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THE DAILY Star ON FRIDAY

SECOND EDITION



"It is now plain... if we depend on energy we do not control, then we leave ourselves exposed to prices we cannot control."

UK PM **BURNHAM** tells COP31 delegates



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Grants, not more loans that weigh us down

At COP31, PM calls for debt relief, greater adaptation funding and fair access to green technology



PM'S FIVE PROPOSALS

- Allocate at least 50% of climate finance to adaptation
- Provide debt relief through climate-resilient debt clauses and debt-for-climate swaps
- Ensure fair access to green technologies and technology transfer
- Accelerate renewable energy transition through affordable financing and skills development
- Adopt Belem-Antalya Action Mechanism for a fair energy transition, financing and trade

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman yesterday called for grant-based climate financing instead of additional loans for countries most vulnerable to climate change, warning that rising debt burdens are making it increasingly difficult for them to cope with climate-related losses and damage.

"Climate-related losses and damages are placing a heavy burden on our economy. At the same time, rising debt repayments and limited financial resources are making the situation even more difficult. Climate-vulnerable countries need grants, not more loans that add to their debt burden," he said while addressing the High-Level Segment of the 31st UN Climate Change Conference (COP31) in Antalya, Türkiye.

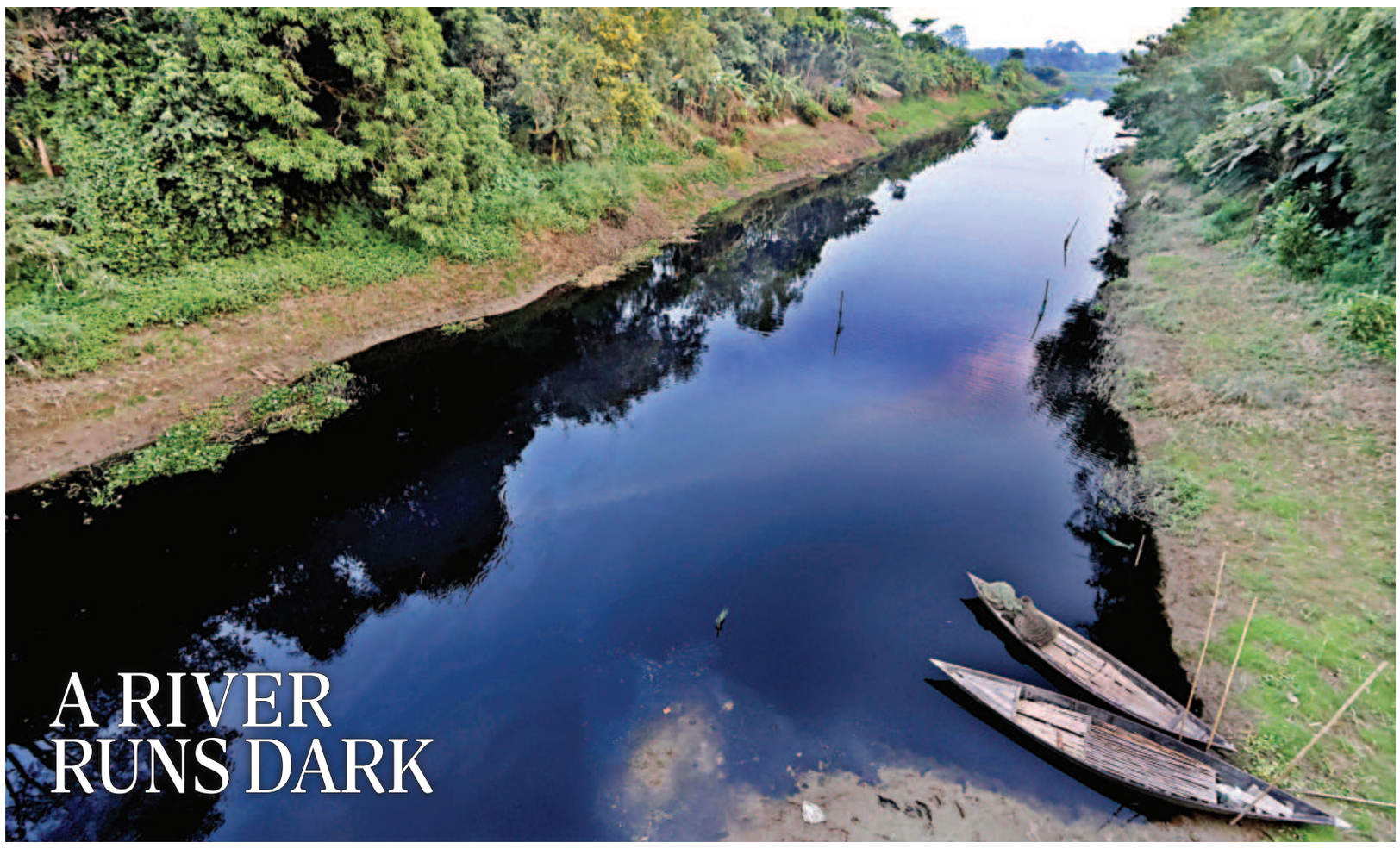
Stressing that the global climate finance system remains inadequate and does not sufficiently meet the needs and priorities of developing countries, the PM outlined five urgent actions at the conference.

Under the first proposal, he called for allocating at least 50 percent of international climate finance to adaptation efforts, based on individual countries' priorities, while continuing to support measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The second proposal focused on urgent debt relief for climate-vulnerable countries through mechanisms such as "climate-resilient debt clauses" and "debt-for-climate swaps", which provide debt relief in exchange for climate protection efforts.

In his third proposal, the prime minister called for ensuring equitable

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A RIVER RUNS DARK

PHOTO: **PALASH KHAN**

The Gazikhali river that runs through Manikganj has turned pitch black as untreated industrial waste from factories, mainly in Saturia upazila, flows into the waterway. A prolonged dry spell and lack of rain have left the river with barely any flow, turning much of it into a sluggish channel of toxic water and intensifying the foul stench that hangs over the area. Once used by nearby residents for household chores and irrigation, the river is now largely avoided, with many fearing health risks from contact with the contaminated water. The photo was taken Tuesday in the Islamnagar area of Singair upazila.

RMG owners to shut units if the unrest continues

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

As the labour unrest for a wage hike is entering its third week in major garment industrial belts, factory owners have threatened to shut their units indefinitely under the Labour Act if the situation does not improve.

At an emergency meeting at its Uttara office on Wednesday evening, leaders of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) discussed ways to break the deadlock. Factory owners from Ashulia, Savar, and Gazipur and several former presidents of the trade body were also present.

Most participants favoured invoking section 13(1) of the Labour Act, which allows employers to stop work and withhold wages under the principle of "no work, no pay", BGMEA

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Fire at NCP MP's home sparks uproar in JS

Home minister says possible short circuit; Nahid alleges arson

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Commotion erupted in parliament yesterday as the home minister and the opposition chief whip were locked in a heated debate over whether MP Nusrat Tabassum's village home had caught fire or been torched.

The fire incident took place at the ancestral home of Tabassum, joint convener of National Citizen Party and lawmaker from the reserved seat for women, in Kushtia's Daulatpur.

Five rooms of a tin-roofed house were gutted in the incident around 12:20am yesterday, said Khaledur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Daulatpur Police Station.

The house was used to keep cattle, goats, ducks, and chickens. A caretaker also stayed there, the OC said.

Tabassum's parents and other family members live in a three-storey building nearby.

In the afternoon, Tabassum alleged, the fire was a "premeditated act of arson".



The fire incident took place at the ancestral home of lawmaker Nusrat Tabassum, also joint convener of NCP, in Kushtia's Daulatpur.

Around three hours before the incident, a threatening post was made from the Facebook account of Kushtia district Chhatra League president, who is hiding, she told a press briefing in her

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Govt approves Chinese FSRU project despite higher cost

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has approved a proposal to establish a third floating LNG terminal at Kutubjom in Maheshkhali, Cox's Bazar, through a government-to-government arrangement with a Chinese state-owned company, despite its proposed regasification charges being significantly high.

The Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase approved the proposal from the Energy and Mineral Resources Division at a meeting yesterday.

Under the proposed arrangement, China National Energy Engineering & Construction (CNEE) will establish the floating storage and regasification unit (FSRU) at an estimated cost of Tk 12,324 crore for 15 years or Tk 13,161 crore for 20 years.

The proposed terminal will have a base regasification capacity of 600 million cubic feet per day (mmcfd), with a peak capacity of 750 mmcfd.

The approval comes despite concerns

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STRANDED BETWEEN BORDERS

A woman believed to be in her 30s sits under the open sky in no-man's-land along the Bangladesh-India border in Jamalpur's Dewanganj upazila yesterday. She has been stranded there for three consecutive days since India's BSF attempted to push her into Bangladesh through the Patharer Char border on Tuesday, according to the BGB. With no shelter or proper food, the woman has been surviving on water and bread provided by nearby residents.

PHOTO: **COLLECTED**

NEWS IN FOCUS

Dhaka-Delhi consular talks postponed

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The fifth consular dialogue between Bangladesh and India, which was scheduled to be held in Dhaka in the third week of this month, has been postponed, according to officials in Dhaka and New Delhi.

Officials from both countries said Bangladesh had proposed holding the dialogue in late October, while India wanted to schedule it for November because of Durga Puja.

A foreign ministry official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said India had proposed November 17-18 for the meeting, and Dhaka had agreed to the proposal.

"Dhaka had already made preparations for the meeting, including holding an inter-ministerial meeting to discuss issues to be raised at the dialogue," the official said.

Officials, however, would not

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Surviving only on rice and lentils

Rohingya food aid drops to as low as $7 a month



PHOTO: **PRABIR DAS**

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN *and* **MOKAMMEL SHUVO,** *from Cox's Bazar*

For Anowara Begum, feeding her three children is a daily struggle. Her husband cannot work due to kidney disease, forcing her to borrow food or money from neighbours, repaying them when possible.

The family of five now receives $7 per person monthly under the World

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Pak ex-PM Imran's sisters freed from jail

Third sister remains in prison

AFP, *Lahore*

Two sisters of jailed Pakistani former prime minister Imran Khan were released from prison in Lahore yesterday, their lawyer and Khan's political party said.

Noreen Khan and Uzma Khan "were released from Kot Lakhpat at 2:00 pm (0900 GMT)", their advocate Rana Mudassar told AFP over the phone, explaining that the government had withdrawn their joint detention order, while a third sister, Aleema Khan, remained in prison.

Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party confirmed the release of the two sisters. But it said in a statement the move did not "erase the suffering inflicted on Imran Khan's family" and called for "no further persecution".



Women balance earthen pots adorned with mango leaves and flowers on their heads and dance to the beat of drums during the opening of a three-day indigenous cultural festival and fair in Rajshahi's Godagari upazila yesterday. Indigenous artists from across the division joined the event. Stalls at the fair, organised on the grounds of Kadma High School in Rishikul union, showcase traditional farming tools, indigenous crafts and herbal medicines.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

HSC retake exams from Dec 1 to 15

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The routine for this year's Higher Secondary Certificate and equivalent supplementary examinations, scheduled for December 1 to 15, was published yesterday.

Of the 594,113 students who failed this year's HSC and equivalent examinations, 422,905 failed in one or two subjects and are eligible to sit the supplementary tests.

The examinations will begin with English first and second papers on December 1, followed by Bangla first and second papers on December 2.



Physics, accounting and logic examinations will be held on December 3, followed by information and communication technology on December 5.

The written examinations will conclude on December 15 with economics and Arabic papers. All practical examinations must also be completed by that date.

The morning session will begin at 10:00am and the afternoon session at 2:00pm. Candidates must enter examination halls at least 30 minutes before the tests begin.

Education Minister ANM Ehsanul Hoque Milon announced the supplementary examinations on October 31, saying students who failed in one or two subjects should not have to wait another year to pass.

The authorities plan to publish the results by December 31.

US-Israeli strikes on Iran emit 1.5m tonnes of CO_2

Iranian President Pezeshkian tells COP31 delegates

AGENCIES

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has said that US and Israeli attacks on fuel facilities in Iran released 1.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, causing extensive environmental damage.

At the COP31 UN climate summit in Turkey on Wednesday evening, Pezeshkian said attacks on fuel facilities in Asaluyeh released 500,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide. In comparison, strikes on fuel storage tanks near Tehran produced another one million tonnes.

Israeli strikes targeted oil storage facilities in Tehran on March 7, while gas processing facilities in Asaluyeh in southern Iran were hit March 18.

The president accused Washington and Tel Aviv of causing severe environmental destruction during the military offensive, which began February 28.

He said the attacks highlighted a contradiction between international efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and military operations that destroy infrastructure, trigger widespread fires and release pollutants into the atmosphere.

Pezeshkian urges documentation of war-related environmental damage in Iran and Gaza and compensation mechanisms

Pezeshkian also condemned Israel's military operations in the Gaza Strip, saying the territory was facing a humanitarian and environmental catastrophe due to the destruction of infrastructure, water resources and ecosystems.

He said attacks on Iranian protected areas and environmental ranger stations also damaged natural resources and threatened future generations.

Calling for international accountability, Pezeshkian urged organizations to document environmental damage caused by US and Israeli military operations in Iran and Gaza and establish mechanisms for compensation.

He also highlighted Iran's renewable energy development, saying the installed capacity increased from 1,250 megawatts to more than 6,150 megawatts during the last two years.

Iran generated more than 4.5 billion kilowatt-hours of clean electricity in 2026, preventing 2.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions, according to Pezeshkian.

He stressed that peace and environmental protection were inseparable, saying lasting peace was essential to safeguarding the planet.

The US and Israeli attacks triggered a war that has caused widespread casualties and damage to infrastructure. Diplomatic efforts involving regional mediators have since sought to end the hostilities.

Turkey is hosting the COP31 UN climate conference in the Mediterranean resort city of Antalya from November 9 to 20, bringing together world leaders and climate negotiators to discuss emissions reductions, climate adaptation and financing.

Grants, not more loans

FROM PAGE 1

access to environmentally friendly climate technologies and providing necessary support for technology transfer to developing countries.

The fourth proposal called for accelerating the transition to renewable energy through affordable financing, skills development, and a fair energy transition.

Under the fifth proposal, Tarique urged COP31 to adopt the "Belem-Antalya Action Mechanism" to support a fair energy transition, with fair financing and fair trade as its core principles.

Tarique also outlined Bangladesh's ongoing initiatives and future plans to address climate change, highlighting the country's vulnerability despite its limited contribution to global emissions.

He said Bangladesh accounts for less than 0.5 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, yet remains among the countries most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Despite challenges, the government remains committed to building a $1 trillion climate-resilient and sustainable economy.

Tarique said his government, guided by the principle of "Bangladesh First", believes economic growth and environmental protection must go hand in hand.

The prime minister said the government has set a target of meeting 20 percent of the country's total electricity demand from renewable sources by 2030.

To achieve this, the government is working towards generating 4,000 megawatts of solar power through special tax incentives while encouraging waste-to-energy projects.

Tarique said Bangladesh has around 300 LEED-certified garment factories, and the government is encouraging the expansion of such environmentally friendly industries.

He said initiatives are also underway to promote green transport, including electric vehicles, increase the use of environmentally friendly products such as jute bags, and establish a national framework for carbon trading.

The prime minister also announced plans to plant 25 crore trees across the country over the next five years as part of the government's environmental protection efforts.

He highlighted the Padma Barrage and Teesta Barrage master plans, alongside an initiative to excavate 20,000 kilometres of rivers and canals to improve water retention, reduce flood risks, restore wetlands, and raise groundwater levels.

The government is also working to restore mangrove forests on reclaimed coastal land to protect coastal communities and strengthen their resilience to climate change, he said.

He emphasised the need to translate climate commitments into concrete action and called for stronger global cooperation and collective efforts to build a sustainable future.

On the sidelines of COP31, Tarique held separate bilateral meetings with Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and British Foreign Secretary Ed Miliband, discussing Rohingya repatriation, climate change, investment and bilateral cooperation.

The premier also visited Bangladesh's Jute Pavilion at the COP31 Green Zone, where he inspected environmentally friendly jute products.

RMG Owners

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President Mahmud Hasan Khan told The Daily Star yesterday.

"If the situation in the industrial zones does not improve soon, we will be forced to follow section 13(1) of the Labour Act [no work, no pay] to save our industries," he said.

Production has been severely disrupted as groups of workers have vandalised factories or stayed away from work, demanding higher wages.

Over the past two weeks, an average of nearly 300 factories remained closed each day amid fears of vandalism, BGMEA data showed. Yesterday, 204 factories in Ashulia, Savar, and Gazipur were shut.

The unrest has also alarmed international clothing retailers and brands, which depend on timely deliveries in an intensely competitive market, Mahmud said.

Delayed shipments could force suppliers to pay for costly air freight, offer steep discounts or face order cancellations, he added.

He urged workers and union leaders to act responsibly, noting that a wage board was already working to revise the minimum pay.

Babul Akhter, workers' representative on the minimum wage board, also urged workers to return to their factories and continue production while the board works on a new pay structure.

"We do not own the ongoing illegal strikes, vandalism or throwing brick chips at factories. Workers should return to their workplaces and resume production," he told The Daily Star over the phone.

Babul has proposed raising the minimum monthly wage in the sector to Tk 32,000 from the existing Tk 12,500.

The board's third meeting is scheduled for November 16, when the owners' representative is expected to submit a wage proposal.

The new pay structure is scheduled to take effect in December, with workers receiving the revised wages in January.

Amirul Haque Amin, president of the National Garment Workers Federation, agreed that workers should not continue the unrest while the wage board is working.

Describing the current unrest as "anarchism rather than a labour movement", he blamed a delay in forming the board for fuelling the agitation.

The board should have been formed at least 15 days earlier, as the revised wage structure was already scheduled to take effect in December under the amended Labour Act 2026, he said.

The absence of active trade unions in many factories has also left workers without effective collective bargaining platforms, pushing some to take to the streets with their wage demands, Amirul added.

Khondaker Golam Moazzem, president of local think tank Knowledge Hub Institute (KHI), said the owners' representative should submit a wage proposal quickly to build workers' confidence in the process.

"A quick solution is needed," he said, adding that he would also submit a proposal to the wage board soon.

The nature of the unrest suggested that it might involve not only workers but also "outside elements", Moazzem said, without elaborating.

Salauddin Shapon, general secretary of IndustriALL Bangladesh Council, said union leaders had made several attempts to contain the unrest, but their efforts remained fragmented.

"For instance, when the unrest is brought under control in Savar areas, agitation breaks out in Ashulia," he said, adding that unorganised labour movements were difficult to control because unions had limited influence over workers.

Nazma Akter, president of Sommilito Garments Sramik Federation, said many factories in Savar and Ashulia had shut yesterday afternoon as workers left their workplaces. She called for an urgent resolution to the crisis.

"And it is also true that police have been beating up the workers because of the unrest. This should stop and a new pay structure should be fixed quickly," she said.

"At the same time, political parties should reach a consensus not to use the garment sector for political purposes," she added.

Govt approves Chinese FSRU project despite higher cost

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over the cost of the project.

An earlier analysis by The Daily Star found that CNEE's proposed daily service fee was 35-37 percent higher than what Bangladesh currently pays for its two operational FSRUs.

Under the 15-year arrangement, CNEE will charge $342,000 a day, compared with $254,000 for Excelerate Energy's terminal and $249,115 for Summit LNG's terminal.

