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YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

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PHOTO: **STAR**

Firefighters battle a blaze engulfing an overturned police vehicle during clashes in the Patgati bus stand area of Gopalganj's Tungipara upazila yesterday.

UPAZILA HEALTH COMPLEXES

Tk 45,000cr expansion, hasty assessment

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The government is set to undertake a Tk 45,000 crore project to upgrade all upazila health complexes into 151-bed facilities across the country, aiming to enhance their capacity and strengthen healthcare services at the grassroots level.

The three-year project, scheduled to begin in December 2026, involves the construction of hospital buildings, replacement of dilapidated structures, and renovation of existing facilities across 443 upazilas.

Specialised services, including intensive care, kidney dialysis, eye care and cancer screening, will also be introduced at UHCs under the project titled "Construction, Reconstruction, Upgrading, Renovation and Repair of Infrastructure at Upazila Health Complexes in Bangladesh", according to a health ministry proposal.

However, health experts and economists have questioned the decision to expand all UHCs in one go without comprehensive needs assessments. They have also raised concerns about the hurried preparation for the mega project, warning that the approach could create significant implementation challenges.

They argue that the government should first conduct detailed assessments of disease burden, population growth, future healthcare demand and the utilisation of existing facilities, many of which remain underused, before investing in such a large-scale expansion programme.

Initially, the government planned to upgrade all UHCs to 101-bed facilities but later revised the target to 151 beds.

Talking to reporters on June 3, Health Minister Sardar Md Sakhawat Husain said preparations had already begun to expand all UHCs to 101-bed facilities.

The Public Works Department (PWD) was tasked with carrying out a feasibility study covering all upazilas.

- All upazila health complexes (UHCs) will be expanded to 151-bed facilities each
- New hospital buildings to be constructed for 305 UHCs currently operating with 50 beds, 83 with 19 beds, 18 with 100 beds, and 13 with 31 beds
- 24 upazilas are without any UHCs
- ICUs, dialysis, cancer screening to be added
- Project preparation, feasibility studies questioned

About a month later, the Health Services Division (HSD) under the health ministry directed the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) to prepare a project proposal and also take steps to create necessary posts for the initiative, several health officials told this correspondent.

However, the government revised its plan on August 12, deciding to upgrade all UHCs to 151-bed facilities.

The decision was made at a meeting of the HSD with Prime Minister Tarique Rahman in the chair. It was also decided that the project proposal would be placed before the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecnec) within a month, according to the meeting minutes.

PWD was asked to revise the study, launched in the first week of June, in line with the new decision. It submitted the report to DGHS, which prepared and sent the Tk 44,757-crore Development Project Proposal (DPP) to the health ministry in September.

Last month, the HSD sent the DPP to the planning ministry, which returned the proposal to HSD with some queries, said an official involved in the process.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

Police on alert as crude bomb blasts, arson spread

1 killed, 10 vehicles torched, 33 held in Dhaka, other dists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One person was killed, and at least 10 vehicles were torched as crude bomb blasts and arson escalated and spread to more areas yesterday.

Unidentified people also blocked major roads, padlocked the entrances to government offices and educational institutions, and attacked several establishments, including Grameen Bank offices.

Amid the rising violence, Inspector General of Police Ali Hossain Fakir yesterday held a meeting with the superintendents of police of all 64 districts and range DIGs. He directed them to arrest those involved in the attacks, strengthen patrols, particularly in border districts, and intensify intelligence surveillance to prevent illegal entry into the country.

Additional police deployment was ordered in Gopalganj, Shariatpur, Madaripur, and Faridpur where the violence was rife.

Between November 7 and 9, at least 19 buses were torched and crude bomb explosions were reported at 29 spots across the country. Police arrested 29 people and filed 11 cases, according to Police Headquarters (PHQ).

In Dhaka, a car driver was injured when a crude bomb was hurled at his parked vehicle in front of the Faculty of Business Studies at Dhaka University yesterday afternoon. The injured driver was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Between November 7 and 9, at least 19 buses were torched and crude bomb explosions were reported at 29 spots across the country. Police arrested 29 people and filed 11 cases, according to Police Headquarters (PHQ).

Another bomb went off near the Faculty of Arts, damaging a car.

Earlier in the day, police recovered four unexploded crude bombs from two spots in Dhanmondi. Two were found near City College around 11:10am and two others in front of the demolished home of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Dhanmondi-32 around 12:30pm.

At least 33 people have been arrested in the capital since Monday morning in connection with the explosions, said Md Akhter Hossain, deputy commissioner (media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

"Almost 99 percent of those arrested are linked to the Awami League and its associate organisations, whose political activities are now banned," he told The Daily Star.

He added that police identified at least two individuals who were hired by the organisation to carry out the blasts in exchange for Tk 1,500 each.

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RELATED STORY ON PAGE 2

Tarique, Erdoğan hold 30-minute meeting

UNB, *Antalya*

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan held a bilateral meeting in Türkiye's Antalya yesterday.

The meeting began at 7:15pm local time at Maxx Royal Hotel and lasted around 30 minutes, Prime Minister's Deputy Press Secretary Hasan Shiplu said.

Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman and State Minister for Foreign Affairs-1 Humaiun Kobir were also present at the meeting.

The prime minister reached Antalya yesterday afternoon on a three-day visit to attend the World Leaders' Summit of the 31st Conference of the Parties (COP31) and hold talks with leaders of different countries.

COP31, the UN climate change conference, officially began in Antalya on Monday and will run through November 20.

As part of the conference, the two-day World Leaders' Summit will be held on November 11-12.

The prime minister is scheduled to address a plenary session on November 12 and hold several bilateral meetings with world leaders on the sidelines of the summit.

PHOTO ON PAGE 12

JS panel seeks action on Biman audit findings

Questions old aircraft purchase, Tk 753cr audit objections

TASNEEM TAYEB

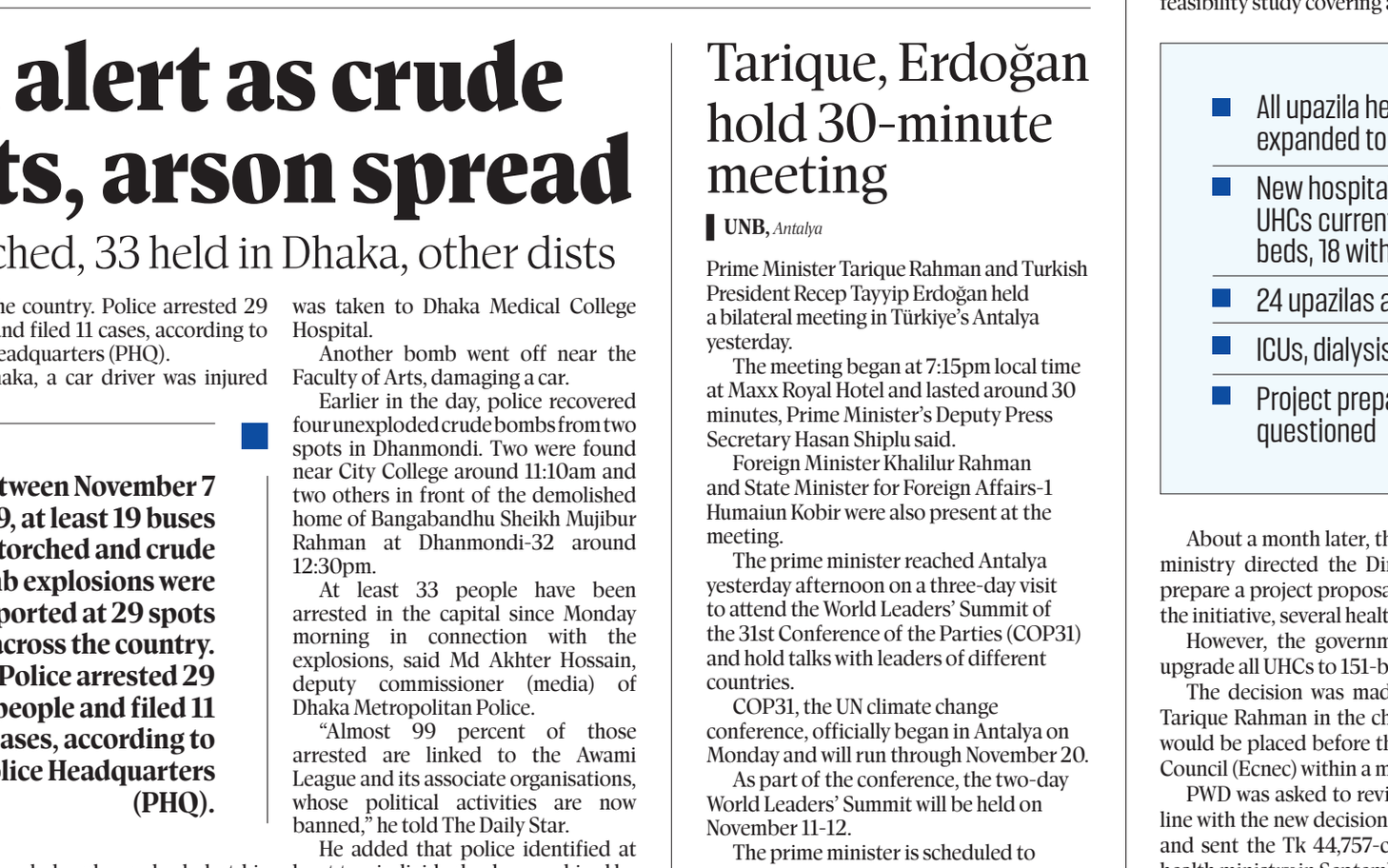
The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Undertakings yesterday directed Biman to identify those responsible for alleged financial irregularities and take action against them, as it reviewed 111 unresolved audit objections involving around Tk 753.5 crore.

The committee also questioned the purchase of two old aircraft, passenger revenue discrepancies, payments under a technology contract and losses on routes operated without adequate feasibility assessments.

The directives came at a meeting of the committee at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, chaired by Chief Whip Nurul Islam Moni, according to a Parliament Secretariat press release.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Nurul blamed much of the financial mismanagement on decisions taken under previous administrations, while noting efforts by the present management to address inherited problems.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Two excavators extract soil from the bed of the Turag River near Gabtoli in Dhaka to fill surrounding low-lying land for real estate development. The photo, taken from the Silicon City area, shows the ongoing illegal earth extraction that threatens the river's ecology, obstructs waterways and contributes to the loss of wetlands on the capital's outskirts. PHOTO: **RASHED SHUMON**

88 students in hospital after madrasa blaze

Fire Service says institution had no fire safety measures

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Narayanganj*

At least 88 students were hospitalised with smoke inhalation after a fire broke out at a residential madrasa in Fatullah early yesterday. Four of them are in critical condition and receiving treatment at the intensive care unit (ICU), doctors said.

The critically ill students are Yusuf, 18, Khairul, 22, Jobayer, 18, and another student named Yusuf, 18, said Sultan Mahmud Sikder, resident surgeon at the National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery in Dhaka.

Of the 88 students, 53 were discharged after treatment while the remaining 35 are still receiving treatment at the hospital.

The fire broke out around 1:45am at Jamiatul Ashrafia Madrasa in the Shantidhara area of Bhuighar, said Abdullah Al Arefin, deputy assistant director of Narayanganj Fire Service and Civil Defence.

He said the fire originated in the library and office rooms on the second floor of the five-storey building.

Five fire engines brought the blaze under control in about 30 minutes and fully

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

Isolated incidents do not signal security decline

Salahuddin tells JS; opposition slams home ministry over violence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A heated exchange erupted in Parliament yesterday over law and order, with the opposition accusing the home ministry of failing to curb violence, while Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed insisted that "isolated acts of sabotage" did not indicate worsening security.



Opposition Leader Shafiqur Rahman and Opposition Chief Whip Nahid Islam cited bus arson, crude bomb blasts inside the CID headquarters compound and attacks on police vehicles as evidence of growing insecurity.

During an unscheduled discussion, Shafiqur, also the Jamaat ameer, said the ministry responsible for law and order appeared ineffective and questioned how the government could evade responsibility for public anxiety.

He cited explosions at the Army Golf Club, outside Special Branch headquarters, at police station gates and at Dhaka University, where blasts occurred for three consecutive days, injuring two people yesterday.

He also referred to a young soldier recently killed during anti-militant operations in border and hill areas and tensions in Sajek Valley.

"Where does all this end?" he asked.

Shafiqur alleged that police vehicles had repeatedly been attacked and torched in Gopalganj, ruling party offices vandalised and looted, and opposition activists assaulted nationwide.

"Crude bombs are being detonated right in front of intelligence offices, which means even those facilities are not secure. What exactly are those intelligence agencies doing?"

Nahid, also National Citizen Party convenor, raised the issue on a point of order, citing "unprecedented terrorism, disorder and sabotage" over the previous two days.

He accused supporters of the ousted Awami League government of covert attacks, including bus arson, and cited reports of civilian casualties.

"We believe the home ministry has failed. We see

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4



A Fire Service official, along with others, inspect the charred interior of a madrasa in Narayanganj after a fire broke out, leaving 63 students hospitalised, yesterday.

PHOTO: SAURAV HOSSAIN SIAM

Police on alert as crude bomb blasts, arson spread

FROM PAGE 1

ARSON

The lone fatality was reported in Faridpur, where a parked bus was set on fire near the Goalchamat New Bus Stand area early yesterday.

The victim was identified as bus driver Kalachan Sheikh, 60, from Muksudpur upazila of Gopalganj, police said.

Kalachan, who was sleeping in the bus, died from smoke inhalation, OC Mahmudul Hasan of Faridpur Kotwali Police Station told this newspaper.

Sribas Barai, senior station officer of Faridpur fire service, said firefighters brought the blaze under control within 15 minutes.

In Gopalganj, a group of people set a police vehicle on fire and clashed with law enforcers yesterday, prompting authorities to deploy six platoons of BGB personnel, police said.

According to local sources, around 3,000 to 4,000 people gathered in the Tungipara bus stand area around 9:30am and blocked the road.

When police tried to disperse them, chases and counter-chases took place.

The Dhaka-Khulna highway was blocked by setting fire to wood and tyres in the Pathalia area of Gopalganj Sadar upazila around 1:00pm.

A procession and road blockade were reported near the BSCIC bridge in Gopalganj town around the same time.

Police and locals said those who took part in the events were affiliated with the AL and its associate organisations.

Gopalganj Deputy Commissioner Md Arif-Uz-Zaman told The Daily Star that the situation remained under control and six BGB platoons had been deployed to prevent further untoward incidents.

In another development, police recovered two grenade-like objects from in front of Hazrat Shah Makhdum Airport in Rajshahi.

In Mohanganj of Netrokona, at least six houses of AL leaders and activists were attacked, vandalised, and looted on Monday night, hours after a procession reportedly organised by local leaders of banned Chhatra League, according to police and local sources.

The Amtala branch of Grameen Bank at Dugia Bazar in the district's Sadar upazila was set on fire early yesterday.

A fire also damaged seats in a compartment of Haor Express at Mohanganj Railway Station in Netrokona.

In Savar, a parked bus was torched in Dhamrai around 1:00am, while another bus was set on fire in Savar's Namagendha area around 2:00am, said police.

In Cox's Bazar, several incidents of arson and vandalism were reported in the district between Monday night and early yesterday.

A moving truck came under a petrol bomb attack at Ramu Bypass Gate. Petrol bombs were also hurled at the gates of Chowfoldandi Union Parishad and a Grameen Bank branch in Cox's Bazar Sadar upazila, setting them on fire. Crude bombs were also thrown at Kaiarbil in Chakaria and Shapla Chattar in Teknaf, according to police.

Meanwhile, miscreants locked the main entrance of the Chakaria UNO office and the gates of four to five educational institutions on Monday night.

In Khagrachhari, a parked vehicle was torched in front of KSTC Hospital.

Miscreants locked the main gates of a court and three educational institutions in Rangamati.

In Shariatpur, vehicular movement via Padma Bridge was halted for around an hour early yesterday after banned Chhatra League activists blocked the road near the toll plaza at Jazira, said police.

In Chattogram, two buses were set on fire in the port city's Sagarika and Kalurghat areas on Monday night and early yesterday, reports the daily Prothom Alo.

OC Nurul Absar of Pahartali Police Station said police were trying to identify those involved.

In Kishoreganj's Bajitpur, a parked college bus was torched late Monday night at Pirijpur bus stand.

A municipality garbage truck was also set on fire in Barguna's Betagi, according to the Prothom Alo report.

Meanwhile, BNP leaders and activists, along with those from its associate and like-minded parties, yesterday took positions at various points in the capital to prevent subversive activities.

Armed with sticks, they were seen guarding road entrances and alleyways in Mirpur, Mohammadpur, Farmgate, Bijoy Sarani, Tejgaon, and several other areas.

[Our correspondents from the respective districts contributed to this report.]

88 students in hospital after madrasa blaze

FROM PAGE 1

extinguished it around 3:45am.

"About 1,300 students study at the madrasa, most of them residential. They were all asleep when the fire broke out. Many suffered from smoke inhalation, and several were taken to hospital," Arefin said.

The fire service suspects an electrical short circuit, but the exact cause will be determined after an investigation, he added.

Jahangir Alam, senior station officer of Kanchpur Model Fire Station, told The Daily Star, "We did not find any fire safety measures anywhere in the madrasa. There was not even a fire extinguisher. However, as there was a water storage facility beside the building, we did not face much difficulty in bringing the fire under control."

Atiqur Rahman, vice-principal of the residential madrasa, said they had never faced such an incident before and had therefore not given much thought to fire safety.

However, he said the madrasa authorities would take steps to strengthen fire safety measures following the incident.

Maruf Hossain, a student of the madrasa, said that although there had never been a major fire incident before, a residential madrasa should have adequate safety arrangements.

During a visit to the madrasa, this correspondent found burnt books and documents piled up in the courtyard. Inside, charred books, computers and electric fans lay damaged and twisted. Concrete had also come off the ceiling and floor in some places.

Fire official Arefin told reporters that the library was air-conditioned and its interior was made of wood and board. As these materials are highly flammable, the fire was intense, he said.

Meanwhile, a four-member probe committee has been formed to investigate the incident, said Narayanganj Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Raihan Kabir.

Members of the Crime Scene Unit of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) visited the madrasa as part of the investigation. They spoke to students, teachers and local residents and collected evidence.

Tk 45,000cr expansion, hasty assessment

FROM PAGE 1

According to the proposal, DGHS will implement the project, while the PWD and the Health Engineering Department will carry out the construction work.

Apart from hospital buildings, multi-storey service buildings will be constructed in 443 upazilas and four residential buildings each in 15 upazilas to accommodate doctors, nurses and other staff.

The project aims to expand the range of services at UHCs, including intensive care units (ICUs), coronary care units (CCUs), and maternal and newborn care, physiotherapy, and kidney dialysis.

Syed Abdul Hamid, a professor at the Institute of Health Economics of Dhaka University, said the decision to upgrade all UHCs to 151 beds should have been based on a proper needs-based evaluation, considering disease burden, population projections and future healthcare demand.

"I could not find the justification... Since this involves public money, the government should explain why it has chosen this particular capacity. Whether a hospital should have 50, 100 or 250 beds depends on the needs of a specific area. We should assess not only current demand but also healthcare needs over the next 10 to 20 years."

The Health Bulletin 2023 showed wide variations in the utilisation of UHCs. Bed occupancy rates at the 20 least-used facilities ranged from 11 to 65 percent, indicating substantial underuse of existing capacity.

By contrast, the 20 most heavily burdened UHCs recorded occupancy rates of 160 to 221 percent, pointing to an uneven distribution of patient load across the healthcare system.

Prof Hamid acknowledged the necessity of replacing dilapidated UHC buildings constructed in the 1980s and 1990s, but said any replacement should be based on local needs.

He questioned whether sufficient assessments were conducted and experts consulted before the project was formulated, especially given the short time taken to prepare the proposal.

He further said the project reflected the infrastructure-focused approach of the ousted Awami League government, even though the current government had pledged to prioritise healthcare service delivery over new infrastructure.

Prof Rashid-E-Mahbub, convener of the Doctors Platform for People's Health, said the decision to upgrade all UHCs, irrespective of their individual needs, was not justified, as they differ in terms of geographical location, population, and the demand for healthcare services.

"The first problem is the shortage of manpower. We do not have adequate doctors and nurses or even support staff like cleaners and sanitation workers."

He said the expansion of bed capacity without ensuring the necessary human resources, logistics and other support services will not improve healthcare delivery.

"Before investing in new infrastructure, we should ensure the optimal use of the existing facilities," he said.

Contacted on November 9, Foara Tasmim, additional director general (planning and development) of DGHS, said, "Some facilities may not require that many beds right now, but demand could rise in the future. We want to strengthen primary healthcare and preventive services at upazila and union levels to ease pressure on tertiary hospitals."

Describing the government move as a high-level policy decision, she said the objective is to upgrade facilities, not to determine bed requirements separately for each upazila.

When her attention was drawn to the wide variation of hospital bed occupancy rates across upazilas, she argued that enhancement of primary healthcare services could increase utilisation of those facilities and eventually ease pressure on larger hospitals.

Asked whether adequate preparations were made for the expansion, she said that soon after the authorities made the initial decision to upgrade the UHCs to 101 beds in June, PWD started mapping and assessing facilities in every upazila, examining the existing infrastructure, available land and the need for new construction or expansion of existing buildings.

"We are trying to make the project as technically sound as possible. We are consulting architects and experts to ensure that the facilities are properly designed and remain suitable not only for today's needs but also for the next 20 years."

At a programme on October 28, MA Muhit, the state minister for health, defended the government decision, saying it was part of a broader effort to strengthen primary healthcare and reduce pressure on larger hospitals.

Referring to concerns over manpower, he acknowledged that infrastructure expansion alone would not be enough and said that preparations were already underway for additional recruitment.

JS panel seeks action on Biman audit findings

FROM PAGE 1

He said the committee wanted the names of former board members and officials involved in questionable decisions and had allowed Biman another month to provide information sought earlier.

Nurul said the airline could become profitable through better management and service standards, and that current efforts to improve it should be encouraged alongside efforts to ensure accountability.

The committee questioned Biman's purchase of two formerly leased DHC Dash-8 aircraft, described in the parliamentary account as 15 years old, despite a procurement policy that did not permit buying old aircraft.

Of 45 audit objections concerning recovery of money, the audit department rejected Biman's claims of settling eight because the airlines did not produce valid bank statements substantiating the recoveries.

Auditors had also identified alleged revenue leakage where passengers were upgraded from economy to business class after paying extra, but the additional revenue was not reflected in Biman's accounts.

The Comptroller and Auditor General's office has initiated an IT audit, and Biman was instructed to provide records covering July to October.

The committee sought a joint report within seven days concerning allegations that Sabre, the airline's passenger service system provider, had received full payment without delivering all contracted services.

It also requested route-wise financial statements and an investigation within a month into alleged underreporting of revenue from Dhaka-Guangzhou chartered cargo flights during the pandemic.

Biman officials assured the committee that they would submit the requested aircraft-related documents within the deadline.

Meanwhile, the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) held a board meeting yesterday to consider a proposed agreement with a Japanese consortium to operate Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport's third terminal.

The proposed 15-year arrangement has drawn scrutiny over a restriction on competing civilian airports beginning commercial operations within 100 kilometres of the airport and the future use of Terminals-1 and -2.

Abul Kalam Azad Siddique, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on the civil aviation ministry, told The Daily Star he had not received the agreement documents in his capacity as chairman and said the matter was under process.

Aviation expert Kazi Wahidul Alam questioned the December 16 partial-opening target, saying even an immediate signing would leave insufficient time to prepare for and complete trial operations.

He also welcomed the parliamentary committee's scrutiny of Biman, saying such investigations could strengthen accountability if followed through, and called for the findings to be made public.

The Tk 22,213 crore terminal was ceremonially inaugurated in October 2023 but has yet to begin regular commercial operations.

Aviation Minister M Rashiduzzaman Millat earlier said the government aimed to begin partial operations with around 20 flights.

Global fossil fuel emissions to fall slightly in 2026

Say researchers citing Iran war-driven oil price shock, growth in renewables

AFP, *Antalya*

Global fossil fuel emissions are projected to fall slightly in 2026 due to the expansion of renewable energy and the oil price shock sparked by the Iran war, researchers said yesterday.

Emissions from the burning of oil, gas and coal -- the main drivers of climate change -- rose by 0.9 percent per year on average in the past decade, hitting a record high in 2025, according to the Global Carbon Budget report.

But they are expected to drop by 0.4 percent in 2026, according to the research, published as nations meet at the UN's COP31 climate summit in Antalya, Turkey.

It would be the first annual drop since 2020, when the Covid pandemic paralysed the global economy, trade and transport.

This year, the US-led war in Iran and closure of the Strait of Hormuz played a role in driving emissions down as it caused a drop in oil consumption amid soaring crude prices, the researchers found.

The deployment of solar panels, wind farms and electric vehicles also contributed to the drop. Two thirds of the increase in global energy demand is being met by solar and wind power and electric vehicles, the report found.

"A decline in fossil CO2 emissions is encouraging, but a reduction driven partly by geopolitical shocks is not a sustainable climate solution," said Pierre Friedlingstein, director of the Global Carbon Budget Office at the University of Exeter in Britain.

