Univs must not leave HSC retakers behind

FROM PAGE 12

admission procedures. But autonomy should not come at the expense of equal opportunity. Universities exist to serve students, and their interests must remain central to academic decisions. Students who meet the admission requirements should not be denied the chance to compete simply because the examination authorities and universities have failed to align their schedules.

Some universities argue that accommodating supplementary examinees would disrupt their admission schedules and delay the start of the academic year. Such concerns point to a wider failure of coordination.

The government introduced the new system without ensuring that universities would make the necessary adjustments. Universities, for their part, continued with their existing admission calendars without adequately considering the implications for supplementary candidates. Students are now caught between two systems that should have been planned to work together.

Had the decision been announced six months or even a year earlier, universities could have factored it into their admission plans. Consultation with university authorities and proper coordination among the education boards, the government and admission bodies could have prevented the present predicament. A major education policy cannot be implemented in isolation from the institutions directly affected by it.

The crisis also exposes the rigidity of Bangladesh's university admission system.

Public universities generally hold admission tests only once a year, leaving students who miss the admission window with little choice but to wait another year. Private universities, by contrast, usually offer multiple intakes, giving students greater flexibility. Public universities, despite being the preferred choice of many students, have yet to develop comparable arrangements to accommodate candidates facing exceptional circumstances.

The cost of this inflexibility goes beyond a delayed admission. Another year of waiting could add to families' financial burdens, increase students' mental stress and undermine their motivation. Some may even abandon their education altogether. These are consequences that policymakers and university authorities cannot afford to overlook.

There are practical ways to address the problem this year. Universities could allow supplementary candidates to apply provisionally, arrange separate admission tests for those who pass, or make modest adjustments to their admission schedules.

Such measures would not lower academic standards or compromise the merit-based admission process. They would simply ensure that eligible students are not denied a fair opportunity because of circumstances beyond their control.

The government must now work with universities to find an immediate solution.

More importantly, the authorities must establish a system of consultation and coordination so that future policy changes do not leave students in the same predicament.

If the aim is to prevent students from losing an academic year, those who pass the supplementary exams must be given a genuine opportunity to compete for admission.

A second chance in the HSC exams must also mean a second chance at higher education.

7-katha land dispute sparks fresh attack

FROM PAGE 3

According to Nazim, the property belonged to around seven heirs, but only one had transferred it to Nur's side. Other heirs subsequently challenged the ownership, mutation records, and threatened legal action.

He said he had proposed that lawyers from both sides examine the documents, adding that negotiations were underway.

Nur rejected the allegations, saying the land had been purchased from around 10-15 family members and that competing ownership claims could not be substantiated.

He said 34 individuals, including retired military personnel, were involved in the purchase and had authorised him to handle the matter through a power of attorney.

Nur claimed Nazim paid only Tk 30 lakh in cash and issued a Tk 20 lakh cheque that was dishonoured. Despite repeated assurances, Nazim failed to pay the outstanding amount, prompting the owners to serve a legal notice, he said.

Asked about Saturday's incident, Nur acknowledged visiting the project, saying the landowners wanted to take possession of their property. "We went there because he was saying that we had no land there. We wanted to see whether we could take possession. We did not go there to attack anyone," he added, denying any involvement in the assault.

Visiting the project yesterday morning, this correspondent found security guards stationed at a broken entrance gate, while a section of wire fence lay on the ground. Some workers continued construction inside.

Project supervisor Ibrahim Akand alleged that the attackers broke through Gate 4, seized guards' walkie-talkies, damaged CCTV cameras, snatched workers' mobile phones, snatched gold ornaments from Nazim's sister, and attempted to occupy a vacant plot before police arrived.

Security in-charge Farhad Hossain said several guards were beaten despite having no involvement in the land dispute.

On October 17, Nazim also lodged a general diary alleging death threats from three accused in the case.

During the September 26 attack, assailants allegedly vandalised the company's office, an under-construction building, and content creator Salman Muqtadir's studio, and looted cash and valuables.

Intellectual corruption hurt judiciary more

FROM PAGE 3

However, the government and the chief justice were pursuing a zero-tolerance policy towards those facing specific allegations, he added.

TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman said an independent and neutral judiciary depended on the honesty, ethics, and accountability of judges.

He said uncertainty had emerged after the current government repealed ordinances issued by the previous interim government to establish a separate secretariat for the judiciary and introduce a process for appointing Supreme Court judges.

He hoped the government would formulate specific laws on these issues.

"Judicial integrity is essential for a people-centred, justice-based, and accountable state. Public trust in the courts depends on the integrity and ethical conduct of judges," he said.

He added that decades of unhealthy politics had normalised political and bureaucratic influence in the judiciary, as in other professions and institutions.

Delivering a message from UNDP Resident Representative in Bangladesh Stephen Rodriques, Romana Schweiger said the workshop aims to build an independent, accountable and people-centred justice system.

Describing judicial integrity as the foundation of independent decision-making and impartial justice, she said every judicial decision must be based solely on the law.

3 ordinances to be tabled as JS reconvenes today

FROM PAGE 3

Advisory Committee, chaired by Speaker and committee chairman Hafiz Uddin Ahmad, with Leader of the House and Prime Minister Tarique Rahman and Leader of the Opposition and committee member Shafiqur Rahman in attendance.

At the meeting, it was decided that the House will sit every day at 4:20pm, except on weekends (Friday and Saturday). The Speaker was authorised to make any necessary changes regarding the sitting hours and working days of the session.

A total of 3,751 questions have been submitted for the session, including 174 for the PM.

During the meeting, PM Tarique's proposal to declare the parliament complex a "Smoke-free Area" was unanimously welcomed by all participants.

The PM also sought an update on the installation of solar panels at the parliament complex.

In response, Deputy Speaker of Parliament Barrister Kayser Kamal, also convenor of the relevant subcommittee, said the solar power system with a 7 MW electricity generation capacity would be installed, meeting the parliament's electricity demand during sessions (approximately 6 MW, or less at times) and allowing surplus electricity to be supplied to the national grid.

Zero means zero

FROM PAGE 3

The lottery was held at Probashi Milanayatan in Dhaka's Ramna yesterday in the presence of officials from the expatriates' welfare ministry, Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training, BOESL, and journalists.

Rashedul said the first flight carrying workers under the zero-cost recruitment initiative is expected in the first week of December.

He said the digital lottery marked a new approach to ensuring transparency in overseas recruitment.

Representatives of the Malaysian company are scheduled to arrive in Bangladesh on November 11 and conduct face-to-face interviews and practical examinations from November 12 to 15.

Of the 300 shortlisted candidates, the employer will finally select 112 workers based on their skills, qualifications, and performance in the examinations. The selected workers will subsequently undergo three days of training provided by the company before their departure.

Nazmun Nahar, general manager (administration, HR and finance) of BOESL, said shortlisted candidates had received SMS notifications. Their names would also be published on BOESL's official website and Facebook page.

She cautioned applicants against making payments to anyone, stressing that no financial transactions were required for recruitment.

The recruitment is part of the government's broader initiative to send 10,000 workers to Malaysia at zero migration cost through BOESL.

Rashedul said BOESL had so far received recruitment demand orders for 558 workers from Malaysian employers across different sectors, including technical assistance, manufacturing and tourism-related services.

300 families wiped out in road crashes

FROM PAGE 3

Four members of another family died when a pickup van overturned.

The report identified several factors behind these fatalities, including unfit vehicles, inexperienced and fatigued drivers, auto-rickshaws operating on highways, reckless motorcycling, substandard helmets, and traffic law violations.

RSF Director Saidur Rahman said stricter enforcement of traffic laws, road dividers and service roads, safer connections between rural roads and highways, stronger vehicle monitoring, and greater accountability among road safety authorities are essential to improving safety.

Prof M Shamsul Hoque, former director of BUET's Accident Research Institute, blamed regulatory agencies' lack of accountability for crashes that kill multiple members, sometimes spanning two or three generations, of the same family.

He said the BRTA issues licences through zigzag tests without assessing drivers' skills on actual roads. Despite the growing number of vehicles, the number of fitness inspectors has not increased, raising the risk of certificates being issued without proper inspections.

Questioning crash investigations, he said drivers were usually held responsible, while authorities failed to explain how unfit vehicles continued to operate for years and why the BRTA and police took no action.