The proposed fee is also higher than the $239,653-a-day benchmark recommended in a feasibility study by state-owned Rupantarita Prakritik Gas Company (RPGCL) in 2025.

A seven-member government negotiation committee had recommended two options for the CNEE deal: a 15-year agreement at $342,000 a day or a 20-year agreement at $329,000 a day. However, the committee itself said it could not determine how much of the additional cost was justified without a more detailed assessment.

The Daily Star's earlier investigation also found that CNEE had no prior experience in developing FSRUs. Despite this, the company was selected for negotiations under the G2G arrangement, without competitive bidding.

An examination of government documents by The Daily Star found that at least four international companies had offered lower daily fees for similar FSRU facilities.

Aramco Trading Singapore quoted $190,000, China National Machinery Import & Export Corporation (CMC) $225,000, Azerbaijan's SOCAR $288,000 and Oman's OQ Trading $296,000, compared with CNEE's negotiated rate of $342,000.

A separate proposal from China Merchants Industry (CMI), submitted while negotiations with CNEE were underway, also offered significantly cheaper alternatives.

A comparison by The Daily Star found large portions of the proposal closely mirror another proposal submitted just 38 days earlier by US-based company NS Energy Navigation, whose chief executive is the grandson of Brahmanbaria-4 MP Mushfiqur Rahman, also the chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on the finance ministry.

CNEE's proposal had nearly identical wording, commercial alternatives, implementation schedules and contractual arrangements. A project map in CNEE's submission even retained the label "Proposed NS Energy FSRU".

On June 19, CNEE submitted a proposal to establish the offshore LNG terminal at Kutubjom under a build-own-operate model.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs gave in-principle approval to process the proposal on July 28.

The purchase committee returned the proposal for further review in October before it was brought back for approval.

The decision appeared predetermined, as the authorities had cheaper proposals to consider and alternative procurement methods that could have saved public money, said M Shamsul Alam, energy adviser to the Consumers Association of Bangladesh.

Some international companies had submitted cheaper offers, but there was no indication that these had been considered in the decision-making process.

"We have repeatedly alleged that a deeply entrenched system of looting public money exists in the energy administration. Unless that system is reformed, changing the people in the administration will not change the process of exploitation."

The decision underscored the need for structural reforms in the energy sector, he said, adding that the interim government had overlooked the issue and the current government was also not giving it adequate attention.

If this practice continues, the government risks facing a major setback in ensuring energy security, he added.

The decision to add another FSRU comes amid a situation where Bangladesh has been facing growing pressure to secure LNG supplies amid disruptions to shipments from the Middle East following the war in the region.

Bangladesh currently operates two FSRUs, both located in Moheshkhali, with a combined regasification capacity of around 1,100 mmcfd. The proposed Kutubjom terminal is expected to bring the capacity to 1,700 mmcfd.

At the same meeting, the CCGP approved the signing of three separate draft side-letter agreements with OQ Trading of Oman under two existing long-term and one short-term sales and purchase agreements (SPAs) for LNG imports in 2027.

The committee also approved a proposal to procure two LNG cargoes from Malaysia's Pentitude Energy in 2027 at a price of $0.18 per million British thermal units (MMBtu) below the Japan-Korea Marker price.

The number of cargoes may vary upon mutual understanding between the two parties, the approval document said.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs gave in-principle approval to import LNG through the direct purchase method from Japan, the UAE and Nigeria.

Under the approvals, the government will import LNG from UAE-based ADNOC Trading and Nigeria's Ojimadu & Marites Oil Marketing, while Petrobangla will sign a short-term agreement with Japan's JERA Global Markets.

Fire at NCP MP's home

FROM PAGE 1

ancestral home.

The NCP leader said she received several threatening phone calls before the attack. She subsequently filed a general diary with Dhanmondi Police Station in Dhaka on Tuesday, but continued to get threats even after filing the complaint.

CCTV footage showed four consecutive explosions at the house around 12:00am, she said.

She also blamed the delay in the firefighters' arrival at the scene. By the time they arrived, most of the house had been gutted.

At parliament, Opposition Chief Whip and NCP Convener Nahid Islam first raised the issue. He said four petrol bombs had been hurled at the house of Tabassum, causing the fire.

He questioned how the government could still claim that law and order had not deteriorated after a reported petrol bomb attack on Tabassum's village home.

Warning that the ruling BNP could be the next target if attacks allegedly carried out by ousted fascist forces continue, Nahid urged the government to clarify its position.

He said the local police station OC claimed that no evidence of petrol bomb attack was found at the scene, without any forensic test.

Nahid said it was evident who was being targeted.

In response, Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed told the House that the fire might have been caused by an electric short circuit. Referring to preliminary findings, he said investigators currently believed that no petrol bomb had been used in the incident.

After the Maghrib prayer break, Nahid again rose on a point of order.

He said the home minister referred to various video clips and pieces of evidence, but a video widely circulated on social media clearly showed that an object had been thrown from outside, after which the entire house caught fire.

The opposition chief whip also disputed the minister's description of the property, saying that it was not an abandoned house nor merely a shed for livestock. He said people lived there, including the caretaker's family and relatives of Tabassum. "People could have died."

Nahid alleged that Kushtia Awami League leaders admitted the responsibility, but accused the home minister of absolving them of blame. "Unfortunately, he [home minister] has gone into complete denial and sought to dismiss the incident altogether."

Salahuddin then took the floor again, insisting that his statement had been evidence-based.

"A regrettable incident occurred," he said. "The opposition chief whip says the house was deliberately set on fire. Does that mean the investigation has already been completed, Honourable Speaker?"

His remarks triggered protests from opposition lawmakers.

Addressing them, the minister said, "Please allow me to speak. If you wish to make further remarks later, you may do so with the Speaker's permission."

As the opposition MPs continued to protest, many lawmakers from the treasury bench supported Salahuddin.

The home minister then restated details of the incident and repeated that preliminary investigations had found no evidence of petrol bomb attack, prompting another round of noisy protests from opposition members.

Deputy Speaker Kayser Kamal urged him to proceed, but opposition lawmakers continued their protests.

The deputy speaker repeatedly attempted to restore order and drew the attention of the opposition chief whip. Amid the commotion, the home minister was briefly forced to end his remarks and take his seat.

During the uproar, NCP lawmakers Abdul Hannan Masud, Mahmuda Alam Mitu, and others stood up and started speaking without microphones. The deputy speaker asked Hannan Masud to sit down time and again.

When the home minister again referred that two goats had reportedly been kept at the house, opposition lawmakers resumed their protests.

He subsequently said he directed law enforcement agencies to investigate the fire incident thoroughly.

"If a petrol bomb was thrown, there should be evidence of it. That should be investigated," he said. "If the fire was caused in some other way, that can only be known after the probe."

The minister said if sabotage or deliberate arson was established, appropriate action would be taken.

It is not appropriate to blame the entire government simply because an incident of fire at a house before the investigation is completed, he said. "I don't want to follow the old culture of immediately declaring that this or that group is responsible before the facts are established."

GOVT SCHOOLS

Class one admission age raised to six

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The education ministry has revised its admission policy for government secondary schools, raising the minimum age for admission to class one from five to six years for the 2027 academic year.

The move brings government schools in line with private schools, for which the ministry issued a separate admission policy on November 10.

Under the revised policy, children seeking admission to class one must be at least six years old but younger than seven on January 1, 2027.

The previous policy allowed children aged five and above to apply for admission to class one, although the National Education Policy 2010 stipulates six years as the standard admission age.

After the ministry fixed the minimum admission age at six in the policy for private schools, a discrepancy emerged between government and private institutions. The revised policy removes that difference.



Commuters ride atop a moving train while pedestrians walk dangerously close to it, navigating past vendors occupying the narrow walkway alongside the railway tracks in Dhaka's Tejgaon area yesterday. Such risky practices are common as commuters and pedestrians flout safety regulations to take shortcuts, putting their lives at risk.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

IN FOCUS

Govt plans education criteria for journalists

Says info minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Information Minister Andaleeve Rahman yesterday told parliament that the government has prepared a proposal to amend the Press Council Act 1974, seeking to set minimum educational qualifications for journalists and allow punitive action against those found disseminating false or misleading information.

Replying to a query from independent MP Sultana Jesmen, Andaleeve said the proposed amendments aim to make the Press Council a more powerful, effective and media-friendly institution.

The proposal would empower the council, like the Bar Council, to register journalists and maintain an online database of recognised professionals. It also seeks to set minimum educational qualifications for journalists.

The amendments would introduce penalties such as financial fines for editors, publishers and journalists found violating the code of conduct by publishing false, harassing or unethical reports that go against public interest.

The council would also be empowered to initiate investigations and take action against newspapers, news organisations, editors, publishers and journalists for violating journalistic ethics, harming public interest or spreading rumours, fake news and hate speech.

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Malaysia migration cost capped at Tk 1.54 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has capped migration costs for Malaysia-bound workers at Tk 1.54 lakh, warning private recruiting agencies against excessive charges that previously reached Tk 7-8 lakh.

Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Ariful Haque Chowdhury issued the warning yesterday as state-run Bangladesh Overseas Employment and Services Limited (BOESL) began selecting 112 workers for jobs in Malaysia at zero migration cost.

The recruitment is the first phase of a government initiative to send 10,000 Bangladeshis to Malaysia without migration expenses through BOESL.

Speaking to journalists at Probashi Kalyan Bhaban in Dhaka, Ariful warned that agencies found exploiting jobseekers could face legal action, including measures against their licences.



BOESL begins selecting 112 workers for zero-cost recruitment; minister warns agencies against overcharging.

While Malaysian employers will bear all expenses for workers recruited through BOESL, private agencies have suggested they could send workers for Tk 2-2.5 lakh. The minister stressed that the government had not fixed that amount.

He said agencies must provide individual employment details, including the employer, job, contract duration and recruitment arrangements, for government scrutiny to ensure workers have genuine jobs and are not forced to return home after reaching Malaysia.

On medical examinations, Ariful said Bangladesh had objected to some names on a list of 51 medical centres.

Bangladesh had submitted names of medical centres to Malaysian authorities, but additional facilities appeared on the list, prompting objections.

A Malaysian team is reviewing the facilities before finalising the list, which the minister expects by Sunday or Monday.

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REVISED CYBER LAW

Lighter penalties, but little relief for free speech

TASNEEM TAYEB

The government's revised cyber protection law draft proposes lower penalties for some speech offences but retains non-bailable provisions for spreading rumours and online belittling. It also retains the proposal to remove mandatory tribunal approval for blocking content and grants immunity to officials.

The ICT Division published the draft of the Cyber Security (Amendment) Act, 2026 on November 10, seeking comments by November 25.

Under proposed Section 26A, spreading rumours or disinformation would carry up to five years' imprisonment, a Tk 10 lakh fine, or both, down from 10 years and Tk 40 lakh in September's draft.

The proposed definition covers false or distorted information deliberately created, published or circulated to cause public panic, agitation or social unrest.

However, the draft does not specify how intent would be established.

Talking to The Daily Star, Supreme Court lawyer Priya Ahsan Chowdhury said this is a limited improvement, while terms such as "public panic" and "social instability" remain subjective.

She warned of risks to criticism, satire, and public-interest reporting.

The offence would remain cognisable and non-bailable. Belittling or bullying would carry up to three years' imprisonment, a Tk 5 lakh fine, or both, and remain cognisable and non-bailable. Defamation would be non-cognisable and bailable, punishable by up to two years or Tk 5 lakh, or both.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Prothom Alo Executive Editor Sajjad Sharif questioned the limits of "constructive criticism", saying citizens posting opinions, cartoons, or memes lack comparable safeguards.

Human Rights Support Society, in a statement signed by Executive Director Ejazul Islam, sought clearer definitions, bailable offences, and civil remedies for defamation.



The draft CPA was conceptually faulty to begin with, and now this new draft is even constitutionally flawed.

IFTEKHARUZZAMAN
TIB Executive Director

Section 8(4) of the Cyber Protection Act, 2026 requires tribunal approval within three days of blocking content. If approval is refused or not obtained, the content must be restored.

The previous draft proposed removing this requirement. The latest draft instead allows affected parties to seek agency review, with decisions due within 15 days. Authorities must also inform them of the reasons for blocking within three days.

The latest draft also retains the proposal to end public disclosure of blocked content.

HRSS sought judicial approval and an effective appeals process, saying agency review cannot replace judicial oversight.

Section 46A requires tribunal approval before arrests over news, opinions, images or cartoons published or broadcast by registered media.

Under Section 29, these outlets and their operators would receive at least 15 days' written notice and an opportunity to defend themselves before proceedings.

However, a court could still suspend or cancel a company's registration or licence or prohibit its activities, following conviction.

Transparency International Bangladesh Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman said media-only safeguards raise constitutional concerns over equality before the law.

He also criticised proposed immunity from civil or criminal cases for the Cyber Protection Council chairperson, members and authorised officials over good-faith acts.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

Info Commission to resume appeal hearings on Nov 16

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Information Commission will resume hearing appeals on November 16 after remaining largely inactive for over two years following the July uprising, Chief Information Commissioner Professor Nahreen Islam Khan said yesterday.

The commission received 917 complaints during that period, she said while unveiling its 100-day work plan at a press conference at its office in Dhaka.

Nahreen, professor of geography and environment at Jahangirnagar University, was appointed chief information commissioner on October 17.

Information Commissioners SAM Mahfuzur Rahman and Khan Mohammad Abul Hossain were appointed alongside her. They assumed office the following day.

According to the commission's 100-day plan, it aims to open district-level offices next year. It will also organise Right to Information fairs at universities and schools later this month and train journalists and content creators.

Nahreen said initiatives are being taken to monitor government expenditure and the use of foreign donations to ensure transparency.

She also highlighted a manpower shortage, saying only 22 officers and employees are working at the commission against its sanctioned strength of 76.

She said steps will be taken to ensure institutions publish detailed information on their websites to uphold citizens' right to information.

Information Commissioner SAM Mahfuzur Rahman urged journalists facing obstacles in obtaining information for investigative reporting to seek the commission's assistance.

He also called for expanding the Right to Information Act to cover the private sector.

Commissioner Khan Mohammad Abul Hossain also spoke.

Five DU assistant proctors resign

Proctor denies asking them to quit

DU CORRESPONDENT

Five teachers have resigned from their positions as assistant proctors at the University of Dhaka (DU), after allegedly being indirectly asked by the university's proctor to step down.

The teachers, all appointed during the interim government following the July uprising, submitted their resignation letters over the past two days, university sources said.

The teachers are Dr Rafiqul Islam, associate professor of Arabic; Atia Sanjida Shormi, lecturer of Zoology; Muhammad Mahbub Kaisar, associate professor of Sociology; Sharmin Kabir, associate professor at Institute of Education and Research; and Jahangir Alam, assistant professor of Management Information Systems.

A resigning assistant proctor, seeking anonymity, told The Daily Star that Proctor Israfil Ratan had indirectly asked them to resign. "Although he had a good relationship with us, he might have made the request due to pressure from elsewhere," the teacher said.

The teacher suspected that political considerations might have played a role.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

A farmer carries freshly harvested cauliflower to a local market at Chunia Para Eidgah ground in Rajshahi's Durgapur upazila yesterday. While some farmers tend their crops, others harvest the popular winter vegetable and sell it directly to wholesalers at the market.

Govt to import 2,95,000 tonnes of fertiliser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will import 2,95,000 tonnes of fertiliser to prevent shortages during the upcoming Boro season. The proposals were approved at yesterday's meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase.

Of the total, 1,55,000 tonnes of urea fertiliser will be procured from Saudi Arabia, the UAE and KAFCO.

This includes 80,000 tonnes from Saudi Arabia at US $432 per tonne, 45,000 tonnes of bulk granular urea from Fertiglobe-UAE at US $519.17 per tonne and 30,000 tonnes of bagged granular urea from KAFCO in Bangladesh at US $411 per tonne.

The government will also import 1,40,000 tonnes of TSP and DAP fertiliser from Morocco. This includes 60,000 tonnes of TSP at $656 per tonne and 80,000 tonnes of DAP at US $851.67 per tonne.

The committee also approved the purchase of 10,000 tonnes of sugar from Meghna Sugar Refinery Ltd at Tk 104 per kg, costing Tk 104 crore.

Another 10,000 tonnes of red lentils will be purchased from Shabnam Vegetable Oil Industries Ltd at Tk 76.77 per kg, for a total of Tk 76.77 crore. Both sugar and lentils will be supplied in 50kg bags.

CMP bans motorcycles on Akhtaruzzaman Flyover

Move comes following petrol bomb attacks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Ctg*

The Chattogram Metropolitan Police (CMP) suspended motorcycle movement on the Akhtaruzzaman Flyover yesterday, citing fears of sabotage following recent petrol bomb attacks from the structure. The restriction will remain in place until further notice.

The move has inconvenienced commuters, particularly office-goers and workers.

Police said the decision followed two incidents on the night of November 5, when petrol bombs were thrown from the flyover towards the LGED office building and the land office in the city's Sholashahar area. No casualties were reported.

Police also suspect that leaders and activists of the banned Chhatra League and Jubo League have been using the flyover to carry out acts of sabotage at different locations.

Confirming the restriction, CMP Deputy Commissioner (North) Mostafa Hasan Swapan said, "Motorcycles will be allowed back once the situation returns to normal."

Police were seen stopping motorcycles from entering the flyover at Muradpur and Sholashahar Gate No 2 yesterday morning.



Workers unload newly printed textbooks, supplied by the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB), in front of Dr Khastagir Government Girls' High School in Chattogram yesterday for storage ahead of the new academic year. The books will be distributed among students on the first day of the year .

PHOTO: **RAJIB RAIHAN**

Six killed in two motorcycle crashes

STAR REPORT

Six people, including four teenagers, were killed in motorcycle crashes in Panchagarh and Noakhali yesterday.

In Panchagarh, three 15-year-old madrasa students -- Saymon Islam, Redowan Hossain and Fazle Rabbi -- were killed when their motorcycle crashed into a tree in Boda upazila around 9:30am.

Boda Police Station Inspector Rezwanul Haque Mandal said Saymon had taken his uncle's motorcycle to attend a private tuition session. After the session, he set off with his two classmates. The motorcycle lost control and hit a tree in the Kherbari area, leaving all three injured.

Saymon and Redowan were declared dead at Boda Upazila Health Complex, while Fazle died at Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

In Noakhali, three friends -- Md Abdul Karim, 17, Shahadat Hossain, 19, and Md Shamim, 22 -- were killed when their motorcycle crashed into an electric pole in Subarnachar upazila around 4:00pm.

Quoting locals, Charjabbar Police Station OC Rafiqul Hasan said the three were heading towards Bhuiyarhat when their speeding motorcycle skidded on sand near Notun Bridge and hit the pole. Two died on the spot, while the third died on the way to Noakhali General Hospital, he said.

Man dies after falling from Ctg flyover

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Ctg*

A 35-year-old man died after falling from a flyover in Chattogram's Tigerpass on Wednesday night, two days after arriving in the city from Barishal for a job.

The deceased, Mehedi Hasan, fell from the flyover around 10:45pm and was critically injured. He was taken to Chattogram Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared him dead, said Kotwali Police Station OC Jahidul Kabir.

Mehedi arrived in Chattogram on Monday and joined a company the following day, the OC said. His mobile phone and wallet were found with him after the incident.

"Police are investigating whether he fell accidentally or something else happened to him," Jahidul said.

Eyewitness Sazzat Hossain said he was on the road when he heard a loud noise around 10:40pm and saw the man lying after falling from the flyover.