'Practically no real contact'

FROM PAGE 12

of India, and I for mine," she writes, describing her own position as one opposed to hegemony and committed to equality. She also makes clear that she does not regard their differences as a personal quarrel.

Gandhi writes that she and Modi have had little personal contact throughout his years as prime minister.

Their encounters, she says, have largely been confined to official or semi-official gatherings, including meetings in the Lok Sabha Speaker's chamber at the end of parliamentary sessions. "To this day, I've had practically no real contact with him," she writes.

She describes their exchanges as formal greetings, contrasting them with an earlier political culture in which leaders from opposing parties maintained more cordial personal relationships. According to Gandhi, PM Modi tends to avoid eye contact during their encounters.

Gandhi also recalls the communal violence in Gujarat in 2002, when Modi was the state's chief minister. The violence followed the February 27 burning of a coach of the Sabarmati Express near Godhra, in which 59 passengers died. Many of the victims were Hindu kar sevaks returning from Ayodhya.

In her memoir, Gandhi describes watching televised reports of the riots and receiving desperate calls from Congress colleagues in Gujarat.

She alleges that the administration failed to respond adequately to the violence and recalls allegations involving extremist elements associated with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the RSS and the Bajrang Dal.

The publication of Belonging follows a dispute over the book's Indian publishing rights. Penguin Random House India had initially been in discussions to publish the memoir but did not proceed with the arrangement.

The Indian Express reported in September that the disagreement involved proposed edits and deletions relating to PM Modi, the RSS, communal violence and other politically sensitive subjects.

Penguin Random House India disputed suggestions that the decision was simply the result of Gandhi refusing editorial changes, saying that discussions had reached an impasse over an unresolved issue.

HarperCollins India subsequently acquired the rights to publish the memoir in the Indian subcontinent and confirmed November 10 as its release date.

The memoir also revisits Gandhi's decision to decline the prime ministership after the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) won the 2004 general election.

In an excerpt published by The Indian Express yesterday, Gandhi recalls that Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra opposed her accepting the post, having lived through the assassinations of their grandmother Indira Gandhi and father Rajiv Gandhi.

She describes the pressure from alliance leaders who wanted her to lead the government and her concern that her foreign origin could become a source of political confrontation.

Gandhi recounts ultimately informing her son that she would maintain her decision.

She subsequently nominated Manmohan Singh to lead the Congress Parliamentary Party and become prime minister.

The 544-page memoir traces Gandhi's childhood in post-war Italy, her meeting with Rajiv Gandhi in Cambridge, their marriage in 1968 and her subsequent life in India.

It also examines the assassinations of Indira Gandhi in 1984 and Rajiv Gandhi in 1991, and the events that eventually brought her into active politics.

The book is published in India by HarperCollins and in the United States by Alfred A Knopf.

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Education, work, dignity shape Rohingya hopes

Duchess of Edinburgh meets refugees to learn their dreams, struggles

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN, *from Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar*

Mohammad Obaid, a sixth-grade Rohingya student, dreams of becoming an engineer and helping his community, but limited opportunities for higher education stand in his way.

He raised the issue with Duchess of Edinburgh Sophie Helen Rhys-Jones during her visit to a Rohingya camp in Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar yesterday.

"Please give me and students like me an opportunity. If I get an opportunity, I will become an engineer and help my community," he told her.

Obaid was among children who shared their ambitions and struggles with the member of the British royal family at the Unicef-supported CODEC Learning Centre in Camp 18, her first stop at the camps.

"Tell me about some of the challenges that

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Rohingya children share their hopes, ambitions and struggles with Duchess of Edinburgh Sophie Helen Rhys-Jones during her visit to the Unicef-supported CODEC Learning Centre in a camp in Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar, yesterday. PHOTO: **PRABIR DAS**

FROM JS GALLERY

Benazir can't leave UAE amid extradition process

Says home minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former inspector general of police Benazir Ahmed will not be allowed to leave the United Arab Emirates until the ongoing extradition proceedings are completed, Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed told the parliament yesterday.

The minister said the National Central Bureau (NCB) in Abu Dhabi informed NCB-Dhaka in a letter dated September 9 that Benazir had been released on bail by the UAE public prosecutor but was placed under a travel ban by the country's authorities.

"The competent authorities of the UAE have imposed a travel ban on the individual," Salahuddin quoted the letter as saying.

Benazir was arrested in the UAE on June 12, 2026, following an Interpol Red Notice, the minister said.

He explained that extradition is a judicial and state process and does not automatically follow an arrest or the issuance of a Red Notice. The requested country's authorities and courts must examine the charges, arrest warrant, evidence and other legal requirements before making a decision.

Noor Hossain Day observed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Various political parties and organisations yesterday paid tribute to Shaheed Noor Hossain, marking Noor Hossain Day, which commemorates his sacrifice in the movement against the autocratic regime of HM Ershad in 1987.



The Workers Party of Bangladesh paid homage at Shaheed Noor Hossain Chattar in Gulistan, while Bangladesh Rastro Songskar Andolan held a discussion at its central office on Topkhana Road.

On November 10, 1987, Noor Hossain joined an anti-Ershad procession with the slogans "Shairachar nipat jak, gonotontro mukti pak" painted on his chest and back. He was shot dead by police when the procession reached the city's Zero Point.

The day is regarded as a significant milestone in Bangladesh's struggle for democracy.

The Workers Party delegation was led by its Acting President Mahmudul Hasan

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

Two markets built for a town yet to come alive

Tk 25cr investment in Purbachal New Town lies idle; planners question strategy to attract residents

DIPAN NANDY

Two new markets built at a cost of around Tk 25 crore under the Purbachal New Town project have remained idle for six months since construction ended, as the leasing process stalled after the highest bidders failed to deposit the required security money.

The markets have 156 shops, but none has opened despite a competitive bidding which drew dozens of bids for each market.

Built by Rajuk in Sectors 1 and 5, the markets were intended to serve residents of the planned township. However, with much of Purbachal still uninhabited, the investment has raised questions about its timing and rationale.



PHOTO: **STAR**



Urban planners say Rajuk should have prioritised making the area liveable by ensuring essential civic amenities before investing in commercial infrastructure.

A visit to the Sector 5 market, opposite the International Trade Fair building, found little activity in the surrounding area. Apart from a handful of buildings, there is hardly any development nearby. Sections of the approach road are muddy, with stagnant water and overgrown bushes adding to the desolate surroundings.

The Sector 1 market, south of the 300 Feet Road, faces a similar situation, with few residents nearby. An informal market, however, operates near the entrance to Mazar Road.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

24,013 'politically motivated' cases withdrawn

Law minister tells JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has so far withdrawn 24,013 cases filed for political reasons or to harass individuals, Law Minister Md Asaduzzaman told parliament yesterday.

Responding to a question from MP Keramat Ali, he said the process began under the interim government and was continued by the current administration.

He said district-level four-member committees, headed by district magistrates, were formed on March 5 to scrutinise applications and assess whether cases were politically motivated and their withdrawal served the public interest. A six-member central committee, headed by the law minister, was formed on March 8 to review their recommendations.

Replying to a supplementary question from BNP lawmaker Zainul Abdin Farroque, Asaduzzaman said all types of cases, including murder, could be withdrawn if found politically motivated, except rape cases.

The minister also said 1,883 cases had been filed over killings, enforced disappearances and torture allegedly committed under the previous Awami League government since the July 2024 uprising. Of these, 805 were murder cases.

Investigations have been completed in 293 cases, with charge sheets submitted. Final reports have been filed in 91 cases, while investigations into the rest are ongoing.

RMG workers continue protests for higher wages

Two hurt in Ashulia clash, 11 Gazipur factories declare holiday

STAR REPORT

At least two garment workers were injured in clashes with police in Ashulia yesterday as workers demanding higher wages blocked a road, while 11 factories in Gazipur declared a general holiday amid unrest.

Workers blocked the Baipail-Abdullahpur road in Jamgora around 10:30am. Police fired teargas shells and sound grenades after protesters hurled brickbats.

The injured, Alamgir Hossain and Rafia Begum, work at Sterling Style Limited.

Harun-or-Rashid, operations manager of Ashulia Women and Children Hospital, said the two arrived around 12:15pm with injuries to their heads and bodies. Both appeared to have been hit by rubber bullets, he said.

Rafia was referred to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with a head injury, while Alamgir received primary treatment.

Mominul Islam Bhuiyan, superintendent of Ashulia Industrial Police-1, denied police had fired rubber bullets, saying, "These are propaganda spread by the Awami League. Our industrial police do not have such weapons."

Rafia was injured by a brickbat, he claimed.

Police later dispersed the protesters and brought the situation under control, SI Bhuiyan said.

Several attempts to contact Ashulia Police Station OC

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6



Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) held its 27th convocation on November 9 at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Exhibition Center in Purbachal. President and IUB Chancellor Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir presided over the ceremony, while Bangladesh University Grants Commission Chairman Prof Mamun Ahmed attended as the special guest. Prof Ainun Nishat was the convocation speaker. IUB Board of Trustees Chairman Didar A Husain, Vice Chancellor Prof M Tamim and Pro-VC Prof Daniel W Lund also attended the ceremony, which was conducted by Registrar Asif Parvez. PHOTO: **COURTESY**

DoA forms team to inspect Dhirendranath Dutta's house

ASK slams vandalising signboard

STAR REPORT

The Department of Archaeology (DoA) has formed a six-member team to inspect the house of Dhirendranath Dutta, a Language Movement veteran and a martyred intellectual, in Cumilla and assess its potential for preservation.

Afroz Khan Mita, DoA regional director for the Chattogram and Sylhet divisions, signed an office order in this regard on Monday, reports our Cumilla correspondent.

The committee is scheduled to assess the property's current condition and prepare a report for its conservation. The report will later be sent to the department's head office for further decisions.

Dhirendranath Dutta's granddaughter Aroma

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

Bangladesh's Hajj quota increased by 5,000

UNB, *Dhaka*

Bangladesh's Hajj quota for 2027 has been increased by 5,000 to 83,500 under a bilateral agreement signed with Saudi Arabia in Jeddah on Monday.

Religious Affairs Minister Kazi Shah Mofazzal Houssain Kaikobad and Saudi Minister of Hajj and Umrah Dr Tawfig bin Fawzan Al-Rabiah signed the agreement on behalf of their respective governments.

After the signing, Kaikobad said the discussions had concluded successfully, adding that the additional allocation was granted following a special request from the Bangladesh government.

A total of 78,500 Bangladeshi pilgrims performed Hajj in the previous season under government and private arrangements.

During the talks, the two ministers also reviewed progress in Hajj management and discussed administrative challenges, including limitations on tent accommodation capacity in Mina.

জমি বিক্রয়

নিকুঞ্জ ১ আবাসিক এলাকা সংলগ্ন জোয়ার সাহারা মৌজাধীন নিষ্কন্টক ২৫.৮৫ কাঠা জমি বিক্রয় করা হবে।

প্রকৃত ক্রেতাগণ যোগাযোগ করুন।
ক্যাডেট কলেজ ক্লাব লিমিটেড, পূর্বাচল,
মোবাঃ ০১৩২৯৬৬৬০৪৭
০১৭১৩৮২৫০৫৭

A new weekend retreat by the Karnaphuli

SIFAYET ULLAH, *Ctg*

A riverside road along the Karnaphuli is emerging as a popular weekend getaway in Chattogram, drawing city dwellers seeking open space, fresh air and river views.

Behind Kolpolok Residential Area, the under-construction 8.5-kilometre road and dyke have become an informal recreational spot, attracting families, couples and groups of friends, particularly on weekends.

Ashraful Alam, a Forest Department employee, recently visited with his wife and two children.

"I was surprised to see so many people here. There are hardly any facilities for visitors, although a few shops have opened. Still, I enjoyed spending the evening sitting by the river," he said.

The spot's popularity comes as Chattogram has only eight parks and recreational spaces for an estimated population of around 70 lakh, according to the Chattogram City Corporation's annual administrative report for fiscal 2023-24.

"Before, this was an abandoned area. We have seen it turn into a popular destination right before our eyes. People mostly come here because it is quiet and free from the usual city bustle. With proper infrastructure for visitors, this place could become an ideal tourist spot," said Jamal Uddin, a resident of Road No 2 in Kolpolok Residential Area.

The 8.5-kilometre Kalurghat-Chaktai road and dyke project, stretching from the Kalurghat Bridge intersection to Chaktai Canal, was launched in July 2017.

The Chattogram Development Authority (CDA) undertook the Tk 2,779.39-crore project to improve connectivity and ease waterlogging by constructing a four-lane alternative road and an embankment along the Karnaphuli. Around 90 percent of the work has been completed.

The CDA has now proposed developing a one-kilometre stretch behind Kolpolok Residential Area into a tourist zone.

Golam Rabbani, senior architect at the CDA, said it would include seating areas, a children's playground, a food court, washrooms, overbridges, an open-air auditorium, a parking lot and a dedicated cycling lane.

Rajib Das, CDA executive engineer and project director, said the facilities were not part of the original project and would require separate funding.



The riverside road along the Karnaphuli brings in visitors. PHOTO: **STAR**

Tourism in Rangamati hit hard by Sajek unrest

RIKORS CHAKMA, *Rangamati*

The ongoing road blockade and administrative restrictions in Sajek Valley of Rangamati's Baghaichhari upazila have begun taking a toll on tourism in the district.

Despite the onset of the peak tourist season in winter, arrivals in Rangamati town have dropped sharply, leading to fewer room bookings across hotels, motels, and resorts, and a thin presence of visitors even on weekends.

Since October 22, the Sajek Gano Odhikar Rokkha Committee and Sajek Karbari Association have been enforcing an indefinite road blockade on the Rangamati town-Sajek route. In response, the district administration temporarily suspended tourism activities in Sajek on the same day.

Since then, businesses centring tourism in Sajek have come to a virtual standstill, spilling over into similar businesses in Rangamati town, with visitor turnouts falling short of expectations this year.

On Monday afternoon, only a handful of visitors, mostly local residents, were seen at the Hanging Bridge, Rangamati's prime tourist attraction.

Hasan Ahmed Sohel, who manages the ticket counter at the Hanging Bridge, said the situation was completely different this time, even on weekends, with fewer than 100 tickets being sold daily, as tourist arrivals have plummeted due to the blockade in Sajek.

Md Ramjan Ali, vice-president of the Rangamati Tourist Boat Owners' Association, said the ongoing closure of Sajek is having a negative impact on tourism in the district town as well.



PHOTO: **STAR**

Md Yousuf Chowdhury, general secretary of the Rangamati Hotel Owners' Association, said hotels and motels are having very few bookings. While some visitors are arriving, they leave quickly.

Alok Brata Chakma, director of Rangadeep Resort in Rangamati, said a misconception has spread that travel to Rangamati is also impossible due to the blockade in Sajek. In reality, Rangamati town is about 150 kilometres away from Sajek, and the situation there remained completely normal, he added.

Alok Bikash Chakma, manager of Rangamati Parjatan Holiday Complex, said only about 20 percent of their hotel rooms were currently booked, with very few visitors arriving.

He expressed hope that tourist arrivals would increase once the situation normalises.

Chittagong Dry Dock Limited
Bangladesh Navy
East Patenga, Chattogram, Bangladesh
Phone: +880-31-2501110, Mobile: +8801769744470
Fax: +880-31-2501123, E-mail: drydock.bd@gmail.com, Website: www.cddl.gov.bd

২৩.০২.১৫৬৫.৩৪১.৫৩.০০৩.২৬.৩৫৭ ১০ নভেম্বর ২০২৬

"দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি"

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GD-2732



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- **Application Starts:** October 18, 2026
- **Application Deadline:** December 02, 2026
- **Admission Test:** December 04, 2026 (Friday)
- Contact DSBM Office from 11.00 am to 5.00 pm. (02.00 pm to 09.00 pm on Friday and Saturday)

* The scheduled dates may be changed due to unavoidable circumstances.

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dsbm@bibm.org.bd
www.admission.bibm.org.bd

Five more die with measles symptoms

UNB, *Dhaka*

Five patients died with measles-like symptoms in the 24 hours ending at 8:00am yesterday, bringing the country's combined tally of confirmed and suspected measles-related deaths to 1,289 this year.

The Directorate General of Health Services has classified the latest fatalities as suspected measles deaths.

With these, this year the total number of suspected measles deaths has reached 1,184, while confirmed deaths from measles have remained the same at 105.

Teen sent to jail over stabbing schoolgirl

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Kushtia*

A Kushtia court yesterday sent a 16-year-old boy, who is accused of stabbing a schoolgirl, to jail.

Zahirul Islam, inspector of the court police, said the teenager, who allegedly used to stalk the victim, would be kept under the supervision of a probation officer since he is a minor.

Police arrested the accused in a raid in Patikabari area of Kushtia Sadar upazila on the night of the incident and took him to Kushtia Model Police Station.

Faisal Mahmud, additional superintendent of police (Crime and Operations) and spokesperson for Kushtia District Police, said a case had been filed over the incident. He added that the teenager could be taken on remand if necessary.

The schoolgirl was stabbed in front of her home in Thanapara area of Kushtia town around 1:00pm on Monday. She was hospitalised and is currently out of danger.

Police identified the accused by reviewing CCTV footage following the incident.

কোল পাওয়ার জেনারেশন কোম্পানি বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড (সিপিজিসিবিএল)
Coal Power Generation Company Bangladesh Limited (CPGCBL)
(An Enterprise of Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh)
"আলোকিত দেশ, যত্নে পরিবেশ"

Memo No. 27.32.0000.000.005.07.0003.25.0932; Date: 08-11-2026

IFB Amendment Notice (1st)

All Concerns are hereby requested to follow the amendments made for the IFB Notice of "**Procurement and Delivery of Imported Coal at Plant Jetty (CDP) for Matarbari 2x600 MW Ultra Super Critical Coal Fired Power Plant**" invited vide **Ref No. 27.32.0000.000.005.07.0003.25.0864; Date: 04-10-2026** as per following status. All other instructions of the notice shall be remained unchanged:

Description	Existing	Amended As
Bid Document Last Selling Date	18 November 2026 16:00 BST	**09 December 2026 16:00 BST**
Bid Closing Date & Time	19 November 2026 12:00 BST	**10 December 2026 12:00 BST**
Bid Opening Date & Time	19 November 2026 12:30 BST	**10 December 2026 12:30 BST**

**Amendment(s) of Bidding Document (if any) will be available at CPGCBL's website.

08.11.2026
Kazi Md. Miraj Hossain
Company Secretary, CPGCBL, Dhaka

NCC Bank
with you always

NATIONAL CREDIT AND COMMERCE BANK PLC.
COMMON SERVICES DIVISION
Head Office: NCC Bank Bhaban, 13/1-2, Toyenbee Circular Road
Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, Phone: 223390053
IP: + 8809666700008, Ext: 930-130

NOTICE OF INVITING QUOTATIONS

Sealed quotations are hereby invited by National Credit and Commerce Bank PLC. (the Bank) from reputed Companies/local Agents/Suppliers/Authorized Distributors/Service Providers for the below mentioned requirements under the terms and conditions mentioned detail in the Request for Quotation (RFQ) documents.

Item Description	Price of the Tender document	Sale start date	Sale end date	Date and time for Tender Submission
Item 1: RFQ for Supply, Installation, Implementation & Configuration of Server, Desktop PC, Laptop, SAN Switches & Transceiver- Fiber Module of NCC Bank PLC.	Tk. 3,000/- (Taka Three Thousand) only (for each item) in the form of Payment Order (non-refundable) favoring National Credit and Commerce Bank PLC. by any scheduled bank of Bangladesh	November 11, 2026	November 24, 2026	November 25, 2026 Time: on/before 02:00 PM
Item 2: RFQ for Supply, Installation, Implementation & Configuration of Oracle Database Enterprise License, Virtualization Solutions Software, Operating Systems (OS) & Web Server (RedHat JBoss) of NCC Bank PLC.		November 11, 2026	November 24, 2026	November 25, 2026 Time: on/before 02:00 PM
Item 3: RFQ for Supply, Installation, Implementation & Configuration of Payment Hardware Security Module (HSM) of NCC Bank PLC.		November 11, 2026	November 24, 2026	November 25, 2026 Time: on/before 02:00 PM
Item 4: RFQ (Re-Tender) for Supplying, Installing & Up-gradating Active Directory Domain Services (ADDS) and Microsoft Exchange Hybrid Environment (including support & services) of NCC Bank PLC.		November 11, 2026	November 23, 2026	November 24, 2026 Time: on/before 02:00 PM

The schedule containing detailed Terms & Conditions may be collected from the Common Services Division, Level-5, NCC Bank PLC. Head Office, Dhaka and submit the same under sealed envelope to the Tender Box placed at Common Services Division (CSD). Manipulation or any kind of unusual approach or failure to submit offer within the stipulated time frame will be treated as "Disqualified" for the bidding. The Bank authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposal without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Vice President & Head of Common Services Division

Dhaka South City Corporation
Office of the Chief Store & Purchase Officer
Store & Purchase Department, Nagar Bhaban, Dhaka.

Memo No.: 46.207.007.17.02.2026-202 Date: 10-Nov-2026

e-Tender Notice (OTM)

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

SL. No.	Method of tender & Tender ID, Ref. No.	Procurement Item Descriptions.	Publishing Date & Time	Last Selling Date & Time	Closing & Opening Date & Time
1.	OTM (NCT) Tender ID. 1370239 Ref. 46.207.007.17.01. 2026-33	Supply of Pesticide Adulticide (Malathion 5% w/w), Ready for Use for Controlling Mosquito 2026-27	10-Nov-2026 15:30	08-Dec-2026 15:30	09-Dec-2026 14:00

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. Further information and guidelines are available in the national e-GP system Portal.

ডিএসসিসি/পিআরডি/১২২/২০২৬-২৭

(Mohammad Aslam Mollah)
Deputy Secretary
Chief Store & Purchase Officer
Store & Purchase Department
E-mail: cspodscc20@gmail.com

GD-2737

Israel's Eisenkot vows quick govt formation

New parliament meets

AFP, *Jerusalem*

Israel's new parliament was sworn in yesterday with a mission to immediately take aim at caretaker Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, as rival Gadi Eisenkot vowed to quickly cobble together a new government.

President Isaac Herzog delivered a speech at 4:00 pm for the swearing-in of the 120-seat parliament, in which neither Netanyahu's right-wing coalition nor Eisenkot's broad left-to-right anti-Netanyahu bloc will hold a majority.

"I am committed in this complex situation to form a national-emergency government as quickly as possible," Eisenkot, a 66-year-old former military chief who only recently entered politics, said as he prepared to be sworn in.

Eisenkot's allies hope to use their newfound legislative power to move rapidly on key priorities, including a commission to investigate security failures under Netanyahu that allowed the October 7, 2023 attack by Hamas.

Herzog on Sunday gave Eisenkot the initial mandate to form a government, starting the clock for him to cobble together a coalition within 28 days, with a possible 14-day extension.

Ahead of the opening of the parliament, known as the Knesset, Eisenkot's party announced agreements on key people to replace allies of Netanyahu.



University students take part in a protest against Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto's policies and the government's handling of wildfires in Jakarta, Indonesia, yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

LAHORE TOXIC AIR

Pak blames India's Diwali fireworks

REUTERS, *Islamabad*

Pakistan blamed poor air quality this week on pollution drifting from neighbouring India, where firecrackers set off during the Hindu festival of Diwali over the weekend blanketed much of the north in toxic smog.

The northern Pakistani city of Lahore topped IQAir's ranking of the world's most polluted major cities for a second day yesterday, with an air quality index (AQI) of 263, categorised as "very unhealthy". The city's concentration of PM2.5, harmful airborne particles small enough to penetrate deep into the lungs, was 37.2 times above the WHO annual guideline, IQAir said.

Punjab's environment protection minister said pollutants had been carried into the region by air drifting from India after Diwali.

Malaysia court restores ex-PM Najib's house arrest

AFP, *Kuala Lumpur*

A Malaysian court yesterday cleared the way for jailed former prime minister Najib Razak to be transferred to house arrest, after the attorney general disputed an earlier directive.

Najib, 73, was jailed for his role in one of the largest global plunders of a sovereign wealth fund, the now-defunct 1MDB.

He was granted a conditional pardon in September, allowing him to serve out the rest of his sentence at home provided that he paid a $12 million fine.

His political party, the United Malays National Organisation, paid the fine on Friday, but the attorney general blocked Najib's transfer on legal grounds.

"In accordance with the order of conditional pardon, the accused shall serve the remainder of the reduced sentence of six years' imprisonment under house arrest," High Court judge Aslam Zainuddin said.

Houthi missiles fired at Riyadh downed

Says Saudi coalition; Trump says he will hold off on fresh Iran strikes for now

AGENCIES

The Saudi-led coalition in Yemen said yesterday it intercepted and destroyed two missiles launched by Yemen's Houthis towards Riyadh, amid weeks of escalating hostilities between the kingdom and the Iran-aligned group.

The coalition said its air defences destroyed a ballistic missile and a cruise missile fired at the Saudi capital.

Saudi Civil Defence had earlier issued an early-warning alert for Riyadh before the coalition announced the interceptions, later saying the threat in the capital had passed.