"Two or three generations are being wiped out at once. We're not at war. Yet no one takes responsibility, and the BRTA remains asleep," he said.

He stressed that drivers, regulatory agencies, police and road authorities must all be held accountable to prevent crashes.

Anisur Rahman, assistant commissioner of the DMP Traffic Division, said direct connections between national highways and Local Government Engineering Department roads had been a major cause of crashes in recent years.

The lack of safe entry arrangements for vehicles at these junctions increased the risk of crashes, he said.

"There needs to be a safe way for vehicles to enter highways from feeder roads. The LGED and the Roads and Highways Department have jointly taken initiatives to renovate the junctions," he added.

Serve people, do not harass them

FROM PAGE 3

He urged them to treat service seekers with the same consideration they would expect when seeking assistance themselves.

Citing an example, Tarique said officials should not merely ask citizens to correct mistakes in applications but explain the errors and guide them through the process. "The country's people expect not only instructions and orders from you but also humanity," he said. He advised the officers not to compromise their professional integrity for preferred postings or promotions and to remain prepared to serve anywhere in the country.

On political affiliation, the PM said he did not personally consider it wrong for government officials to support a political party, but such support should be expressed through voting, not in government offices. He said the government was implementing its political agenda through the administration based on the people's electoral mandate.

Buses burn

FROM PAGE 1

Mohammad Aktar Hossain, deputy commissioner of DMP's media and public relations division, said police suspected a particular group who was deliberately carrying out sabotage. Several people, including members of banned organisations and their affiliated bodies, have already been arrested in connection with the incidents, he added.

According to DU sources, the blasts occurred around 6:42pm within minutes of each other. The sites included the intersection beside the metro rail station at TSC, near the Senate Building, the Institute of Modern Languages, in front of ULAB School, the Nilkhet intersection, and near the Nilkhet Gate.

OC Moniruzzaman of Shahbagh Police Station said students caught the suspects following an explosion beneath the metro rail station and handed them over to police. "They are being questioned. Details will be shared later."

DU Proctor Prof Israfil Ratan also confirmed explosions near the Senate Building and Mohsin Hall. "We don't know who carried out the explosions. Perhaps this was an attempt to create panic. We have informed the police administration."

Besides, a bus belonging to Jalsiri Cantonment School caught fire in front of Ananta Tower on the 100 Feet Road in the city's Bhatara area around 5:40pm yesterday, said police.

Our Savar correspondent reported that a D-Link Paribahan bus was set on fire in front of Afaz Uddin College in the Sharifbagh area of Dhamrai around 3:40am yesterday.

A Savar Paribahan bus was also set ablaze on the Dhaka-Aricha highway around 3:00am yesterday. OC Saiful Alam of Savar Model Police Station suspected that Awami League activists were behind the attack.

The DMP said it has strengthened intelligence-led operations, increased police deployment, and introduced mobile patrols to ensure public safety.

Police are also analysing CCTV footage to identify individuals collecting flammable materials for attacks. The detectives previously arrested several people with bomb-making materials and explosives, DMP official Aktar said, adding that law enforcement operations were continuing.

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Ref. No: 46.207.007.09.00.544.2026 Dated: 08/11/2026

e-GP Tender Notice

Tenders are hereby invited through e-GP portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) by Executive Engineer, Market Construction Cell, Dhaka South City Corporation for the procurement of following packages which will be available at e-GP website (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) from date: 08/11/2026; Time-22:00 PM.

Sl No.	Tender ID	Name of works	Tender Last Selling Date and Time	Tender Opening Date & Time
01.	**1352721**	Repair and Maintenance work of Physical infrastructure (Market & Social Center) under market construction cell via annual term contract (FY 26-27) under Dhaka South City Corporation.	23-November-2026 13:30	23-November-2026 15:30

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit Tender, please register on the National e-GP portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd). 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 up to 14:30 hours on 23/11/2026. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system Portal and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

ডিএসসিসি/পিআরডি/১১৮/২০২৬-২৭

(Mohammad Golam Kibria)
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GD-2710

