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YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

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MPs may get up to Tk 15cr to soothe constituents

Tk 15,500cr in proposals under review; TIB warns of abuse, conflict of interest

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government is considering allocating up to Tk 15 crore per member of parliament (MP) for development projects based on their individual demands.

To implement projects recommended by lawmakers, the Local Government Division (LGD) has sent two separate proposals worth around Tk 15,500 crore to the Planning Commission and the Finance Division.

Of the total amount, the proposal sent to the Planning Commission involves Tk 14,000 crore for eight division-based rural infrastructure projects over five years, calculated at Tk 10 crore per MP annually.

Under these projects, small rural infrastructure will be constructed or repaired based on priority lists submitted by lawmakers from the respective divisions.

In a separate proposal, the LGD has requested around Tk 1,500 crore from the Finance Division, at Tk 5 crore per MP, from the special needs development assistance fund under the annual development programme (ADP).

The Project Evaluation Committee (PEC) has already reviewed the Tk 14,000-crore division-based project proposals, The Daily Star has learnt from Planning Commission officials involved with the proceedings.

PROPOSED ALLOCATIONS

Tk 10cr per MP annually for roads, bridges and other infrastructure

Tk 5cr per MP in separate special development assistance

Such projects had repeatedly been treated as a licence for the non-transparent and unaccountable abuse of power, serving the personal and partisan interests of local political leaders, agents and activists rather than the public interest.

Iftekharuzzaman, TIB Executive Director

Some components were sent back to the LGD for revision.

Once the revised proposals are received, they will be placed before the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecnec) for approval by December, they said.

Since 2010, three similar MP-demand-based rural infrastructure projects have been implemented at a combined cost of Tk 17,000 crore. Initially, each MP was allocated Tk 3 crore annually under those schemes, which was later raised to Tk 4 crore.

Unlike previous initiatives that covered the entire country under a single umbrella project, the government now plans to implement eight separate projects across the eight administrative divisions.

Lawmakers would submit priority lists for roads, bridges, culverts, rural markets and river ghats in their constituencies, which the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) would implement, the Planning

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A fisherman tends to his net in the blue waters of Kaptai Lake in Rangamati yesterday. The lake is home to a variety of fish, including rui, katla, mrigel, mahashol, kachki and chapila, supporting local livelihoods and contributing to the national economy.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Third FSRU unlikely to ease gas crisis soon

Without higher LNG supply, floating terminal would be of little use, says US-based think tank IEEFA

ASIFUR RAHMAN

The move to add a third floating LNG terminal is unlikely to bring significant relief to the country's persistent gas crisis anytime soon, said the US-based think-tank Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA).

The government last week approved a proposal to establish the third floating storage and regasification unit (FSRU) at Kutubjom in Maheshkhali, Cox's Bazar through a government-to-government arrangement with the China National Energy Engineering and Construction Company (CNEE).

The proposed terminal will have a base regasification capacity of 600 million cubic feet per day (mmcfd), with a peak capacity of 750 mmcfd. However, it is not expected to begin operations before 2028, meaning it will do little to address the country's immediate gas shortage.

Although additional financing arrangements have helped the country secure LNG supplies, further dependence on imported gas could put renewed pressure on foreign currency reserves.

IEEFA says, citing downgrading of the credit rating by Fitch

Increasing regasification capacity alone cannot resolve a shortage rooted in declining domestic production and constraints on importing fuel, according to the finding, published in IEEFA's latest report titled "LNG-to-power in emerging Asia: A

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Bangladesh gets green light for US dev financing

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has become eligible for financing from the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), opening the door to American funding for private sector investment, said the US embassy in Dhaka.

The DFC, a US government agency established in 2019 during Donald Trump's first presidency, mobilises private capital for development projects and advances US foreign policy objectives through international investment, according to the DFC website.

Bangladesh had previously sought access to DFC financing during the Awami League government, but concerns over labour rights, freedom of association and workplace safety prevented the country from becoming eligible.

M Masrur Reaz, economist and chairman and CEO of Policy Exchange Bangladesh, described the development as "very encouraging".

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

CELEBRATING AN INCOMPARABLE DIVA



PHOTO: STAR

Today marks the birthday of the legendary Runa Laila, whose voice and versatility have left a profound mark on the musical landscape of Bangladesh and the wider South Asian region. With a career spanning over six decades and songs in multiple languages, she has transcended geographical and cultural boundaries to become one of the most celebrated voices of the subcontinent. On this special occasion, we celebrate the life, career and timeless songs of an artist whose voice continues to captivate generations.

STORY ON PAGE 6



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Severe traffic congestion on the Dhaka-Tangail highway near the Ashulia Export Processing Zone as construction and excavation work for the Dhaka-Ashulia Elevated Expressway narrows the road, leaving vehicles stranded in long tailbacks. Dust from the construction work on the side of the road adds to commuters' suffering. The photo was taken recently.