In a separate statement, the coalition said that it had also intercepted and destroyed a ballistic missile launched by the Houthis towards Saudi Arabia's southern region.

Saudi Civil Defence had previously issued warning alerts for the southwestern cities of Abha and Khamis Mushait, before later saying the danger had passed, reports Reuters.

The Saudi Press Agency said later on Monday the East-West oil pipeline, essential for bypassing the Strait of Hormuz, was attacked but operations were unaffected.

Meanwhile, a beach on the eastern coast of the UAE was closed after oil was detected, the Khor Fakkan municipality said on Monday, with tankers repeatedly coming under attack in the nearby Strait of Hormuz.

East-West pipeline hit, ops unaffected: KSA

Iran demands US 'surrender' to its conditions

US President Donald Trump said on Monday he plans to hold off on new military strikes against Iran for the time being after appeals from countries in the region, including from Qatar's prime minister in White House talks.

Trump, in a Reuters interview and a later appearance in the White House press briefing room, said he plans to keep up a naval blockade in the Strait of Hormuz for now.

"The United States of America is fully locked and loaded with the best equipment ever made, and we don't think there's going to be any reason to use it," Trump told reporters.

Mohsen Rezaei, the secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, has told the US that it's time to "surrender" to Tehran's seven conditions to end the conflict.

"The war on Iran has already wrecked the US government. But Washington flails like a desperate gambler. FOLD YOUR HAND. STOP manufacturing FAKE NEWS about imaginary talks. Stop denying the West Asian NEW ORDER. Time to SURRENDER to the seven conditions Iran has repeatedly set out," he posted on X.

IN BRIEF

10 UKRAINIAN REGIONS

Russia hits five major energy substations

US-mediated peace talks between Moscow and Kyiv begin in Abu Dhabi



AGENCIES

Russia attacked 10 Ukrainian regions overnight, hitting five major energy substations that transmit electricity between regions, Ukrainian Prime Minister Sergii Koretskyi said yesterday, as US-mediated talks between Moscow and Kyiv on ending more than four years of war opened in Abu Dhabi.

The substations that were hit are in the Poltava, Dnipropetrovsk, Vinnytsia and Kirovohrad regions, Koretskyi said on Telegram.

US fails to show for UN rights review, again

AFP, *Geneva*

The United States yesterday boycotted a United Nations review of its human rights record for a second time, in an unprecedented snub of a process that all countries traditionally submit to.

US seats were left empty at the world body's European headquarters in Geneva for the so-called Universal Periodic Review (UPR), which all 193 UN member states undergo every four to five years. As the review was set to begin, UN Human Rights Council president Sidharto Reza Suryodipuro, of Indonesia, looked at the empty seats behind the US nameplate and said that "the delegation of the United States is not present in the room".

The US absence was not a surprise. President Donald Trump's administration decided shortly after his return to power in January 2025 to halt cooperation with the rights council, and had already boycotted the UPR process last November.

In response, council at the time had postponed the US review for a year.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Prime Minister's Office
Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority
House-19/D, Road-06, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205.
(www.bepza.gov.bd)

Reference No. 03.06.2616.324.99.64.2026-29 Date: 09/11/2026

Re-Tender Notice (06/2026-27)

e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of:

Tender ID	Description of Works	Publication Date	Document Last Selling/ Downloading Date and Time	Closing & Opening Date and Time
1369046	Selection of Consultant (Structural Engineer) for BEPZA	12 Nov 2026	30 Nov 2026 13:00	30 Nov 2026 15:00
1369047	Selection of Consultant (Architect) for BEPZA	12 Nov 2026	30 Nov 2026 13:00	30 Nov 2026 15:00

These are online tenders, 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.
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).
For more details, please contact to the PE's Support Desk (+8802-41060862)

9.11.2026

S.M. Arifur Rahman
Executive Engineer (Civil)

GD-2730

IBA Institute of Business Administration

BBA ADMISSION TEST

35th Batch | Session: 2026-2027

BBA Admission Test (Session 2026-27) of the Institute of Business Administration (IBA), University of Dhaka will be held on Saturday, 05 December 2026 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. For Applicants Who Have Passed SSC and HSC or Equivalent Exams:

Candidates who have passed their HSC or equivalent exam held in 2026 are eligible to apply for the 2026-2027 academic session. They must have a minimum 8.0 as total of SSC & HSC GPA (including the 4th subject) and secure a GPA of at least 3.5 in both the exams.

2. For Applicants Who Have Passed IGCSE/O-Level and IAL/GCE A-Level or Equivalent Exams:

Candidates who have passed the IGCSE/O-level exam with at least 5 subjects (including Mathematics) and the IAL/GCE A-Level exam in at least 2 subjects (the final result of at least one subject of the IAL/GCE A-Level must have been published in 2026) are eligible to apply. Out of the 7 subjects in IGCSE/O-Level and IAL/GCE A-Level, candidates should get a minimum of 2 A grades. Students must obtain a minimum average grade point of 3.5 (out of 5.0) in both IGCSE/O-Level and IAL/GCE A-Level.

Candidates from O-level, A-level, or from any other board outside the country have to obtain "Equivalence Certificate" from DU at the beginning of their application process. To get equivalence certificate, please visit the DU admission website (https://admission.eis.du.ac.bd). If an applicant faces any difficulty in obtaining "Equivalence Certificate" from DU, s/he is advised to contact "IBA Helpdesk" immediately.

3. No candidate is eligible to sit for this year's admission test if s/he has previously appeared in any admission test of the University of Dhaka, including IBA, in 2026 or before.

SELECTION PROCEDURE

All Bangladeshi applicants must sit for the Admission Test. The test has two components: Written and Communication. The components of the Written Test evaluate applicants' aptitude in English Language, Mathematics, and Analytical Ability. In order to pass the Written Test, an applicant must obtain a minimum qualifying score in all sections. Applicants will be selected for the Communication Test on the basis of their performance in the Written Test.

Foreign nationals (who have completed high school abroad) with a valid SAT score in the 80th percentile or above may be exempted from the Written Test, but must appear in the Communication Test.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The application must be submitted online (https://admission.eis.du.ac.bd) by Wednesday, 25 November 2026 (by 11:59 PM).

The application fee of Tk. 1500 is to be paid by Wednesday, 25 November 2026 (by 11:59 PM). The admit card can be downloaded from Wednesday, 02 December 2026 to Saturday, 05 December 2026 (till 9:00 AM).

For detailed application procedure, visit the IBA website (https://www.iba-du.edu) or the DU admission website (https://admission.eis.du.ac.bd).

For further information, contact the IBA Helpdesk at 01772563303 or 01871130956 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM on any working day or email at bba-admission@iba-du.edu.

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GD-2733

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

Take grassroots poll reform seriously

The BNP govt must not let the reform agenda slip away

When people voted in February in the country's first genuinely contested national election in more than a decade, the promise was not merely a change of government but a change of system. Earlier, the interim administration had convened a slew of reform commissions to root out the rot, reaching down to the union parishad. Now the first big test of that promise at the grassroots is approaching. The Election Commission will hold polls in more than 4,500 union parishads in five phases between January and May. It will do so under the existing legal framework, setting aside the recommendations of both the Electoral Reform Commission and the Local Government Reform Commission. The EC says proposals requiring legislative changes are pending with the government. Responsibility now lies with parliament and the ministers who set its agenda.

The ruling BNP has been candid about its position. It will implement only those reforms that appear in its election manifesto. A party with a fresh mandate is entitled to its programme, and some of the commissions' ideas are indeed contestable. For instance, replacing directly elected chairmen and mayors with leaders chosen by members and councillors could shorten campaigns and cut costs, but it could equally shift power from voters to backroom bargaining. Holding all local elections on a single day would save money only if the state can police thousands of polling stations at once, a big assumption in a country where union polls have repeatedly turned violent and deadly.

Several reforms are uncontroversial and overdue. There is no good reason why a candidate for UP chairman should not have to declare their assets and other records. Rotating reserved seats for women would turn token representation real.

But several reforms are uncontroversial and overdue. There is no good reason why a candidate for UP chairman should not have to declare their assets and other records. Rotating reserved seats for women would turn token representation real. Barring government-funded MPO teachers from contesting without resigning first is a proposal the EC itself backs.

The deeper agenda will take longer. Amending Article 119 of the constitution so that the EC can schedule local elections itself, rather than waiting for a request from the government, would remove one of the oldest levers by which ruling parties have timed polls to suit themselves. A single law and election calendar for all five tiers of local government would cut a 225-day process to a month or two. Taxpayers spent about Tk 2,300 crore on local elections between 2021 and 2024. There is a serious argument about whether that money bought accountability.

Party symbols have been removed from local ballots. Yet a missing logo does not dismantle patronage. Candidates will still be known as the ruling party's men, and the incentives that made polls violent and lopsided in the past remain intact. Without wider reform, the polls risk producing a new crop of representatives elected on the old terms, running the same centralised system citizens rose against.

Timing matters. Few of the councillors elected next year will push to change the rules that elected them. If the BNP government lets it pass, it will have kept the old system—not by choice but by default.

Child marriage must see preventive actions

Close legal loopholes and punish offenders

A decade after Kaliganj in Satkhira was declared a "child marriage-free" upazila, underage girls are still being married off there. According to a recent *Prothom Alo* report, 132 child marriages were prevented across Satkhira in January-September 2026, including 11 in Kaliganj over six months. It also uncovered marriages involving schoolgirls, including a 10-year-old child. But how many have escaped detection?

According to the 2025 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics and Unicef, 47.2 percent of women aged 20-24 were married before 18, while 13.4 percent were married before 15. More worryingly, the proportion of girls aged 15-19 who were married off rose from 32.9 percent in 2019 to 38.9 percent in 2025. A crisis of this scale cannot be tackled through occasional interventions.

Particularly disturbing are tactics used to circumvent the law. Reportedly, some families secretly arrange marriages through religious clerics, while others falsify girls' ages. Unauthorised individuals allegedly pose as marriage registrars, using counterfeit registers and promising marriage certificates once the child bride turns 18. A registered kazi alleged that seven such individuals operate in Satkhira Sadar. Stopping ceremonies and obtaining parental undertakings is not enough, as some secretly complete the marriage afterwards. Existing laws must be rigorously enforced, with meaningful penalties for offenders. Section 19 of the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2017, which permits underage marriage in "special circumstances," must also be scrapped.

It is also crucial for families who view early marriage as protection for their daughters to change their attitude. In the aforementioned report, one parent said harassment by local young men had driven him to marry off his daughter. What does it say about our society when a girl is forced to surrender her education and childhood to "secure" her life? Police, schools, and local authorities must respond promptly to allegations of harassment, provide safe reporting channels, and hold perpetrators accountable for the long term. Girls should not have to pay for boys' and men's misconduct.

Campaigns on television, in schools, mosques, and community gatherings must establish child marriage as a punishable offence, not an acceptable family decision. Religious leaders, influential in society, can urge parents to reject early marriage and explain its risks to girls' health, education, and future. Finally, keeping girls in school will require better government financial support, skills training for young women, and future pathways to decent work. Protecting girls' rights is a responsibility of the state and society alike.

What makes higher RMG wages affordable?



Dr M Niaz Asadullah is professor of economics at Dhaka University and a visiting professor at the University of Reading in the UK.

■ **M NIAZ ASADULLAH**

Bangladesh's garment factory wage debate has raised several questions. What does it cost a worker's family to live decently? How much of a pay rise can factories absorb? Could higher pay itself improve productivity? The government wage board needs to weigh these questions as it prepares a new pay scale.

But another question has received less attention. How can it still be expensive to make and deliver a garment from Bangladesh when the people who make it are paid so little? The answer matters because some of the costs that limit what factories can pay to workers are within the control of government agencies, global buyers, and factory owners.

Imagine two RMG factories, one in Bangladesh and one in Vietnam, making the same garment. The factory in Bangladesh pays lower wages. Does it deliver the order at lower cost? That depends on how many saleable pieces each line produces, how much the fabric costs, and what it takes to ship on time.

On November 9, garment workers proposed a monthly minimum wage of Tk 32,000, up from Tk 12,500 for the lowest regular grade. Our factory owners, on the other hand, warn that higher wages could cost Bangladesh export orders. Employer and worker representatives have already agreed to finalise a new pay scale by December, with workers expected to receive the higher pay in January 2027. The wage board must assess what workers need and what different factories—depending on their size—can afford.

A recent column in *The Daily Star* argues for putting workers' living costs at the centre of the wage review. Others are insisting on an evidence-based revision. One calculation suggests about Tk 16,200 monthly would restore the purchasing power of the minimum wage (Tk 12,500) set in December 2023, without justifying whether the 2023 wage itself was adequate. The 2025 living-wage estimates were higher, at Tk 25,166 in Dhaka's surrounding industrial cities and Tk 30,459 in Dhaka city. There are also calls for considering evidence on labour costs, operating margins, and buyer prices across different types of factories.

The wage board has to assess what factories can afford today. Industrial policy must ask why higher wages are so hard to sustain and which costs that constrain them can be changed.

The cost of making a garment

For many in Bangladesh, Vietnam has become a natural comparison case. A 2018 Asian Productivity Organization comparison put annual garment value added per worker at about $12,700 in Vietnam and $10,400 in Bangladesh. Some of that gap may reflect the kinds of garments each country makes. For factories making the same garment, the more revealing measure is how many pieces that pass quality checks workers produce per hour of paid work.

Factories in the two countries also compete for different orders. Vietnam supplies a wider range of products, including technical outerwear and swimwear. Bangladesh has built strong local supply chains in cotton knitwear and has begun to diversify, including into performance outerwear. Moving into more demanding products takes reliable access to specialised inputs, technicians who can work with new fabrics, and supervisors who can maintain quality as production changes.

What it takes to ship on time

A delay in clearing fabric can leave a line idle or force a factory to build up inventory. If the order deadline holds, the factory may end up paying for air freight. None of these costs shows up in a comparison of monthly wages.

A World Bank study estimated that a package of improvements to port dwell times, highway speeds and logistics services could cut logistics costs for tradable goods in Bangladesh by 26 percent. That estimate covers tradable goods broadly, but the mechanism is easy to see in garments. A factory that can predict when its fabric will arrive can plan production more tightly and tie up less cash in stocks. An investor may get help from Invest Bangladesh Authority (IBA) in opening a factory, but once production starts, the reliability of customs, ports and other services becomes crucial for every factory, local or foreign.



'Better management at RMG factories can create room for higher pay.' FILE PHOTO: **MEHEDI HASAN**

Extortion adds a further cost. In October 2025, *The Daily Star* reported that factory owners in Gazipur, Narayanganj and Savar faced demands for cash and pressure to sell "jhut", or fabric scraps, below market prices. A Gazipur owner said he paid Tk 1 lakh after being threatened with closure. Such demands add to the cost of doing business, while the threat of shutdown makes production less predictable.

Who can make room for higher pay?

There is academic evidence that pay and profits can rise together. Better management can create room for higher pay. Whether workers share in those gains depends in part on their ability to bargain.

The commercial terms matter just as much. A study by economists Julia Cajal-Grossi, Rocco Macchiavello, and Guillermo Noguera found that garment exporters in Bangladesh earned higher markups on comparable orders from buyers that rely on ongoing supplier relationships than from buyers sourcing on the spot market. How much of that margin reaches workers is a separate question.

Bangladesh's new wage board should publish the living cost benchmark it uses and show, in aggregate, what different wage proposals would mean for payrolls and operating margins across factory types. The government can act in parallel by making clearance times more predictable and improving access to the inputs that factories need to take on more complex orders. Factory owners also need a safe way to report extortion and a police response they can count on. Buyers should show how their prices and order commitments account for labour costs. Workers should have a voice in deciding how the gains from higher productivity are shared.

A revised wage floor is due now. By the next review, the government, buyers, and factory owners should be able to show what they have done to make higher wages easier to sustain. The test is whether factories can deliver more valuable orders, spend less exporting them and pay the people who make them a wage they can live on.

Our banking future cannot come at the cost of data privacy



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■ **MD NAZMUL HOSSEN**

In August 2025, at least 54 customers of a multinational bank in Bangladesh reported that a total of Tk 27 lakh had been fraudulently transferred from their credit cards to unknown bKash and Nagad accounts without any OTP being shared. The bank initially refused to treat the transactions as fraud because they were OTP verified. If fraudsters can compromise the very systems responsible for delivering our security codes, how safe is the data we hand over to banks every day?

This question becomes more urgent as the country's banking sector embraces artificial intelligence. From detecting suspicious transactions to assessing loan eligibility, AI is transforming financial services. However, this smartness comes with the invisible risk to the security of personal and financial data. Bank balances, transaction histories, and shopping patterns all become part of the database that AI learns from. As mobile financial services expand, data accumulates on bank and fintech servers. The more centralised the data, the more catastrophic a single leak becomes.

Banks rely on National ID information for customer verification. The 2023 leak of NID and birth registration data of millions of citizens from a government service exposed its vulnerability. When names, addresses, and dates of birth fall into criminal hands, fake bank accounts and fraudulent loans become easy. A 2025 Financial Consumer Protection Survey found that nearly 30 percent of digital financial service users in Bangladesh did not have a PIN or password on their phone to protect their accounts. Among those who did, 45 percent shared it with others, typically family members.

Article 43 (b) of the constitution recognises citizens' right to the privacy of correspondence and communication. But informational privacy has yet to become a standalone right. The Personal Data Protection Act, 2026 covers identifiable financial information but lacks AI-specific provisions, such as the right to explanation for automated decisions or mandatory algorithmic audits. Section 7 of the Bankers Books Evidence Act, 2021 imposes strict restrictions on disclosing customer information without prescribed conditions, but enforcement remains weak. Chapter 14 of the Bangladesh Banks Guideline on ICT Security (4.0) warns about AI risks, including flawed algorithms, biased outcomes, and cyber attacks, However, it is a guideline, not a binding law. The Bangladesh Bank began drafting an integrated AI policy for the banking sector in late 2025, forming a seven-member team to prepare guidelines and announcing plans to develop its own large language model (LLM) to reduce dependence on foreign AI tools. However, the broader policy had yet to be officially published as of November 2026. On November 1, the central bank reiterated that it was working on a separate AI-focused cybersecurity policy for banks and financial institutions.

In June 2026, the central bank instructed its officials not to input confidential or sensitive banking information into AI tools like ChatGPT, Gemini or Claude, citing cross-border data transfer risks. Meanwhile, a study by the Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management found that nearly 60 percent of local banks lack any policy for using AI in cybersecurity.

From detecting suspicious transactions to assessing loan eligibility, AI is transforming financial services. However, this smartness comes with the invisible risk to the security of personal and financial data. Bank balances, transaction histories, and shopping patterns all become part of the database that AI learns from. As mobile financial services expand, data accumulates on bank and fintech servers. The more centralised the data, the more catastrophic a single leak becomes.

Internationally, three cases offer lessons. In Germany in 2023, the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) ruled in *OQ v Land Hessen (SCHUFA)* that an automated credit score constitutes an automated individual decision when a lender relies heavily on it to determine whether to grant credit. For Bangladesh, this means automated credit scores used in loan approvals should be subject to legal safeguards for automated decision-making, including customers' right to understand how these scores influence lending decisions. In 2025 in Austria, the CJEU clarified in *CK v Magistrat der Stadt Wien (Dun and Bradstreet)* that trade secrecy cannot be used as a blanket excuse to deny a customer meaningful information about the logic of an AI decision. The data protection law must close the path for banks to refuse a customer's right to explanation by citing trade secrets. In Poland, Toyota Bank Polska was fined approximately Tk 1.6 crore in 2025 for failing to properly document customer profiling and for not ensuring the independence of its data protection officer. This means mandatory data protection impact assessments must be conducted before AI-driven profiling, and the DPO must report directly to the board.

Three things become clear. First, despite laws and guidelines, practical enforcement and accountability are lacking. Second, citizens often don't know who is taking their data, how long it is kept, or whether it is being used to train AI models. Third, without an independent and empowered supervisory body, laws remain on paper.

There is a path forward. First, banks must stop collecting excessive data, ensure strong encryption and limited access, and conduct regular security audits. Second, data usage terms with third-party technology providers must be clarified. Third, in automated decisions, customers must have the right to an explanation and access to human review. Fourth, Bangladesh Bank must finalise and publish its long-delayed AI policy for the banking sector. And last, digital literacy must be expanded. Mass awareness must be built about keeping OTPs secret, not clicking unknown links, and checking app permissions. A protection framework combining law, technology, and awareness is essential, one where the banking sector becomes modern but citizens' personal data remains intact.

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The growing threat of unregulated tourism



Pavel Partha, an ecology and biodiversity conservation researcher, is director at Bangladesh Resource Center for Indigenous Knowledge (BARCIK). He can be reached at animistbangla@gmail.com.

■ PAVEL PARTHA

In Bangladesh, people generally begin travelling in late autumn, continuing throughout the winter. In recent times, however, the monsoon has also emerged as a season for tourism in the haor and hill areas. The trend of tourism in the country is relatively recent. The remarkable travelogues of Ramnath Biswas, a pioneering Bangalee traveller who journeyed across the world, form part of our early travel narratives. In an agrarian rural society, travelling was different from the way it is in today's neoliberal era. Weddings, festivals, village fairs, pilgrimages, and seasonal trips to distant market towns were once the primary ways rural people stepped outside their localities. Apart from the hajj or pilgrimage to Gaya and Kashi, heading overseas for higher education was rarely heard of in the villages. Later, UN peacekeeping missions and opportunities at overseas labour markets opened new pathways for rural youth to travel abroad.

Today's profit-driven tourism has grown largely out of a colonial legacy. In a manner reminiscent of Christopher Columbus's so-called "discovery" of Indigenous territories as "America", different parts of the country are now being "explored" anew. This obsession with exploration is creating new risks for ecosystems and local cultures across Bangladesh. Until the 1990s, the country's most frequented tourist destinations were Cox's Bazar, Jaflong in Sylhet, Madhabkunda and the tea gardens in Moulvibazar, Madhupur Sal forest and Bhawal Garh, Mainamati in Cumilla, the Sundarbans, Mahasthangarh in Bogura, Paharpur in Naogaon, and Kaptai Lake in Rangamati. Then, all of a sudden, brazen sprees of investment, encroachment, pollution, and unruly crowds began to take over everywhere—from Nafakhum to Hum, from St Martin's Island to Tanguar Haor. This unregulated rush in the name of tourism has spared neither biodiversity and ecosystems nor local cultures. It has piled toxic plastic waste from the mountaintops to haor beds, destroying hills, forests and beaches.

The authorities concerned have never facilitated the civic education required for people to learn how to visit or connect with a river, forest, hill, wetland, landscape, local community or historical site. Conventional schooling doesn't teach us how to be responsible towards our landscapes and habitats. As a result, grotesque infrastructure has been constructed even in Ecologically Critical Areas (ECAs) such as the Sundarbans and sea beaches. In Sajek Valley, hazardous, unregulated infrastructure was built at the expense of the hill ecosystem and local cultural diversity. Social media platforms have fuelled this perilous trend further. Some tourists have separated mother birds from their chicks just to photograph a nest, while some have barged into homes and jhum fields in Indigenous villages to snap pictures without the local residents' consent.

In a country with 30 agroecological zones, eight hydrological regions, more than 1,400 rivers, 37 living languages, the world's largest mangrove forest, and the world's longest natural sea beach, it is imperative to develop a creative and responsible tourism sector that places local nature and cultures at its centre. Although construction is prohibited in protected areas and ECAs, laws and regulations are routinely violated on the ground. Hazardous structures have mushroomed along the Cox's Bazar beach. A Ramsar site like Tanguar Haor is being battered by motorised vessels. A bizarre variety of resorts have sprung up around Lawachara National Park, home to the hoolock gibbon. This has happened under every regime.

Using wood and bamboo alongside plastic, boards, glass and lead-based paints does not automatically make a building an 'eco-resort'. The concept of an eco-resort represents a comprehensive environmental and political commitment.

The cost of reckless tourism

Ruilui Para in Sajek Valley, under Rangamati's Baghaichhari upazila, was an ancestral settlement of the Lushai people. No major fires had ever occurred there before. The trouble began when Ruilui was encroached upon to launch a new tourism business, followed by unregulated construction. On February 24, 2025, a devastating fire reduced parts of Sajek Valley to ashes. Most structures there were built with bamboo, wood, cane and straw—all inflammable. But there was no firefighting facility in the area. But these establishments branded themselves as "eco-resorts".

On October 17, 2026, a fire broke out at Tuptup Resort, a so-called "eco-resort", along the Marine Drive in Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar, killing 10 tourists. Part of the resort was built with wood, bamboo and tin. The kitchen was located on the ground floor, where the fire originated. An investigation revealed that the resort had been built illegally and did not have environmental clearance. From April 2026 onwards, the Department of Environment served notices to 26 resorts and restaurants, including Tuptup, along the Marine Drive; 14 resorts were fined for defying the notice. On May 13, 2026, Tuptup Resort was fined Tk 1 lakh. To obtain environmental clearance for a resort or restaurant in Cox's Bazar, the design must be approved by the Cox's Bazar Development Authority, and the facility must have an effluent and waste management system. The authorities found that 200 establishments along the 80km stretch of the Cox's Bazar-Teknaf Marine Drive lacked legal clearance. Meanwhile, the brazen destruction of coastal dunes to build roads and structures continues unabated.