CMP Deputy Commissioner (South) Habibur Rahman Pramanik said the exact cause will be determined after the investigation and autopsy.

Missing former Sramik Dal member found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Noakhali*

Police recovered the body of a former Sramik Dal member from his former in-laws' house in Chatkhil upazila of Noakhali yesterday, six days after he went missing.

The body of Mohammad Russell, 27, was found in a shallow pit dug into the floor of an abandoned room at Chowkidar Bari in Sanokhali village, concealed under old quilts and mattresses, said Chatkhil Police Station OC Abdul Monnaf.

Russell was a former member of the Chatkhil upazila unit of Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal and a candidate for general secretary of the Noakhali union unit, said Shahjahan Rana, former acting president of Chatkhil upazila BNP.

Quoting locals, police said Russell went missing on November 6 after his divorced wife, Mukta Begum, and her sister allegedly called him to their house on the pretext of reconciliation.

His father filed a general diary with Chatkhil Police Station the following day.

OC Monnaf said police found the house locked and the family members absconding during the investigation.

Russell had marks of iron rod blows on his head and other parts of his body. Police also recovered an iron rod from the scene, he added.

The body was sent to the 250-bed Noakhali General Hospital for an autopsy. Police are preparing to file a murder case, the OC said.

Five DU assistant proctors resign

FROM PAGE 3

Another assistant proctor said he had resigned for personal reasons.

Proctor Israfil Ratan denied asking anyone to step down.

He said, "We did not sack anyone. They themselves can best explain why they resigned. This is a very normal process in the administration. People come and go from different positions."

Meanwhile, another assistant proctor, Rezaul Karim Sohag, has informed the proctor's office of his intention to resign, a source there said.

Lighter penalties, but little relief

FROM PAGE 3

Calling it "blanket discriminatory immunity", he cited past allegations of abuse of official powers.

"The draft CPA was conceptually faulty to begin with, and now this new draft is even constitutionally flawed," he said.

Article 27 guarantees equality before the law, while Article 39 protects expression, subject to specified reasonable restrictions.

Iftekharuzzaman said cyber laws should protect infrastructure and data, not criminalise speech. He warned of harassment similar to that under the repealed Digital Security Act.

The draft reduces the required Cyber Protection Council meetings from quarterly to twice a year. HRSS opposed the change and sought compensation for unlawful arrests, wrongful blocking and abuse of power.

Sections 33–35, covering investigative powers, searches, seizures and warrantless measures under specified conditions, remain unchanged despite earlier stakeholder concerns.

PRAYER TIMING
NOVEMBER 13

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

SOURCE: **ISLAMIC FOUNDATION**

Malaysia migration cost capped at Tk 1.54 lakh

FROM PAGE 3

"We will announce it through the press as soon as it is officially declared," he said.

The government has fixed the medical examination fee at Tk 8,000, but Malaysian employers will bear the cost for workers recruited through BOESL.

At a separate press briefing at the BOESL office, Managing Director Mohammad Rashedul Haque said a nine-member Malaysian delegation began practical tests and interviews yesterday to select 112 workers. The process will continue until November 15.

Responding to allegations that middlemen were demanding Tk 5-6 lakh from jobseekers by claiming they could arrange recruitment through BOESL, Rashedul urged journalists to provide evidence to identify those involved.

He warned that anyone, including BOESL employees, found collecting money from candidates would face legal action.

"Zero means zero," he said, stressing that BOESL would charge no application or service fees.

Rashedul put the latest recruitment demand figure at 568, saying some requests were awaiting attestation by the Bangladesh High Commission in Malaysia.

He said the timeline for sending all 10,000 workers would depend on demand from Malaysian employers.

Rashedul hoped the first batch could leave before December, subject to completion of procedures.

Malaysia suspended recruitment from Bangladesh on May 31, 2024, following widespread allegations of excessive migration costs and irregularities that left thousands of prospective workers unable to travel despite completing recruitment formalities.

Govt plans education criteria for journalists

FROM PAGE 3

Replying to a supplementary question from BNP MP Zainul Abdin Farroque, State Minister for Information Yasser Khan Choudhury said the government was holding regular discussions with journalist bodies, including the DRU, BFUJ and DUJ.

He said the government planned to prepare a database of recognised journalists in consultation with these organisations.

"Because it is not appropriate for the government to determine who may enter a profession or how people should express themselves," he said.

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	প্রভাষক	০১ (এক)টি স্থায়ী পদ

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Application Deadline: Nov. 30, 2026

Bangladesh Medical Studies & Research Institute (BMSRI)
House # 33-35, Road # 14/A, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka
REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (REOI)
Appointment of External Auditor
Bangladesh Medical Studies & Research Institute invites sealed Expressions of Interest (EOI) from reputed, enlisted Chartered Accountant (CA) firms in Bangladesh for conducting the statutory external audit of its financial statements for the financial year **2025–2026.**
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Submission Details:
- **Terms of Reference (TOR):** Interested firms may collect the detailed TOR from **8:00 AM to 2:00 PM**
- **Deadline:** Sealed proposals (Technical & Financial) must be submitted to **Honorary Secretary, EC, BMSRI**, on or before **16.11.2026** at **2:00 PM.**

BMSRI reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals without assigning any reason whatsoever.
Hony. Secretary, EC, BMSRI

Bangladesh Scouts, National Headquarters
60, Anjuman Mofidul Islam Road, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh
Ref No: BS/Dev./advertisement/1494/2026 Date: 12/11/2026
e-Tender Notice
e-Tender has been invited through the National e-GP Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) as follows:

Tender ID No.	Invitation Ref. No.	Description of Works	Online Invitation Date and Time	Last Selling Date and time	Closing and Opening Date and time	Last Date and time of Security Submission
1372628	BS/Dev./01/26/12th Na. R.M /2026-2027/eG-01/1489	Printing & Supply of 12th National Rover Moot Souvenir for 12th National Rover Moot 2026 at NHQ, Bangladesh Scouts Dhaka.	12-Nov-2026 22:00	23-Nov-2026 11:00	23-Nov-2026 14:00	23-Nov-2026 13:00
1372631	BS/Dev./122/2026-2027//eG-01/1487	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Split type Air cooler and Other Related Necessary works for Doyel Cottage Bhaban at National Scout Training Center, Mouchak, Gazipur.	12-Nov-2026 22:30	23-Nov-2026 11:00	23-Nov-2026 14:30	23-Nov-2026 13:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted through the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP portal is required. The fees for downloading e-Tender documents from the National e-GP portal must be deposited online through any registered Bank Branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the e-GP website and e-GP help desk.

Executive Director
Bangladesh Scouts
GD-2755

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

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

Tender ID No	Package No.	Name of Work/Package Description	Last Selling date & time	Opening date & time	Remarks
1371045	e-GP-17/EE/SRD/2026-2027	Maintenance of Existing Pavement by Repair of Potholes, Base Type-I (Damaged Portion) & 40mm DBS-Wearing Course of Mostafapur-Madaripur-Shariatpur (Monohar Bazar)-Ibrahimpur-Horina-Chandpur (Bhatialpur) Road (R-860) at 35th (P) km under Shariatpur Road Division, during the year-2026-2027.	06-12-2026 16:00 PM	07-12-2026 14:00 PM	e-GP Only online tender.

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

12.11.26
(Md. Monowarul Islam)
ID No-602245
Executive Engineer (C.C.), RHD
Road Division, Shariatpur.
GD-2758

Israeli strike kills six at Gaza hospital

Around 30 injured

AFP, *Gaza City*

An Israeli strike killed six people and wounded around 30 at Nasser Hospital in southern Gaza, a civil defence official told AFP yesterday.

The Gaza Strip's civil defence, a rescue agency operating under Hamas authority, said the bodies of those killed and "more than" 20 people wounded in the strike had been recovered from a building at the medical complex.

"The death toll from the Israeli strike inside Nasser Medical Complex, west of Khan Younis in southern Gaza, has risen to six," civil defence spokesperson Mahmoud Bassal told AFP.

Nasser Hospital confirmed the six deaths in a statement.

A spokesperson for Israel's military said they were checking for information on the incident when asked for comment by AFP.



Migrants of various nationalities take part in a caravan known as "Dios con Nosotros" ("God With Us") as they seek to continue their journey towards northern Mexico and eventually reach the United States, in Huehuetan, Chiapas, Mexico, on Wednesday. PHOTO: **REUTERS**

Eight dead after Brooklyn building collapses

Says NY mayor Mamdani; 17 hurt

REUTERS, *New York*

Eight people were killed when an apartment building in Brooklyn collapsed into a neighboring construction site on Wednesday, New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani said.

At least 17 people, including 3 firefighters were injured, Mamdani said yesterday, as rescue operations continued.

The city's fire department earlier told Reuters that four people were in critical condition after the three-story building in the Flatbush area of Brooklyn collapsed at about 4:00 pm on Wednesday and tumbled into the adjoining construction site where excavation work was underway.



New York television station WABC-TV reported that at least four survivors were pulled from the wreckage about 2 to 2 1/2 hours after the collapse, including a pregnant woman.

The number of people who were at home when the 1930-era building collapsed was not immediately known, officials said. They did not say how many workers were on the construction site at the time.

City Fire Department Commissioner Lillian Bonsignore said seven children were among those affected by the collapse. She declined to say whether any of the dead were children or adults.

Mamdani said the city's Department of Buildings and law enforcement officials were investigating the cause of the collapse. A firefighting crew that happened to be in the neighborhood was on the scene within a minute of the collapse and helped pull the first victims from the debris.

IN FOCUS

MUSK'S STARSHIELD SERVICE

Ukraine faces new 'systematic' curbs

AFP, *Kyiv*

President Volodymyr Zelensky said yesterday that Ukraine's military faced new "systematic" restrictions to Starshield satellite internet, operated by Elon Musk's SpaceX service which plays a key role for front line communications.

Ukraine first reported problems using Starshield last month following a row between Zelensky and US President Donald Trump over a US-Russia diesel deal. Zelensky said the latest issues were not "random errors".

Trump and Musk denied responsibility for the last outages, although Musk later accused Ukraine of misusing SpaceX's Starlink internet service for military purposes before all sides said full access had been restored. Starshield is the military-grade version of SpaceX's Starlink.

"Our units have been recording significant disruptions to Starshield's operations over the territory of Ukraine for several days now," Zelensky said on social media. "Systematic speed restrictions are being imposed," Zelensky said, adding they were "not random errors".

Meanwhile, US envoys arrived in Russia yesterday to meet with

Putin reaffirmed Moscow's opposition to allowing Western troops in Ukraine as part of any potential post-war peacekeeping solution

President Vladimir Putin after talks in Abu Dhabi on the war in Ukraine.

Putin reaffirmed Moscow's opposition to allowing Western troops in Ukraine as part of any potential post-war peacekeeping solution -- a key demand from Kyiv in any deal to end the fighting.

KASHMIR SHOOTING

Two Indian police officers killed

AFP, *Srinagar*

The bullet-riddled bodies of two policemen were found yesterday in Indian-administered Kashmir, officials said, a day after suspected rebels wounded three paramilitary troops in a separate attack.

The back-to-back shootings have raised fresh security concerns, days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed a year without casualties among paramilitary forces in the disputed Himalayan region.

The two officers were found dead in Kishtwar, about 220 kilometres (136 miles) southeast of Srinagar, a day after they were reported missing in the same area. Locals reported hearing gunshots early yesterday.

Opposition Congress party President Mallikarjun Kharge said he was "deeply anguished by the tragic loss" of the two policemen.

Local legislator Shagun Parihar blamed "terrorists", referring to rebels opposed to Indian rule, and said that the attack would be "avenged as soon as possible".

HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

Indonesian VP resigns amid scandal

AFP, *Jakarta*

Indonesia's vice president resigned yesterday in the midst of a scandal over his high school diploma that has added to pressure on a government facing widespread dissatisfaction over the economy, graft and wildfires.

There had been repeated calls for Gibran Rakabuming Raka, 39, to step down following a Supreme Court ruling last month to annul his high school qualification, obtained abroad. Yesterday, he submitted his resignation to President Prabowo Subianto and parliament.

Prabowo told reporters he had accepted Gibran's resignation "with a heavy heart" and praised him for acting "for a greater cause, for the interests of the nation, the state, and the people of Indonesia".

Gibran said late yesterday the decision had not been an easy one but was taken in the "greater interest".

"This decision is my personal decision and has nothing to do with diplomas; once again, it has nothing to do with diplomas. All my educational documents exist, are complete, and I have already submitted them to the court," he said in a video statement.

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- **Experience:** Minimum 10 years of experience, with at least 3 years as a Principal / Vice Principal in a reputed English medium school.
- **Age Limit:** Maximum 50 years.
- **Attributes:** Goal-oriented with strong leadership qualities.

Interested candidates are requested to send their CV to **admin@son.ac** by **November 20, 2026**

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নং-৩৪.০১.০০০০.০৫০.৩৮.০১২.২৫-২১১

তারিখঃ ২৭ কার্তিক ১৪৩৩
১২ নভেম্বর ২০২৬

"কৃত্রিম বুদ্ধিমত্তা (এআই)" ভিত্তিক বেসিক প্রশিক্ষণ কোর্সে ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

যুব ও ক্রীড়া মন্ত্রণালয়াধীন যুব উন্নয়ন অধিদপ্তর কর্তৃক বাস্তবায়নাধীন "তথ্যপ্রযুক্তি জ্ঞানসম্পন্ন যুবদের কৃত্রিম বুদ্ধিমত্তা (এআই) প্রযুক্তির মাধ্যমে দক্ষতা উন্নয়ন" শীর্ষক প্রকল্পের আওতায় দেশের ৬৪ জেলায় বেসিক "কৃত্রিম বুদ্ধিমত্তা (এআই)" প্রশিক্ষণ পরিচালনার নিমিত্ত নিয়োজিত প্রশিক্ষণ প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহ যথাক্রমে প্যাকেজ-১ (ঢাকা ও ময়মনসিংহ বিভাগঃ ১৭টি জেলা): e-Learning & Earning Ltd, Khaja IT Park (2nd to 7th Floor), 7 South Kallyanpur, Kallyanpur Bus Stand, Mirpur Road, Dhaka-1207, প্যাকেজ-২ (রাজশাহী ও রংপুর বিভাগঃ ১৬টি জেলা): SEO Expate Bangladesh Ltd., European IT Solution Institute & Kaizen IT Ltd (JV), 55/3, Purana Paltan, Dhaka. প্যাকেজ-৩ (বরিশাল ও খুলনা বিভাগঃ ১৬টি জেলা): e-Learning & Earning Ltd, Khaja IT Park (2nd to 7th Floor), 7 South Kallyanpur, Kallyanpur Bus Stand, Mirpur Road, Dhaka-1207, প্যাকেজ-৪ (চট্টগ্রাম ও সিলেট বিভাগঃ ১৫টি জেলা): Service Engines Ltd., Dot Com Systems Ltd., Wizard Software Technology Bangladesh Ltd. (JV), Level-7, Monem Business District, 111 Bir Uttam CR Dutta Road, Dhaka-1205. কর্তৃক পরিচালিত ২ মাস মেয়াদি ৩য় ব্যাচে (১ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৬ খ্রি. হতে ৩১ জানুয়ারি ২০২৭ খ্রি.) দৈনিক ৬ ঘন্টা করে ৫০ দিনে সর্বমোট ৩০০ ঘন্টার প্রশিক্ষণ কোর্সে ভর্তির জন্য দেশের সকল (৬৪টি) জেলার ১৮ হতে ৩৫ বছর বয়সী কমপক্ষে এইচএসসি বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ কম্পিউটার ও আইসিটি বিষয়ে বেসিক জ্ঞানসম্পন্ন যুবক ও যুবনারীর নিকট থেকে অনলাইনে দরখাস্ত আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।

০২। অনলাইনে আবেদনের লিংকঃ www.dydaiproject.com/apply
অনলাইনে দরখাস্ত আগামী ২৪-১১-২০২৬ খ্রি. তারিখ রাত ১১:৫৯ মিনিট পর্যন্ত দাখিল করা যাবে। সফলভাবে আবেদন দাখিলের পর আবেদনের কপি ডাউনলোড করতে হবে। উল্লেখ্য যে, বৈধ আবেদনকারীদেরকে মেসেজের মাধ্যমে পরীক্ষার তারিখ ও সময় অবগত করা হবে। মেসেজের নির্দেশনা মোতাবেক পরীক্ষা অনুষ্ঠানের সময় প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজপত্রাদি সাথে আনতে হবে। নির্ধারিত তারিখ ও সময়ের পর আবেদনের লিঙ্ক স্বয়ংক্রিয়ভাবে বন্ধ হয়ে যাবে এবং আবেদন করার কোন সুযোগ থাকবে না।

০৩। বৈধ আবেদনকারীদের আগামী ২৮-১১-২০২৬ খ্রি. তারিখে লিখিত পরীক্ষা ও ২৯-১১-২০২৬ খ্রি. তারিখে মৌখিক পরীক্ষা অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। লিখিত ও মৌখিক পরীক্ষার স্থান ও সময়সূচী এসএমএস এর মাধ্যমে জানানো হবে। চূড়ান্তভাবে নির্বাচিত প্রার্থীদের তালিকা আগামী ৩০-১১-২০২৬ খ্রি. তারিখে প্রকাশ করা হবে এবং এসএমএস এর মাধ্যমে জানানো হবে।

০৪। যুব উন্নয়ন অধিদপ্তরের স্ব-স্ব জেলার উপপরিচালকের সভাপতিত্বে গঠিত ভর্তি কমিটি কর্তৃক প্রশিক্ষণার্থীদের লিখিত ও মৌখিক পরীক্ষার মাধ্যমে প্রশিক্ষণার্থী বাছাইপূর্বক ভর্তি করা হবে। প্রশিক্ষণার্থী বাছাইয়ের ক্ষেত্রে কম্পিউটার ও আইসিটি বিষয়ে বেসিক জ্ঞান সম্পন্ন এবং ইংরেজিতে দক্ষতা রয়েছে এমন প্রার্থীদের অগ্রাধিকার প্রদান করা হবে।

০৫। প্রশিক্ষণে ভর্তির জন্য কোন প্রকার ফি'র প্রয়োজন হবে না। অধিকন্তু প্রশিক্ষণার্থীরা দৈনিক ২০০/- টাকা হারে যাতায়াত ভাতা প্রাপ্য হবে এবং প্রশিক্ষণ চলাকালীন প্রশিক্ষণার্থীদের দৈনিক খাবারের ব্যবস্থা রয়েছে। প্রশিক্ষণ শেষে উত্তীর্ণ প্রশিক্ষণার্থীদের সনদপত্র প্রদান করা হবে।

০৬। কর্তৃপক্ষ এ ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি বাতিল, পরিবর্তন বা পরিবর্ধন করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

১২.১১.২০২৬

(মোঃ আতিকুর রহমান)
প্রকল্প পরিচালক
"তথ্যপ্রযুক্তি জ্ঞানসম্পন্ন যুবদের কৃত্রিম বুদ্ধিমত্তা (এআই) প্রযুক্তির মাধ্যমে দক্ষতা উন্নয়ন" প্রকল্প
যুব উন্নয়ন অধিদপ্তর, ঢাকা।
ফোনঃ ০২-২২৬৬৪২২০৫