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Project Director (ACE), RHD
Construction of Five Climate Resilient Bridges in Mymensingh Division, Bangladesh
DTCA Bhaban (RHD Part), Level 8, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208
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Memo No. 35.01.0000.080.14.002/C2.26-69 Date: 08 November 2026

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(CONSULTANCY SERVICES – SELECTION OF FIRMS)

Country: Bangladesh
Name of the Project: Construction of Five Climate Resilient Bridges in Mymensingh Division, Bangladesh
Sector: Road Transport
Consulting Services for Proof Checking and Civil Works Supervision Consultancy for Nitai Bridge, Ganeshwari Bridge and Mahadev Bridge, Package-C2
Mode of Financing: Forward Lease and Loan (an IsDB Shariah-compliant financing modality)
Financing No: BGD 1096

The Government of Bangladesh has received financing from the Islamic Development Bank toward the cost of the "Construction of Five Climate Resilient Bridges in Mymensingh Division, Bangladesh", and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The services include independently review and verify the Contractor's Basic Design, Detailed/Construction Design, drawings, calculations, specifications, method statements, and other technical submissions and provide comprehensive construction supervision and contract-management services through completion and handover. The duration of the assignment is 48 months and comprises two phases, and total key professional staff-months is 357. Expected start date of the assignment is 01 October 2027.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be found at the following website: https://rhd.portal.gov.bd/
Or the TOR can be obtained at the QR link given below.

The Roads and Highways Department (RHD) of the Road Transport and Highways Division (RTHD), Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges (MoRTB) of the Government of Bangladesh now invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested Consultants must provide specific information which demonstrates that they are fully qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.).

The shortlisting criteria are as follows:

(a) **Design Checking Experience:** Proven experience in designing and/or independently checking major long-span bridges—Steel Tied arch bridges—of comparable scale, structural system, complexity and applicable standards. Design experience on comparable bridges will be accepted as relevant design-checking capability.

(b) **Construction Supervision Experience:** Proven supervision experience on major long-span bridges—particularly Steel Tied arch bridges—of comparable scale, methodology, complexity and standards, covering foundations, substructures, superstructures, prestressing, erection, testing and commissioning.

(c) **Contractual Management Experience:** Experience of the firm in administering international Design–Build contracts, preferably under the FIDIC Yellow Book or equivalent, including Contractor's design review, variations, claims, extensions of time, program and delay analysis, payments, testing, taking-over and dispute avoidance.

(d) **International, MDB and Regional Experience:** Experience in major internationally financed infrastructure projects, preferably transport or bridge projects, including MDB or equivalent procurement, contract management, and environmental and social requirements, together with experience in Bangladesh or comparable geographic and construction environments.

(e) **Organizational, Management and Financial Capacity:** Demonstrated ability to mobilize and retain a qualified multidisciplinary international team of long-span bridge, structural, construction supervision and contract-management specialists; access to international, regional or head-office expertise; and adequate financial capacity evidenced by relevant consulting turnover and other financial information.

Only the experience of the Lead firm and Joint Venture (JV) partners will be considered during the shortlisting stage. The experience of sub-consultants may be referenced but will not be evaluated. Key Experts will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage.

Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications but should indicate clearly whether the association is in the form of a joint venture and/or a sub-consultancy. In the case of a joint venture, all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to 1.12.1 and 1.12.2 paragraphs of the Procurement Policy of the *Guidelines for the Procurement of Consultancy Services under Islamic Development Bank Project Financing* April 2019 (Revised February 2023) (the "Procurement Guidelines"), setting forth IsDB's policy on conflict of interest.

A consultant will be selected in accordance with the Quality and Cost-Based Selection (QCBS) method among shortlist of International firms set out in the Procurement Guidelines.

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours [Sunday to Thursday, 09:00 AM to 5:00 PM] (Bangladesh Standard Time).

Expressions of interest must be delivered in writing to the address below, in person or by mail or by email, by 2:00 PM (Bangladesh Standard Time) on 22 December 2026.

[Note: The Notice is also available on the websites of the Bangladesh Public Procurement Authority (BPPA), Road Transport and Highways Division (RTHD), Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and DgMarket at www.bppa.gov.bd , www.rthd.gov.bd , https://www.isdb.org/ and https://www.dgmarket.com/ respectively.]

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GD-2704