The Tuptup Resort in Cox's Bazar, which was burnt down in a devastating fire that took the lives of 10 tourists last month, was one of 26 establishments built without proper environmental clearance in the area.

FILE PHOTO: **ABDU RASHID MANIK**

Who is violating the ECA rules?

Under both national and global commitments, erecting structures and destroying ecosystems and species within protected areas and ECAs are prohibited in the country. Under Section 5 of the Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act, 1995, the government can declare any area an ECA if its biodiversity and ecological balance are critically threatened or facing destruction. ECAs in Bangladesh include the Sundarbans (including a 10km peripheral zone), St Martin's Island, the Cox's Bazar-Teknaf coastline, Sonadia Island, Tanguar Haor, Marjat Baor, Gulshan-Baridhara Lake, and the Turag, Buriganga, Balu and Shitalakkhya rivers.

Within an ECA, setting up factories, cutting hills, extracting soil or sand, harming biodiversity, hunting wildlife, and undertaking any commercial or development activities that damage the natural balance of soil, water and air are strictly prohibited. These restrictions were imposed under the Environment Conservation Rules, 1997. The Ecologically Critical Area Management Rules, 2016 set out frameworks for ECA governance, formation of national and district committees, and community participation.

Although the government stepped back from destructive projects like a deep-sea port on Sonadia Island, it still remains in bad shape. Over the years, influential individuals have cleared thousands of acres of mangroves to establish commercial shrimp enclosures. The island, a vital habitat for the globally endangered spoon-billed sandpiper and rare sea turtles, is reeling under encroachment and pollution. St Martin's Island has been choked with unplanned construction. Native fish and avian species and rare flora like the wild rose are vanishing from Tanguar Haor. The Buriganga and other rivers surrounding Dhaka are now overrun by the invasive suckerfish. Hazardous illegal structures like Tuptup continue to appear along the Cox's Bazar-Teknaf Marine Drive. Why is there no monitoring, prosecution or punishment for these destructive activities and violations of ECA rules?

Let structures rooted in nature and culture flourish

On November 8, 2020, the Mro community in Bandarban staged a cultural showdown along the Bandarban-Chimbuk-Thanchi road, demanding suspension of the construction of the Marriott Hotel and Resort and calling for the protection of their hills and livelihoods. In 2004, Piren Slan sacrificed his life to stop the construction of a concrete eco-park and protect the Madhupur Sal forest. Why do Indigenous and local communities risk their lives to challenge such aggressive development projects? Because externally imposed architectural designs and construction materials are often incompatible with local nature and culture. The resulting infrastructure creates new forms of disorder, inequality and conflict in local environments and communities.

Using wood and bamboo alongside plastic, boards, glass and lead-based paints does not automatically make a building an "eco-resort". The concept of an eco-resort represents a comprehensive environmental and political commitment. Many of the country's traditional structures and architectural traditions honoured ecological principles. The Arkul Math in Keraniganj was constructed in a manner that makes it the last refuge for green parakeets in Dhaka today. Ancient heritage sites such as Hazrat Shahjalal's (RA) shrine in Sylhet, the Shat Gombuj Masjid in Bagerhat, and the Kantaji Temple in Dinajpur provide shelter not only to people but also to numerous local animal and bird species.

Article 18A of the constitution states that the state shall endeavour to protect and improve the environment for present and future citizens and preserve and safeguard natural resources, biodiversity, wetlands, forests and wildlife. Developing nature- and culture-sensitive architecture and responsible, inclusive tourism, with due regard for the ecosystems in all parts of the country including the ECAs and protected areas, is a constitutional commitment of the state.

Bangladesh must seek the truth behind women migrant workers' deaths



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■ MUNSHI MUHAMMAD ABDUL KADER JILANI

When 24-year-old Tanzina Akter died in Saudi Arabia in July 2026, her family was reportedly informed she had suffered a stroke. However, her death certificate listed suicide as the cause. This discrepancy, highlighted in a recent *Bonik Barta* investigation, doesn't necessarily indicate a crime. But it does prompt a more immediate and significant public policy question about when a migrant worker's death is disputed and who is responsible for determining the actual cause.

Data from the Wage Earners' Welfare Board (WEWB) and the Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) show that the bodies of 1,552 female migrant workers were repatriated between 2017 and October 25, 2026. Suicide was recorded as the cause of death in 282 of these cases, with 112 cases involving women who were working in Saudi Arabia. These figures represent repatriated deaths, not the overall suicide rate among all Bangladeshi women employed overseas. Without reliable data on the number of workers exposed to risk, their time abroad, and independently verified causes of death, comparing mortality risks would be misleading. Nevertheless, these numbers reveal a significant accountability issue.

In a prior study, RMMRU interviewed relatives of 100 deceased female migrant workers. In 11 cases, family members disputed suicide as the cause listed on death certificates, and 48 percent of families did not accept explanations of natural death. In one reported case of a female worker's death abroad, relatives claimed to observe bloodstains on her body when it was repatriated, while the death certificate listed suicide as the cause of death. Such accounts are allegations, not forensic conclusions. But these inconsistencies underscore the need for proper investigation into women migrants' deaths.

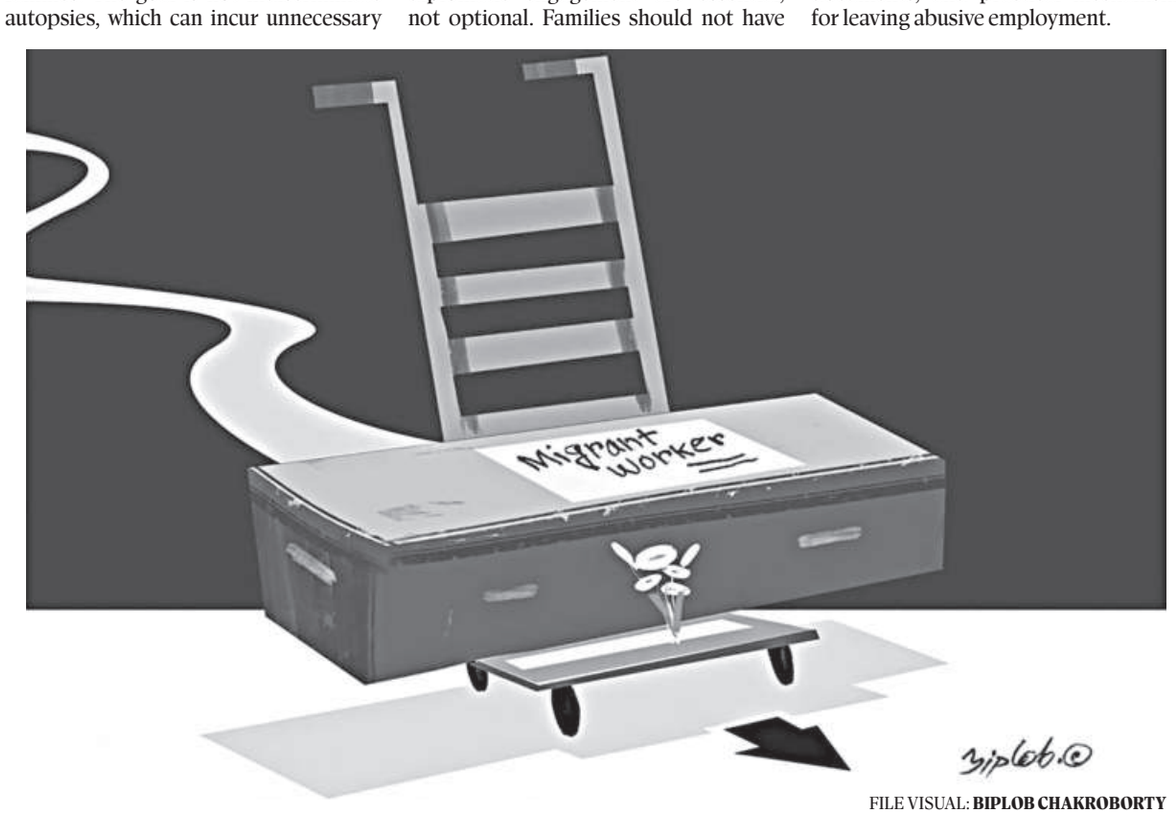
For women employed in private households abroad, risks are particularly difficult to detect due to seclusion, unequal bargaining power, and limited access to independent assistance. Therefore, a robust migration policy must protect workers throughout the employment cycle, encompassing recruitment, placement, emergency assistance, return and, if necessary, post-death investigations.

The Overseas Employment and Migration Act, 2013, with subsequent amendments in 2026, recognises the protection of migrant workers as a public responsibility. But legal reform should ultimately be judged based on its outcomes, not just the number of provisions added to update a law. Can a worker report abuse without retaliation? Will a distressed worker receive timely shelter and legal support? If a migrant worker dies, can her family obtain medical records and challenge an implausible explanation?

Bangladesh should start by implementing a clear medico-legal protocol for repatriated migrant workers' bodies. Trained personnel at the receiving airport should verify identity, document visible markers of injury, review accompanying death certificates, and preserve relevant records. If the cause of death is disputed, injuries are apparent, or documentation is inconsistent, an independent forensic assessment should determine whether further examination, including a second post-mortem where legally authorised, is required. This will necessitate trained specialists, secure evidence handling, adequate mortuary facilities, and a procedure for promptly informing families. The goal is not indiscriminate autopsies, which can incur unnecessary costs and conflict with family or religious concerns, but a credible and transparent process for suspicious deaths.

Bangladesh's diplomatic missions in destination countries should be mandated to open a documented case whenever a migrant worker dies under unclear or contested circumstances. The case file should include hospital records, medical findings, police reports, employment contracts, and any history of complaints. A designated consular officer should maintain contact with the family, documenting what evidence has been obtained as well as what remains missing and why. Since host countries retain jurisdiction over incidents on their territory, formal evidence-sharing arrangements and diplomatic engagement are essential, not optional. Families should not have to finance an international investigation to understand the cause of death of their loved one.

In way of prevention, labour wings and embassies need effective, confidential complaint channels, swift referral processes, trauma-informed support for affected workers, and safe accommodation for those escaping abuse. For workers who have lost access to their phones or documents, a standard hotline is inadequate; recruitment agents, community organisations, and host-country authorities must have clearly outlined emergency escalation procedures. Bilateral labour agreements should include enforceable contracts, guaranteed wage payments, rest periods, the right of workers to retain their identity documents, and practical mechanisms for leaving abusive employment.



FILE VISUAL: **BIPLOB CHAKROBORTY**

Additionally, recruiting agencies should be required to maintain verifiable employer and placement information, address complaints, and cooperate with investigations when a worker is injured, disappears, or dies. Proven misrepresentation, illegal fees, or obstruction should result in proportionate sanctions and accessible remedies, with due process for all parties. Publishing anonymised data on complaints, decisions, and restitution would allow for measurable regulatory performance while safeguarding the privacy of workers and their families.

Relying on a limited range of destination countries and occupations also exposes women to concentrated risks. Expanding accredited training in nursing, caregiving, language, and technical skills, combined with verified employer partnerships and internationally recognised qualifications, would broaden women's access to safer employment opportunities.

Bangladesh needs a unified, gender-disaggregated database for migrant protection that links Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET), WEWB, diplomatic missions, and relevant complaint authorities. This database should meticulously record deployments, complaints, rescues, deaths and their stated and verified causes, investigations, and compensation outcomes, all while adhering to strict privacy safeguards. Annual public reports should differentiate between recorded and medically reviewed causes of death and discuss risk using appropriate worker population denominators. An independent review, including forensic experts and migration researchers, could then identify recurring issues and recommend corrective actions. Without such evidence, policy will continue to be reactive to individual scandals rather than proactive in addressing preventable patterns.

Bangladesh should evaluate its migration system not solely on the number of workers sent abroad and the remittances generated, but also on the protection provided and the remedies available when that protection fails. Every unexplained death demands a serious response. For a nation so reliant on migrant labour, establishing the truth is not a diplomatic inconvenience; it is a fundamental obligation of development policy.



Tasnia Farin returns to OTT with dark comedy 'Dakatiya Bashi'

Tasnia Farin is set to return to OTT after a brief break with ***Dakatiya Bashi***, a Chorki original series directed by Imraul Rafat.

Farin plays Camellia in the dark comedy, marking her first experience with comedy in a series. She said she wanted to explore something different from the thrillers and murder mysteries common on OTT platforms.

Chorki announced the series on November 10, sharing photographs of Farin in bridal attire, holding a pistol alongside armed co-stars.

Written by Nazim Ud Daula, the cast includes Arfan Mredha Shiblu, Ishtiak Ahmed Rumel, Partho Sheikh and Sharaf Ahmed Zibon.

Rafat promised layered storytelling, twists and cliffhangers in every episode. The series is expected to premiere on Chorki soon, with a release date unannounced.

'Konna' from 'Jinn 3' crosses 100 million YouTube views



Konna, a song from the Bangladeshi horror film ***Jinn 3***, has surpassed 100 million views on YouTube. Released on Jaaz Multimedia's channel on March 17, 2025, it crossed 10 million views within 20 days.

The song features Nusraat Faria and Sajal in a colourful, festive sequence. Written by Robiul Islam Jibon, it was composed and arranged by Imran Mahmudul, who also sang the duet with Dilshad Nahar Kona.

Its popularity extended beyond cinemas, with the track becoming a fixture at weddings, gaye holud ceremonies and other celebrations. Jaaz Multimedia previously described it as a song for all Bangla-speaking people.

Directed by Kamruzzaman Roman and co-produced by Impress Telefilm, ***Jinn 3*** opened in cinemas during Eid ul Fitr last year across Bangladesh.

'The River Script' flows through the canvas at Dhaka Gallery

ANIKA TAHSIN HAFSA



PHOTOS: **NUSRAT RUSHA**

A river is never just a stretch of water. It carries memories, shapes landscapes, sustains livelihoods and quietly witnesses the rise and decline of civilisations. For multidisciplinary artist Rashid Khan, however, a river also exists within the human mind, carrying emotions, experiences and stories that often remain unspoken. This idea flows through his latest solo exhibition, ***The River Script***, which explores the deep connections between rivers, people and their surroundings.







As visitors enter Dhaka Gallery in Banani, fishing nets hanging from the ceiling and a traditional bamboo fish trap, known as a "chai", bring elements of river life into the gallery. These details set the tone for an exhibition where the river is not merely a subject to be observed, but a presence woven into everyday life.

The exhibition was inaugurated on November 5 at Dhaka Gallery, in the presence of former Dhaka University professor AHM Mustafizur Rahman, artist Mohammad Moniruzzaman, actresses Ashna Habib Bhabna and Sushama Sarker, among others. It features nearly 60 paintings by Rashid, created using acrylic on canvas and paper, charcoal and mixed media.

The works explore rivers through different perspectives, moving between memory, nature, human emotion and environmental concerns. In ***The Golden Aura***, golden tones and fragmented forms evoke sunlight falling on water, while ***The Clouds of Bliss*** explores the movement of water vapour into clouds, blurring the boundaries between the river and the sky.

In ***Lines Embark***, blue skeletal lines suggest the movement of a river as it winds through the landscape, drawing attention to the relationship between water and land. ***Enter the Unseen***, meanwhile, presents the human body as dissolving into the river, suggesting a shared existence between people and nature.

Not all the works offer a peaceful view of rivers. ***Dark Circles of Entrapment*** draws attention to pollution and the damage caused by human activities. The painting depicts the effects of plastic waste on aquatic life, including fish trapped in polluted waters. Through such works, Rashid also raises questions about what people have given back to the rivers that have sustained their lives and communities for generations.

His interest in rivers is rooted partly in childhood memories. Rashid recalls travelling between his maternal and paternal grandparents' homes, crossing the Panguchi River on journeys that could take around two hours. Those experiences shaped his understanding of rivers as more than geographical features.



"I believe everyone has a river in their life. It may inspire us, move us emotionally or offer us peace during difficult times," he says.

Artist and art writer Javed Jalil curated the exhibition, bringing together Rashid's paintings and ideas around a shared exploration of rivers. "We wanted people to discover their own river," he says.

The exhibition also hosts daily evening sessions titled ***Nodi Alap***, featuring music, literary readings, storytelling and discussions centred on rivers and river culture. A bilingual publication, ***Nodilipi: The River Script***, has also been released alongside the exhibition, bringing together Rashid's paintings and poetry with writings by Javed Jalil.

Through its varied works and accompanying programmes, ***The River Script*** invites visitors to look beyond rivers as landscapes and consider the memories, emotions and lives they hold. The exhibition remains open until November 15, daily from 3:00pm to 8:00pm at Dhaka Gallery, Banani.

NEWS

Police stop

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raised at a meeting of the district law and order committee, where the superintendent of police expressed objections to such programmes and instructed the relevant authorities not to grant permission for them.

He added that Habiganj-3 lawmaker and parliamentary whip GK Gouse had also instructed the administration to remain vigilant about organising such musical programmes and rural folk music gatherings across the district.

At the committee's monthly meeting on Sunday, Gouse said the winter season was generally free of storms and rain, allowing religious programmes such as waz and tafsir gatherings to take place more frequently in the region.

He urged the authorities responsible for granting permission to ensure that such events did not create social tensions or involve any misinterpretation of religion.

He also said local residents did not favour rural musical programmes and urged the administration to prevent such events across the district, particularly in areas where he had received electoral support.

"I would request that such rural music programmes, whether during urs or on other occasions, not be held in the area," he said.

He also called for vigilance to prevent incidents of fighting among young people and other undesirable activities at such gatherings.

The Daily Star tried to reach GK Gouse by phone several times for comment, but he did not answer.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Udichi Shilpigoshthi has protested the administrative committee's decision.

In a joint statement, the organisation's acting president Mahmud Selim and general secretary Amit Ranjan De said the decision amounted to state endorsement of an ongoing conspiracy against healthy and constructive cultural practices in the country.They demanded that the decision be withdrawn immediately.

Harrison wins

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becoming the oldest winner in the literary award's history at age 81.

Harrison's 13th novel follows Phillip Tennent and his elderly aunt Marnie on England's south coast years after social order has broken down and mysterious entities known as the iGhetti have arrived.

The Booker judges unanimously selected the 198-page book, saying it "turns you upside down, raises a wry smile and, surprisingly, given the subject matter, leaves you with a twinge of optimism."

The victory was the first Booker Prize for Harrison, whose career as a novelist and critic spans six decades and includes acclaimed science fiction and fantasy works. His win also marks a rare triumph for speculative fiction.

Mary Beard, chair of the judging panel, described the book as "the politics of now seen through the lens of the future", saying it depicts a society grappling with a catastrophe its inhabitants do not fully understand.

Accepting the £50,000 ($67,235) prize at a ceremony in London, Harrison said literary awards remained important in a "landscape of industrialised fiction."

Dhaka seeks '$250m' ADB loan

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subject to technical studies, project preparation and consultations with potential Korean partners, he said.

An approval date for the full package has yet to be agreed and will depend on project readiness and the approval processes of the government and the ADB, he said.

The proposed investments build on the ADB's technical assistance for Bangladesh's digital economy, which includes feasibility studies, institutional capacity building and preparation of future projects, Zhang said.

He also said that the Export-Import Bank of Korea (KEXIM) had expressed interest in this regard, creating an opportunity to explore cofinancing.

The existing ADB-Korea framework includes a sovereign co-financing programme through 2027, covering information and communications technology, although financing for the proposed AI-related investments in Bangladesh remains to be agreed.

Zhang identified several other promising opportunities during the Seoul discussions, where potential cooperation with LG AI Research and Furiosa AI could support the development of Bangla-language models, AI computing and the upgrading or repurposing of existing national data-centre capacity.

Bangladesh highlighted the potential of developing a dedicated Large Language Model (LLM) for Bangla, drawing on regional models such as EXAONE, developed by LG AI Research, a subsidiary of South Korea's LG Group.

The delegation also explored using specialised chips developed by Furiosa AI to make AI processing more cost- and energy-efficient, as well as leveraging NAVER's expertise to build and manage data centres and cloud infrastructure.

The proposed native AI model aims to improve data processing and digital service delivery across the public and private sectors.

Locally adapted AI could support healthcare, education, agriculture and public services, while helping businesses improve production, logistics and market access, Zhang said.

Partnerships among Korean companies, Bangladeshi universities and technology villages could also strengthen practical training, research and startup development, enabling businesses to move into higher-value activities beyond garments, he said.

Cooperation could further strengthen cybersecurity, data governance and responsible AI adoption. The ADB's Korea-backed Center for AI Innovation and Development could contribute technical expertise, project design and talent development, he added.

"The objective is to build lasting capabilities in Bangladesh -- connecting infrastructure and technology with local skills, institutions, and practical applications that benefit people and businesses," Zhang said.

Korea's technology, industrial experience and financing could help Bangladesh translate its young workforce and digital ambitions into higher productivity, skilled employment and a more diversified economy, he added.

FIRST IGND OUTREACH

ADB officials described the Seoul visit as the first international outreach to attract investment in Bangladesh's Integrated Growth Network Development (IGND) initiative.

The visit would connect Bangladesh's ambitions with Korea's financing, technology, and industrial strengths, they said.

The government-owned initiative, supported by the ADB, aims to strengthen connectivity, build resilience and expand economic opportunities.

It envisages around $80 billion in investment over 20 years, with the ADB committing up to $5 billion over five years to catalyse further public and private investment.

Bilateral partners and businesses will be crucial to its success, ADB officials said, highlighting the importance of the Seoul discussions, including those on AI.

Laws don't allow

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"If Sheikh Hasina genuinely wants to return to Bangladesh, our clear advice is that she should submit an application to the Indian government, requesting her extradition to Bangladesh under the existing extradition treaty. That would be the proper course for her," Aminul told reporters on the tribunal premises.

He explained that under the Bangladesh Passport Order, 1973, passports cannot be issued to individuals convicted of offences involving moral turpitude who have been sentenced to at least two years' imprisonment within the preceding five years. Besides, the law also mandates the seizure of passports under such circumstances.

Because Hasina stands convicted and sentenced to death for crimes against humanity, she falls squarely within this prohibited category, Aminul said, ruling out the issuance of any new passport or travel document.

"If the state or the government issues a passport or travel pass to a convicted person, it would be a mockery to the trial."

About the issue, Randhir Jaiswal, spokesperson for India's Ministry of External Affairs, yesterday said the extradition of Hasina was a legal matter that would be addressed through the appropriate legal process.

"And obviously, for travel of people, you need a travel document," he said in response to a question at a biweekly press briefing in New Delhi.

These remarks follow reports that London-based law firm Matrix Chambers sent an email to the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi on November 9, requesting the issuance of a new Bangladeshi passport and national ID card for Hasina. Her passport and NID were revoked during the tenure of the interim government.

Aminul questioned Hasina's sincerity regarding her return, noting she had ample opportunity to appear and defend herself during the proceedings but chose to remain abroad. He added that she also failed to file an appeal within the mandatory 30-day statutory window following the verdict.

The ICT sentenced Hasina to death on November 17, 2025, for crimes against humanity committed during the July 2024 mass uprising. The full judgment was published on January 13.

"Hasina's only remaining option now is the execution of the verdict," Aminul said, dismissing speculation that she might attempt an unannounced return to fuel political instability.

He urged party activists not to be misled by rhetoric surrounding her return and reiterated that established diplomatic and legal channels remain the sole course of action.

Clarifying the matter at the Secretariat, Adviser Zahed said the application was invalid on procedural grounds.

"A law firm sent a letter requesting arrangements to issue a passport for Sheikh Hasina. However, a passport application must be made by the individual concerned, and Sheikh Hasina herself has not submitted any application. So, this discussion is no longer necessary."

He stressed that the lack of a passport will not impede her return, as Dhaka has already initiated formal extradition proceedings. India has informed Bangladesh that it is reviewing the legal aspects of the request.

"There is a legal framework to extradite a convicted individual from India to Bangladesh. Therefore, there are no legal barriers to bringing her back."

Citing article 47 of the constitution, Zahed added that individuals convicted of crimes against humanity do not retain fundamental rights.

In another development, a video clip circulating on social media shows Ranjit Sarkar, former lawmaker from Sunamganj-1 and a leader of the Awami League, whose activities are now banned, entering Bangladesh via the border and holding a rally in his area.

Responding to a query from a reporter, Zahed said there is no scope to hold any programme under the AL banner since its activities are banned. However, if he is on bail, that means he can hold any other kind of meeting or rally.

"Now, I'm not sure whether the meeting was an Awami League programme."

The reporter then told the adviser that the meeting was held using a banner and setting up a pandal.

The adviser then said, "If that is the case, it is certainly a violation of the law, and I assure you that action will be taken regarding this."

Isolated incidents do not signal security decline

FROM PAGE 2

the home minister being far more active when it comes to constitutional amendments than in ensuring law and order," he said.

Rejecting the allegations, Salahuddin blamed "fallen fascist forces" for attempting to destabilise the country through disruptive programmes announced from across the border, including a purported strike yesterday, largely confined to social media.

He alleged that associates inside the country were regrouping with encouragement from those abroad, questioned their legal status and political activities, and vowed to expose their local accomplices.

Salahuddin said seven crude bomb explosions had occurred nationwide, with four suspects caught red-handed.