GD-2748

জগন্নাথ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, ঢাকা

২০২৬-২০২৭ শিক্ষাবর্ষ স্নাতক (সম্মান) ও বিবিএ ১ম বর্ষ ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

জগন্নাথ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে ২০২৬-২০২৭ শিক্ষাবর্ষ স্নাতক (সম্মান) ও বিবিএ ১ম বর্ষ ভর্তির জন্য আবেদন আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। ২০২৩ বা ২০২৪ সালে এসএসসি/সমমান ও ২০২৬ সালে এইচএসসি/সমমান পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ শিক্ষার্থীদের মধ্যে যারা জগন্নাথ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে বিভিন্ন ইউনিটে ভর্তির জন্য নির্ধারিত শর্ত পূরণ করবে কেবল তারাই ২০২৬-২০২৭ শিক্ষাবর্ষে স্নাতক (সম্মান) ও বিবিএ ১ম বর্ষে ভর্তির জন্য আবেদন করতে পারবে।

আগামী ২৫/১১/২০২৬ তারিখ দুপুর ১২:০০ টা থেকে ১০/১২/২০২৬ তারিখ রাত ১১:৫৯ টা পর্যন্ত জগন্নাথ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ভর্তি সংক্রান্ত ওয়েবসাইট (https://admission.jnu.ac.bd)-এর মাধ্যমে অনলাইনে আবেদন করা যাবে। আবেদনকারীকে অনলাইনে আবেদন ফি হিসেবে A, B, C ও D প্রতিটি ইউনিটের জন্য আলাদাভাবে ১,২০০/- (এক হাজার দুইশত টাকা) এবং E ইউনিটের জন্য ১,৫০০/- (এক হাজার পাঁচশত টাকা) প্রদান করতে হবে। **আবেদন করার নিয়ম, ভর্তির বিস্তারিত তথ্য, আবেদন ফি জমা দেয়ার পদ্ধতি** জগন্নাথ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ভর্তি সংক্রান্ত ওয়েবসাইটে (https://admission.jnu.ac.bd) প্রকাশিত ভর্তি নির্দেশিকায় পাওয়া যাবে ।

উল্লেখ্য, যে সকল শিক্ষার্থী (সর্বোচ্চ ০২ বিষয়ে অনুত্তীর্ণ) এইচএসসি/সমমান সম্পূরক পরীক্ষা ২০২৬ এ অংশগ্রহণ করবে, সে সকল শিক্ষার্থী জগন্নাথ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের সংশ্লিষ্ট ইউনিটের ভর্তির জন্য SSC/সমমানের পরীক্ষার যোগ্যতার শর্ত সাপেক্ষে ২০২৬-২০২৭ শিক্ষাবর্ষে স্নাতক (সম্মান) ও বিবিএ ১ম বর্ষে ভর্তির জন্য আবেদন করতে পারবে।

তবে, যদি কোনো শিক্ষার্থী এইচএসসি/সমমান সম্পূরক পরীক্ষা ২০২৬ এ উত্তীর্ণ হওয়ার পরও জগন্নাথ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের সংশ্লিষ্ট ইউনিটের ভর্তির জন্য নির্ধারিত ভর্তি যোগ্যতা পূরণে ব্যর্থ হয় তাহলে তার আবেদন বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।

বিদেশী (Foreign national) শিক্ষার্থীরাও ভর্তির জন্য জগন্নাথ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের বিভিন্ন ইউনিটের ভর্তির জন্য নির্ধারিত যোগ্যতা পূরণ সাপেক্ষে আবেদন করতে পারবে। এ সংক্রান্ত যাবতীয় তথ্যাদি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ভর্তি সংক্রান্ত ওয়েবসাইট (https://admission.jnu.ac.bd)-এ পাওয়া যাবে।

২০২৬-২০২৭ শিক্ষাবর্ষে ভর্তি পরীক্ষার তারিখ ও সময়সূচি নিম্নরূপ:

ইউনিট/অনুষদ	তারিখ	বার	পরীক্ষার সময়
ইউনিট-A বিজ্ঞান অনুষদ ও লাইফ এন্ড আর্থ সায়েন্স অনুষদ	০১/০১/২০২৭	শুক্রবার	সকাল ১০.০০টা থেকে সকাল ১১.০০টা পর্যন্ত
ইউনিট-E চারুকলা অনুষদ	০৮/০১/২০২৭	শুক্রবার	সকাল ১০.০০টা থেকে সকাল ১১.৩০টা পর্যন্ত
ইউনিট-B কলা অনুষদ ও আইন অনুষদ	১৫/০১/২০২৭	শুক্রবার	সকাল ১০.০০টা থেকে সকাল ১১.০০টা পর্যন্ত
ইউনিট-C বিজনেস স্টাডিজ অনুষদ	২২/০১/২০২৭	শুক্রবার	সকাল ১০.০০টা থেকে সকাল ১১.০০টা পর্যন্ত
ইউনিট-D সামাজিক বিজ্ঞান অনুষদ	২৩/০১/২০২৭	শনিবার	সকাল ১০.০০টা থেকে সকাল ১১.০০টা পর্যন্ত

11/11/2026

(অধ্যাপক ড. শেখ মোঃ গিয়াস উদ্দিন)
রেজিস্ট্রার (ভারপ্রাপ্ত)
জগন্নাথ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, ঢাকা।

GD-2750

Corruption can't be dressed up as gifts

LGRD state minister's remark on bribes sends the wrong signal

We endorse Transparency International Bangladesh's criticism of LGRD State Minister Mir Shahe Alam's recent remark that government engineers may accept gifts from contractors after completing their work and clearing bills. The anti-corruption organisation rightly cautioned that such comments coming from a public office holder risk legitimising bribery in public procurement and other government works. Accepting personal benefits from contractors whose work they oversee creates an obvious conflict of interest.

It is indeed shocking that the state minister, speaking at a public event, said if a contractor, "being satisfied, gives the engineer a gift from his profit, that does not fall under the category of bribery." This remark cannot be dismissed as offhand—even though the state minister has apologised and withdrawn it—nor does his explanation that he was speaking informally absolve him of his responsibility. The LGRD ministry's defence of the remark is also troubling. Engineers are paid by the state to ensure the quality of public works, certify completed projects, and clear bills in accordance with the rules. Taking gifts from contractors is a clear violation of restrictions on such benefits under the Penal Code as well as government conduct rules, as TIB rightly pointed out.

We are also surprised at the lack of a public statement from the government to distance itself from such a controversial remark. Nor has there been, as of this writing, any reaction from the parliament floor. What does it say about the reality of graft culture in our country?

Our indignation is rooted in numbers. TIB's National Household Survey 2025 on corruption prevalence found that 81.6 percent of households experienced corruption while accessing public services, while 63.6 percent were compelled to pay bribes. The estimated value of bribe transactions around the country reached Tk 12,633.2 crore in 2025. These numbers represent citizens paying extra for services to which they are entitled, often because they have no meaningful alternative. The Anti-Corruption Commission, too, has fallen short in its role as the primary graft watchdog. TIB found that only 0.3 percent of survey respondents had lodged complaints with the ACC, pointing to a serious trust deficit.

We resent Shahe Alam's remark and expect more responsible, measured public speaking from our government officials. On its part, the government must publicly reaffirm that corruption cannot be excused under any circumstances, and strengthen the institutions meant to tackle it.

This is not an isolated incident. Earlier in February, only days after taking office, Road Transport Minister Shaikh Rabiul Alam argued that collections from transport operators were not extortion if made through mutual understanding. Can one really doubt that such attempts to redefine questionable practices weaken the government's credibility? We resent Shahe Alam's remark and expect more responsible, measured public speaking from our government officials. On its part, the government must publicly reaffirm that corruption cannot be excused under any circumstances, and strengthen the institutions meant to tackle it. If the government wants people to put their trust in its capabilities, it must match its anti-graft pledge with consistent action.

Assess needs before expanding UHCs

Govt must prioritise service delivery at existing facilities

At a time when existing upazila health complexes (UHCs) across the country remain underutilised because of acute manpower shortages and a lack of essential equipment and facilities, the government's plan to upgrade all UHCs to 151-bed facilities at an estimated cost of Tk 45,000 crore seems ambitious. While strengthening healthcare services at the grassroots level is essential, expanding every facility to the same capacity without a clear assessment of local needs raises questions about the project's priorities and feasibility.

According to a report by this daily, the three-year project, scheduled to begin in December 2026, will involve constructing new hospital buildings, replacing dilapidated structures, and renovating existing facilities across 443 upazilas. It will also introduce specialised services, including intensive care, kidney dialysis, eye care, and cancer screening. However, upgrading all UHCs to 151 beds, regardless of their individual needs, overlooks significant differences in population, disease burden, location, and existing healthcare capacity.

According to the Health Bulletin 2023, occupancy rates at the 20 least-used UHCs ranged from 11 to 65 percent, while those at the 20 most heavily burdened facilities stood between 160 and 221 percent. This means some facilities are struggling to accommodate patients, while others are not. Moreover, 24 of our upazilas remain without any UHCs. A uniform expansion plan therefore may not be the most effective way to address these disparities.

Over the past decades, this daily has consistently reported on the poor condition of our UHCs, where patients are often deprived of essential primary healthcare. As these facilities remain ineffective, patients are forced to travel long distances to seek treatment at tertiary hospitals. The continued suffering of dengue and measles patients in remote areas should serve as an eye-opener for the government. Shouldn't it first ensure that these facilities are adequately staffed, properly equipped, and effectively managed before undertaking such a massive project with public money?

We believe it would be prudent for the government to first conduct comprehensive upazila-specific assessments of existing facilities, patient demand, disease patterns, population projections, and future healthcare requirements. As health experts have pointed out, replacing dilapidated buildings is necessary, but new infrastructure must be designed according to local needs. More importantly, the existing shortage of doctors, nurses and support staff must be addressed urgently. Without adequate manpower, equipment, medicines and other essential logistics, additional beds and specialised units risk remaining underused.

How can we make healthcare decentralisation work?

Lessons from an upazila-level project



Dr Syed Abdul Hamid is professor at the Institute of Health Economics of the University of Dhaka.

■ **SYED ABDUL HAMID**

Bangladesh has a strong rural primary healthcare network comprising upazila health complexes (UHCs), union health and family welfare centres, health sub-centres, and community clinics. Still, persistent challenges such as inadequate staffing, limited diagnostic facilities, poor maintenance, and weak institutional capacity have continued to undermine service quality, leading to underutilisation and patient dissatisfaction.

The Upazila Governance and Development Project (UGDP), implemented by the Local Government Division (LGD) under the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, represented a bold bet on decentralisation. Launched in FY2015-16 and completed on December 31, 2025, UGDP strengthened upazila parishads through performance-based financing, capacity development, and targeted infrastructure and service-delivery sub-projects. High-performing upazilas received additional funds, typically Tk 50 lakh per year on top of the upazila Annual Development Programme (ADP) block allocation from the government.

Under the project, more than 47,000 medical works, items, and supplies were delivered across 408 upazilas. Later, assessment of 158 upazilas showed that 91.88 percent of the 29,257 items distributed there are currently operational and actively serving patients—far better than many comparable public infrastructure initiatives. The upazilas invested over Tk 113 crore in obtaining diagnostic tools, upgrading facilities, and addressing local gaps through decentralised procurement that proved faster and more responsive than traditional centralised systems. This success validated the core idea: when local governments are empowered with funds and authority, they can tailor solutions to real community needs, fostering a stronger sense of ownership.

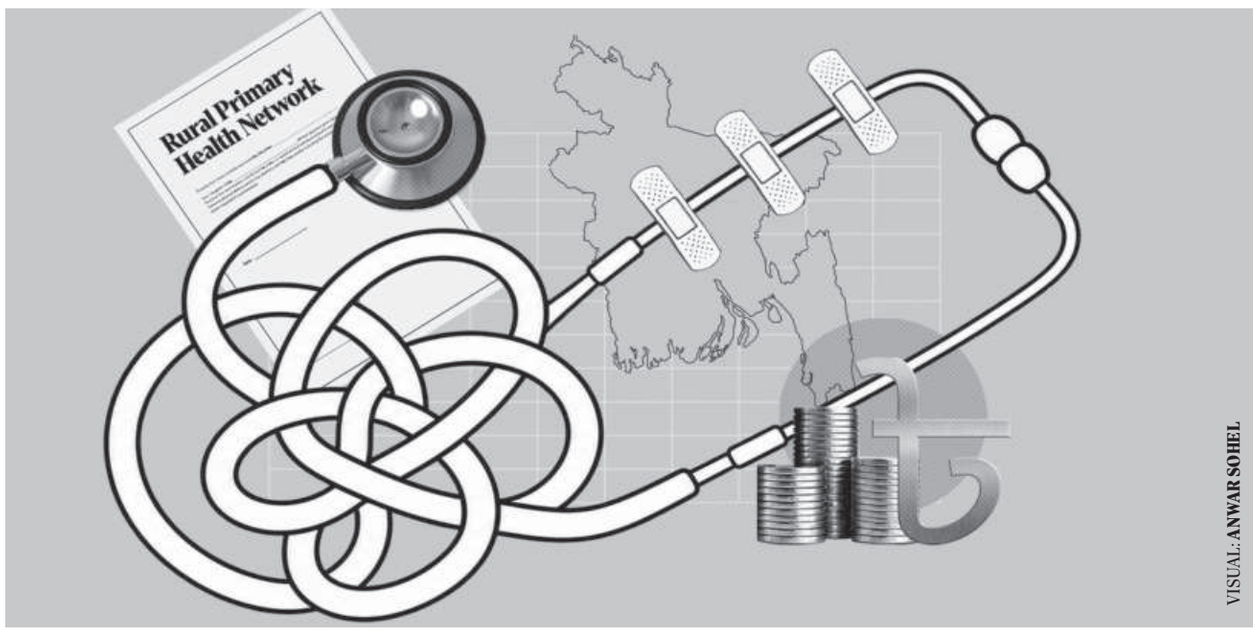
However, the same assessment also exposed systemic "structural friction" that threatens long-term sustainability. In the 158 upazilas covered under the study, approximately 8.11 percent (2,375 out of 29,257 units) of equipment were non-functional or underutilised, not primarily due to manufacturing defects, but because of deep mismatches between hardware provision and the human, financial and logistical systems managed by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Media often reported on high-tech anaesthesia machines sitting idle in facilities lacking sanctioned junior anaesthesia consultants; X-ray and ultrasonography units gathering dust without radiologists; ambulances delivered without trained drivers or dedicated fuel budgets, etc. Minor faults escalate into full breakdowns because local managers have no quick-access "emergency repair fund" and must navigate lengthy central approvals. Diagnostic equipment often becomes inoperable once initial stocks of reagents, films, or consumables run out, with no flexible local budget to replenish them. These issues mirror broader, well-documented challenges in our rural health system: chronic workforce shortages (with over half of physician posts at many UHCs vacant in some divisions); high workloads on existing staff; and rigid financial rules that hinder timely maintenance.

Besides, Bangladesh's overall health workforce density remains below the recommendations of the World Health Organization (WHO), with pronounced rural-urban imbalances. Doctors and specialists gravitate towards cities, leaving remote upazilas struggling. Even when equipment arrives, the absence of matching specialists creates "deadweight loss." Studies using Workload Indicators of Staffing Need (WISN) confirm that physicians and nurses at UHCs often operate under very high workload pressure, yet sanctioned posts frequently go unfilled, exacerbating inefficiencies.

Maintenance and supply chain gaps compound the problem. Small repairs (under Tk 20,000) can sideline machines for months. Consumables exhaustion turns sophisticated diagnostics into expensive paperweights. Logistical oversights, such as generators without fuel allocations, further erode returns on investment. These frictions risk turning hundreds of crores of taka in public assets into depreciating liabilities, eroding public trust, and driving more referrals to already overburdened district and tertiary hospitals.

To transform the infrastructure victories achieved under the UGDP into a durable, self-sustaining ecosystem, Bangladesh must move beyond ad-hoc procurement and embrace a roadmap defined by inter-ministerial integration and local autonomy. At first, the "No Staff, No Stuff" mandate must be enforced. We must stop delivering sophisticated hardware to facilities that lack the specialists to use them. The procurement of specialised equipment must be strictly synchronised with human resource deployment. This requires a Joint Human Resource Mapping Protocol between the health and LGRD ministries to ensure that infrastructure sub-projects are only approved when the necessary specialists are either already on site or are part of a firm, imminent recruitment timeline. This must be paired with aggressive rural retention incentives, such as hardship allowances, improved housing, and faster career progression, so that our best medical minds are willing to serve in the heartlands where they are needed most.



VISUAL: ANWAR SOHEL

Simultaneously, we must address rigid financial rules that turn minor mechanical issues into long-term breakdowns. Currently, a small repair costing less than Tk 20,000 can sideline a vital machine for months while local managers navigate the labyrinth of central approvals. We must grant our local facilities the breathing room to act swiftly. By authorising upazila parishads to ring-fence a portion of income generated from diagnostic services using UGDP-provided equipment, they can be empowered to handle on-site fixes and utility needs without delay. This would also create a self-sustaining cycle of care and accountability.

Moreover, future procurement contracts must be smarter and more comprehensive, mandating the bundling of a full year's supply of consumables and long-term warranties that shift the maintenance burden upstream to the vendors. By integrating this equipment into the National Essential Drug and Supply List, their replenishment can be ensured through established, reliable channels rather than through desperate, ad-hoc local efforts.

Finally, we must institutionalise operational readiness. No high-value asset, be it an ambulance or a generator, should be handed over without a formal verification that the facility is ready to use it. This means having a designated operator, a ring-fenced fuel budget, and a clear maintenance plan in place before the keys are turned over.

The stakes of this transition are incredibly high. If we fail to act, hundreds of crores of taka in public assets may gradually turn into depreciating liabilities. Public trust will erode as communities find that modern facilities and equipment, intended for their benefit, remain inaccessible. Such inaction will inevitably increase overcrowding at already burdened district and tertiary hospitals, slowing our progress towards universal health coverage.

However, decisive action to bridge the gap between infrastructure provision and operational sustainability could transform the lessons of UGDP into a model of global excellence. With the second phase of UGDP (UGDP-2) pledged during the prime minister's visit to Japan, this is the right time to review the project's achievements and challenges and incorporate those lessons into UGDP-2's design. While no single project can transform the healthcare system overnight, careful project design and implementation can build on past successes, address existing shortcomings, and deliver greater and more sustainable impact.

Precision farming must go hand in hand with groundwater protection

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BNP had promised in its election manifesto to bring precision agriculture to Bangladesh. The idea is to use sensors, Earth observation, and other data to provide crops with the right amount of water, fertiliser, and other inputs at the right time. With a growing population, shrinking farmland, and a changing climate, growing more food from what we already have is a national priority. But such ambition must also ensure the protection of groundwater, which has been the backbone of farming progress in Bangladesh.

Shallow and deep tube-wells made widespread rice cultivation possible in the dry season. Today, roughly three-quarters of irrigated dry-season arable land, especially paddy fields, relies on groundwater. In parts of the northwest, however, decades of pumping have been accompanied by falling groundwater levels.

Precision farming can help an individual farmer decide when and how much to irrigate. But saving water on one farm does not necessarily reduce pumping across an area. If the savings allow more land to be irrigated or another crop to be grown, overall withdrawals could remain unchanged or increase. The larger question is about how much groundwater can be used, where, and when, without undermining future supplies.