ECONOMY IN FOCUS

'We'll honour our sovereign debt'

Says PM's finance adviser at conference

REJAUL KARIM BYRON, *from Cox's Bazar*

Bangladesh assured creditors it will honour its sovereign debt even as annual foreign repayments are set to jump to as much as $7.6 billion by 2030 from $4.49 billion in fiscal 2026.

"We recognise sovereign debt as a public obligation," Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir, adviser to the prime minister on finance and planning, told a conference in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

Organised by the finance division in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank, the two-day conference featured discussions on international bonds alongside the International Monetary Fund's new debt sustainability framework.

The immediate pressure on debt service is real, but it should not be viewed in isolation from Bangladesh's underlying capacity and commitment to meet its obligations, he said.

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JCD, Chhatra Shakti men beat up 5 JnU officials

Univ later suspends officials over 'AL links'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Chhatra Shakti activists yesterday beat up five officials of Jagannath University (JnU) and handed them over to the university proctor.

They alleged that the officials had links to the Awami League, whose political activities are now banned, and its banned student wing, Chhatra League.

Activists of JCD and Chhatra Shakti, student wing of National Citizen Party, also harassed Prof Mozaharul Alam Selim, chairman of Bangla department, after finding a portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in the department corridor.

Witnesses said the five officials were picked up from different university offices and departments. JCD and Chhatra Shakti men assaulted them

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Greenpeace activists unveil a three-dimensional floor installation titled "Don't Fall for Fossil Fuels" at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP31) in Antalya, Turkey, yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

Joint forces begin patrols in Khulna

Police increase surveillance, set up checkpoints in city

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

Joint forces began patrolling Khulna city yesterday morning to prevent crime and sabotage following a petrol bomb attack on the Khulna City Corporation headquarters.

Security has also been tightened at key government, private and autonomous institutions.

Around 12:30am on Sunday, miscreants on a motorcycle hurled a petrol bomb at the KCC Nagar Bhaban and fled. The explosion sparked a fire near the building, but locals and police extinguished the flames.

KCC Administrator Nazrul Islam Monju, who visited the scene yesterday, said the attack could be politically motivated or an attempt by criminals to create public panic.

Monju said the metropolitan police and KCC would form separate investigation committees, while CCTV footage from nearby areas was being examined.

Khulna Sadar Police Station Officer-in-Charge Lokmon Hossain said police had identified those involved in the Nagar Bhaban attack. He claimed police had confirmed the involvement of a banned political party.

Khulna Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sazzadur Rahman said, "Members of the SRB, BGB, Ansar and metropolitan police are taking part in the patrols."

COP31 SUMMIT

Draft deal calls for faster 'action' to exit fossil fuels

Expresses concern over 1.5C target breach

AFP, *Antalya*

COP31 co-host Australia yesterday released the first draft of a broad political deal that includes a call for nations to speed up the phaseout of planet-heating coal, oil and gas.

The draft decision needs ultimate approval by nearly 200 nations at the UN climate summit in Turkey where the future of fossil fuels has been among the most heated issues.

The proposed agreement lays out the competing positions of governments in Antalya and underscores how far apart they remain with a consensus deal due by Friday.

The draft "calls for accelerated action to phase out fossil fuels, including through the immediate transition away from fossil fuels in energy systems".

It also evokes "deep concern" over the impending breach of the Paris accord's 1.5C target and recognises the "central role of the best-available science" of the IPCC, the global authority on climate change.

The text also calls for a "tripling" of finance for climate adaptation measures in developing countries to reach at least $120 billion

Many countries, particularly in Europe and climate-vulnerable developing nations, have pushed for a reference to the IPCC and urged a faster exit from fossil fuels in the final text.

The text also calls for a "tripling" of finance for climate adaptation measures in developing countries to reach at least $120 billion, a key demand of these nations.

Australia, which is steering the marathon talks, wants to produce an overarching political statement summing up what countries have agreed in Antalya and setting the course for future climate action.

Meanwhile, UN's climate chief told COP31 talks yesterday that artificial intelligence offers both "great potential" and "great peril" for the battle against global warming.

Simon Stiell spoke at the launch of the voluntary "Antalya Artificial Intelligence Pledge" by COP31 host Turkey, which seeks to tap the technology's potential in finding climate solutions as well as assess its growing environmental risks.

"We have arrived at a technological moment of both great potential and great peril. AI and other frontier technologies are a double-edged sword," Stiell said.

MPs may get up

FROM PAGE 1

Commission officials said.

Meanwhile, the LGD sent two letters to the Finance Division last week seeking Tk 1,500 crore in special allocations.

One letter proposes Tk 1,320 crore, at Tk 5 crore each, for 264 elected MPs from the Upazila Annual Development Fund, while the other seeks Tk 180 crore for 36 MPs in city corporation areas from the City Corporation Development Assistance Fund.