"A cocktail explosion on the roof of a vehicle near the Business Faculty of Dhaka University in the dead of night does not mean that Bangladesh's law and order situation has deteriorated."

He argued that torching one or two abandoned or unattended buses at night or early morning did not indicate political instability.

Responding to media reports of worsening security, he said such assessments required comparative statistics.

He also alleged that a foreign-devised plan, backed by substantial resources invested domestically, had sought to destabilise the garment sector, the country's largest export earner, but the government had foiled it.

He praised law enforcers for exercising restraint despite repeated provocations intended to trigger excessive force.

"We are committed to ensuring that no conspiracy or blueprint aimed at destabilising the country is implemented," he said.

He warned that the "fascism" overthrown in the mass uprising would not be allowed to return through vested interests, vowing to expose any such attempts.

Iran behind cyberattacks on fridges: France

AFP, *Paris*

France's foreign minister said yesterday that Paris ruled out "nothing" to respond to a major cyberattack on hundreds of supermarket fridges in October that it has blamed on Iran.

Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot told FranceinfoTV that Iran's ambassador would be summoned and European-level sanctions would be sought.

"I can also tell you that we rule nothing out and will take all measures -- including those we may not disclose publicly -- that we deem proportionate and necessary to deter any further attacks," he added.

The goal, Barrot said, is "to deter anyone who might be tempted, in Iran or elsewhere, to do it again".

বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয়
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তারিখ: ২৫ কার্তিক ১৪৩৩ / ১০ নভেম্বর ২০২৬

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয়-এর রাজস্ব খাতভুক্ত নিম্নবর্ণিত ১১ হতে ২০তম (পূর্বতন ৩য় ও ৪র্থ শ্রেণী) গ্রেডের পদসমূহে অস্থায়ী ভিত্তিতে সরাসরি নিয়োগের নিমিত্ত পদের পার্শ্বে বর্ণিত শর্তে প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশি নাগরিকদের নিকট থেকে নির্ধারিত ফরমে https://bps.teletalk.com.bd ওয়েবসাইটে অনলাইনে (Online) আবেদন আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে:

ক্রমিক	পদের নাম, বেতন স্কেল ও গ্রেড (জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল ২০২৬ অনুযায়ী)	পদের সংখ্যা	আবেদনের যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা (নিয়োগ বিধির তফসিল অনুযায়ী)
১	গাইড (২৫০০০-৬০৫০০/-) গ্রেড-১১	০১ (এক)	কোন অনুমোদিত শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান হইতে ইংরেজি বিষয়ে অন্যূন স্নাতক (সম্মান) পাস।
২	ক্যাটালগার (২৫০০০-৬০৫০০/-) গ্রেড-১১	০৩ (তিন)	কোন অনুমোদিত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হইতে অন্যূন স্নাতক ডিগ্রীসহ গ্রন্থাগার ও তথ্য বিজ্ঞান বিষয়ে ডিপ্লোমা।
৩	লেজিসলেটিভ এ্যাসিস্ট্যান্ট (২৪০০০-৫৮০০০/-) গ্রেড-১৩	০১ (এক)	কোন অনুমোদিত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হইতে আইন বিষয়ে অন্যূন স্নাতক ডিগ্রী।
৪	ফটোগ্রাফার স্টীল (২৪০০০-৫৮০০০/-) গ্রেড-১৩	০১ (এক)	কোন অনুমোদিত শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান হইতে অন্যূন স্নাতক ডিগ্রীসহ ফটোগ্রাফীর উপর সনদ থাকিতে হইবে অথবা কোন অনুমোদিত শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান হইতে অন্যূন এইচএসসি পাশসহ ফটোগ্রাফীতে ডিপ্লোমা।
৫	টেকনিশিয়ান (নেটওয়ার্ক) (২৪০০০-৫৮০০০/-) গ্রেড-১৩	০১ (এক)	কম্পিউটার সায়েন্স/নেটওয়ার্কিং/ইলেকট্রিক্যাল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং/ইনফরমেশন টেকনোলজিতে ডিপ্লোমা।
৬	টেকনিশিয়ান (হার্ডওয়্যার) (২৪০০০-৫৮০০০/-) গ্রেড-১৩	০৫ (পাঁচ)	কম্পিউটার সায়েন্স/ হার্ডওয়ারিং/ ইলেকট্রিক্যাল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং/ ইনফরমেশন টেকনোলজিতে ডিপ্লোমা।
৭	টিভি টেকনিশিয়ান (২৪০০০-৫৮০০০/-) গ্রেড-১৩	০২ (দুই)	কোন অনুমোদিত শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান হইতে অন্যূন এইচএসসি পাস এবং ২ বৎসরের ট্রেড সার্টিফিকেটসহ বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা থাকিতে হইবে।
৮	সীট-মুদ্রাক্ষরিক কাম কম্পিউটার অপারেটর (২৪০০০-৫৮০০০/-) গ্রেড-১৩	২৩ (তেইশ)	(১) কোন অনুমোদিত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হইতে অন্যূন স্নাতক ডিগ্রী। (২) বাংলা সীটলিপি ও কম্পিউটারে Word Processing/Data Entry সর্বনিম্ন গতি যথাক্রমে ৪৫ ও ৩০ শব্দ অথবা ইংরেজী সীটলিপি ও কম্পিউটারে Word Processing/Data Entry সর্বনিম্ন যথাক্রমে ৭০ ও ৪০ শব্দের গতি থাকিতে হইবে। (৩) Word Processing, Spread Sheet Analysis, Database এবং Presentation এ দক্ষ হইতে হইবে। বিভাগীয় প্রার্থীর ক্ষেত্রে বয়সসীমা ৪০ বৎসর পর্যন্ত শিথিলযোগ্য।
৯	ডাটা এন্ট্রি/কন্ট্রোল অপারেটর (২৩৫০০-৫৬৮০০/-) গ্রেড-১৪	০৫ (পাঁচ)	(১) কোন অনুমোদিত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হইতে অন্যূন স্নাতক ডিগ্রী। (২) Operator "Standard Aptitude Test" এ উত্তীর্ণ হইতে হইবে। (৩) বাংলা ও ইংরেজী টাইপিং এ গতিসীমা যথাক্রমে ২০ ও ২৫ শব্দ।
১০	গ্রন্থাগার সহকারী (২৩৫০০-৫৬৮০০/-) গ্রেড-১৪	০২ (দুই)	কোন অনুমোদিত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হইতে অন্যূন স্নাতক ডিগ্রীসহ গ্রন্থাগার ও তথ্য বিজ্ঞান বিষয়ে ডিপ্লোমা।
১১	সহকারী সিকিউরিটি ইন্সপেক্টর (২৩৫০০-৫৬৮০০/-) গ্রেড-১৪	১২ (বারো)	কোন অনুমোদিত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হইতে অন্যূন স্নাতক ডিগ্রী এবং উচ্চতা ৫ ফুট ৬ ইঞ্চিসহ সুস্বাস্থ্যের অধিকারী হইতে হইবে। মহিলাদের ক্ষেত্রে ৫ ফুট ২ ইঞ্চি উচ্চতাসহ সুস্বাস্থ্যের অধিকারী হইতে হইবে।
১২	এ্যাম্বুলেন্স ড্রাইভার (২২৮০০-৫৫২০০/-) গ্রেড-১৫	০২ (দুই)	কোন অনুমোদিত শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান হইতে অন্যূন ৮ম শ্রেণী পাস এবং ভারী যানবাহন চালানোর ড্রাইভিং লাইসেন্স থাকিতে হইবে।
১৩	ড্রাইভার (২২৮০০-৫৫২০০/-) গ্রেড-১৫	০৬ (ছয়)	কোন অনুমোদিত শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান হইতে অন্যূন ৮ম শ্রেণী পাস এবং ভারী যানবাহন চালানোর ড্রাইভিং লাইসেন্স থাকিতে হইবে।
১৪	অফিস সহকারী কাম কম্পিউটার অপারেটর (২১৯০০-৫২৯০০/-) গ্রেড-১৬	২২ (বাইশ)	কোন অনুমোদিত শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান হইতে অন্যূন এইচএসসি পাস। কম্পিউটারে Word Processing/Data Entry ও Typing ইত্যাদিতে গতি প্রতি মিনিটে বাংলা ও ইংরেজীতে যথাক্রমে ২০ ও ৩০ শব্দ। বিভাগীয় প্রার্থীর ক্ষেত্রে বয়সসীমা ৪০ বৎসর পর্যন্ত শিথিলযোগ্য।
১৫	আইন সহকারী (২১৯০০-৫২৯০০/-) গ্রেড-১৬	০১ (এক)	কোন অনুমোদিত শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান হইতে অন্যূন এইচএসসি পাস এবং কোন আইনজীবীর সহকারী হিসেবে অন্যূন ৫ বৎসরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকিতে হইবে।
১৬	অফসেট প্রিন্টার্স টেকনিশিয়ান (২১৯০০-৫২৯০০/-) গ্রেড-১৬	০১ (এক)	কোন অনুমোদিত শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান হইতে অন্যূন এইচএসসি পাস। অফসেট প্রিন্টিং কাজে বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন প্রার্থীদেরকে অগ্রাধিকার প্রদান করা হইবে।
১৭	প্রটোকল এ্যাসিস্ট্যান্ট (২১৯০০-৫২৯০০/-) গ্রেড-১৬	০২ (দুই)	কোন অনুমোদিত শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান হইতে অন্যূন এইচএসসি পাস এবং কম্পিউটার ইন্টারনেট ও ই-মেইল পরিচালনায় দক্ষতা থাকিতে হইবে।
১৮	লাইনম্যান (২১৯০০-৫২৯০০/-) গ্রেড-১৬	০২ (দুই)	(১) কোন অনুমোদিত শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান হইতে কম্পিউটার/ইলেট্রিক্যাল বিষয়ে এসএসসি (ভোকেশনাল)-সহ এইচএসসি পাস। (২) Operator "Standard Aptitude Test" এ উত্তীর্ণ হইতে হইবে; এবং (৩) সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজে ব্যবহারিক পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ হইতে হইবে।
১৯	ক্যামেরাম্যান সহকারী (২১৪০০-৫১৯০০/-) গ্রেড-১৭	০১ (এক)	কোন অনুমোদিত শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান হইতে অন্যূন এইচএসসি পাস। ক্যামেরাম্যান সহকারী হিসেবে বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা থাকিতে হইবে।
২০	সিকিউরিটি এ্যাসিস্ট্যান্ট (২১০০০-৫০৯০০)/- গ্রেড-১৮	২৪ (চব্বিশ)	কোন অনুমোদিত শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান হইতে অন্যূন এইচএসসি পাস এবং ৫ ফুট ৬ ইঞ্চি উচ্চতাসহ সুস্বাস্থ্যের অধিকারী হইতে হইবে। মহিলাদের ক্ষেত্রে ৫ ফুট ২ ইঞ্চি উচ্চতাসহ সুস্বাস্থ্যের অধিকারী হইতে হইবে। আনসার/ভিডিপি'র মৌলিক প্রশিক্ষণের সনদপ্রাপ্ত হইতে হইবে।
২১	মোয়াজ্জিন (২০৫০০-৪৯৬০০/-) গ্রেড-১৯	০১ (এক)	কোন অনুমোদিত শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান হইতে অন্যূন আলীম এবং ক্বারীয়ানা পাস হইতে হইবে। তাঁহাকে সুকণ্ঠের অধিকারী হইতে হইবে।
২২	মেকানিক গ্রেড-সি (২০৫০০-৪৯৬০০/-) গ্রেড-১৯	০১ (এক)	কোন অনুমোদিত শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান হইতে অন্যূন এসএসসি (ভোকেশনাল) পাস অথবা সরকার অনুমোদিত টেকনিক্যাল স্কুল হইতে অন্যূন ৬ মাসের অটোমোবাইলের উপর প্রশিক্ষণসহ ৮ম শ্রেণী পাস। বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্নদের জন্য যোগ্যতা শিথিলযোগ্য।
২৩	অফিস সহায়ক কাম পরিচ্ছন্নতা কর্মী (২০০০০-৪৮৪০০) গ্রেড-২০	০৩ (তিন)	কোন অনুমোদিত শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান হইতে অন্যূন এসএসসি পাস। তবে এই তফসিল জারির পূর্বে জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয়ে কর্মরত দৈনিক ভিত্তিক সাংবাৎসরিক কর্মচারীদের ক্ষেত্রে শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ৮ম শ্রেণী পাস।
২৪	সহকারী ডেসপাচ রাইডার (২০০০০-৪৮৪০০) গ্রেড-২০	০৩ (তিন)	কোন অনুমোদিত শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান হইতে অন্যূন এসএসসি পাস। তবে এই তফসিল জারির পূর্বে জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয়ে কর্মরত দৈনিক ভিত্তিক সাংবাৎসরিক কর্মচারীদের ক্ষেত্রে শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ৮ম শ্রেণি পাস। মোটর সাইকেল চালনায় বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা থাকিতে হইবে।
২৫	কামরা পরিচারক/পরিচারিকা (২০০০০-৪৮৪০০) গ্রেড-২০	১৪ (চৌদ্দ)	কোন অনুমোদিত শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান হইতে অন্যূন এসএসসি পাস। তবে এই তফসিল জারির পূর্বে জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয়ে কর্মরত দৈনিক ভিত্তিক সাংবাৎসরিক কর্মচারীদের ক্ষেত্রে শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ৮ম শ্রেণী পাস।
২৬	নিরাপত্তা প্রহরী (২০০০০-৪৮৪০০) গ্রেড-২০	১০ (দশ)	কোন অনুমোদিত শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান হইতে অন্যূন ৮ম শ্রেণি পাস। শারীরিকভাবে উপযুক্ত হইতে হইবে।
২৭	পরিচ্ছন্নতাকর্মী (পূর্বনাম ঝাড়ুদার) (২০০০০-৪৮৪০০) গ্রেড-২০	০৪ (চার)	পেশাদার ঝাড়ুদার হইতে হইবে।
২৮	ক্লীনার/হেল্পার (২০০০০-৪৮৪০০) গ্রেড-২০	০২ (দুই)	কোন অনুমোদিত শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান হইতে অন্যূন ৮ম শ্রেণী পাস।

০২। **অনলাইনে আবেদন ফরম পূরণ এবং পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের শর্তাবলী:**

ক. প্রার্থী নির্বাচনের ক্ষেত্রে কোটা সংক্রান্ত জনপ্রশাসন মন্ত্রণালয়ের ২৩ জুলাই ২০২৪ তারিখের ০৫.০০.০০০০.১৭০.১১.০১৪.২৪-১৪১ নং প্রজ্ঞাপন অনুসরণ করা হবে।

খ. প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে আবেদনের বয়সসীমা ১২-১১-২০২৬ খ্রিঃ তারিখে বয়স ১৮ হতে ৩২ বছর হতে হবে। বয়স প্রমাণের ক্ষেত্রে কোন এফিডেভিট গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।

গ. সরকারি, আধা-সরকারি ও স্বায়ত্তশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানে চাকরিরত প্রার্থীদের যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের অনুমতিক্রমে আবেদন করতে হবে। প্রার্থীদেরকে অবশ্যই মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় সংশ্লিষ্ট নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক অনাপত্তি ছাড়পত্রের মূলকপি জমা দিতে হবে।

ঘ. কোন ব্যক্তিকে জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয়ের দৈনিক ভিত্তিক সাংবাৎসরিক কোন পদে নিয়োগ করা হয়ে থাকলে উল্লিখিত ব্যক্তির সাংবাৎসরিক ভিত্তিতে নিযুক্তকালীন কার্যকালের জন্য তার যোগ্যতা সাপেক্ষে সংসদ সচিবালয়ের কোন শূন্য পদে সরাসরি নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে তফসিলে বর্ণিত সর্বোচ্চ বয়সসীমা শিথিলযোগ্য। তবে সেক্ষেত্রে অনলাইন আবেদনপত্রের নির্ধারিত স্থানে সাংবাৎসরিক হিসেবে নিয়োগের তারিখ ও স্মারক নম্বর উল্লেখ করতে হবে। অন্যথায় আবেদন গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।

ঙ. জাতীয় সংসদের স্পিকার, ডেপুটি স্পিকার, চীফ হুইপ, সংসদ উপনেতা, বিরোধীদলের নেতা, বিরোধীদলের উপনেতা ও হুইপগণের কার্যালয়ে কর্মরত প্রিভিলেইজড কর্মকর্তা বা কর্মচারী উক্ত পদের জন্য নির্ধারিত শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও বয়সসীমার মধ্যে নিয়োগপ্রাপ্ত হয়ে থাকলে তার নিযুক্তকালীন কার্যকালের জন্য অন্যান্য যোগ্যতা সাপেক্ষে সংসদ সচিবালয়ের কোন শূন্য পদে সরাসরি নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে তফসিলে বর্ণিত সর্বোচ্চ বয়সসীমা শিথিলযোগ্য। তবে সেক্ষেত্রে অনলাইন আবেদনপত্রের নির্ধারিত স্থানে প্রিভিলেইজড কর্মচারী হিসেবে নিয়োগের তারিখ ও স্মারক নম্বর উল্লেখ করতে হবে। অন্যথায় আবেদন গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।

চ. বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে উল্লিখিত পদের জন্য যে শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা চাওয়া হয়েছে, কোন প্রার্থী আবেদনপত্র দাখিল করার পূর্বে চাহিত শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার অতিরিক্ত শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা অর্জন করে থাকলে তা দাখিলকৃত আবেদনপত্রে উল্লেখ করতে হবে, অন্যথায় নিয়োগ প্রাপ্তির পর অতিরিক্ত সনদপত্র গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না। অর্জিত শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা গোপন রেখে পরবর্তীকালে তা প্রকাশ করে পদোন্নতি বা অন্য কোনো বৈধ সুযোগ-সুবিধা দাবি করলে তা গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।

ছ. প্রার্থীকে লিখিত, মৌখিক ও ব্যবহারিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য কোন প্রকার টিএ/ডিএ প্রদান করা হবে না।

জ. মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় নিম্নবর্ণিত কাগজপত্রের মূলকপি প্রদর্শনপূর্বক এক সেট সত্যায়িত কপি জমা দিতে হবে:

i. প্রার্থীর সকল শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সনদপত্র (প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র, লাইসেন্সসহ);

ii. কোটা দাবির সমর্থনে মুক্তিযোদ্ধা, শহিদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধা ও বীরাঙ্গনার সন্তান, ক্ষুদ্র নৃ-গোষ্ঠী এবং শারীরিক প্রতিবন্ধী ও তৃতীয় লিঙ্গের প্রার্থীদের সর্বশেষ সরকারি নীতিমালা অনুযায়ী যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সনদপত্র;

iii. প্রার্থী যে ইউনিয়ন/পৌরসভা/সিটি কর্পোরেশন/ক্যান্টনমেন্ট বোর্ড-এর বাসিন্দা সে ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের চেয়ারম্যান/ প্রশাসক, পৌরসভা প্রশাসক এবং সিটি কর্পোরেশনের মেয়র/প্রশাসক অথবা ক্যান্টনমেন্ট বোর্ডের প্রধান সনদ (প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে) সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি;

iv. Online-এ পূরণকৃত আবেদনপত্রের কপি (Applicant's Copy); এবং

ঝ. বর্ণিত শর্তাবলীতে উল্লেখ করা হয়নি এমন ক্ষেত্রে সরকারের সর্বশেষ জারিকৃত বিধি-বিধান প্রযোজ্য হবে।

ঞ. প্রার্থীর যোগ্যতা যাচাই; প্রার্থী কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত কোন তথ্য বা দাখিলকৃত কাগজপত্র জাল, মিথ্যা বা বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে চাওয়া নূন্যতম শর্তের সাথে গরমিল/অসামঞ্জস্য পাওয়া গেলে/ভুয়া প্রমাণিত হলে কিংবা পরীক্ষায় নকল বা অসদুপায় অবলম্বন করলে সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রার্থীর প্রার্থীতা বাতিল করা হবে এবং তার বিরুদ্ধে যথাযথ আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে। ভুল তথ্য/জাল কাগজপত্র প্রদর্শিত হলে পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ যে কোন প্রার্থীর প্রার্থীতা পরীক্ষা চলাকালীন অথবা পরবর্তিতে যে কোন সময়ে বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।

ট. নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে উল্লিখিত পদের সংখ্যা হ্রাস/বৃদ্ধি করতে পারবে। নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত বিষয়ে নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত সিদ্ধান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।

০৩। **অনলাইনে আবেদনপত্র পূরণ সংক্রান্ত তথ্যাবলি:**

ক. পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণে ইচ্ছুক প্রার্থীগণ https://bps.teletalk.com.bd ওয়েবসাইটের মাধ্যমে আবেদনপত্র পূরণ করবেন। আবেদনের সময়সীমা নিম্নরূপ:

I. Online-এ আবেদনপত্র পূরণ ও পরীক্ষার ফি জমাদান শুরুর তারিখ ও সময় ১২-১১-২০২৬ খ্রি: রাত ১২.০১ মিনিট। (12.01 AM)

II. Online- এ আবেদনপত্র জমাদানের শেষ তারিখ ও সময় ০২-১২-২০২৬খ্রি: রাত ১১.৫৯ মিনিট (11.59 PM) পর্যন্ত।

III. উক্ত সময়সীমার মধ্যে User ID প্রাপ্ত প্রার্থীগণ Online-এ আবেদনপত্র Submit-এর সময় থেকে পরবর্তী ৭২ (বাহাত্তর) ঘন্টার মধ্যে এসএমএস এর মাধ্যমে পরীক্ষার ফি জমা দিতে পারবেন।

খ. Online আবেদনপত্রে প্রার্থী তার রঙ্গিন ছবি (দৈর্ঘ্য ৩০০ X প্রস্থ ৩০০ pixel) এবং স্বাক্ষর (দৈর্ঘ্য ৩০০ X প্রস্থ ৮০ pixel) স্ক্যান করে নির্ধারিত স্থানে Upload করবেন। ছবির সাইজ সর্বোচ্চ ১০০ KB ও স্বাক্ষরের সাইজ সর্বোচ্চ ৬০ KB হতে হবে।

গ. Online আবেদনপত্রে পূরণকৃত তথ্যই যেহেতু পরবর্তী সকল কার্যক্রমে ব্যবহৃত হবে, সেহেতু Online-এ আবেদনপত্র Submit করার পূর্বেই পূরণকৃত সকল তথ্যের সঠিকতা সম্পর্কে প্রার্থী নিজে শতভাগ নিশ্চিত হবেন।

ঘ. প্রার্থী Online-এ পূরণকৃত আবেদনপত্রের একটি রঙ্গিন প্রিন্ট কপি পরীক্ষা সংক্রান্ত যে কোন প্রয়োজনে সহায়ক হিসেবে সংরক্ষণ করবেন এবং মৌখিক/ব্যবহারিক পরীক্ষার সময় এক কপি জমা দিবেন।

ঙ. SMS প্রেরণের নিয়মাবলী ও পরীক্ষার ফি প্রদান: Online-এ আবেদনপত্র (Application Form) যথাযথভাবে পূরণ করে নির্দেশনা মতে ছবি এবং স্বাক্ষর Upload করে আবেদনপত্র Submit Online (Application Preview) দেখা যাবে। নির্ভুলভাবে আবেদনপত্র Submit করা সম্পন্ন প্রার্থী একটি User ID, ছবি এবং স্বাক্ষরযুক্ত একটি Applicant's copy পাবেন। উক্ত Applicant's copy প্রার্থী ডাউনলোড করে রঙ্গিন প্রিন্ট সংরক্ষণ করবেন। Applicant's copy তে একটি User ID নম্বর দেয়া থাকবে এবং User ID নম্বর ব্যবহার করে প্রার্থী নিম্নোক্ত পদ্ধতিতে যে কোন Teletalk Pre-paid মোবাইল নম্বরের মাধ্যমে ০২ (দুই)টি SMS করে ১নং থেকে ০২নং পদের জন্য পরীক্ষার ফি বাবদ ১৫০/- (একশত পঞ্চাশ) টাকা এবং Teletalk এর সার্ভিস চার্জ বাবদ (ভ্যাটসহ অফেরতযোগ্য) ১৮/- (আঠারো) টাকাসহ সর্বমোট ১৬৮/- (একশত আটষট্টি) টাকা, ০৩ থেকে ১৮ নং ক্রমিকের পদসমূহের জন্য নিয়োগ পরীক্ষা ফি ১০০/- (একশত) টাকা এবং Teletalk এর সার্ভিস চার্জ বাবদ (ভ্যাটসহ অফেরতযোগ্য) ১২/- (বার) টাকাসহ সর্বমোট ১১২/- (একশত বারো) টাকা এবং ১৯ থেকে ২৮ নং ক্রমিকের পদসমূহের জন্য নিয়োগ পরীক্ষা ফি ৫০/- (পঞ্চাশ) টাকা এবং Teletalk এর সার্ভিস চার্জ বাবদ (ভ্যাটসহ অফেরতযোগ্য) ৬/- (ছয়) টাকাসহ সর্বমোট ৫৬/- (ছাপ্পান্ন) টাকা Teletalk Pre-paid মোবাইল নম্বরের মাধ্যমে ৭২ (বাহাত্তর) ঘন্টার মধ্যে জমা দিবেন। তবে সকল গ্রেডের পদে অনগ্রসর নাগরিকদের (ক্ষুদ্র নৃ-গোষ্ঠী, শারীরিক প্রতিবন্ধী ও তৃতীয় লিঙ্গের প্রার্থীগণ) ক্ষেত্রে আবেদন ফি বাবদ ৫০/- (পঞ্চাশ) টাকা ও Teletalk এর সার্ভিস চার্জ বাবদ (ভ্যাটসহ অফেরতযোগ্য) ৬/- (ছয়) টাকাসহ সর্বমোট ৫৬/- (ছাপ্পান্ন) টাকা অনধিক ৭২ ঘন্টার মধ্যে জমা দিবেন। বিশেষভাবে উল্লেখ্য, Online এ আবেদনপত্রের সকল অংশ পূরণ করে Submit করা হলেও পরীক্ষার ফি জমা না দেয়া পর্যন্ত Online আবেদনপত্র কোনো অবস্থাতেই গৃহীত হবে না।