Answering that question means understanding aquifers: the underground layers of sand or rock that store and transmit water. Their capacity to supply water depends on geology, how water is released from storage, and how it is replenished by rainfall, rivers, or neighbouring layers. Conditions can differ between villages and even between shallow and deep aquifers beneath the same area. In some shallow aquifers, dry season pumping lowers the water table, leaving more space for monsoon water to infiltrate. Where infiltration is favourable, this seasonal cycle can increase the volume stored underground. But space does not guarantee replenishment. Excessive pumping can reduce river flows, affect nearby wells or cause continuing depletion.

The Barind region provides a stern warning. In some places, pumping has lowered groundwater pressure until the water level fell below the clay layer that previously sealed the aquifer. Water then begins to drain from the aquifer itself, rather than being released mainly through changes in pressure. More water is released for each further metre of decline, so the water level may start falling more slowly even while abstraction continues. While that could seem reassuring, it is not evidence of recovery.

Replenishment also varies across the Barind Tract. Some aquifers receive water through overlying layers or other connected pathways; thick clay restricts it elsewhere. Even a seasonal recovery in water levels must also be interpreted alongside geology and the effects of pumping on neighbouring users. Water-level trends alone cannot tell us how much water can be used sustainably.

This is why groundwater management cannot follow district or upazila boundaries alone. One aquifer may extend across several districts, while neighbouring farms may draw water from different aquifers or from different depths in the same area. Uniform limits on pumping or water-level decline could be too restrictive in one place and dangerously lenient in another.

For better decision-making, the foundation Bangladesh already has in place can be used. The Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) has historically monitored groundwater levels weekly in more than 1,200 observation wells, alongside newer automated measurements. Weekly records reveal seasonal recovery and persistent decline; higher frequency readings can also help identify short-term pumping and recovery responses. To interpret them, monitoring wells must be linked to the depth and geological layer they actually measure. Combined with geological maps, aquifer properties, irrigation records and estimates of potential monsoon replenishment, they could provide a water account for each aquifer or management zone.

This account would track how much water enters, how much is withdrawn, how much flows away naturally and how storage changes. Crucially, it could also assess where seasonal pumping creates useful storage that the monsoon can refill, and where further abstraction risks lasting harm. In suitable locations, it could also guide efforts to direct surplus monsoon water underground to increase replenishment, a practice known as managed aquifer recharge (MAR), provided the geology and water quality are suitable.

A Barind pilot bringing together BWDB, Barind Multipurpose Development Authority, agricultural extension services, and research institutions could map aquifer boundaries, define management zones, and compare crop-water demand with locally available supplies. Some zones might support carefully managed seasonal use; others may need stricter limits where replenishment is slow, or excessive pumping threatens long-term groundwater availability and local drinking water supplies. Farmers would use precision tools to cut waste, and their knowledge of crops and wells should shape the pilot. Precision irrigation could reduce waste, while evidence-based withdrawal limits, crop choices, and finding alternatives for surface water would respond to conditions in each zone.

The government should judge precision agriculture not simply by yields or sensors installed, but by whether farming remains productive without exhausting groundwater. Aquifer-level accounting would turn existing groundwater data into decisions about where to use more efficiently, where to replenish, and where to restrain pumping.

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Chattogram's expansion into flood-prone areas is a dangerous gamble



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■ MD DELWAR HOSSAIN MAZUMDAR

Bangladesh's main seaport is in Chattogram, a sprawling metropolis endowed with the distinct natural features of hills, rivers and the sea. Driven by port-centric industrialisation, employment opportunities, trade and commerce, and population growth, the city is expanding rapidly. But how planned and environmentally sound this expansion has been and how prepared it is to withstand future climate risks remains a question.

Findings from the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) Asia-Pacific Climate Report 2026, reported by The Daily Star on October 22, serve as a fresh warning. According to the report, Chattogram's built-up area spanned 66.1 square kilometres in 2016, expanding to 73.5 square kilometres by 2025. Over this period, settlements and infrastructure in flood-prone zones grew by 16.2 percent, compared to a 9.7 percent growth rate on safer land. What's most alarming is that expansion has been fastest in the city's most vulnerable areas. The report noted that nearly a quarter of Chattogram's built-up area is at risk of inundation from severe coastal flooding. In other words, the city is not just expanding; a significant portion of this growth is occurring in areas where coastal floodwaters could reach hazardous levels in the future.

Waterlogging has been a particularly troubling problem in recent years. A combination of heavy rainfall, runoff from the hills, tidal water, inadequate drainage systems, and encroachment on canals and drains makes life extremely difficult during the monsoon. However, seeing it as simply an issue of cleaning drains and canals would leave the root cause unaddressed. A city's natural waterways, low-lying retention basins, ponds, wetlands, and open spaces temporarily hold rainwater. When these areas are filled up to build roads and structures, the soil's capacity to absorb rainwater diminishes. At the same time, natural runoff is restricted, quickly overwhelming the drainage system with massive volumes of water within a short period.

The crisis is further aggravated by hill-cutting, silt accumulation in canals, canal encroachment, unplanned road elevation, and utility infrastructure obstructing water flow. During high tides, rising river and canal levels also prevent rainwater from draining out. When combined with heavy rainfall, these factors make waterlogging particularly devastating.

In various parts of Chattogram, residential and commercial structures have been built on natural water bodies and low-lying areas. Questions have been raised about changes in land use in several areas, including Anannya Residential Area, Kulgaon, Baluchhara, and Jalalabad. Reports have also highlighted encroachment and illegal structures around the Chaktai canal, Mirza canal, Manoharkhali canal, and the Kalirchhara canal. Similarly, development activities along the banks of the Karnaphuli River have again raised concerns about the natural waterways and environmental constraints.

It is important to realise that approval from a housing or infrastructure development authority does not automatically make a project environmentally safe. The soundness of a plan depends on whether it takes into account the nature of the land, drainage routes, the need to preserve water bodies, and future flood risks. These are precisely the criteria against which questions can be, and have been, raised about the filling up of water bodies and low-lying areas in the Chattogram Development Authority's (CDA) own Anannya Residential Project.

It is important to realise that approval from a housing or infrastructure development authority does not automatically make a project environmentally safe. The soundness of a plan depends on whether it takes into account the nature of the land, drainage routes, the need to preserve water bodies, and future flood risks. These are precisely the criteria against which questions can be, and have been, raised about the filling up of water bodies and low-lying areas in the Chattogram Development Authority's (CDA) own Anannya Residential Project. Therefore, the CDA's projects must also be assessed against the same environmental standards.



In recent years, a combination of heavy rainfall, inadequate drainage systems and canal encroachments has turned flooding into a recurring problem for Chattogram. FILE PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Plans exist, but where is the implementation?

The CDA's 1995 Stormwater Drainage and Flood Control Master Plan identified various drainage and waterlogging challenges, offering recommendations on where water would accumulate, which routes it should drain through, and where retention ponds were needed. But identifying problems is one thing; resolving them on the ground is another. Multiple projects are currently underway to alleviate waterlogging in Chattogram, and substantial funds are being spent on re-excavating, widening and renovating canals, digging new ones, and constructing flood control infrastructure. While the necessity of these initiatives is undeniable, a closer review of their planning, design and execution reveals several fundamental shortcomings.

First, out of the city's 104 identified canals, ongoing projects cover only 36. As a result, a large part of the overall drainage network remains outside their scope, even though the effectiveness of any canal depends on its connected upstream channels, tributaries, and adjoining drains. Second, 12 proposed silt traps were dropped due to funding constraints and cost-cutting measures. Given the heavy runoff of sand and silt from the hills into the canals, silt traps are vital. Dropping them risks silting up the re-excavated canals within a short period.

Third, the 1995 master plan recommended constructing retention ponds or temporary water reservoirs in the city's low-lying areas. When heavy rainfall coincides with high tides, the drainage of water into rivers and canals is obstructed. In such situations, retention ponds are indispensable for temporarily holding excess runoff. But the ongoing projects have virtually ignored the construction and preservation of such reservoirs. This is a major planning flaw.

Fourth, the natural width of some canals has been reduced during the construction of regulators, potentially obstructing the normal flow of water. Similarly, questions have been raised about plans to install fewer pumps than necessary or pumps with insufficient capacity. It is urgent to reassess whether these pumps will be able to drain sufficient amounts of water during heavy rainfall combined with high tides.

Fifth, faulty designs and infrastructure at certain locations are obstructing water flow through canals. Examples include the construction of two-way box culverts over the Hijra canal in Panchlaish, opposite the medical college, and the Shital Jharna canal near the entrance to Chattogram Cantonment Public School and College. The partition wall in the middle of these culverts could trap waste and obstruct water flow. Such obstructions further reduce drainage capacity, particularly during heavy rainfall. In addition, there are persistent problems with disconnected canal networks, improperly graded bed levels and flow directions, and obstructions created by utility pipelines and other structures.

Another issue is the piecemeal tendency to raise road levels to combat waterlogging. In many cases, roads have been elevated without factoring in the height of adjoining drains and properties, leaving houses and shops lower than the street. As a result, even light rainfall causes overflow or seepage from drains to enter these properties.

There have also been instances of poor coordination during project implementation. Temporary embankments or barriers have reportedly been constructed at the mouths of the Hijra and Jamalkhan canals to facilitate construction work, obstructing water drainage. Meanwhile, the exchange of accusations between the city corporation and the CDA over canal cleaning, drainage connections, and obstructions caused by construction work highlights the lack of coordination in project implementation. Such disputes are unacceptable when it comes to an integrated task like resolving waterlogging.

Finally, clear arrangements must be made to ensure that the completed canals, regulators, pumps, and silt traps can be effectively operated and maintained, with adequate institutional responsibility and capacity. Without dedicated manpower, equipment, funding, and a clear operations and maintenance manual, sustaining these structures over the long term will be impossible.

Need for an integrated, science-based approach

To protect Chattogram, it is not enough to just drain water after waterlogging occurs. Questions of where water will accumulate, which paths it will take, and which areas are safe for human settlement and infrastructure must be resolved at the very beginning of development planning.

First, a comprehensive flood risk map must be prepared for Chattogram and its expanding peripheries, identifying potential flood depths, water flow routes, water bodies, low-lying areas, hill runoff, and tidal surges. Second, independent experts must review the ongoing projects and designs. Necessary steps must be taken to restore dropped canals and silt traps, build retention ponds, correct regulator and pump capacities, fix culvert flaws, and complete missing canal connections.

Third, canals, ponds, wetlands, and low-lying retention basins must be surveyed, demarcated, and legally protected. Stringent action should be taken against illegal encroachment and land-filling. Fourth, the responsibilities of the CDA, Chittagong City Corporation, Bangladesh Water Development Board, port authority, and utility agencies must be clearly defined by law, with effective coordination mechanisms. A single capable agency should oversee drainage operations and maintenance.

Fifth, planned satellite towns should be developed in neighbouring upazilas to ease demographic and infrastructural pressure on the city. Expanding employment, education, healthcare and public transit in those areas would eliminate the need for people to settle in vulnerable low-lying urban areas.

As much of the country's import and export trade passes through Chattogram port, the city's climate resilience is vital not just to the national economy but also to its residents. Urban expansion may be inevitable, but unplanned growth across floodplains is not. The authorities concerned must ensure that today's development does not become tomorrow's disaster.

Beyond BNP-AL rivalries, the search for a new political path



Mohiuddin Ahmad is a writer and researcher of Bangladesh's political history.

■ MOHIUDDIN AHMAD

Politics in Bangladesh is like a vast river at twilight. From afar, it may appear tranquil and unchanging. But a closer look reveals hidden currents, swirling eddies, and relentless undercurrents pulling against one another beneath the surface.

For decades, two political forces stood upon the opposing banks of this river. On one side stood Awami League, now barred from political activities; on the other, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), now the ruling party. Much of Bangladesh's political history since independence has been written around these two parties. Parliamentary debates, contested elections, street agitations, mass movements, and even the political arguments of ordinary households have often revolved around these rival poles.

They were adversaries, each other's fiercest critics, and the principal actors in the recurring drama of power and opposition. Ironically, each party, in a sense, has depended upon the existence of the other. Like day and night, they were opposites that derived meaning and relevance from their contrast. The two parties also defined the boundaries within which Bangladesh's political life took place.

History, however, is never static. The mass uprising of 2024, the dramatic political transformations that followed, and the subsequent exclusion of Awami League from active politics have thrust Bangladesh into one of the most consequential turning points in its post-independence history. What becomes of a political order when one of its defining pillars is absent? What happens to a nation long accustomed to a political duopoly when the balance is broken?

The conflict between Awami League and BNP was never about elections alone, but also a contest over history. Who was the "legitimate heir" to the Liberation War? How should the nation define itself? What relationship should exist between religion and the state? What should be Bangladesh's place in the region? Over time, political competition evolved into ideological confrontation. Ideological confrontation, in turn, hardened into mutual suspicion. Eventually, suspicion became a struggle for survival. The tragedy of Bangladesh's democracy lies partly in this transformation of the two parties' relationship.

Political opponents in our part of the world often view each other as existential threats. As a consequence, elections cease to be routine democratic exercises and become high-stakes battles in which defeat appears catastrophic and victory absolute. Compromise can be seen as weakness, while restraint may prove to be politically costly.

Following the restoration of parliamentary democracy in 1991, Bangladesh entered an era where power alternated between Awami League and BNP. Other parties existed, some of whom exercised influence and even played important roles in coalition-building. But the centre of gravity remained firmly fixed between BNP and Awami League.

This arrangement brought a certain predictability as citizens knew that governments could change. No party appeared invincible, no electoral victory seemed permanent. But rivalry between the two parties gradually expanded beyond politics into institutions, bureaucracy, academia, and civil society. Public institutions increasingly found themselves drawn into partisan conflicts. Trust became scarce. Consensus became elusive. The state itself sometimes appeared caught in the struggle between competing political narratives.

Awami League occupies a unique place in Bangladesh's history; its roots stretch into the struggles that shaped modern political consciousness in the country. The party played a profound role in the Language Movement, the Six-Point Movement, the Mass Uprising of 1969 and, ultimately, in the Liberation War. For generations, it was not merely a political party, but also a historical symbol.



VISUAL: SALMAN SAKIB SHAHRYAR

Of course, history offers no permanent immunity. The same party that once embodied the aspirations of a people later became the subject of growing criticism. Years of uninterrupted power brought authoritarian tendencies, shrinking democratic space, weakening opposition politics, and an increasing concentration of authority. Whether one accepts or rejects these criticisms, they accumulated over time.

Like many upheavals in history, the July 2024 uprising appeared sudden, but was built upon years of tension, frustration, and unresolved contradictions. The resulting transformation marked not simply the fall of a government, but the collapse of a political equilibrium that had endured for decades.

At first glance, the weakening of its principal rival might appear an enormous opportunity for BNP. History, however, suggests otherwise. For opposition parties, power often seems simpler from a distance. Democracy is easy to defend when one is excluded from authority. Institutional neutrality is easy to demand when one does not control the institutions. Transparency is easy to advocate when one is not responsible for governing. Now in power, BNP faces a challenge that transcends electoral politics. Can it avoid repeating the patterns that it once criticised? Can it strengthen institutions rather than merely occupy them? Can it demonstrate that political power can be exercised without reproducing the same cycles of domination and exclusion?

Political parties can be weakened, banned, and/or marginalised. But they rarely disappear completely. Jamaat-e-Islami is a glaring example of the same.

Awami League's legacy is woven deeply into the political fabric of Bangladesh. For that reason, its absence from formal politics does not automatically erase its presence from public life. The future may therefore bring reinvention, fragmentation, or transformation under new leadership or in a different form.

A younger generation has emerged whose concerns differ significantly from those of earlier decades. For many young citizens, old ideological battles hold less emotional power than they once did. Their priorities are more immediate: employment, education, merit-based opportunities, transparency, efficient governance, freedom of expression, economic mobility, and so forth. This generation did not live through the foundational conflicts of earlier eras. It inherited their consequences but not necessarily their loyalties. As a result, the politics of the future may not revolve exclusively around the historic Awami League-BNP divide. Instead, it may increasingly revolve around a set of questions: who governs effectively? Who combats corruption? Who delivers opportunities? Who protects freedom? Who builds institutions capable of outlasting individuals?

Nations mature when they learn from their own history, and Bangladesh's recent decades can offer powerful lessons for our politicians. Unchecked political dominance creates distortions. But the complete absence of meaningful competition creates dangers of its own. Perhaps what Bangladesh now requires is not a new political arrangement, but a new covenant; a shared understanding that political rivals are not enemies. That elections should not determine who "owns" the state. That political defeat should not mean political extinction. That institutions must be stronger than personalities. Such transformations are never easy as they demand patience, wisdom, restraint, and virtues not traditionally found in our politics. But without them, the cycle of confrontation risks perpetuating itself indefinitely.

The old political order may not return. New actors have emerged. Fresh alignments are also taking shape. The entire structure of political competition may evolve into something unrecognisable to earlier generations. But one truth remains: the future of Bangladesh cannot be determined by any single party or leader. It will be determined by the resilience of institutions, the wisdom of citizens, and the nation's ability to reconcile freedom with stability.

Celebrating HUMAYUN AHMED and his incomparable talent



PHOTO: STAR

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Humayun Ahmed was more than a celebrated novelist, playwright and filmmaker. He was a storyteller who created characters, dialogues and fictional worlds that gradually became part of Bangladesh's collective imagination.

From novels such as ***Nondito Noroke*** and ***Shonkhonil Karagar*** to television dramas that brought the country to a standstill, his creative journey left an extraordinary mark on Bangladeshi literature and entertainment. As a filmmaker, he also directed acclaimed works, including ***Aguner Poroshmoni***, drawing inspiration from the country's Liberation War.

On his birth anniversary today, his remarkable body of work offers a reminder of a legacy that continues to resonate with generations of readers and audiences.

A literary journey that began with 'Nondito Noroke'

Humayun Ahmed introduced himself to readers with his debut novel, ***Nondito Noroke***, published by Khan Brothers in April 1972, on the occasion of Pahela Baishakh. Centring on the lives of a lower-middle-class family, the novel struck an immediate chord with readers. His second novel, ***Shonkhonil Karagar***, published in 1973, further established his place in the literary world.

Over five decades later, both books continue to enjoy immense popularity, reflecting the enduring appeal of his storytelling. His literary creations also gave readers iconic characters such as Himu, Misir Ali and Shuvro, each with a distinct personality and worldview.

When television became a national obsession

Humayun Ahmed's influence extended far beyond literature. His television dramas introduced a new dimension to storytelling, combining everyday experiences, humour, social realities and unforgettable characters.

Kothao Keu Nei remains one of his most iconic creations. The character of Baker *Bhai*, played by Asaduzzaman Noor, became so popular that audiences refused to accept his tragic fate. When Baker *Bhai* was sentenced to death, people took to the streets in protest, demanding that he be spared. During its broadcast, streets would often become deserted as audiences gathered around their television sets.

His other celebrated productions included ***Bohubrihi***, ***Ayomoy***, ***Ei Shob Din Ratri***, ***Nokkhotrer Raat*** and ***Aaj Robibar***.

Characters that outlived their stories

One of Humayun Ahmed's greatest strengths was his ability to create characters that audiences continued to identify with long after a drama ended.

Asaduzzaman Noor became synonymous with Baker *Bhai*, while Bipasha Hayat's portrayal of Lobongo in ***Ayomoy*** remains memorable. Sara Zaker's Elachi Begum was equally well received.

