prof. Dr. S. M. Emdadul Hassan)
Project Director
Development Project of Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science & Technology University, HSTU, Dinajpur

GD-2629

Terrible toilets

FROM PAGE 3

"We ask users to leave their shoes outside and wear sandals provided by us while using the washroom. That helps us keep the facility clean," he said.

The other three toilets were poorly maintained. Those at Terminals 1 and 4 do not provide sandals, unlike the Terminal 2 facility.

None has a separate women's section, while several doors, water pipelines and lights were damaged or out of order.

Jamal Uddin, caretaker of the toilets, alleged that the city corporation had failed to carry out necessary repairs.

"Many doors are broken, and the water pump at the Terminal 4 toilet has remained out of order for a long time. Several lights are also damaged, but the city corporation has not repaired them," he said.

Sayedabad Inter-District Bus Terminal has four public toilets, two with separate facilities for women.

The WaterAid-supported toilets were comparatively better maintained, but attendants said men were sometimes allowed to use the women's sections when no female users were present.

"Only five to 10 women use this toilet every day, while 40 to 50 men use it. So when there are no women, we allow men to use the women's section," said attendant Shahida Begum.

The other toilets were moderately maintained but quickly became dirty as users entered wearing shoes. Several doors at the Cumilla Field Terminal were also partially broken.

Contacted, DSCC Administrator Abdus Salam said, "It is true that the number of public toilets we currently have is not enough. We need to increase the number, and we have already taken a plan in that regard."

Salam said contractors sometimes failed to maintain toilets properly after securing contracts through tenders.

He added that the city corporation had taken steps to strengthen monitoring and address cleaning, maintenance and repair problems.

A DNCC official also said the city corporation was taking steps to ensure proper maintenance of public toilets.

Jhum harvest

FROM PAGE 3

Officials said it would take another 15-20 days to determine this year's production.

In 2025, the district produced 7,437 tonnes of crops from 4,958 hectares of jhum land.

Mohammad Moniruzzaman, DAE deputy director in Rangamati, said soil fertility and productivity could be maintained if hills were left fallow for 10-15 years between cultivation cycles.

However, many hills in Rangamati are being cultivated again after just three to four years, while some are not left fallow even for a year, he said.

As a result, the soil loses organic matter and fertility, leading to lower yields, he added.

Jhum is a traditional farming practice among hill communities. Farmers typically clear land on hill slopes in March and April before sowing paddy, sesame, maize and vegetables. They harvest, dry and store the crops in September and October, with many families relying on the produce throughout the year.