প্রথম SMS: BPS<space>User ID লিখে Send করতে হবে 16222 নম্বরে।
Example: BPS ABCDEF
Reply: Applicants Name.TK.168/112/56/- will be charged as application fee your PIN is 12345678

দ্বিতীয় SMS: BPS<space>Yes<space>PIN লিখে Send করতে হবে 16222 নম্বরে।
Example: BPS YES 12345678
Reply: Congratulation Applicants Name payment completed successfully for BPS Application for post XXXXXXXXXX user ID is (ABCDEF) and password (xxxxxxxXXXXX)
দ্বিতীয় SMS পাঠানোর পর ফিরতি SMS এ প্রাপ্ত password টি Admit card (প্রবেশপত্র) Download এর জন্য প্রার্থী সংরক্ষণ করবেন।

চ. প্রবেশপত্র প্রাপ্তির বিষয়টি https://bps.teletalk.com.bd অথবা বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয় এর ওয়েবসাইট www.parliament.gov.bd এবং প্রার্থীর মোবাইল ফোনে SMS এর মাধ্যমে (শুধু যোগ্য প্রার্থীদেরকে) যথাসময়ে জানানো হবে। Online আবেদনপত্রে প্রার্থীর প্রদত্ত মোবাইল ফোনে পরীক্ষা সংক্রান্ত যাবতীয় যোগাযোগ সম্পন্ন করা হবে বিধায়, উক্ত নম্বরটি সার্বক্ষণিক সচল রাখা, SMS পড়া এবং প্রাপ্ত নির্দেশনা তাৎক্ষণিকভাবে অনুসরণ করা বাঞ্ছনীয়।

ছ. SMS-এ প্রেরিত User ID এবং Password ব্যবহার করে পরবর্তীতে রোল নম্বর, পদের নাম, ছবি, পরীক্ষার তারিখ, সময় ও পরীক্ষার স্থান/কেন্দ্রের নাম ইত্যাদি তথ্য সম্বলিত প্রবেশপত্র প্রার্থী ডাউনলোড পূর্বক রঙ্গিন প্রিন্ট করে নিবেন। প্রার্থী এই প্রবেশপত্রটি লিখিত পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের সময়ে এবং উত্তীর্ণ হলে মৌখিক/ব্যবহারিক পরীক্ষার সময়ে অবশ্যই প্রদর্শন করবেন।

জ শুধু টেলিটক প্রি-পেইড মোবাইল ফোন থেকে প্রার্থীগণ নিম্নবর্ণিত SMS পদ্ধতি অনুসরণ করে নিজ নিজ User ID এবং Password পুনরুদ্ধার করতে পারবেন।
(i) User ID জানা থাকলে BPS<space>Help<space>User<space>User ID & Send to 16222
Example: BPS Help User ABCDEF & send to 16222
(ii) PIN Number জানা থাকলে BPS<space>Help<space>PIN<space>PIN no & send to 16222
Example: BPS Help PIN 12345678 & send to 16222

ঝ. বিজ্ঞপ্তিটি পত্রিকা ছাড়াও বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয় এর ওয়েবসাইট www.parliament.gov.bd এ বিজ্ঞপ্তিসহ এ সংক্রান্ত সকল তথ্য দেখা যাবে। অথবা QR Code স্ক্যান এর মাধ্যমে টেলিটকের জব পোর্টাল https://alljobs.teletalk.com.bd ওয়েবসাইটে সরাসরি প্রবেশ করে বিজ্ঞপ্তিটি পাওয়া যাবে। নিয়োগ পরীক্ষার তারিখ, সময় www.parliament.gov.bd ওয়েবসাইট হতে জানা যাবে।

ঞ. অনলাইনে আবেদন করতে কোন সমস্যা হলে টেলিটক নম্বর থেকে ১২১ অথবা alljobs.query@teletalk.com.bd এবং recruitment@parliament.gov.bd ই-মেইলে যোগাযোগ করা যাবে। (Mail/মেসেজ এর Subject-এ Organization Name: BPS, Post Name:** Applicant's User ID Contact Number অবশ্যই উল্লেখ করতে হবে)।

ট. **ডিক্লারেশন:** প্রার্থীকে অনলাইন আবেদনপত্রের ডিক্লারেশন অংশে এই মর্মে ঘোষণা দিতে হবে যে, প্রার্থী কর্তৃক আবেদনপত্রের প্রদত্ত সকল তথ্য সঠিক এবং সত্য। প্রদত্ত তথ্য অসত্য বা মিথ্যা প্রমাণিত হলে অথবা কোন অযোগ্যতা ধরা পড়লে বা কোনো প্রতারণা বা দুর্নীতির আশ্রয় গ্রহণ করলে কিংবা পরীক্ষায় নকল বা অসদুপায় অবলম্বন করলে, পরীক্ষার পূর্বে বা পরে অথবা নিয়োগের পরে যে কোনো পর্যায়ে প্রার্থিতা বাতিল করা হবে এবং সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রার্থীর বিরুদ্ধে আইনগত ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা যাবে।

* শেষ তারিখ ও সময়ের জন্য অপেক্ষা না করে হাতে যথেষ্ট সময় নিয়ে Online এ আবেদনপত্র পূরণ ও আবেদন ফি জমাদান করতে পরামর্শ দেয়া যাচ্ছে।

বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয় এর ওয়েবসাইটে প্রবেশ এর QR Code

বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয় এর টেলিটক জব পোর্টালে প্রবেশ এর QR Code

GD-2735

ফাতিমা আজরিন তন্বী
সিনিয়র সহকারী সচিব
বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয়

Education

FROM PAGE 3

you've got," Sophie asked.

Obaid said Rohingya students do not get to attend college or university after Grade 12. "We can't go to university to achieve our goals."

Still, he and his classmates continue studying science, mathematics and English. His plea, he said, was also on behalf of other Rohingya children with similar ambitions.

Hamida, another sixth grader, wants to become a doctor because her camp has no female doctor to provide maternity care, while another girl wishes to become a teacher.

The Duchess also asked about their lessons.

Class teacher Md Rahim said students are taught English, Burmese, science and mathematics. Another student said education is helping them make friends and learn new things.

Sophie described the children as "very gifted and clever students" and encouraged them to continue their studies.

Unicef Education Officer Anika Tanjim said some children walked 20 to 30 minutes to attend classes, raising safety concerns among parents and making attendance difficult, particularly for girls.

The Duchess next met Rohingya women and girls at Amar Ghor Women and Girls Safe Space before visiting a soap factory, which provides income opportunities for refugees and host community members, particularly for women who previously had no earnings.

One worker said the job has improved her family's finances, helping her cover household expenses and her children's education and earning her greater respect within her family. Another said Rohingya and host community women work like one family.

Sophie asked about working hours and shifts.

Representatives said workers spent around eight hours a day at the factory, which currently operates a single daytime shift. More orders could create additional shifts.

British High Commissioner Sarah Cooke, who accompanied the Duchess, asked whether workers attend daily or work in rotating groups. Representatives said they come every day.

Sophie also visited a UN Women Multipurpose Women's Centre and a Handicap International or Humanity & Inclusion facility, where she met Rohingya people with physical disabilities.

Jamal Hossain, who lost a leg in a bomb explosion, was making boards at the centre. He said he had worked there for a year.

Joynob Bibi, who has had a disability since birth and was also shot in Myanmar, told Sophie that facilities for people with disabilities in Rakhine were inadequate.

HI programme manager Sohel Rana briefed Sophie on the centre's activities and support for refugees with disabilities.

The Duchess arrived in Bangladesh on Monday for a three-day visit ending today, focusing on women's empowerment, humanitarian support and Bangladesh-UK cooperation.

Speaking at the camp, Sarah Cooke said the visit reflects Sophie's longstanding commitment to women, peace and security, adding that the UK is among the largest donors to the Rohingya response.

"To date, we've provided over £460 million to support the Rohingya and the host communities to have a better life here in Bangladesh," she said.

Asked about continued assistance amid shrinking funding, Cooke said the UK would continue supporting Rohingya refugees and host communities.

"Her Royal Highness's visit is really helping shine the spotlight on the crisis so we don't forget the Rohingya and the generosity of the Bangladeshi people and government in supporting them," she added.

Oil dependence

FROM PAGE 12

While many people endure the impact of inflation, oil companies have largely benefited from a rise in fossil fuel prices since the US-Israeli war on Iran disrupted energy shipments from the Middle East.

"Fossil fuels are not only driving the climate crisis. Dependence on them carries a steep economic and security price – as the crisis in the Middle East has laid bare," Guterres, who will step down at the end of the year, said.

"Families, businesses and governments are paying the price. Meanwhile, nine oil companies are on track to rake in more than $95 billion in just three months. That is more than one billion dollars a day."

Guterres did not name the companies. Exxon Mobil, Chevron Corp, BP and Shell have reported windfall earnings since the Iran war began at the end of February.

Earlier, COP31 host Turkey urged countries to sign up to a goal to increase the share of electricity in global energy use to 35 percent by 2035 — up from around a fifth today.

Turkey is seeking to incorporate that electrification goal into the formal outcome of the talks, according to a person familiar with the matter.

COP31 President Murat Kurum told a press conference in Antalya that the goal was a way to cut emissions, drive economic growth and ensure long-term energy security.

Climate advocates have criticised the pledge because it does not require that the additional electricity come from low-carbon sources — something Kurum said was not required.

"I put forth a target for electrification. An exit from fossil fuels has already been put forth in previous COPs. You have a path ahead of you today, one is becoming more costly, and one is becoming cheaper. Which one would you prefer?" he said.

The target is meant to help reduce planet-warming emissions by speeding the global shift away from fossil fuel-powered vehicles, furnaces, boilers, cooking stoves, and other greenhouse gas-emitting equipment.

DoA forms team to inspect

FROM PAGE 3

Dutta said she was unaware of the development, and expressed surprise at the DoA's description of the family home, located beside Dharmasagar in the city's Jhautala area, as "abandoned".

The development comes amid a dispute over the historic property's preservation.

On Friday evening, leaders and activists of the National Citizen Party (NCP) in Cumilla removed a signboard installed by Aroma Dutta, which identified the property as belonging to her through inheritance.

The NCP activists are demanding that the house be preserved and converted into a memorial museum, arguing that a property of such historical significance should not be sold off as a private property.

Dhirendranath Dutta, a leading figure of the Language Movement, had demanded in Pakistan's Constituent Assembly that Bangla be recognised as a state language alongside Urdu in 1948.

He built the Cumilla house in the late 1940s and began living there.

On the night of March 29, 1971, Pakistani forces detained, tortured and killed Dhirendranath Dutta and his son, Dilip Kumar Dutta, at the then Mainamati Cantonment, now Cumilla Cantonment. Their bodies were never recovered.

Meanwhile, rights organisation Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) yesterday issued a statement expressing concern and denouncing the act of vandalising a signboard at Dhirendranath Dutta's house by NCP leaders and activists.

It also called upon authorities concerned to extend support to Aroma Dutta in maintaining her inherited property with dignity.

The statement said while preserving Dhirendranath Dutta's property on grounds of historic importance is a responsibility of the state, any attempt to deprive the property's rightful heirs of its ownership by use of force is unacceptable.

It also asked why the heirs have to give away their inherited property to preserve the memory of Dhirendranath Dutta, and called for consideration of an alternative initiative to this end.

The statement referred to Section 42 of the constitution that confirms a citizen cannot be deprived of the right to own property without appropriate legal authority, adding that pressure and intervention by force from any political entity or vested group cannot be considered legal.

At a time when Aroma Dutta, Dhirendranath Dutta's granddaughter, complained of a conspiracy to grab the property, the DoA formed a committee on steps to preserve the house and declared it as "abandoned property", which is questionable, the statement added.

Two markets built for a town yet to come

FROM PAGE 3

Each market has 78 shops. Designed by Tariq Hasan and Associates Ltd, the structures were built with steel frameworks by Sena Kalyan Sangstha.

The prolonged closure has also raised concerns about maintenance. Rust is appearing on the metal staircases, while dust and dirt have accumulated inside the shops. Ansar personnel remain deployed to guard the premises, adding to security and upkeep costs.

Asked why the markets were built, Khandakar Md Wahid Sadique, supervising engineer of the Purbachal New Town project's Civil Circle-3, said plot owners had repeatedly complained that the lack of markets and other essential facilities was discouraging construction.

"Rajuk hopes that the construction of buildings around the markets will eventually help create residential communities," he said.

He said the markets were built beside highways to attract shoppers from outside the area, even while nearby settlements remain sparse. Steel structures were chosen to allow future expansion into multi-storey buildings if demand increases.

Khandakar said the open tenders had drawn more applications than expected, with 40 to 50 bids for each market. Some bidders had offered monthly rents of around Tk 11 lakh for one market and Tk 9 lakh for the other.

However, the leasing process stalled because the highest bidders failed to deposit the required security money.

He said the authorities cannot cancel the bids without following due procedures. Each bidder must first be formally notified and given a deadline to deposit the security money before a decision can be made on finalising the contracts.

Khandakar said the highest bidder had offered Tk 20 lakh in monthly rent for one market, while the second- and third-highest bidders offered Tk 17 lakh and Tk 14 lakh, respectively. He expressed surprise that bidders offering such high rents had failed to complete the leasing formalities.

Successful bidders must open their shops within a stipulated period after allocation, he said.

Urban planner Prof Adil Mohammed Khan questioned the idea of using markets to attract residents to Purbachal.

"Markets emerge naturally when people settle in an area. Building markets first will not, by itself, bring people there," he said, stressing that the township must be made liveable before commercial facilities are developed.

He said the authorities should prioritise schools, hospitals, reliable water and electricity supplies, employment opportunities, and other essential civic amenities.

"The area has very few residents, so the question is how these markets will operate and who their customers will be," he said, adding that infrastructure projects should reflect actual demand and local needs.

Continued closure of the two markets would waste public money and accelerate their deterioration, he said.

RMG workers continue protests

FROM PAGE 3

Mohammad Tariqul Islam went unanswered.

Khairul Mamun Mintu, legal affairs secretary of Bangladesh Garments and Sweaters Workers Trade Union Centre, said workers at several factories had stopped work over wage demands.

He said several New Age Group factories in Nishchintapur were closed on Monday under Section 13(1) of the Bangladesh Labour Act, prompting protests that led nearby factories to declare a holiday yesterday.

Meanwhile, authorities declared a general holiday at 11 garment factories in Gazipur amid unrest.

Workers at factories in Naojor and Jarun in Konabari and Gazipur Sadar stopped work yesterday. A video circulating on social media showed some workers leaving their workplaces in Gazipur Sadar.

Gazipur Industrial Police Superintendent Amzad Hossain said the factories would reopen today, adding that police were working to control unrest at several locations.

Noor Hossain Day observed

FROM PAGE 3

Manik. Central leaders Abul Hossain, Mostafa Alamgir Ratan, Kishore Roy, Sadakat Hossain Khan Babul and Murshida Akhter Nahar, along with student leaders Fahim Muntasir and Fahad bin Hasan Sajib, were also present.

Party leaders said Noor Hossain's sacrifice inspired the mass movement that eventually led to the fall of the Ershad regime. They also prayed for the salvation of his soul.

At the discussion, Bangladesh Rastro Songskar Andolan President Hasnat Kaiyum said Syed Aminul Huda Tito was also killed in the anti-autocracy movement on November 10, 1987.

Tito had travelled to Dhaka by bicycle from Bajitpur in Kishoreganj, but his body was made to disappear by the then regime and has yet to be recovered, he said.

Hasnat called for an end to enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings, saying such practices continued despite the sacrifices made during the struggle for democracy.

Other speakers included Senior Vice-President Mahbubur Rahman Selim, Joint General Secretary Didar Bhuiyan and executive committee members Faridul Islam Farid and Lamia Islam. Lawyer Rokon Rocky moderated the discussion.

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- ২৭.২১.১৯৩৩.৬৯১.৪৪.০৫২.২৬.৬৩৭ তারিখঃ ০৮/১১/২০২৬খ্রিঃ

e-Tender বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পাওয়ার গ্রিডের জিএমডি কুমিল্লা দপ্তরের আওতাধীন নিম্নলিখিত দরপত্র e-GP পোর্টালে প্রকাশিত হয়েছে।

ID	Title of Works	Last date & time of document selling	Last date & time of security submission
1362769	Conservation, repair and painting work of the old control building of Cumilla (N) 230/132/33 kV Grid Substation under GMD, Cumilla, Power Grid.	22-Nov-2026 At 15:00	23-Nov-2026 At 11:30
1362839	Supply and installation of new IP camera for Kosba 132/33 kV GIS Grid Substation under GMD, Power Grid, Cumilla.	22-Nov-2026 At 15:00	23-Nov-2026 At 11:30
1362048	Painting of the security wall around the switchyard and residential area of substation and related works, including repair of barbed wire on the security wall of the 230/132/33 kV Cumilla (N) Grid substation under GMD, Cumilla, Power Grid.	22-Nov-2026 At 15:00	23-Nov-2026 At 11:30

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

মোঃ জসিম উদ্দিন
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, জিএমডি, কুমিল্লা

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বাংলাদেশ সশস্ত্র বাহিনী বোর্ড
১৬০, কাকরাইল, ঢাকা-১০০০
website: www.basb.gov.bd

স্মারক নংঃ ২৩.২৮.২৬৬৬.০০০.০০১.১১.০০৩৪.২৬-৪ তারিখঃ ২৬ কার্তিক ১৪৩৩ / ১১ নভেম্বর ২০২৬

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১। প্রতিরক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়ের আওতাধীন বাংলাদেশ সশস্ত্র বাহিনী বোর্ডের অধীন বিভিন্ন জেলা সশস্ত্র বাহিনী বোর্ডসমূহে "সচিব" পদের শূন্যপদে নিম্নলিখিত শর্তাদি পূরণ সাপেক্ষে সরাসরি নিয়োগের জন্য প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশি নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে অনলাইনে (https://basb.teletalk.com.bd ওয়েবসাইটে) আবেদনপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে। অনলাইন (Online) ব্যতীত কোন আবেদন গ্রহণ করা হবে নাঃ

ক্রমিক নং	পদের নাম, গ্রেড ও বেতন স্কেল (জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল ২০২৬ অনুযায়ী)	পদের সংখ্যা	বয়সসীমা	প্রয়োজনীয় যোগ্যতা
(১)	(২)	(৩)	(৪)	(৫)
১।	সচিব (গ্রেড-৫ম) বেতন স্কেলঃ ৮৬,০০০-১,৩৯,৭০০/-	০৪ (চার) টি	সর্বোচ্চ ৫৩ বৎসর	সশস্ত্র বাহিনীর অবসরপ্রাপ্ত মেজর বা সমপদমর্যাদার কর্মকর্তা (নৌবাহিনী ব্যতীত)।

২। নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত পূর্ণাঙ্গ বিজ্ঞপ্তিটি দেখার জন্য QR Code স্ক্যান এর মাধ্যমে বাংলাদেশের একমাত্র রাষ্ট্রীয় মোবাইল অপারেটর টেলিটকের জবপোর্টাল https://alljobs.teletalk.com.bd ওয়েবসাইটে সরাসরি প্রবেশ করেও বিজ্ঞপ্তিটি পাওয়া যাবে অথবা QR Code স্ক্যান এর মাধ্যমে বাংলাদেশ সশস্ত্র বাহিনী বোর্ডের ওয়েবসাইট www.basb.gov.bd এর নোটিশবোর্ডে বিজ্ঞপ্তিসহ এতৎসংক্রান্ত সকল তথ্য পাওয়া যাবে।

৩। পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণে ইচ্ছুক ব্যক্তি https://basb.teletalk.com.bd এই ওয়েবসাইটে আবেদনপত্র পূরণ করবেন। আবেদনের সময়সীমা নিম্নরূপঃ

(i) Online-এ আবেদনপত্র পূরণ ও পরীক্ষার ফি জমাদান শুরুর তারিখ ও সময় ১৮/১১/২০২৬ সকাল- ১০.০০ ঘটিকা।

(ii) Online-এ আবেদনপত্র জমাদানের শেষ তারিখ ও সময় ১৭/১২/২০২৬ বিকাল- ০৫:০০ ঘটিকা।

** শেষ তারিখ ও সময়ের জন্য অপেক্ষা না করে হাতে যথেষ্ট সময় নিয়ে অনলাইনে আবেদনপত্র পূরণ ও আবেদন ফি জমাদান করতে পরামর্শ দেয়া যাচ্ছে।

বাংলাদেশ সশস্ত্র বাহিনী এর ওয়েবসাইটে প্রবেশ এর QR Code

বাংলাদেশ সশস্ত্র বাহিনী এর টেলিটক পোর্টালে প্রবেশ এর QR Code

পরিচালক
বাংলাদেশ সশস্ত্র বাহিনী বোর্ড (বিএএসবি)

আইএসপিআর/বিবিধ/৪১৬

GD-2736

PRAYER TIMING
NOVEMBER 11

	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	5-00	12-45	3-45	5-22	7-00
JAMAAT	5-35	1-15	4-00	5-25	7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
কর কমিশনারের কার্যালয়
কর অঞ্চল-১৮, ঢাকা
৪২-আঞ্জুমান জে. আর টাওয়ার (৭ম তলা), আঞ্জুমান মফিদুল ইসলাম রোড, কাকরাইল, ঢাকা-১০০০।
www.taxeszone18dhaka.gov.bd

নথি নং- ০৮.০১.০০০০.৫১৮.১০১.১১.০১০০.২৬.২৭৮ তারিখঃ ২৫ কার্তিক ১৪৩৩ বঙ্গাব্দ / ১০ নভেম্বর ২০২৬ খ্রিস্টাব্দ

"নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি"

অর্থ মন্ত্রণালয়, অভ্যন্তরীণ সম্পদ বিভাগ, কর-১ শাখা, এর স্মারক নম্বর – ০৮.০০.০০০০.০০০.০৩৭.১১.০০০১.২৪.৪১৫; তারিখ: ২৫ অক্টোবর ২০২৬ খ্রি. অনুযায়ী প্রাপ্ত ছাড়পত্রের ভিত্তিতে কর অঞ্চল-১৮, ঢাকা এর অধীনে গ্রেড-১৩ হতে গ্রেড-২০ পর্যন্ত নিম্নোক্ত ৭টি ক্যাটাগরির ৬৫ টি শূন্য পদে সরাসরি কোটায় অস্থায়ী জনবল নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে ঢাকা জেলার প্রকৃত স্থায়ী বাসিন্দাদের নিকট হতে পদের পার্শ্বে বর্ণিত যোগ্যতা সম্পন্ন প্রার্থীদের শর্ত সাপেক্ষে (https://tax18.teletalk.com.bd) অনলাইনে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। উল্লেখ্য, অনলাইন ব্যতীত অন্য কোন উপায়ে আবেদন গ্রহণ করা হবে না।

ক্রমিক	পদের নাম, গ্রেড ও বেতনস্কেল	পদ সংখ্যা
(১)	কম্পিউটার অপারেটর গ্রেড-১৩	০১ (এক)টি
(২)	ব্যক্তিগত সহকারী গ্রেড-১৩	০৫ (পাঁচ)টি
(৩)	প্রধান সহকারী গ্রেড-১৩	১২ (বারো)টি
(৪)	উচ্চমান সহকারী গ্রেড-১৪	১২ (বারো)টি
(৫)	সীট-মুদ্রাক্ষরিক কাম-কম্পিউটার অপারেটর গ্রেড-১৪	১২ (বারো)টি
(৬)	অফিস সহকারী কাম-কম্পিউটার মুদ্রাক্ষরিক গ্রেড-১৬	১৩ (তেরো)টি
(৭)	অফিস সহায়ক গ্রেড-২০	১০ (দশ)টি

২. পূর্ণাঙ্গ বিজ্ঞপ্তিটি কর অঞ্চল-১৮, ঢাকা এর ওয়েবসাইট https://taxeszone18.dhaka.gov.bd এবং https://tax18.teletalk.com.bd অথবা QR Code স্ক্যান এর মাধ্যমে বাংলাদেশের একমাত্র রাষ্ট্রীয় মোবাইল অপারেটর টেলিটকের জব পোর্টাল https://alljobs.teletalk.com.bd ওয়েবসাইটে সরাসরি প্রবেশ করেও বিজ্ঞপ্তিটি পাওয়া যাবে। নিয়োগ পরীক্ষার, তারিখ, সময় ও অন্যান্য তথ্য https://taxeszone18.dhaka.gov.bd ওয়েবসাইট হতে জানা যাবে।

৩. উল্লেখ্য, আবেদনপত্র পূরণ ও পরীক্ষার ফি জমাদান শুরুর তারিখ: ১৫/১১/২০২৬ খ্রিস্টাব্দ, সময়: সকাল ১০.০০ ঘটিকা এবং আবেদনপত্র জমাদানের শেষ তারিখ: ০৬/১২/২০২৬ খ্রিস্টাব্দ, সময়: বিকাল ০৫.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।

*** Online এর আবেদন ও নিয়োগ পরীক্ষা সংক্রান্ত যে কোন বিষয়ে নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।

*** শেষ তারিখ ও সময়ের জন্য অপেক্ষা না করে হাতে যথেষ্ট সময় নিয়ে অনলাইন-এ আবেদনপত্র পূরণ ও আবেদন ফি জমাদান সম্পন্ন করতে পরামর্শ দেওয়া যাচ্ছে।

কর অঞ্চল-১৮, ঢাকা এর ওয়েবসাইটে প্রবেশ এর QR code

কর অঞ্চল-১৮, ঢাকা এর টেলিটক পোর্টালে প্রবেশ এর QR code

(এইচ এম শাহরিয়ার হাসান)
উপকর কমিশনার
সদর দপ্তর (প্রশাসন)
কর অঞ্চল-১৮, ঢাকা
ও
সদস্য সচিব
বিভাগীয় নিয়োগ কমিটি
কর অঞ্চল-১৮, ঢাকা

GD-2734

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
EDUCATION ENGINEEERING DEPARTMENT
Tangail
E-mail: ee_tan@eedmoe.gov.bd

Memo No:- EE/EED/Tangail/Repair/4931-SHED/2025-2026/4871 Date:- 10.11.2026 Eng.

e-TENDER NOTICE NO. xen/eed/Tangail/Repair/4931-SHED/25/2026-2027
Open Tendering Method (OTM)

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

Sl No	Tender ID	Name Of Work	Last Selling Date & Time	Opening Date & Time
01	1367885	EE-EED-Tangail-4931-SHED-2024-2025-PW-15: Repair & Renovation Works of Principal and Vice-Principal Office at Ibrahim Kha Government College, Bhuapur, Tangail (RMS ID-1053354, FY-2024-2025)	23.11.2026 17:00	24.11.2026 12:00

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 fee's for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National 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 frome-GP helpdesk(helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

(Md. Istiaque Iqbal Hemal)
Executive Engineer
Education Engineering Department,
Tangail.
Phone: 02997714027

GD-2729

DHAKA WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 11, 2026, KARTIK 26, 1433 BS

SPORT



"I don't know what will happen in January. I just want to play, to be happy, to score goals, to provide assists, as I was able to do at Lyon, which was one of the best things that happened in my life.