Similarly, Faruque Ahmed's Moti in ***Aaj Robibar***, Aly Zaker's *Borochacha* in the same drama and Farid *Mama* in ***Bohubrihi***, and Dolly Zahur's Nilu in ***Ei Shob Din Ratri*** became audience favourites. Mahfuz Ahmed also gained recognition through his portrayal of Moti in ***Kothao Keu Nei***. Abul Hayat, meanwhile, frequently brought his memorable stern and short-tempered characters to life in the writer's productions.

A filmmaker with a distinct vision

Humayun Ahmed's creative brilliance also found expression in cinema. His film ***Aguner Poroshmoni***, based on the Liberation War, received widespread critical acclaim and won numerous National Film Awards. Featuring Bipasha Hayat as Ratri, Asaduzzaman Noor as freedom fighter Badiul Alam and Abul Hayat as Matin Sahib, the film moved audiences with its deeply human portrayal of wartime experiences.

He went on to direct films such as ***Shyamol Chhaya***, ***Dui Duari***, ***Srabon Megher Din***, ***Amar Ache Jol***, ***Noy Nombor Bipod Shongket*** and ***Chandrokotha***. His final directorial venture, ***Ghetuputra Komola***, further demonstrated his distinctive approach to filmmaking.

A recipient of the Bangla Academy Award and the Independence Award, Humayun Ahmed left behind a body of work that continues to attract new generations of readers and viewers. His stories made people laugh, cry, question society and, above all, fall in love with fictional characters as though they were real.

Perhaps that is what makes him truly exceptional. Long after his passing, his characters continue to live among us, and his stories remain an inseparable part of Bangladesh's cultural memory.

Siam Ahmed and Nazifa Tushi to star in Shankha Dasgupta's new film

Shankha Dasgupta's ***Abar Dekha Hole*** is set for release this Eid ul Fitr, bringing Siam Ahmed and Nazifa Tushi together on screen for the first time.

The family drama also stars Chanchal Chowdhury, Deepa Khandakar, Azizul Hakim, Bijori Barkatullah and Rezwan Pervez.

Dasgupta said the story explores middle-class life, family relationships and everyday conflicts, balancing emotion with humour. It follows a journey of self-discovery, revisiting the past and reconnecting with lost moments.

Written by Md Saifullah Riad, the film is produced by Filmy Features and presented by Singer and Beko. Chorki joins as co-producer and digital partner, in association with MIB Studios.

It marks Dasgupta's second feature made for theatrical release, following ***Priyo Maloti***. His previous work includes ***Cha Gorom***.







EVENTS

'Bangladesh Natya Utsab 2026'

Marking four decades of stagecraft, Bangladesh Theatre gathers 12 leading troupes for a nine-day theatrical showcase. From historical dramas to contemporary adaptations, audiences can experience vibrant stage productions across two auditoriums, complemented by daily open-air music, dance, and recitation celebrating Dhaka's enduring dramatic heritage.

Date: Friday – Saturday | November 13 – 21
Time: 4:00pm (open-air performances), 6:30 pm (stage plays)
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy



NEWS

Govt eyes Tk 300cr plant to cut animal vaccine imports

FROM PAGE 12

vaccines, while demand for two more has emerged, taking the total requirement to 19, according to DLS documents.

Recent DLS data show that Bangladesh has around 46.5 crore livestock and poultry.

Md Shahzaman Khan, director general of the DLS, told The Daily Star that the government had taken the initiative to establish a modern animal vaccine plant in line with its election manifesto, which pledges to reduce dependence on imported vaccines through increased domestic production and public-private partnerships.

He pointed to the wide gap between national demand and local production of several vaccines.

Bangladesh's annual demand for foot-and-mouth disease vaccine is around 3.5 crore doses, against domestic production of just 20 lakh–26 lakh doses.

The gap is also significant for other vaccines: annual demand for Ranikhet disease vaccine is 24.36 crore doses, compared with local production of 8.7 crore; duck plague vaccine, 8.4 crore against 3.54 crore; fowl cholera vaccine, 22.4 crore against 1.6 crore; and anthrax vaccine, 1 crore against 80 lakh doses, Shahzaman said.

State Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Sultan Salauddin Tuku at a recent event said building domestic capacity for livestock vaccine production was crucial to achieving self-reliance.

Investment in research, innovation and trained scientists would help Bangladesh reduce import costs, respond more quickly to disease outbreaks, protect farmers' incomes and strengthen long-term food security, he said.

However, Prof Hafiza Khatun, head of the animal science department at Bangladesh Agricultural University, said that while the initiative was positive, greater priority should also be given to improving farm management, raising farmers' awareness and addressing the effects of climate change.

Proper management and biosecurity measures are essential to preventing disease outbreaks and improving productivity, she said.

Government investment should also focus more on direct support for farmers, nutritional supplements and other critical areas of livestock development, she added.

Democrat Colom wins Mississippi Senate seat

FROM PAGE 12

The Mississippi Senate race was one of the final races to be called after the elections. The contest was so tight that Colom at times led the vote count by only a few dozen votes.

The latest media-tabulated results showed him ahead by more than 4,500 votes, or 0.5 percentage point.

Colom, a 43-year-old district attorney, became the first Democrat to win a Mississippi Senate seat since John Stennis in 1982. He harnessed frustration over the cost of living with a breakout campaign ad in which voters ridiculed Hyde-Smith's suggestion that consumers could choose other "proteins" instead of paying rising beef prices.

Hyde-Smith, 67, who was appointed to the Senate in 2018 and won a special election later that year, had consistently led opinion polls in a state that Trump won by nearly 23 points in 2024. Trump campaigned in Mississippi for Hyde-Smith near the end of the race.

"While this is not the outcome we worked for or hoped for, I respect the decision of Mississippi voters. I want to congratulate Scott Colom and wish him well," Hyde-Smith said in a video posted on social media.

In the midterms, Republicans lost control of both chambers, leaving Trump facing a Democratic-controlled Congress for the first time in either of his two terms and presenting the opposition party with a chance to block highly partisan legislation and investigate Trump's administration.

The Mississippi victory gives the Democrats a 55-44 advantage in the 100-member Senate, with the winner in one Senate race from last week's election – in Alaska – yet to be determined. The Democrats have also gained 41 seats in the House of Representatives so far, holding an advantage of 254 to 168 with 13 races yet to be called.

In addition, Democrats won several high-profile federal and statewide races in states long dominated by Republicans, including Texas.

Mississippi's white voters, deep in the once-segregated South, turned the state solidly Republican with the political realignment that followed the civil rights movement of the 1960s. Many of the movement's defining battles took place in Mississippi, where Black people faced discrimination in voting, employment, education and public accommodations.

Nvidia CEO Huang steps down in big blow to AI boom

FROM PAGE 12

affair with a Chinese businesswoman who US authorities suspect of spying for Beijing.

Nvidia's board met on Wednesday to consider his ouster, a person familiar with the matter said, after reports earlier in the day that Huang also had an extramarital affair with a senior company executive who reported to him.

Huang's exit plunges the $4 trillion company into uncertainty and threatens to disrupt an AI ecosystem that he helped bankroll by pouring Nvidia's swelling cash pile back into cloud providers, suppliers and the industry's biggest labs.

"The risk is not that Nvidia suddenly loses its technology roadmap ... that roadmap is largely visible for the next several years. The risk is execution. Jensen has been the chief conductor of an extraordinarily complex system," said Michael Feldman, portfolio manager at ClearBridge Investments.

"In a world with real bottlenecks, that coordination is a competitive advantage in itself."

Investor sentiment toward AI stocks has already been shaky as soaring cash burn and rising debt at traditionally cash-rich tech giants fuel doubts over whether the AI boom will pay off.

The departure could also have far-reaching consequences for US chip export policy, given Huang's push to preserve access to the Chinese market and his close ties with US President Donald Trump.

Trump said on Sunday that Huang had "done an amazing job for our country" and that the Nvidia chief had told him he had no idea the Chinese woman he had an affair with was a spy.

Man gets death for killing judge's son

FROM PAGE 12

The judge, Abdur Rahman, then serving as a metropolitan sessions judge in Rajshahi, was at court during the attack.

Police took the victims to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared Tawsif dead. His mother was admitted with serious injuries.

Police later detained Limon.

The following day, Abdur Rahman filed a murder case against Limon with Rajpara Police Station.

During the trial, 29 witnesses, including Tawsif's parents, testified, said Public Prosecutor Ali Ashraf Masum.

Limon, son of HM Solaiman Hossain, hails from Modonerpara village in Gaibandha's Fulchhari upazila.

His father is the organisational secretary of the upazila BNP and a former union parishad member.

Limon joined the army after completing his higher secondary education at Gaibandha Government College but left the service in 2018. He later became involved in various businesses.

BNP leader shot dead inside Khulna shop

FROM PAGE 12

formed to reorganise the BNP's TSB Union unit. He was also involved in the sand business.

Mizanur Rahman Milton, convener of the media cell of Khulna Metropolitan BNP, confirmed his political affiliation.

According to a Khulna District Police press release, two helmet-clad men parked their motorcycle beside the shop. One of them entered the shop and shot Zakir in the head.

The assailants then fled on the motorcycle.

Locals took Zakir to Rupsha Upazila Health Complex, where he died while undergoing treatment.

Khulna Superintendent of Police Sarker Omar Faroque said efforts were underway to identify and arrest those involved in the killing and determine the motive behind it.

China, US discuss raising denuclearisation at Russia trilateral

AFP, *Washington*

Top Chinese and US diplomats raised the possibility that Presidents Xi Jinping and Donald Trump could discuss denuclearization during a potential trilateral leaders' meeting with Russia next week, according to the US State Department.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi spoke by phone ahead of the November 18-19 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) conference in the Chinese tech hub of Shenzhen, both countries said.

Presidents Donald Trump, Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin could also hold a trilateral meeting on APEC's sidelines, after US, Chinese and Russian officials each said their countries were in discussions about such talks.

During their call, Rubio and Wang "agreed on the importance of meaningful leader-level conversations to advance goals such as peace and denuclearization, including at any potential trilateral leaders meeting with Russia," the US State Department said Wednesday on social media.

The call came at China's request, it added.

Trump has said he would like to discuss denuclearization with Xi and Putin, although Beijing has not confirmed nuclear arms control would feature on a trilateral agenda.

Washington earlier said it wanted China to be part of a nuclear arms control deal after a bilateral treaty with Moscow expired in February.

At the time Beijing declined to join disarmament negotiations, saying its nuclear capabilities were of a different scale to those of Russia and the US.

Wang told Rubio during their call that China was "willing to strengthen communication and cooperation with the US," according to a Chinese foreign ministry statement.

The two countries reached an agreement to calm trade tensions during last year's APEC summit in South Korea after they had exchanged tariff escalations earlier in 2025.

Beijing stands ready to "properly handle differences and sensitive issues" with Washington, Wang said, adding that "stability" in US-China ties had been "hard won."

Perform or step

FROM PAGE 12

Reminding them that both the prime minister's father and mother had served as heads of state and government, he said that politicians, in certain cases, do not present an accurate picture due to local feuds or internal grouping.

In such matters, the prime minister relies on the bureaucracy to provide the true picture, he said.

The trust reposed by the prime minister must be honoured through the proper discharge of their duties, Sattar said.

Political leaders hold the impression that the bureaucracy is failing to demonstrate efficiency and is not cooperating as required to implement government policies.

"Politicians do not believe we are working with dedication. I do not know who this applies to, but if it is true, it is better to step down from the responsibility. And if it is false, shatter that perception through the performance of your respective ministries," said one of the secretaries.

Another secretary reminded his colleagues that the head of government had entrusted them with state responsibilities in good faith and that they must work accordingly to implement the government's election manifesto.

"It is very easy to measure who is working and who is falling short," the official said, stressing that there is no scope to show inefficiency while heading a ministry or division.

If inefficiency is shown, outsiders will seize the opportunity to take over the responsibilities, and officials must therefore work with caution.

Another official said Ghani sought to energise attendees, alternating between soft and firm tones.

Sources said Ghani cautioned officials so that he would not have to show his tough side, adding that anyone who considered him weak would be mistaken.

Special emphasis was placed on the swift implementation of development projects during the meeting.

The slow pace of certain ministries, including the health ministry, was discussed, while others, including the education ministry, were noted to be performing well.

Regarding project execution, another secretary advised his counterparts to hold regular meetings with project directors, stressing the need to examine whether directors were incompetent or deliberately delaying implementation.

Ghani also urged that necessary documents for meetings of the cabinet and various cabinet committees be sent to the Cabinet Division at least two to three days in advance.

In many instances, papers on crucial procurement proposals are being placed directly at cabinet committee meetings, hampering the preparations required for decision-making.

Surviving only on rice and lentils

FROM PAGE 1

Food Programme's (WFP) revised assistance system, down from $12.

"We cannot buy vegetables," Anowara, who fled Myanmar in 2017, told The Daily Star in Cox's Bazar's Rohingya camps last week.

Her husband has received treatment at a Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) hospital, while their children remain largely unaware of the family's hardship.

Despite his illness, the family receives the lowest assistance. It remains unclear whether his condition was considered during assessment.

Other refugees described surviving largely on rice and lentils, with fish, meat, eggs and vegetables increasingly unaffordable amid worsening child malnutrition and funding uncertainty.

Since April 1, WFP has replaced the uniform $12 monthly allocation with three tiers under its Targeting and Prioritisation Exercise.

The system assesses household composition and vulnerability, prioritising child-headed households, some female- and elderly-headed families, and households with persons with disabilities.

WFP said the changes were unrelated to funding shortages.

WFP's Andrey Shirkov told The Daily Star in writing that 33 percent of refugees were classified as extremely food-insecure, receiving $12 monthly, while 50 percent received $10 and 17 percent $7.

WFP monitoring found acceptable food consumption among 70 percent of surveyed households, against 73 percent in 2025.

"However, dietary quality remains a concern, particularly for women and young children, while households receiving the lowest level of assistance face greater difficulty making their assistance last through the month."

EVEN $12 IS A STRUGGLE

Ummul Qayes, widowed after her husband's death from illness, fled Myanmar in 2017. She receives $12 per person monthly for herself and her 13-year-old son.

They survive on rice and watery lentils, affording fish every three or four days. She longs to return to Myanmar, where they once had a home.

Shah Alam, who arrived on August 25, 2017, receives $10 per person for his family of five. An imam who did not specify whether he earns regularly, he cannot afford meat and other food his three children want.

A camp resident said the classification could overlook working-age adults without income.

"Some young adults continue studying, while others find only occasional, low-paid work," the source said.

Families previously sold food allocations to buy medicine, fuel, clothing and necessities, but now have less to sell, the source added.

Sayed Ullah, first president of the United Council of Rohingya, said refugees sold WFP-supplied oil and lentils for fish or meat to diversify their diets, not because they had surplus food.

"If someone cannot survive on $12, how can they survive on $7?" he asked.

Mohammad Habib, chief majhi of Camp 15, said food aid alone could not alleviate prolonged displacement's hardship.

CHILD MALNUTRITION ON THE RISE

The 2026 Nutrition SMART Survey, conducted by Action Against Hunger with UNICEF and WFP funding, found 14.6 percent of Rohingya children aged six to 59 months acutely malnourished, 42.6 percent stunted and 36.9 percent underweight.

Among children aged six to 23 months, only 37.3 percent received a minimum acceptable diet; 44.6 percent had eaten no vegetables the previous day, according to findings presented on October 28.

UNHCR figures show acute malnutrition rising from 8.6 percent in 2024 to 13.9 percent in 2025 and 14.6 percent in 2026. The survey does not establish whether April's assistance changes contributed.

Dr Md Sarwar Jahan, assistant health coordinator at the Office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner, said even $12 barely covered survival at current prices, let alone nutritious food.

He acknowledged the system prioritised vulnerable households but warned prolonged resource shortages could worsen malnutrition, stressing food and emergency healthcare priorities.

UNICEF's November 4 humanitarian report said 10,400 Rohingya children with severe acute malnutrition were treated between January and September 2026, while 177,100 were screened for wasting.

These are service figures, not the current malnutrition caseload.

FUNDING UNCERTAINTY

WFP funding is worsening as international support declines, Shirkov said.

Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner Mohammed Mizanur Rahman warned dwindling assistance could drive refugees outside camps seeking food and work, pressuring surrounding communities. Families surviving on plain rice, particularly women and children, also faced nutritional risks.

"The existing three-tier system had funding available until April 2027, but no commitments beyond then. Further reductions were possible without new pledges in the next two or three months," he said.

He cited WFP's September warning of possible interruption to general food assistance from December 2026.

Separately, WFP also warned in its September country brief that resources for general food assistance could be exhausted by December 2026 without additional funding.

Rahman said his office urged the United States and European Union to increase support and suggested seeking Gulf countries' food assistance.

"The solution is repatriation, while an interim solution is for donors to increase their contributions," he said.

UNHCR Bangladesh spokesperson Shari Nijman said the 2026 Joint Response Plan sought $710.5 million for 1.56 million refugees and host community members, 26 percent below the 2025 appeal, prioritising urgent life-saving interventions.

"Scaling back the response to the bare minimum of life-saving support will bring inevitable risks and repercussions, including in food security, healthcare and nutrition," she told The Daily Star.

She urged predictable, multi-year support, warning service cuts could deepen vulnerability and harmful coping practices.

Dhaka-Delhi consular talks postponed

FROM PAGE 1

disclose any details.

Ahead of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's probable visit to India later this year, the two countries have begun a series of bilateral engagements to prepare the ground for a high-level meeting.

A trade-related meeting was held last month, while the consular dialogue was also part of the broader preparations for the possible visit, the official added.

The dialogue, which began in 2017, provides a forum for discussing consular matters, visa procedures, and mutual legal assistance. The two countries have held four rounds so far, with the latest taking place in New Delhi in May 2024.

The upcoming talks were expected to cover a range of issues, including border management, alleged push-ins from India, visa services, the repatriation of detained nationals, the release of fishermen, the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty, extradition cases and the renewal of the Revised Travel Arrangement, which has been extended every six months since its expiry in 2023.

Bangladesh had also prepared to press India for the extradition of deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina, former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, and those accused of killing Sharif Osman Bin Hadi, spokesperson for Inqilab Moncho, according to foreign ministry officials.

Dhaka first sought the extradition of Hasina through diplomatic notes verbales in December 2024 and renewed the requests after the International Crimes Tribunal sentenced her to death in November 2025 in a case related to July uprising.

Hasina has been staying in India since August 5, 2024, after the Awami League government was toppled amid a student-led mass uprising.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Bangladesh Meteorological Department
Meteorological & Geo-Physical Center
Agrabad, Chattogram.
www.bmd.chittagong.gov.bd

No. 23.09.1528.560.30.004.24.550

Date: ২৭ কার্তিক ১৪৩৩ / 12 November 2026

e-Tender Notice

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, registation in the Naitonal e-GP system portal (http: www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents of following packages from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank.

S.N.	Package Description	Tender ID	Package No	Last Selling Date & Time	Closing Date & Time	Opening Date & Time
01.	Supply of Chemical (Caustic Soda and Ferrosilicon).	1364452	23.09.1528.5 60.30.004.26.	23 November 2026 14:00 BST	24 November 2026 14:00 BST	24 November 2026 14:00 BST

Further information and Guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and e-GP Helpdesk (http: www.helpdesk.eprocure.gov.bd)

12.11.2026

(Mohammad Abdur Rahman Khan)
Deputy Director
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GD-2747

Government of The People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Education Engineering Department
Patuakhali
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E-Tender Notice No: e-GP/EED/Patua/7016/SHED/2026-27/16 Date: 12/11/2026

E-Tender is invited in the e-GP Web Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of following works. Details are given bellow:

SL No	Tender ID	Type of Method	Description of Works	Last Selling (Date & Time)	Last Submission (Date & Time)	Tender Closing & Opening (Date & Time)
01	1369586	LTM	Vertical Extension (1st Floor & 2nd Floor) of Existing Academic Building (FY:2025-26) Including Sanitary, Water supply & Electrification Works at Sundra Kalikapur Secondary School under Mirzaganj Upazila, Patuakhali District. (RMS NO-1058514).	29-Nov-2026 17:00	30-Nov-2026 12:30	30-Nov-2026 13:00
02	1369587	LTM	Construction of Single Storied Academic Building with 04- Storied Foundation in/c Sanitary, Water Supply & Electrification Works (FY:2025-26) at Asmat Ali Khan College, Sadar Upazila, Patuakhali District. (RMS NO-1058118).	29-Nov-2026 17:00	30-Nov-2026 12:30	30-Nov-2026 13:00

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 Web Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP Web Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank of any branch up to above mentioned Date & Time. Further information and guidelines are available in the national e-GP Web portal & e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

12/11/2026

(Abdul Latif)
Executive Engineer (C.C.)
Education Engineering Department, Patuakhali.

GD-2757

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
EDUCATION ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
SHARIATPUR.
Website: eed.shariatpur.gov.bd

Memo No: EE/EED/Shar/7016/Maushi/TMED/2025-26/08 Date: 11/11/2026

e-Tender Notice No: 08/2026-27
(Open Tendering Method-OTM)

This is to notify all concerned that e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the Procurement of following works. Details are given below:

SL No	Tender ID No.	Package No.	Name of Work/Educational Institutions	Document Last selling (Date & Time)	Tender Closing (Date & Time)
01	1369354	EED/Shar/7016/ SHED/ IF-DM/2025-26/WR-03	Construction of Single Storey Academic Building With 4-Storied Foundation In/C. Sanitary, Water Supply & Electrification Works at Raipur Abdul Khalek Talukdar High School, Sadar, Shariatpur. (2025-26; RPMS:1053657)	29-Nov-2026 16:00	30-Nov-2026 13:00
02	1369355	EED/Shar/7016/ TMED/ IF-DM/2025-26/WR-01	Construction of Single Storey Academic Building With 4-Storied Foundation In/C. Sanitary, Water Supply & Electrification Works at Damudya Hamidia Kamil (M.A.) Madrasa, Damudya, Shariatpur. (2025-26; RPMS: 2014187)	29-Nov-2026 16:00	30-Nov-2026 13:00

The interested persons/firms may visit website (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) to get the details of the Tender. 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 portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. Further information & guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP Helpdesk; (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

১২/১১/২০২৬

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GD-2749

উইল্‌স লিট্‌ল ফ্লাওয়ার স্কুল এন্ড কলেজ
৮৫ কাকরাইল, রমনা, ঢাকা-১০০০। মোবাইল ঃ ০১৭১৫৩২৩৮২৭, ০১৭১৯৮৯০৩০৮, ০১৫৫২১৮৫৭৬২, (অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে)
web: www.wlfsc.edu.bd, Facebook ID: www.facebook.com/wlfsc1956, E-mail: willes_little@yahoo.com, EIIN: 108359

ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

উইল্‌স লিট্‌ল ফ্লাওয়ার স্কুল এন্ড কলেজে ২০২৭ শিক্ষাবর্ষে নিম্নে বর্ণিত শ্রেণিতে শূন্য আসনে ছাত্রছাত্রী ভর্তি করা হবে ঃ

মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ শিক্ষা অধিদপ্তরের নির্দেশনা মোতাবেক প্রথম শ্রেণিতে ভর্তি প্রক্রিয়া সম্পন্ন করা হবে

ক্রঃ নং	বাংলা মাধ্যম	ইংলিশ ভার্সন (ন্যাশনাল কারিকুলাম)	
১.	১ম শ্রেণি (লটারি) (ছাত্র ও ছাত্রী- শুধু প্রভাতি শাখা)	১ম শ্রেণি (লটারি) (ছাত্র ও ছাত্রী- শুধু প্রভাতি শাখা)	শিক্ষার্থী নির্বাচন, লটারি এবং ভর্তি প্রক্রিয়ায় সরকার কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত নীতিমালা অনুসরণ করা হবে।

প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিজস্ব তত্ত্বাবধানে নিম্নোক্ত শ্রেণিতে ভর্তি প্রক্রিয়া সম্পন্ন করা হবে ঃ

ক্রঃ নং	বাংলা মাধ্যম (ন্যাশনাল কারিকুলাম)	ইংলিশ ভার্সন (ন্যাশনাল কারিকুলাম)	ইংরেজি মাধ্যম (British Curriculum)	ফরম বিতরণ ও জমা	পরীক্ষা গ্রহণ ও ফলাফল প্রকাশ
১.	প্রাক্ প্রাথমিক (ছাত্র ও ছাত্রী- শুধু প্রভাতি শাখা)	প্রাক্ প্রাথমিক (ছাত্র ও ছাত্রী- শুধু প্রভাতি শাখা)	Play, Nursery, Kg -I, KG-II, Std. I (ছাত্র ও ছাত্রী, শুধু প্রভাতি শাখা)	১৭/১১/২০২৬ খ্রি. সকাল ১১.০০ ঘটিকা থেকে ২০/১২/২০২৬ খ্রি. বিকাল ৫.০০ ঘটিকা	প্রাক্ প্রাথমিক (ন্যাশনাল কারিকুলাম), Play Group হতে Std-I (ব্রিটিশ কারিকুলাম) পর্যন্ত Walk in Interview তারিখ: ২৮/১২/২০২৬ খ্রি., সকাল ১০ ঘটিকা ফলাফল প্রকাশ: ২৯/১২/২০২৬, বিকাল: ৪.০০ ঘটিকা
২.	২য় থেকে ৯ম (প্রভাতি শাখা ছাত্রী ও দিবা শাখা ছাত্র)	২য় থেকে ৯ম (প্রভাতি শাখা ছাত্রী ও দিবা শাখা ছাত্র)	Std. II to Std. IX (প্রভাতি শাখা- ছাত্রী, দিবা শাখা- ছাত্র)	১৭/১১/২০২৬খ্রি. সকাল ১১.০০ ঘটিকা থেকে ২০/১২/২০২৬খ্রি. বিকাল ৫.০০ ঘটিকা	১. বাংলা ও ইংলিশ ভার্সন (২য় থেকে ৯ম পর্যন্ত) ২. Std-II হতে Std-IX, A -Level লিখিত পরীক্ষার তারিখ: ২৮/১২/২০২৬ খ্রি.,সকাল ১০ ঘটিকা। ফলাফল প্রকাশ: ২৯/১২/২০২৬, বিকাল: ৪.০০ ঘটিকা

মাউশি কর্তৃক লটারিতে নির্বাচিত এবং প্রতিষ্ঠানের তত্ত্বাবধানে নির্বাচিত শিক্ষার্থীদের ভর্তির তারিখ ঃ ৩০/১২/২০২৬খ্রি. থেকে ০৪/০১/২০২৭ খ্রি. পর্যন্ত, সকাল ১০.০০ ঘটিকা থেকে বিকাল ৩.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত

প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিজস্ব তত্ত্বাবধানে ভর্তি-ইচ্ছুক ছাত্র-ছাত্রীদের জন্য গুরুত্বপূর্ণ তথ্যাবলি ঃ

১। আবেদনের নিয়ম ঃ ভর্তির জন্য অন-লাইনে www.wlfsc.edu.bd এর মাধ্যমে ফরম পূরণ করতে হবে। ফরমের মূল্য বাংলা মাধ্যম ও ইংলিশ ভার্সনের প্রাক্-প্রাথমিক ও প্রথম শ্রেণির জন্য অনলাইন চার্জ ব্যতীত ১১০/- (একশত দশ) টাকা, ২য় থেকে ৯ম শ্রেণি পর্যন্ত ২৫০/- (দুইশত পঞ্চাশ) টাকা এবং ইংরেজি মাধ্যমের জন্য অনলাইন চার্জ ব্যাতীত ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা এবং ন্যাশনাল কারিকুলাম এর জন্য সরকার নির্ধারিত মূল্য। টাকা জমাদানের প্রক্রিয়া www.wlfsc.edu.bd এ বিস্তারিত দেওয়া থাকবে। এছাড়া অফিস চলাকালীন ১০.০০-৩.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত হেল্প ডেস্ক থেকে ভর্তি সংক্রান্ত তথ্য পাওয়া যাবে।

২। ভর্তি সংক্রান্ত সকল তথ্য ঝগঝ, Facebook page, Website এবং প্রতিষ্ঠানের নোটিশ বোর্ডে নোটিশের মাধ্যমে যথাসময়ে জানানো হবে।

৩। ভর্তির ক্ষেত্রে সরকারি নীতিমালা যথাযথভাবে অনুসরণ করা হবে।

৪। অপেক্ষমান তালিকা প্রকাশ ঃ SMS, Facebook page, Website এবং নোটিশের মাধ্যমে যথাসময়ে জানানো হবে।

আ.ন.ম. শামসুল আলম খান
অধ্যক্ষ (ভারপ্রাপ্ত)
উইল্‌স লিট্‌ল ফ্লাওয়ার স্কুল এন্ড কলেজ

Government of The People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Education Engineering Department
Bhola
E-Mail: eedbhola.govbd@gmail.com

Invitation for e-Tender

Memo No. EED/Bhola/e-Gp/Works&goods/2026-27/26 Date: 12/11/2026

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.

SL No	Tender ID	Package Description	Procurement Method	Tender Document last selling Date and Time	Tender Closing & Opening Date and Time
1	1371287	Construction Works of Semi-Pacca Ghor (FY:2025-26) at Purba Bapta Dakhil Madrasaha, Bhola Sadar, Bhola. (RMS No: 2014961)	NCT, LTM	29-Nov-2026 16:00:00	30-Nov-2026 12:00:00
2	1371393	Construction Works of Semi-Pacca Tin shed Ghor (FY:2025-26) at Lez Sakina Darussananh Dakhil Madrasha, Lalmohan, Bhola (RMS No: 2015343).	NCT, LTM	29-Nov-2026 16:00:00	30-Nov-2026 12:00:00
3	1371588	Repair & Renovation works (FY:2025-26) at Chornoyabad Mohila Dakhil Madrasa, Bhola Sadar, Bhola. (RMS No: 2015629)	NCT, LTM	29-Nov-2026 16:00:00	30-Nov-2026 12:00:00
4	1371672	Repair & Renovation works (FY:2025-26) at Dokkhin Ratanpur Ferdous Islamia Alim Madrasa, Bhola Sadar, Bhola. (RMS No: 2015661)	NCT, LTM	29-Nov-2026 16:00:00	30-Nov-2026 12:00:00

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

-Sd-
Md Mafiqul Islam
Executive Engineer
Education Engineering Department
Bhola.

GD-2759

LAW OPINION

Beyond Age Limits: Addressing the Real Reform in the Legal Profession

BARRISTER LUAZA REZA TURIN



The Bangladesh Bar Council has officially decided to introduce a maximum age of 35 for enrolment as an advocate. The new rule is scheduled to come into effect from 1 January 2030. The decision was announced in a public notice dated 26 October 2026.

The decision is undoubtedly significant. For the first time in Bangladesh's legal history, age will become a decisive factor in determining who can enter this profession. Although the reform's intention may be reasonable, I will examine whether imposing an age limit alone can address the deeper problems the legal profession faces.

There are certainly some reasonable arguments supporting the decision. Law is a profession that demands years of practice to develop expertise. So, a person entering the profession at a younger age has more time to gain courtroom experience, develop advocacy skills, and build a successful legal career. Moreover, the legal profession has also experienced a substantial surge in the number of law graduates and aspiring advocates. If enrolment continues to expand at this rate, overcrowding will become a serious issue.

An age limit could therefore encourage prospective law students to make a more serious and timely commitment to the profession. It could also help the Bar Council to manage the growing number of entrants and focus on professional development.

The four-year transition period before implementation is also significant. By delaying the rule's coming into effect until 2030, the Bar Council has acknowledged the position of students currently pursuing an LLB and given them time to complete their education and proceed toward enrollment.

However, if the goal is to improve the quality of advocates, then the more important question, I would argue, is whether Bangladesh's legal system sufficiently measures competence before allowing someone to practice. A strong legal profession depends on more than just controlling the age of entrants. It requires high-quality legal education, properly supervised apprenticeship, rigorous and transparent Bar Council examinations, practical training in drafting and advocacy, professional ethics, and effective regulation after enrollment.

A 30-year-old law graduate is not necessarily more capable of practicing law than a 36-year-old graduate. Legal ability develops through education and, more importantly, through practical experience. The Bar Council examinations are also often criticised for placing significant emphasis on memorising legal provisions of various Acts rather than proper understanding.

Advocacy involves far more than just knowing the law. It includes conducting legal research, preparing cases, client handling, examining and cross-examining witnesses, conducting chief examinations, making submissions before the court, and responding to the practical demands of litigation. The new rule could therefore exclude individuals who may be perfectly capable of becoming competent advocates simply because they entered the profession later.

The new rule also raises an interesting point. The Bar Council is setting the maximum age for becoming an advocate at 35, but there is no upper age limit for continuing to practise as an advocate. So, someone who becomes a lawyer at 34 can continue practising well beyond the general retirement age because no such upper limit exists in the profession. However, someone who wants to enter the profession at 36 will be barred from a potential 30-year-long legal career.

The decision also highlights an important distinction between studying law and becoming an advocate. In Bangladesh, there is no maximum age for studying law. The new restriction only applies to enrollment as an advocate. This means a person can still obtain legal education later in life, but after 2030, crossing age 35 could prevent them from entering legal practice.

It is true that the Bar Council's concern about maintaining standards and managing the growth of the profession is legitimate. However, age restriction should not be the only measure for reforming the system. The issues of Bangladesh's legal system extend far beyond. The sheer scale of the case backlog is difficult to ignore. According to figures stated by the Law Minister in Parliament, 46,39,476 cases were pending across Bangladesh's courts as of 31 March 2026. More than 40.78 lakh of those cases were pending in the lower courts alone.

If the ultimate objective is to strengthen the legal profession, Bangladesh needs lawyers who are not merely young, but also competent, ethical, well-trained, and properly prepared for the challenges of legal practice. The 35-year age limit may therefore be one aspect of legal-profession reform. However, it cannot be confused with the whole solution.

Barrister Luaza Reza Turin *is an Advocate, District and Sessions Judge Court.*

RIGHTS WATCH

The right of way and Dhaka's hawker management

MD. MAHMUDUL HASAN SHAKIL

Access to safe and usable footpaths is a matter of a basic public right. However, Dhaka's urbanisation has made it very difficult to bring the matter under control. Indeed, walking constitutes the single largest mode of transportation, used disproportionately by the poor, women, and the elderly. However, Dhaka, a city with over 36 million people, is still struggling to ensure adequate infrastructure for its pedestrians.



Recently, the government has promulgated the Hawkers of Dhaka City Management Policy 2026 ('Policy'), which aims to ensure comfortable pedestrian movement on the footpaths and public spaces. It seeks to bring hawkers under a registration system while allowing them to conduct business in designated zones. One of the key purposes of this policy is to build a safe, pedestrian-friendly, and healthy city. Notably, the Policy explicitly prohibits hawkers from setting up permanent installations, requiring all merchandise to be removed upon the conclusion of daily business hours. Failure to comply may result in legal consequences and the cancellation of operating licenses.

However, regarding the pedestrians' right of way, there are some serious concerns. For example, clause 15(1) of the Policy requires reservation of a minimum walking space of only 5 to 6 feet (1.5 to 1.8 metres) for 'Holiday Markets'. This falls short of the recommended spacing of the walkways (usually 2.5–4.5 metres) for densely populated urban areas and commercial spaces. Again, clause 29 reserves 1.5 metres (approximately 5.0 feet) space for buyers to stand and move. But it does not specify whether this space is a separate allocation from the pedestrian's walkway as mentioned in clause 15(1), thereby blurring the line between public right of way and commercial allocation.

On the other hand, the Policy forbids hawkers from setting up permanent installations on the footpaths (clause 21). However, most hawkers tend to build permanent structures on footpaths, forcing pedestrians onto the roads and leaving the footpaths unusable. It is unclear how much the Policy would be able to resolve this long-standing negative practice. Instead, by formally allocating portions of public footpaths to commercial vendors, clauses 15 and 29 convert the public's right-of-way into private commercial zones. Consequently, the Policy might also come into conflict with previous Supreme Court directives that prohibited selling or renting spaces on footpaths in Dhaka.

If we look at the neighbouring jurisdiction, the Indian Supreme Court has recognised the 'right to walk' under the ambit of its Constitution. In *Maniyar Iliyaz @ Shaik Riyaz* v *P Ayyappan*, the Indian Court has noted that the fundamental right to walk demands a comfortable space for an easy and carefree walk. The bench also found a legal framework necessary that declares this right and recognises the duty of municipal authorities and local bodies to build, demarcate, and maintain necessary pedestrian infrastructure.

To conclude, a balance needs to be struck between the convenience of pedestrians and the hawkers. The Policy should meet the practical needs of the city and the circumstances. However, the Policy must also account for all relevant factors, particularly the poor pedestrian infrastructure, weak administrative enforcement, ground reality, and the right to walk without compromising pedestrian safety.

Md. Mahmudul Hasan Shakil *is a law student at the University of Dhaka.*



LAW VIEWS

Rethinking labour protection of a 'manager' in Bangladesh

MD. FAHMEDUL ISLAM DEWAN

Consider a factory supervisor who spends most of the day checking attendance, preparing reports, and following instructions from senior management. If such a person is designated as a 'manager' by his/her employer, should that title alone deny him the legal protections available to an ordinary worker?

This issue matters because this distinction determines his/her access to workplace protections under the Bangladesh Labour Act (BLA). A person recognised as a worker may claim statutory benefits and remedies under the BLA, while others may be excluded from some of the important protections. Therefore, the definition of a 'worker' is not merely a matter of terminology; it determines the boundary of labour rights.

Bangladesh has long experienced disputes where employees held managerial-sounding titles but performed duties closer to ordinary operational work. In decisions such as *Senior Manager, Dosta Textile Mills Ltd* v *Sudhansu Bikash Nath* and *M R Chowdhury* v *First Labour Court*, the principle was reflected that a title alone cannot establish managerial status. The judgments took the 'substance-over-form approach': that law should examine actual duties rather than labels.

However, the legal landscape has changed now. The Bangladesh Labour (Amendment) Act 2026 introduced a significant change. Per section 2(49)(b), a person entrusted in writing with management, chief executive, managerial, administrative, or supervisory responsibility falls within the employer category. Consequently, section 2(65), which defines 'worker', excludes persons covered by section 2(49)(b).

True that a written delegation may identify genuine employer-side authority, but the challenge is still determining whether it reflects real power or merely a formal designation. Under the earlier framework, courts relied on actual functions rather than titles. The Bangladesh Labour Rules 2015 also provided indicators of managerial responsibility under rule 2(1) (*Nio*), including authority over matters such as appointments, salary decisions, terminations, payment of final dues, and establishment expenditure. The distinction becomes clearer when we separate three concepts: *representation, autonomy, and dependency*. A supervisor may represent the employer by communicating instructions, yet remain economically dependent on the company without independent power over recruitment, dismissal, wages, or organisational policy. In other words, the ability to speak for an employer does not always mean having the power of an employer. This problem is particularly important because exclusion from the definition of 'worker' can affect several legal protections. For example, sections 100 and 108 of the BLA regulate working hours and overtime benefits for workers. Similarly, section 26 provides termination compensation for permanent workers.