ENDRICK, Real Madrid forward

No time to breathe for South Africa-bound Tigers

SAMSUL AREFIN KHAN

Just a day after drawing the Sylhet Test, a group of national cricketers left for Johannesburg yesterday, while the rest will depart Dhaka on Wednesday. With the two-match series beginning on November 15, the full squad will have just two days to prepare for the opener, raising questions about Bangladesh's planning for overseas assignments.

The rushed build-up echoes the recent West Indies series. After their one-off Test against Afghanistan in Abu Dhabi, seven members of the Test squad featured in a UAE tri-series before joining the rest of the team. The full squad consequently had only two days to train together before the Mirpur opener, which Bangladesh lost by eight wickets inside four days.

The demanding schedule has also left little room for recovery, with players travelling from the UAE to Dhaka, then Sylhet for the Test before heading to South Africa.

After the Sylhet Test, skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto admitted there was little scope for specific preparation for



South Africa, urging his teammates to get mentally ready for the challenge. Bangladesh's last Test success came in Darwin, where they beat Australia by nine wickets. However, they had travelled to Australia nearly two weeks before the opener and played a three-day warm-up match against Cricket Australia XI.

Former national skipper Rajin Saleh, who served as assistant coach of the Bangladesh A team during their recent South Africa tour, believes the national side should have travelled earlier for a practice match, although he acknowledged that the tight schedule may have made such arrangements difficult.

"My view is that if they had gone earlier and played a practice match on those wickets, there would have been an adjustment period. They could have adjusted faster," Rajin told The Daily Star on Tuesday.

"There's no point talking about two days of practice now. They are all professional players. The faster they can adjust, the better it will be for us."

Although Bangladesh last toured South Africa in 2022, Mahfijul Islam Robin, Tawhid Hridoy, Jaker Ali and Mohammad Naim have more recent experience in the country, having toured with Bangladesh A or Emerging teams in August and September

If they had gone earlier and played a practice match on those wickets, they could have adjusted faster.

RAJIN SALEH, former Bangladesh captain

this year. Rajin also questioned Bangladesh's decision to prepare spin-friendly wickets at home ahead of a tour where pace and bounce are expected to pose significant challenges.

"Since we were going to play in South Africa, why did we prepare spin-friendly wickets here for the Test series? Why didn't we prepare pace-friendly wickets? If true wickets were made, with a bit of grass or bounce, then our preparation here would have automatically been better," Rajin added.

Bangladesh's record in South Africa makes the challenge particularly daunting. Across eight Tests between 2002 and 2022, the Tigers have lost all eight, including five by an innings. They will begin their campaign at the Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg, where they are yet to play a Test.

With South Africa considering a six-man pace attack, Bangladesh's lack of preparation could prove an even greater concern.



PHOTO: **FIROZ AHMED**

Hamza boost as hosts eye top spot against Sri Lanka

SPORTS REPORTER

Boosted by the arrival of Sheffield United's Hamza Choudhury, hosts Bangladesh will look to maintain their winning momentum when they take on Sri Lanka in their final Group A match of the SAFF Championship at the National Stadium today.

The match kicks off at 8:00pm. Earlier in the day, two former champions, India and Maldives, will face off at 3:30pm to decide their Group B fate, with Pakistan already having secured a semifinal berth.

Bangladesh have also booked their place in the last four with a match to spare, following the outcome of the Sri Lanka-Bhutan match. The hosts need just a point to finish top of Group A, while Sri Lanka also need a draw to advance to the semifinals.

However, both sides will have more than qualification at stake. Bangladesh will be keen to carry their winning form into the semifinals, while Sri Lanka cannot afford defeat, which could send them out of the competition.

Sri Lanka failed to reproduce the form they showed in the Asian Cup Qualifiers during their 2-2 draw against Bhutan on Sunday. But Bangladesh are not taking their opponents lightly, given Sri Lanka's record of beating Chinese Taipei twice and drawing 2-2 with Turkmenistan in last year's qualifiers.

FIFA RANKING
Bangladesh: 182
Sri Lanka: 184

HEAD-TO-HEAD
Bangladesh: 14
Sri Lanka: 5
Draw: 1



By the way, if we win tomorrow, I can do an Akshay Kumar-style dance. Be careful!

ABDULLAH AL MUTAIRI, Sri Lanka coach

"Sri Lanka are a very strong team. I think they have improved a lot over the last 12 months. But we have also improved. They had a difficult match against Bhutan, a team we beat.

"So we have confidence. The pressure is on them because they need to avoid defeat. We are looking forward to the match and are confident of winning," Hamza told reporters prior to a training session at the Bashundhara Sports Complex yesterday.

Bangladesh will also be strengthened by the availability of England-based winger Farhaan Ali Wahid. Midfielder Sheikh Morsalin and defender Topu Barman are also in contention to return. Topu was ruled out of the Bhutan match at the last moment after picking up an injury despite being named in the starting XI.

However, makeshift striker Bishwanath Ghosh could miss out after sitting out Tuesday's training session with an injury.

Sri Lanka coach Abdullah Al Mutairi had described the Bangladesh-Sri Lanka encounter as potentially the best match in SAFF Championship history after his side's draw against Bhutan. Hamza, however, said Bangladesh would focus on their own performance rather than the opposition's assessment.

"I have watched both matches, Bangladesh against Bhutan and Sri Lanka against Bhutan. Our own team performance was really good, but we missed chances. We just need to put the final pieces together. We don't have to worry about other teams. We have to focus on ourselves and take each game as it comes," he said.

Mosaddeak's third ton rescues Rangpur

SPORTS REPORTER

Rangpur batter Mim Mosaddeak continued his prolific run in the National Cricket League (NCL), scoring his third century of the season to help his side secure an unlikely draw against Chattogram in their sixth-round match in Khulna on Tuesday.

Mosaddeak struck 145 off 317 balls, while Shihab James and Sams M Niloy added 52 apiece as Rangpur reached 310 for nine in their second innings, setting Chattogram a 69-run target. However, bad light ended play after just 65 overs on the final day, following a delayed start due to a wet outfield. Rangpur had resumed at 130 for two.

Mosaddeak has now scored at least a half-century in each of his six matches this season. His latest hundred, also the third of his first-class career, took him to the top of the run-scoring charts with 727 runs at an average of 60.58.

The match also featured an unusual dismissal, with Rangpur batter Abdullah Al Mamun given out for obstructing the field off Hasan Murad's bowling.

After defending a delivery from Murad, Al Mamun picked up the ball, seemingly intending to return it to the bowler. However, he dropped it after noticing the appeal. Following a brief discussion, the umpires ruled him out. Al Mamun remained at the crease for a while before eventually walking off.

Chattogram were keen to close the gap on leaders Khulna in their bid for the NCL title. The draw left them second in the standings on 23 points, eight behind Khulna, who also drew their sixth-round match against Dhaka in a run-fest in Rajshahi.

Meanwhile, Sylhet Division secured a 234-run victory over Rajshahi in Bogura, with Nasum Ahmed taking 5-72 in the second innings to bowl their opponents out for 228.



WHAT TO WATCH

T SPORTS
Pakistan vs Sri Lanka
1st Test, Day 3
Live from 10:30 am
SAFF Championship
India vs Maldives
Live from 3:30 pm
Bangladesh vs Sri Lanka
Live from 8:00 pm



France coach Zinedine Zidane and forward Kylian Mbappe train in Clairefontaine yesterday ahead of Friday's away Nations League clash against Italy. Back after missing France's last three matches through injury, Mbappe returns amid Ballon d'Or disappointment and a social media storm over a Mao Zedong joke. France host Turkiye on Monday. PHOTO: **AFP**

A legendary sports organiser, an irreplaceable loss

SPORTS REPORTER

The rivalry between Abahani and their traditional rivals Mohammedan was once the heartbeat of the country's football. At the heart of Abahani's rise was Harunur Rashid, the club's founding general secretary, whose involvement spanned its formative years from 1972, the turbulent transition a few years later and the decades that followed.



Harunur, an esteemed sports organiser known for his experience, expertise and reputation for integrity, breathed his last in the early hours of yesterday at the age of 77.

Tributes to Harunur poured in, with former colleagues and associates remembering a "bold, legendary organiser" who was "incredibly dedicated" to Abahani. For many, he was "one of a kind", and his death an "irreparable loss".

Harunur's name became virtually synonymous with Abahani. Beyond his work at the club, the former member of parliament served as the elected general secretary of the Bangladesh Football Federation before becoming an executive member of the Asian Football Confederation.

He was laid to rest in Raipur Upazila of Lakshmipur district after his Namaz-e-Janaza was held at the premises of his beloved club in Dhanmondi yesterday afternoon.

Former footballers, cricketers, hockey players and organisers from different clubs gathered at the Abahani premises to pay their last respects to Harunur, who began his career as a sports organiser in his early twenties.

Cricketer-turned-organiser Jalal Younus, who joined Abahani as a player in 1977, recalled the breadth of Harunur's responsibilities. "It is impossible to put his contribution to the club into words. I have known him for 50 years. He was a capable organiser who looked after every discipline, from football and cricket to hockey and table tennis," he said.

Former Abahani team manager Satyajit Das Rupu also felt that his loss would be difficult to fill. "His contribution extended beyond Abahani; he played a very important role in the development of sports in the country," he said.





Oil dependence bad for climate, economy

UN chief tells COP31

REUTERS, *Antalya*

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres took aim at oil companies making billions of dollars in profits while families, businesses and governments suffer, as he used the COP31 climate conference to criticise fossil fuel dependency.



Tayyip Erdogan, president of the talks' host nation Turkey, meanwhile welcomed an oil discovery in the Turkish mountains, and the country's climate negotiators pushed governments to sign a pledge to electrify their economies. The pledge does not specify whether the electricity involved would be renewable or from fossil fuels.

Taken together, the discourse yesterday, the second day of the two-week UN conference in Antalya, highlights a tension at the heart of the climate debate: fossil fuels underpin the global economy, but also hurt it through costly climate damage and often-volatile energy prices.

A UN report last month showed the world is poised to warm well beyond the 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) threshold scientists say could unleash the worst consequences of climate change, as greenhouse gas emissions continue to grow.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3



Prime Minister Tarique Rahman is greeted by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan at the Maxx Royal Hotel in Antalya, Türkiye, yesterday. The two held a meeting that lasted around 30 minutes. PHOTO: **PID**

'Practically no real contact'

Sonia Gandhi writes about Modi, their ideological divide, political rivalry in her memoir

THE STATESMAN/ANN

India's Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi has described her political differences with Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a clash between competing visions of India, while revealing that the two have had almost no meaningful personal interaction despite years of political rivalry.

In her memoir, 'Belonging: A Journey of Love', released yesterday, Gandhi attributes Modi's political outlook to his upbringing and the influence of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), contrasting it with her own belief in secularism, inclusiveness and social justice.

"We come from different ideological worlds; his idea of this country is vastly different from mine," she writes, describing the values she says she



inherited from the Nehru-Gandhi family.

Gandhi says PM Modi's political beliefs were shaped by RSS ideologues and a worldview that, in her assessment, places his religious and cultural identity above others.

"He was fighting for his vision

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Laws don't allow Hasina to have passport

Says ICT chief prosecutor



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Extradition from India is deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina's only legitimate route back to Bangladesh, and the government cannot issue her a passport following her death sentence for crimes against humanity, ICT Chief Prosecutor Md Aminul Islam said yesterday.

Meanwhile, briefing the media at the Secretariat, PM's Information and Broadcasting Adviser Zahed Ur Rahman said Hasina herself had not applied for a passport, while the government had already formally sought her return through the bilateral extradition treaty with India.

The International Crimes Tribunal chief prosecutor emphasised that Hasina has exhausted all legal remedies and can no longer challenge the tribunal's judgment.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

Dhaka seeks '$250m' ADB loan for Bangla AI, cybersecurity

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Bangladesh has sought funds from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), with potential co-financing from South Korea, for an indicative $250 million programme to develop the country's first native Bangla-language artificial intelligence (AI) model, strengthen cybersecurity, and establish technology villages.

The Daily Star on Monday, "ADB and the government are discussing an indicative $250 million programme."

The programme covers AI, cybersecurity and technology villages, building on ongoing engagement and Khosru's recent visit to Korea, he said.

"The financing structure and implementation schedule are still being developed," Zhang said, adding that

Preparation of a cybersecurity project is already advancing, with the ADB targeting approval in 2027. Investments in AI and technology villages could follow in phases, subject to technical studies, project preparation and consultations with potential Korean partners.

Qingfeng Zhang, ADB country director for Bangladesh

A high-level delegation led by Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury explored cooperation in Bangla-language AI, computing infrastructure, and practical applications at meetings with leading South Korean technology firms during his visit to Seoul earlier this month.

Asked about the matter, Qingfeng Zhang, ADB country director for Bangladesh, told the government is expected to submit a consolidated funding request by mid-December.

Preparation of a cybersecurity project is already advancing, with the ADB targeting approval in 2027. Investments in AI and technology villages could follow in phases,

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PHOTO: **AFP**

People take part in a demonstration as part of a nationwide day of action called by high school students' unions, which have been demanding better learning conditions for days in protests punctuated by violent confrontations, in Marseille, France, yesterday.

NEWS IN FOCUS

Police stop planned Baul music event in Habiganj

Udichi protests

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Moulvibazar*

Police stopped a Baul music programme scheduled to be held on the premises of Purasunda Government Primary School in Shaistaganj upazila of Habiganj last night.

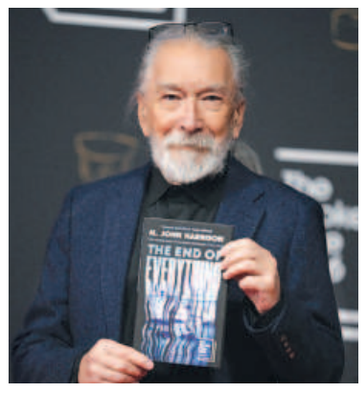
Speaking to The Daily Star, Shaistaganj Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Abul Kalam said locals had lodged several complaints about such programmes, including excessive noise that disrupted their sleep and caused distress to people who were ill.

"There are also allegations of antisocial activities taking place at these events and money being collected from attendees," he said.

OC Abul Kalam said the issue was

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

Harrison wins Booker Prize for 'The End of Everything'



REUTERS, *London*

British author John Harrison has won the 2026 Booker Prize for his novel, "The End of Everything," a dystopian satire that the prize says probes the limits of human understanding,

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DESIGNED FOR GENERATIONS



The Architecture of Permanence

What it takes to build homes that serve generations

BY MOHAMMAD WALEED

Walk through a newly completed residential development and the most visible features are often the easiest to judge: the floors, the fittings, the size of the rooms and the view. Yet a family buying a home must also ask a harder question: will this home still serve us thirty years from now?

That question changes how a residence is assessed. A home is something to live in, maintain and perhaps hand down. It carries a family's culture, faces a changing climate and accommodates generations. For an owner thinking that far ahead, the practical questions change. How will the house be maintained? Can it adapt when children grow up and parents age? Will it remain comfortable when the neighbourhood around it has changed?

Designing for generations begins with these questions. Whether the property is a modest apartment or a generous family residence, its lasting value depends on the decisions made before construction, the care taken during building and the attention it receives afterwards.

QUALITY BENEATH THE SURFACE

If a house is to serve a family for decades, its structure has to match that ambition. Much of the work that determines its quality will eventually disappear behind plaster, paint and tiles. Buyers may never see how the concrete was mixed, how reinforcement was placed or how closely construction followed the engineering drawings.

In a 2019 interview with The Daily Star, National Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury emphasised the importance of materials meeting specifications, measured quantities of water in concrete, and proper compaction and curing. He also challenged the assumption that involving qualified engineers necessarily creates a substantial increase in construction costs. His observations place workmanship alongside material quality at the centre of the discussion.

Buying good materials is therefore only part of the task. In another interview published that year, Professor M. Shamim Z. Bosunia linked longevity to sound design and concrete quality that helps resist water penetration and corrosion. He stressed the need to improve technical knowledge alongside the quality of materials. The implication for homeowners is straightforward: a premium specification needs competent execution.

BUILDING FOR THE CLIMATE

Building this way in Bangladesh also means responding to local conditions. Dhaka is hot and humid for much of the year, and the monsoon brings heavy rain. A lasting home has to address that climate from the beginning.

The World Bank's report, An Unsustainable Life: The Impact of Heat on Health and the Economy of Bangladesh, found that Dhaka's maximum temperature rose by 1.4 degrees Celsius between 1980 and 2023, compared with 1.1 degrees nationally. It identifies vegetation loss and unplanned urban development among the factors contributing to the capital's urban heat-island effect. For a home intended to serve future generations, thermal comfort deserves serious consideration.

Orientation, shade and ventilation belong in the earliest design discussions. Deep overhangs, shaded openings and carefully positioned windows are among the architectural choices available. Their suitability depends on the site and surroundings; claims about their performance should be assessed in that context.

At South Water Carees in Baridhara, designed by Shatotto, these considerations formed part of an apartment development accommodating eight families. The architects describe layouts intended to admit summer breezes, communal green rooftops and courts that collect rainwater. The project, dating from 2009, offers a local example of bringing environmental considerations and shared outdoor space into residential design.

ROOM FOR A CHANGING FAMILY

Planning for decades also means planning for change. A bedroom that suits a young couple may later have to suit an elderly parent. Several generations living together need shared rooms for gatherings and quiet places to retreat. A home should be assessed against both everyday routines and the occasions when the whole family returns.

Shesher Kobita Residence in Faridpur makes that relationship tangible. Designed by Studio Morphogenesis, led by Saiqa Iqbal Meghna, the home was commissioned by a retired Bangla professor who wanted peaceful surroundings while awaiting visits from her daughters and grandchildren abroad. According to the architects' account, gardens, courtyards and airy interiors formed central parts of the brief.

The residence separates communal and private areas while maintaining visual connections between levels. Its architects describe openings arranged for airflow and a main staircase with low risers to ease movement. These are specific responses to the household. They also prompt a wider question: how will access work if a resident's mobility changes substantially?

The World Health Organization's Housing and Health Guidelines address accessibility for people with functional impairments alongside indoor temperatures and injury hazards. For an intergenerational home, that makes access, circulation and bathroom arrangements part of the design conversation from the outset.

Adaptability also needs boundaries. Bosunia warned in his 2019 interview against adding floors without assessing the structural implications. A family's changing needs should lead to informed alterations, with professional assessment where necessary.

GIVING FAMILIAR HOMES A NEW LIFE

Sometimes, continuity is achieved by renewing a home already rich in family history. Mala Designs & Architecture's account of a 3,100-square-foot apartment renovation in Baridhara DOHS describes a residence originally designed by the family's late patriarch. As the household grew, the practice reorganised it to provide greater privacy and flexibility.

Folding partitions allow communal rooms to expand or operate separately. Inherited furniture was retained and restored, including the dining table and a family clock. Here, legacy takes a practical form: familiar belongings remain part of a home adjusted for continued use.

That approach has an environmental dimension. UNEP's Building Materials and the Climate: Constructing a New Future identifies extending the life of buildings as a way to avoid waste and reduce demand for new materials. It also recognises that social and cultural attachment can encourage continued use. A home's future depends partly on whether people find reasons to keep it.

CARE BEYOND HANDOVER

Keeping it requires care. "Every structure requires regular maintenance," Choudhury said in his interview. He connected longevity with inspection and timely action, drawing attention to damage that can worsen when left unattended.

For apartment buyers, this raises questions beyond the individual flat. Who will maintain the common areas and building systems? How will repairs be funded? Can services be reached and components replaced? These questions deserve attention alongside the finishes presented at handover.

The construction budget is the first of many financial commitments. Owners must also consider upkeep, repairs and eventual changes. A feature's long-term value should be assessed against those responsibilities as well as its initial appeal.

The homes built today will shape how the next generation lives. That gives developers, architects, engineers and buyers a shared responsibility. A house that is poorly planned or neglected becomes someone else's problem. A home built with care, maintained consistently and adapted thoughtfully can remain a place where family life continues.

Gold leaf and imported marble may go out of fashion. Decades from now, the more meaningful achievement will be a home that remains comfortable, useful and worth keeping—a place the next generation is glad to inherit.



Rancon The Majestic



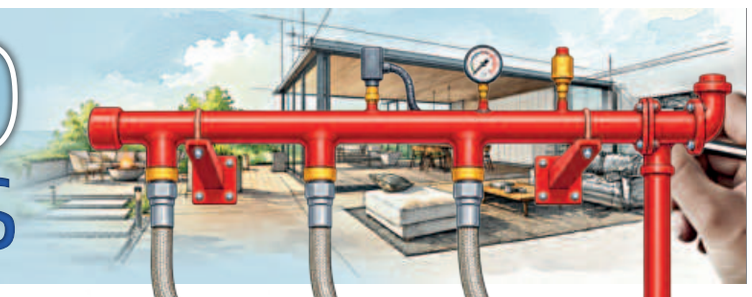


Edison Titania

Rancon Avenue 27

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DESIGNED FOR GENERATIONS



Building for generations in the Bengal Delta

MOHAMMAD FOYEZ ULLAH

Building in the Bengal Delta has always meant negotiating with water. Rivers shift, monsoons test walls and roofs, and humid air wears down materials. Architecture here must respond to a landscape that rarely stands still. Designing buildings to serve generations begins with understanding that relationship.

Our vernacular traditions reflect this awareness. Bamboo frames, thatched roofs and raised homesteads offered practical responses to seasonal change and flooding. Their value lies in the intelligence behind them. While these materials deserve appreciation, celebrating tradition should also acknowledge people's aspirations for greater durability, security and comfort.

As communities prospered, fired brick became central to the region's architecture. From Paharpur to the mosques of the Sultanate, Panam City and Curzon Hall, it helped establish a lasting architectural language. Yet even brick requires protection against moisture and heavy rain. Permanence in the delta has never meant freedom from maintenance.

Today, a broader range of materials gives architects more ways to address these familiar challenges. Developments in concrete offer opportunities to reduce its environmental impact, while improved glazing can help manage heat gain without sacrificing daylight. These choices become more effective when combined with deep overhangs, shaded openings and carefully considered building orientation.