Notably, Bangladesh is not facing this challenge alone. Comparative experience shows that employment law often focuses on the reality of the relationship rather than the contract. In *Autoclenz Ltd* v *Belcher*, the UK Supreme Court held that contractual documents cannot alone determine legal status where they do not reflect the true working relationship. Later, in *Uber BV* v *Aslam*, the court reinforced the principle that statutory protection cannot be avoided simply by arrangements made by the stronger party.

However, this is not to suggest that every person with managerial responsibility should automatically receive every form of labour protection in the same way. For example, British law recognises limited exceptions where genuine autonomy exists. Under regulation 20 of the Working Time Regulations 1998, certain managing executives may fall outside specific working-time rules when they control their own working hours.

Yet the exception depends on actual autonomy, not merely a senior title. The decision in *Sayers* v *Cambridgeshire County Council* demonstrated that seniority and responsibility alone do not prove autonomous control over working time.

The lesson for Bangladesh is therefore not to copy another country's system but to adopt the underlying principle: legal consequences should follow genuine authority. The solution is not to ignore managerial authority but to measure it properly. A written delegation under section 2(49)(b) should therefore be treated as evidence, not automatic proof. Courts should examine whether the authority is real, whether decisions are final or recommendatory, and whether powers are exercised in practice.

Md. Fahmedul Islam Dewan *is a Lecturer in the Department of Law, World University of Bangladesh.*

DHAKA FRIDAY NOVEMBER 13, 2026, KARTIK 28, 1433 BS

SPORT

WHAT TO WATCH

T Sports
Pakistan vs Sri Lanka
1st Test, Day 5
Live from 10:30 am

Sony Sports 1, 2, 5
New Zealand vs India
3rd ODI
Live from 8:00 am

UEFA Nations League
Moldova vs Kazakhstan
Live from 11:00 pm

Slovenia vs Switzerland
Serbia vs Germany
Netherland vs Greece
Live from 1:45 am (Saturday)



(From L to R) Bangladesh's Shuki Itofusa, Mohammad Ridoy, Bishwanath Ghosh, and Faisal Ahmed Fahim train at Kings Arena yesterday, fresh off a 4-0 thrashing of Sri Lanka. Focus now shifts to Saturday's second semifinal against Pakistan, where Bishwanath is expected to cover right-back for the injured Saad Uddin. PHOTO: BFF

A perfect 10, but the best is yet to come

TANVIR AHMED PRANTO

Very few matches leave you with the kind of satisfaction that goes beyond the relief of simply winning. Bangladesh's 4-0 victory over Sri Lanka on Wednesday was one of those. The joy was unmistakable, from the stands to the pitch, as supporters even broke through the gates to get inside. They were watching a team play with a confidence and fluency that had been missing for some time.

What made the performance particularly satisfying was not just the scoreline, but how well the different parts of the team worked together.

Bangladesh were organised without the ball, composed in midfield and dangerous going forward. The four goals came from four different players, but the bigger development was that head coach Thomas Dooley appeared to have found a structure that allowed his best players to complement each other.

The biggest adjustment came in midfield: Shamit Shome and Quazem Shah operating as a double pivot, with captain Hamza Choudhury pushed into the No 10 role.

Quazem, who had been in and out of the national setup over the past year and was left out of the FIFA ASEAN Cup squad, brought a measure of defensive stability. He sat deeper, screened the back four, closed passing lanes and helped Bangladesh retain possession under pressure. His positioning also allowed Shamit to move forward more often, joining attacks without leaving the midfield exposed.

The arrangement also gave Hamza greater influence closer to goal. Previously deployed in a deeper role, he often had to cover ground and contribute defensively. Against Sri Lanka, he could use his passing range, strength and ability to drive into space in more dangerous areas.

Dooley wanted to use Hamza's football intelligence to link up with the wide players and the centre-forward, while allowing him to shoot from distance and attack the box. Sharing the defensive workload also gave the other midfielders more freedom. Dooley's experiments with Hamza and Quazem paid off, both of them excelling in a position where they don't usually operate.

The benefits were visible out wide. With Hamza occupying the opposition centrally, Farhaan Ali Wahid found room to take on defenders from the left. His 53rd-minute goal was the night's standout moment, as he used close control to evade three defenders before cutting inside and scoring with a deflected effort.

On the opposite flank, Rakib Hossain offered pace and a threat in behind, completing the rout in the 87th minute with a delicate chip over the advancing goalkeeper.

That attacking freedom rested on defensive security. Bangladesh have now kept clean sheets in consecutive victories, following on from their 1-0 opening win over Bhutan. Zidane Yousuf continued to settle into the side, Saad Uddin impressed before an injury ruled him out of the remainder of the tournament, and Mohammad Hridoy made a positive impact off the bench.

Dooley described the defensive organisation as "perfect", saying he felt comfortable with everyone from the goalkeeper to the players further forward. That solidity allowed Bangladesh to commit players to attack without losing their shape.

Despite rating the display 10 out of 10, Dooley stressed that Bangladesh had not reached their highest level."In the next game, we don't want to go backwards. We don't want to play with less power, less pressure, or less football and chase more. No, we want to continue to play. I love to play football; I don't like to chase football," he said.

Wednesday showed what this team can produce when the pieces fit. In Saturday's semifinal against perhaps a more incisive and clinical opponent in the form of Pakistan, they will have to show they can do the same.



Right-back Saad Uddin has been ruled out of the remaining SAFF Championship with an Achilles injury he suffered during the game against Sri Lanka, and will likely be out of action for months.

Remote VAR will be used in the SAFF Championship semifinals and final, with match footage sent from Dhaka to a centralised hub in Thailand.

CITY GROUP-PROTHOM ALO SPORTS AWARDS

Hamza named Sportsperson of the Year

SPORTS REPORTER

Star footballer Hamza Choudhury was named Best Sportsperson of the Year 2025 at the City Group-Prothom Alo Sports Awards ceremony at a city hotel on Thursday. He also won the Readers' Choice Award.



Hockey player Amirul Islam and women's footballer Ritu Porna Chakma were runners-up. Hamza was absent as he is with the national team for the ongoing SAFF Championship.

Bangladesh women's ODI captain Nigar Sultana Joty won Sportswoman of the Year, while table tennis player Khoi Khoi Sai Marma was named Emerging Athlete of the Year. Veteran cricketer, organiser and author Lutfur Rahman Makhan received the Lifetime Achievement Award.

How much is too much for Hasan?

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI

While Nahid Rana's injury may have been unfortunate, a worrying pattern seems to be developing with Hasan Mahmud, one Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) should be wary of.

BCB sources say the pacer's tennis elbow has been "flaring up lately, so he has to manage it".

"With players, they go through high-intensity training and can't rest much when it flares," an official said.

Hasan missed the March ODIs against Pakistan due to the same injury. His Test career had even been questioned amid poor form and injuries before he revived himself with a red-hot form in red-ball format.

The 27-year-old has had an incredible seven-month run across continents and formats, starting with a county stint in England and the one-off Test against Zimbabwe in June. After a brief Vitality Blast stint with Kent, he joined the Lanka Premier League but returned early for the Australia tour.

After the Australia Tests, he returned to Kent for first-class action before joining Bangladesh's Asian Games T20 contingent. He then became the first Bangladesh pacer to take a Test hat-trick, against Afghanistan in the UAE, despite extreme heat. He complained of pain during that Test.



He subsequently remained with the ODI squad for the tri-nation series in the UAE, played two home Tests against West Indies and travelled to South Africa this week for the two-match Test series, where the high-altitude conditions could place additional demands on his body.

BCB has keenly monitored his workload, but the breaking point is never far away for a fast bowler. Excessive county bowling had already prompted the board to pull him back to manage his readiness for the Tigers.

Across his last three Tests, he has taken three five-fors. The latest came in Sylhet against West Indies, where he scalped five in the first innings but conceded 61 in 11 overs without a wicket in the second. At Abu Dhabi, too, he followed five for 55 in the first innings with a wicketless second.

After his five-for in Sylhet, Hasan told The Daily Star how he managed his workload. "After bowling our quota of overs in a match, we get two-three days off to recover.

"Food intake and gym recovery are key to how I build myself up. If I bowl for two days straight, I may get a day off while the batters are batting to recover. It's basically in-game management," said the 27-year-old.

The concerns over Hasan may not appear pressing for the team management, just as there were none over Rana before he broke down and missed months of cricket. Hasan had shouldered much of the burden in Rana's absence, taking 23 Test wickets during that period.

Former West Indies pacer and commentator Ian Bishop recently stressed the need to manage Rana's workload, saying: "Don't kill the goose that lays the golden eggs because you want immediate success."

The warning applies to the wider pace group, too. Tanzim Sakib, Taskin Ahmed and Ebadot Hossain have all faced injury problems, some ongoing and not all aptly managed. Where does the team management draw the line with Hasan?

'WHEN ONE DOOR CLOSES, ANOTHER OPENS'

Sylhet Division spinner Nasum Ahmed has claimed 36 wickets in the ongoing National Cricket League (NCL), topping the charts ahead of the final round. Despite being a regular in Bangladesh's white-ball setup, particularly the T20I side, and currently ranked eighth in the ICC T20I bowling rankings, the 31-year-old left-armer is yet to make his Test debut. However, he remains eager to feature in the longest format. Nasum spoke to The Daily Star's Samsul Arefin Khan about his career, domestic cricket and other issues. Excerpts follow:

The Daily Star (DS): How would you assess your season so far?

Nasum Ahmed (NA): The season is not over yet. Let me finish the final match before commenting. People's expectations never end.

DS: Did you set yourself any targets for the season?

NA: No specific target. I just wanted to play and perform. I value the NCL because I once missed an entire season and subsequently failed to get a Premier League team. First-class cricket is Bangladesh's main pathway; without it, getting into the Dhaka First Division or Premier League is difficult. I missed out despite wanting to play, probably in 2015-16 [2012-13], after being selected for Barishal. Later, I got a Premier League opportunity as an injury replacement.

DS: Have you received enough first-class opportunities, after debuting in 2011 with five first-innings wickets?

NA: I need three more wickets to reach 200.



I had fewer opportunities after my debut, while national-team commitments have kept me from playing regularly since 2020.

DS: Despite your success in white-ball cricket and domestic red-ball cricket, you are yet to get a Test opportunity. Why do you think that is?

NA: Honestly, I do not know, and I will not speculate. I focus on performing whenever and wherever I get an opportunity.

DS: Is playing Test cricket still a dream for you?

NA: Absolutely. It is also the dream of my coach, Emon [Mahbub] bhai, and Rajin [Saleh] bhai.

DS: You took five wickets in two ODIs against West Indies last year but were subsequently dropped. Any regrets?

NA: I have been left out despite performing, so I have no regrets. I believe when one door closes, another opens. Had I performed poorly, you probably would not be asking me this.

DS: Sylhet has lacked league tournaments for years. Could more local competitions help the region produce more players?

NA: Absolutely. Many players sit idle because they lack opportunities. Without matches, they cannot perform, and nobody can assess their abilities. Grounds across Sylhet remain occupied throughout the year, but organised matches are scarce.

DS: What is holding back the development there?

NA: Team owners must be willing to invest. A player deserves at least Tk 50,000-60,000 for a season; nobody can be expected to play for free. Owners are simply not interested in forming teams. There is also little publicity, so sponsors do not come forward in sufficient numbers. Even available sponsorship money is not properly utilised.

DS: Are you optimistic about the upcoming Domestic 3 tournament?

NA: Let it begin first. Then we can see who is doing what and what we are getting out of it.

DS: How would you assess Mohammad Ashraful's work as batting coach before his removal?

NA: He was good... There is no point blaming coaches. Once appointed, a coach becomes our teacher, and we must follow his instructions. We make the mistakes, although coaches are held accountable. A coach cannot play for us; he can only guide us. If I do not follow his advice, how can that be his fault?







Govt eyes Tk 300cr plant to cut animal vaccine imports

SUKANTA HALDER

The government has initiated steps to set up an animal vaccine plant at an estimated cost of around Tk 300 crore to reduce dependence on imports and boost domestic production.

The Department of Livestock Services (DLS) plans to conduct a feasibility study before implementing the project. According to DLS documents, the study was expected to run from October 1, 2026, to March 31, 2027.

The feasibility study will assess demand, operational requirements and associated costs, as well as prepare design drawings, specifications and cost estimates for laboratory machinery and reagents. It will also include financial and economic analyses.

Mohammad Bozlur Rahman, director of the planning section at the DLS, said the Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute (BLRI) in Savar is the only public-sector institute with facilities for producing a wide range of animal vaccines.

- 260cr doses needed annually
- 32cr doses produced locally
- Tk 5,000cr spent on annual imports
- Existing facilities built 3 decades ago
- 200-acre site in Bogura identified for new plant



The DLS has submitted a project proposal to the fisheries and livestock ministry for the study, which has received in-principle approval, a top DLS official said, requesting anonymity.

The department has initially identified a site in Gabtali, Bogura, for the proposed plant, where around 200 acres of land are available, the official said.

Animal vaccine manufacturing is a highly sophisticated process, requiring a detailed feasibility study before a new production facility can be established.

However, it has yet to be included in the Annual Development Programme, preventing the release of the required funds, the official said.

The department hopes to secure the allocation soon, as the government appears to be giving the initiative considerable importance, the official added.

The DLS's Biologics and Applied Research unit also has limited vaccine production facilities in Cumilla.

Both institutes are producing vaccines at facilities built around three decades ago, Bozlur told The Daily Star.

BLRI produces only 32 crore doses a year, meeting 12.31 percent of the country's annual requirement of 260 crore doses, according to DLS data. The rest is met through imports, costing the country around Tk 5,000 crore annually, department officials said.

Bangladesh imports vaccines from 18 countries, including Hungary, Morocco, Italy, South Korea, China, the United States, Spain, France, Russia, Sudan, Jordan, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, Mexico, Germany, Indonesia, India and Japan.

BLRI currently produces 17 types of

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Perform or step aside

Top bureaucrats warn secretaries

BAHARAM KHAN

Senior government secretaries, including the cabinet secretary and the principal secretary to the prime minister, have expressed dissatisfaction with the pace of work in ministries at a secretaries' meeting convened on short notice.

They warned that officials who cannot carry out their duties efficiently and

This stern message was delivered at the second secretaries' meeting held at the Secretariat yesterday, chaired by Cabinet Secretary Nasimul Ghani. A total of 53 secretaries out of 56 attended.

wholeheartedly to implement government decisions must make way for others, stressing that idling will not be tolerated.

Instead, official responsibilities must be discharged keeping in view the expectations of the people in the post-uprising period, according to instructions issued to the secretaries of all ministries and divisions to inject momentum into the administration.

This stern message was delivered at the second secretaries' meeting held at the Secretariat yesterday, chaired by Cabinet Secretary Nasimul Ghani. The meeting began around 2:30pm and concluded around 4:00pm. A total of 53 secretaries out of 56 attended.

The first secretaries' meeting after the Tarique Rahman-led government assumed office was held on September 15, eight months into its tenure.

Within two months of that meeting, the cabinet secretary abruptly called another one on a few hours' notice, The Daily Star has learnt from at least four officials who attended the meeting.

According to sources, ABM Abdus Sattar, principal secretary to the prime minister, stressed the importance of upholding the prime minister's trust in the bureaucracy.

Addressing the secretaries, he said the prime minister has immense faith in the civil service, but breaching that trust would certainly bring unwelcome consequences.

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NEWS IN FOCUS

Man gets death for killing judge's son

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Rajshahi*

A Rajshahi court yesterday sentenced a man to death for murdering a judge's 16-year-old son at the family's rented house in the city last year.

Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge-2 Rezaul Karim pronounced the verdict around noon.

The convict, Limon Mia, 35, was also sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment on each of two separate charges and fined Tk 3 lakh.

According to the case statement, Limon entered the house in the city's Dabtala area around noon on November 13 last year, posing as the judge's brother, and stabbed his son, Tawsif Rahman Sumon, and wife, Tasmin Nahar.

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BNP leader shot dead inside Khulna shop

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*



A BNP leader was shot dead by unidentified assailants in Rupsha upazila of Khulna last night, according to police.

The deceased was identified as Md Zakir Hossain, 43.

The incident took place around 10:30pm at a shop in Swalpobahirdia village under the upazila's TSB Union.

Zakir was a resident of Khajadanga village in Rupsha upazila. He was a member of the search committee

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Protest against false and fabricated news concerning Mondol Group

It came to our notice that some dailies published a false and fabricated report on November 03, 2026, against different sister concerns of Mondol Group regarding recent labor unrest, and the rejoinder was also duly published on November 06, 2026. The report also spread on various social media platforms. We strongly protest it and clarify our position as stated hereinafter: Mondol Group, or any of our companies, is not directly or indirectly involved in any labor unrest, vandalism, or violence, nor do we provide any financial backing or assistance to instigate chaos. Our export-oriented enterprises are registered under the Companies Act, 1994. This sort of false report disrupts our own production, and it goes against our business interests, our commitments to foreign buyers, and the livelihoods of our thousands of workers. All units operate in strict compliance with the Bangladesh Labor Act, 2006, ensuring workers' wages and dues are paid regularly. Exposing a total lack of verification and publishing severe allegations based on anonymous sources without seeking our viewpoint prior to publication violates basic principles of objective journalism. Mondol Group conducts its business in full adherence to all national laws, regulations, and international compliance standards. As one of the largest foreign currency-earning conglomerates in the country, we make a substantial contribution to the national economy. Publishing unverified and fabricated reports not only harms the reputation of our organization, but also damages the image of the state and undermines investors' confidence. We earnestly request all media outlets and concerned parties to refrain from publishing or spreading baseless rumors in the greater interest of the country's economy. The allegations published against us are entirely false, fabricated, baseless, and motivated, and have caused severe harm to our long-standing reputation and commercial goodwill. We strongly condemn and protest the report published in the dailies as well as all similar misinformation circulating in other media.

Board of Directors, Mondol Group.

Nvidia CEO Huang steps down in big blow to AI boom

REUTERS



Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang is stepping down, leaving the AI industry without its biggest champion and clouding the future of the chipmaker he built into an AI powerhouse.

Chief Financial Officer Colette Kress will take over as interim CEO as Nvidia looks for a permanent successor, the company said yesterday. It named former Synopsys CEO and board member Harvey Jones as its first-ever board chairman.

Huang, who co-founded Nvidia and is its fourth-largest investor with a stake of about 3.61 percent, will exit the board as well.

Pressure had been mounting on Huang in recent days after reports said the 63-year-old, who is married, had an

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Democrat Colom wins Mississippi Senate seat

Becomes state's first black senator since 1874

REUTERS, *Washington*



Democratic challenger Scott Colom defeated incumbent Republican Cindy Hyde-Smith in the Mississippi election for the US Senate, media projected on Wednesday, making him the Southern state's first Black senator since the Reconstruction era that followed the US Civil War.

The result was a stunning upset in the heavily Republican state and expanded on the national drubbing the Democrats delivered to President Donald Trump's Republicans in the November 3 midterm elections.

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