Timber also deserves renewed consideration. Treatment and modification can improve its durability, while engineered timber expands its potential applications. Wood and plastic composites offer further options for elements such as screens and decking. Their suitability, however, must be judged against local exposure, maintenance requirements and the demands of each project.

The availability of advanced materials does not, by itself, make a building resilient. In Bangladesh, design must address cyclones, flooding and earthquake risk from the outset. That requires architects and structural engineers to work together, connecting architectural form with the behaviour of the structure.



Simpletree Thikana

Building geometry influences how wind acts on a structure. Appropriate structural systems and detailing help buildings accommodate seismic forces. Raised floors and considered site planning can reduce vulnerability to flooding, extending principles already familiar in traditional rural settlements. These decisions belong at the beginning of the design process.

Everyday performance matters just as much. Orientation, shading and natural ventilation influence comfort throughout a building's life. Material selection should support these strategies, with attention to how components weather, how they can be maintained and whether the necessary resources are locally available.

The future of architecture in the Bengal Delta depends on applying both inherited knowledge and contemporary innovation with judgement. Buildings endure when their design responds to climate, their structures address foreseeable hazards, and their materials suit the conditions they face. For architects, designing for generations means making these relationships work together, so that a building remains useful, comfortable and secure long after its first occupants move in and establish roots.

Mohammad Foyez Ullah *is the Principal of VOLUMEZERO Limited and Managing Director of SPACEZERO Limited. He can be reached at foyez@volumezeroltd.com*

FIRE SAFETY STARTS WITH DESIGN



PARVEZ MAHMOOD

Fire safety begins long before a building welcomes its first occupants. Decisions made during design and construction determine how quickly a fire can spread, whether people can escape and how effectively emergency systems can respond. In densely populated cities, these decisions have consequences beyond a single property.

For buildings intended to serve generations, fire protection must be treated as a core design requirement. Installing equipment at the end of construction cannot compensate for poorly planned escape routes or inadequate separation between spaces. Architects, engineers and fire safety specialists need to coordinate from the outset.

The Bangladesh National Building Code provides the framework for incorporating fire safety into building design. Requirements must be assessed according to occupancy, height and risk. Fire separation, protected exits and travel routes should be established early, with suitable fire doors helping to protect escape stairways against the spread of flames and smoke.

Active protection systems must complement these architectural measures. Fire detection and alarm systems provide early warning, giving occupants time to respond and evacuate. Sprinklers can help control a developing fire, while standpipes support firefighting operations. The appropriate combination depends on the building and its uses, rather than a uniform equipment checklist.

Different spaces also present different hazards. Factories, warehouses and markets require protection suited to their activities and stored materials. Generator rooms and substations need particular attention, while areas containing sensitive electronic equipment may require specialised suppression systems. System selection should follow a professional assessment of the hazards involved.

Reliable infrastructure is equally important. Water supplies, storage reserves and fire pumps must support the demands of the installed protection systems. Equipment that looks adequate on paper offers little reassurance if water is unavailable or a pump fails when needed. Design and installation must therefore account for dependable operation.

Portable extinguishers provide another layer of protection, but their selection must match the likely fire hazards. Units should be accessible and clearly identified. Commercial kitchens, electrical installations and general occupied spaces do not necessarily require identical solutions. Occupants also need to understand the equipment's purpose and the limits of its use.

A building's safety depends on what happens after handover. Detection, alarm and suppression systems require regular inspection, testing and maintenance by qualified personnel. Relevant standards, including those covering alarms, standpipes, pumps and water-based suppression systems, should guide this work alongside applicable national requirements.

Owners and managers must ensure that protection remains effective as buildings age and their uses change. Maintenance cannot be postponed simply because equipment has never been needed. Fire safety is a continuing responsibility shared by designers, installers, owners and occupants. Building for generations means preserving the ability to detect danger, contain its spread and provide people with a safe way out.

Parvez Mahmood *is the Director of ICEL Private Limited and can be reached at parvez@icelbd.com*

MOVING WITH PURPOSE: At the Forefront of Redefining Happiness

MOHAMMED IMTIAZ SHAYEK

Happiness rarely announces itself, but sometimes you can see how far it has spread. For Edison Real Estate, that story is told in more than 1,350 apartments and over 45 lakh square feet of built space, each one filled with the everyday moments that turn a house into a home. Another 15 lakh square feet is on its way.

Behind every Edison home is one quiet promise: the people who live here should be happier for it. Edison Real Estate sums it up in two words, Redefining Happiness. Before a single wall is drawn, the team thinks about the family who will live there: how they will wake up, gather, rest and grow.

Some things in a home catch the eye. Others quietly win the heart. An Edison home is designed to do both. Edison Aemilius opens to the city on three sides, while Edison Benvolio turns toward the southern breeze. Edison Elenor rests beside the lake, and Edison Desdemona invites nature indoors through biophilic design.

For Edison, happiness also reaches beyond the apartment door. Gyms, swimming pools, and indoor and outdoor sports spaces encourage a healthier, more active life, while community areas turn neighbors into friends. Generous open spaces, greenery and courtyards give residents room to walk, pause and breathe.

Behind every Edison home is one quiet promise: the people who live here should be happier for it. Edison Real Estate sums it up in two words, Redefining Happiness.

A promise, of course, is only as strong as the work behind it. At Edison, that work lives deep inside the foundation, in wiring designed to keep every family safe, and in careful waterproofing that keeps the monsoon outside. Edison gives these hidden details the same attention it gives to everything on display.

Every project brings together top-tier materials and the latest construction technologies, chosen for their quality and long-lasting value. Edison also builds with tomorrow in mind, with EV charging facilities that make cleaner, more convenient travel part of everyday home life. Work moves forward through multi-layer quality control, with every stage checked and confirmed before the next begins.

Trust is earned slowly and sincerely, through honest conversations, timely handovers and staying close to every customer long after the keys have changed hands.

In Uttara, Edison Verona is progressing well, taking shape as a calm, well-connected neighborhood of its own. Beside it, a sprawling new landmark is being planned as a complete community rather than a single building. In Bashundhara R/A, new large-scale projects are opening a bold new chapter of thoughtful design and wellness-focused living.

New foundations will be laid, new walls will rise, and soon new families will turn a key, step inside and smile, knowing they are finally home. This is what moving with purpose looks like at Edison: a promise to build better, one home, one family and one happier life at a time.



Edison Macbeth



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SUPPLEMENT S3

DESIGNED FOR GENERATIONS



From Arrival To Everyday Operations: **Designing Commercial Projects In Dhanmondi**

There is something reassuring about setting up a business in a neighbourhood you know. Familiar routes, a favourite lunch spot and the convenience of meeting clients nearby become part of the working day. For businesses looking to make Dhanmondi their address, Rangs Properties offers a growing choice of commercial spaces.

The completed Avenue 27 on Road 27 anchors that presence, bringing together offices, retail and dining in a single urban experience. Developed on 20 katha, it offers commercial units of approximately 4,044, 6641 and 8,091 square feet. Its spacious lobby and open connection with the street introduce the attention to arrival and movement that runs through the architects' thinking.

Nearby, the ongoing Vantage 27 at Plot 352/B on Road 27 brings a different architectural expression. Its proposed terraced greenery and sky garden façade soften the building's exterior, while its commercial floor plates, offering units of approximately 2,257 to 4,583 square feet, are planned around functionality and efficient use of space.

The ongoing AK Square on Road 02 offers approximately 3,647–8,684 square feet per unit on a 20-katha site, providing options for organisations with larger space requirements. On Satmasjid Road, the upcoming A & F Square occupies 10 katha and offers approximately 2123 -4512 square feet per unit, with one unit per floor. That configuration gives businesses the opportunity to plan around a dedicated floor.

All four projects share the involvement of INSPACE Architects (Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/inspace.architects). Established in 2015, their practice takes a contemporary, minimalist approach, with an emphasis on context, natural light, landscape and careful use of space. Their work considers how buildings will feel and function for the people using them.

Inspace Architects has been shaped by its key figures, Wahidur Rahman, Executive Director and Principal Architect; Ayesha Shafique, Principal Architect and Wahid Ahmed, Principal Architect, who have taken the practice forward and established it as a leading architectural firm in Bangladesh.

In the following conversation with The Daily Star, Wahidur Rahman (WR) and Ayesha Shafique (AS) discuss the decisions behind the commercial developments in Dhanmondi, from welcoming first-time visitors to supporting tenants' daily operations, and designing spaces that will remain useful as businesses evolve.



Wahidur Rahman, Executive Director and Principal Architect, INSPACE Architects



Ayesha Shafique, Principal Architect, INSPACE Architects

The Daily Star: What design philosophy connects these four commercial projects?

WR and AS: We approach each building as a product, considering which functions work best on each floor. Surveys of neighbouring developments help identify unmet needs. We begin with interior spatial flow and develop the façade afterwards. Simplicity and functionality guide us: we want buildings that serve businesses, encourage return visits and retain their architectural appeal as they age. We also follow global design trends in creating experiences, drawing on the wider currents of globalization to understand which facilities work well for their users.

TDS: How does commercial design differ from residential design, particularly in serving tenants and visitors?

WR and AS: Commercial design places particular emphasis on public access and the visitor's entire experience. We consider how people arrive, move around and spend time inside. Layouts should be simple and logical, with connected lobbies, spacious lift areas and open corridors. Visitors should understand where to go immediately. We preserve shared spaces rather than squeeze in more shops at the expense of comfort. We also place strong emphasis on safety, planning escape routes, stairs and exits according to each building's occupancy.

TDS: How does Avenue 27 address its busy surroundings, and what lessons inform your upcoming projects?

AS: Avenue 27 connects to the street without boundary walls while functioning securely. Drop-offs at two levels help organise arrivals, with the lower-ground drop-off linked to the main lobby by escalators. Setbacks and separate entry and exit driveways help address congestion. We also consider parking ventilation and drivers' facilities. Experience has reinforced the importance of dedicated service lifts and lobbies, particularly for food businesses, to reduce wear on passenger lifts. Lift waiting times also receive careful consideration, so that moving through the building feels comfortable without overcrowding.

TDS: How do you respond to different plots while allowing businesses room to organise their spaces?

WR: Plot size, shape and surroundings guide each design. A location near educational institutions and hospitals calls for a response to those communities. At AK Square, a structural arrangement with two main columns on one floor creates a more open interior and increases usable space for businesses.

AS: Every plot begins with its surroundings. We study the context, the nearby landmarks, the way traffic moves around the site and what the public in that area actually needs. From there, we organise circulation, functional zones and connectivity so that people can move through the building easily. Operational facilities are planned just as early. Air conditioning and structural grids are integrated from the start, which gives businesses a better layout, clear visibility and generous column spans, and makes the most of every height and space.These fundamentals deserve attention from the beginning.

TDS: How do materials and building systems contribute to indoor comfort?

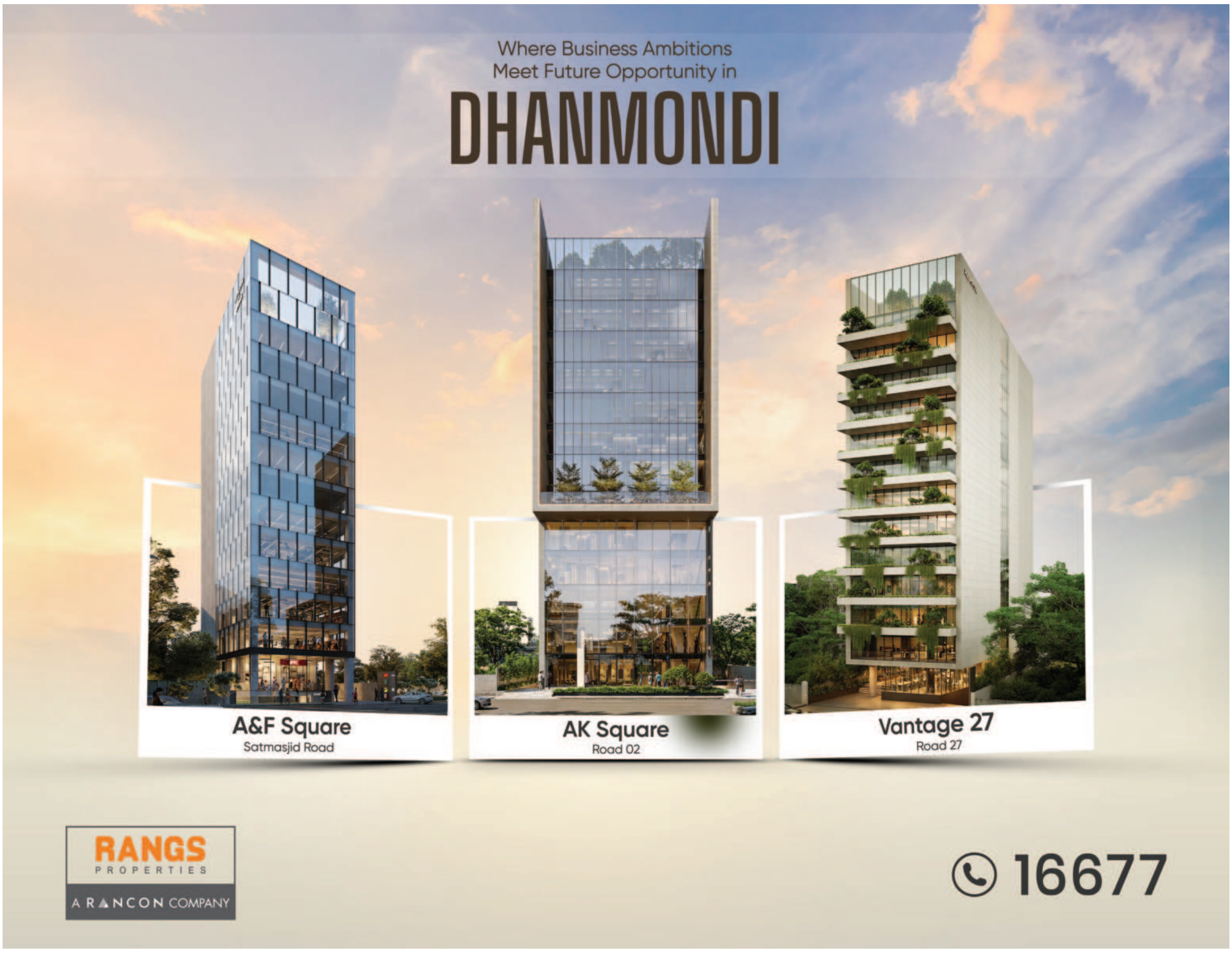
AS: We use double glazing to admit natural daylight while limiting heat gain and cooling demand. Our aim is to bring together aesthetics, environmental awareness and contemporary technology. Natural light and properly integrated air conditioning are important considerations when assessing a commercial space, alongside the quality of its common facilities.

TDS: What should tenants and visitors look for beyond a building's appearance?

AS: Look first for spaciousness, natural light and a real vista from within. Ambience matters as much as appearance, and grandeur comes from generous operational ceiling heights. Safety matters equally: fire stairs must stay unobstructed, and restaurant spaces need proper detection and sprinkler systems. A building's quality lies in how reliably it functions every day.



Rancon Avenue 27



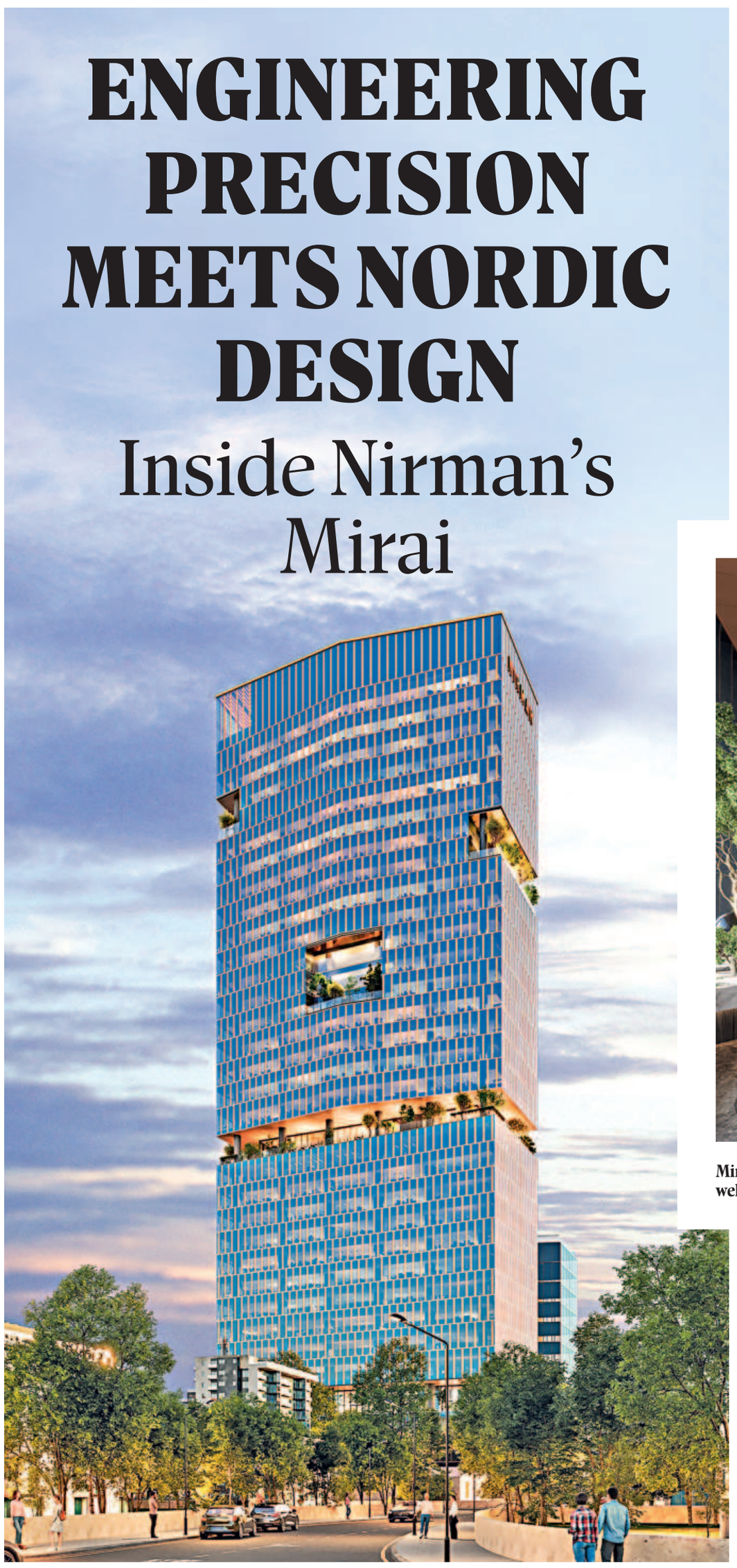
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ENGINEERING PRECISION MEETS NORDIC DESIGN

Inside Nirman's Mirai



Rising 138 metres at the Gulshan–Tejgaon junction, Mirai features a unitized, copper-toned glass curtain wall designed by Finland's ARCO.

At the meeting point of Gulshan, Tejgaon and Hatirjheel, Mirai is taking shape as a commercial tower that brings together Nordic architectural design, advanced construction technology and Nirman International's civil engineering experience. Scheduled for handover by the end of 2027, the 30-storey development will rise to 138 meters, combining office spaces with corporate amenities and systems engineered to support the building throughout its working life.

Designed in collaboration with Finnish architectural practice ARCO, Mirai is defined by a copper-toned, unitized glass façade. Its restrained appearance is complemented by an emphasis on natural light, open interiors and protection from the noise and climatic conditions outside.

For Rahat Kamal, Managing Director and CEO of Nirman, the priorities behind the project extend beyond its appearance. "When an enterprise commits to a landmark commercial address, three priorities lead the decision," he says. "Strict schedule certainty to ensure a seamless move without costly delays, an intelligent and commanding architectural presence, and high performance infrastructure engineered to run for decades."



Mirai's executive café and open-air terrace, designed for informal meetings with panoramic views across Hatirjheel.

HIGH-TECH SYSTEMS AND INTELLIGENT WORKPLACE DESIGN

Visitors will enter through a tall, light-filled lobby, while an executive restaurant and an open-air terrace café overlooking the lake will provide spaces for dining and informal meetings. Destination-dispatch lifts coordinate movement throughout the tower.

Each office floor spans 12,200 square feet, with 12-foot clear ceiling heights and floor-to-ceiling double glazing contributing to a sense of openness. Advanced post-tensioned slab technology allows wider spans between columns, giving corporate tenants maximum flexibility across open-plan interior layouts.

The façade is designed to reduce the intrusion of street noise, while multi-stage air filtration supports indoor air quality. Together, these features address the everyday experience of working in Dhaka, where the surrounding density and traffic can otherwise shape the office environment.

Stefan Ochsner is the Senior Architect at ARCO and the project's lead architect. Working on a high-rise in Dhaka required attention to the city's tropical climate, high humidity and urban conditions. The aim was to create a calm, light-filled interior supported by an exterior designed for performance as well as appearance.

> **"Whether an organization selects a corporate headquarters or a family purchases a home, they are securing a generational asset."**
>
> **RAHAT KAMAL**
> Managing Director and CEO, Nirman

COORDINATING DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

Behind the finished spaces is a process that brings architectural and engineering decisions together before construction. Comprehensive Building Information Modelling, or BIM, coordinated the tower's design before the physical structure took shape.

Structural elements, mechanical conduits and plumbing runs were mapped within a shared three-dimensional model. This digital discipline identified conflicts between systems early, preventing the on-site clashes that often delay complex high-rise projects. The post-tensioned floor slabs and structural core are also engineered to support the project's target of LEED Gold certification.

Mirai's structural and façade design underwent physical wind-tunnel testing in Italy. The testing formed part of the project's rigorous assessment of how the tower responds to extreme wind forces, alongside the wider structural engineering process.

These technical measures underpin the development's emphasis on delivery and long-term performance. They also connect Nirman's five decades of civil engineering experience with the requirements of a contemporary commercial building.



Mirai's elegantly designed reception lobby blends contemporary architecture with warm, refined interiors, creating a welcoming first impression.

PLANNING BEYOND HANDOVER

Nirman's plans for Mirai extend into the building's operational life. A permanent in-house facilities management team oversees its upkeep, supported by automated building management systems that monitor and coordinate services including climate control and power continuity.

The approach recognises that a commercial address must continue to function reliably after construction is complete. For occupants, the quality of maintenance and the dependability of building services will remain part of the daily experience.

"Whether an organization selects a corporate headquarters or a family purchases a home, they are securing a generational asset," Kamal says. "Our responsibility is to ensure that long after handover, the asset continues to reflect the prestige of the enterprises operating within it."

Nirman's five decades of building across generations

For Nirman International, the idea of building for generations connects its early civil engineering projects with the commercial and residential developments it is undertaking today. Founded in 1976 by K.Z. Islam, the company brings five decades of experience to a portfolio that includes institutional buildings, corporate spaces and homes across Dhaka.

Its history also extends beyond construction. Islam is remembered for founding Nirman School Cricket, the nationwide tournament that helped discover and develop players who went on to represent Bangladesh. That sporting contribution sits alongside the company's role in constructing buildings that became familiar parts of the country's civic and commercial landscape.

The Bangladesh Bank headquarters, Sena Kalyan Bhaban and BRAC Centre are among the projects associated with that earlier chapter. For Nirman, this background in civil engineering provides the foundation for its current work, linking experience in delivering substantial structures with an increasing emphasis on architectural design and the everyday experience of occupants.

Today, that direction is expressed through Mirai, its commercial tower, and a collection of residential projects with distinct settings and design approaches. Across these developments, the company describes its priorities as structural integrity, aesthetic restraint and everyday livability. The intention is to create buildings whose usefulness and appeal extend beyond changing architectural fashions.

In Gulshan's diplomatic zone, the completed Sirocco reflects a Nordic approach to interior design. The development pairs high-specification private residences with rooftop amenities conceived as part of the residential experience. Its restrained design language places the emphasis on the relationship between the home and the shared spaces available to residents.

Overlooking Hatirjheel, the upcoming Lilia takes a different architectural direction. Conceived in partnership with Japanese architects, it uses layered garden terraces to connect its waterfront setting with the homes within. The stepped terraces give the building its sculptural character while bringing greenery into the residential design.

In Bashundhara, Sayanti is presented as a more intimate, boutique residential retreat. Generous windows on multiple sides and an emphasis on natural cross-breezes shape its approach to domestic comfort. The project forms part of Nirman's wider residential portfolio across the capital, extending its focus on homes designed around light, air and a sense of calm.

Together, these addresses show how the company is applying different architectural responses to different urban settings. Sirocco's Nordic interiors, Lilia's garden terraces and Sayanti's emphasis on openness each give a separate expression to the broader residential portfolio.

As Mirai adds a commercial chapter, these residential developments carry the same discussion into the home. Nirman's continuing task is to translate its construction heritage into places that serve contemporary needs, bringing the experience of its first five decades to buildings intended to remain relevant to the people who use them for years to come.



Designed with Japanese architects, Lilia uses stepped garden terraces to integrate lakeside greenery into its Hatirjheel waterfront address.