In both letters, the LGD said the restoration of democracy through direct elections had raised new hopes among marginalised communities following long periods of deprivation and discrimination.

"As a result, people have high expectations from the current government. Grassroots citizens are constantly presenting small yet urgent demands to their elected lawmakers. MPs frequently visit their constituencies, attend educational and social events, listen to public grievances, and pledge to resolve them. However, their existing discretionary funds are extremely limited, making it impossible to meet these immediate demands," the letters read.

The proposed special funds could be used immediately for education, renovating religious institutions, supporting underprivileged meritorious students and promoting sports and cultural activities, the LGD said.

The proposals are under review, said a senior Finance Division official seeking anonymity.

While the Finance Division's consent is required for fund disbursement, final approval for the financial allocation rests with the planning ministry.

Contacted, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman said field-level research had shown that placing the allocation and use of public funds under MPs' authority essentially led to the "partisan politicisation of development".

Such projects had repeatedly been treated as a licence for the non-transparent and unaccountable abuse of power, serving the personal and partisan interests of local political leaders, agents and activists rather than the public interest.

The practice also went against the principles of parliamentary democracy, under which MPs are responsible for representing public interests in parliament, contributing to lawmaking and, most importantly, holding the government accountable.

Their involvement in project implementation created a clear conflict of interest with their responsibility to ensure government accountability, he said.

Iftekharuzzaman also argued that the practice was inconsistent with Articles 56(1) and 65 of the Constitution, which he cited in relation to the role of MPs, and Articles 59 and 60, which concern local government.

He also referred to what he said was a 2008 High Court ruling declaring the practice unconstitutional.

Against this backdrop, the government should, at the very least, have conducted an independent legal and performance assessment of previous projects before "reopening this floodgate of partisan abuse of power and corruption", Iftekharuzzaman added.

Bangladesh gets

FROM PAGE 1

"Bangladesh has significant potential to attract US foreign direct investment -- this will create opportunities to bring in US investment, including in infrastructure sectors, particularly energy and digital infrastructure. It will be a win-win proposition for both countries."

Bangladesh's investment climate was still perceived as challenging and costly, which often discouraged foreign investors.

Access to DFC financing and its risk-mitigation tools could help address some of these concerns, reduce investment risks and encourage more US investors to explore opportunities in Bangladesh, he said.

"Those of us who import from the US will be able to import more from there at low cost -- there will be more import cargo coming from the US and that will be the way forward for future bilateral relations," said Mohammed Amirul Haque, president of the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

DFC investments in South Asia serve as a stabilising force by supporting energy, critical infrastructure and technology projects that strengthen US alliances and protect regional sovereignty, said the US embassy in Dhaka in a press release.

Bangladesh's new eligibility status creates an important opportunity for DFC to help address the country's substantial economic development needs by mobilising private investment, it said.

Expanded access to DFC financing and risk mitigation tools will help bridge critical investment gaps and advance projects that might otherwise face financing constraints.

Such investments are expected to spur economic growth by developing critical infrastructure, creating jobs, expanding access to essential services and strengthening local businesses.

Bangladesh's eligibility for DFC financing marks an important opportunity to deepen economic partnership and mobilise private investment that delivers lasting growth, said DFC Chief Executive Officer Ben Black.

"By supporting projects that strengthen critical infrastructure, we can unlock economic opportunity for Bangladesh while advancing US strategic interests," he said

Promoting open economies and reciprocal trade would help drive economic growth in Bangladesh, said Brent T Christensen, the US ambassador to Bangladesh.

"The US believes that promoting open economies and reciprocal trade will spur economic growth in Bangladesh, and the Agreement on Reciprocal Trade is our public commitment to supporting Bangladesh through this process. DFC financing can play an important role in making that vision a reality -- spurring further prosperity in both of our countries," he said.

The Indo-Pacific, home to more than half of the world's population and some of its fastest-growing economies, offered significant opportunities for strategic US investment, the press release said.

DFC was committed to helping American businesses expand their presence in the region by mobilising private capital to support economic growth rooted in free market principles and strengthen US economic partnerships.

Last year, DFC provided accessible finance to 143 million individual borrowers and supported nearly 10.4 million businesses through debt, equity, credit and insurance.

Its global investment portfolio exceeds $40 billion.

Third FSRU unlikely to ease gas crisis soon

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five-year review of project outcomes".

Bangladesh's overall gas demand stands at around 3,800 mmcfd, against normal supply of approximately 2,600-2,700 mmcfd.

The proposed terminal's additional 600 mmcfd capacity would still depend on the availability of LNG cargoes, the country's ability to pay for them, and the infrastructure needed to deliver the gas to consumers.

LNG imports increased at 7.13 million tonnes in 2025 from 4.43 million tonnes in 2022, said the IEEFA report. In contrast, domestic gas production has fallen at an average annual rate of 4.64 percent.

The growing dependence on imported fuel has significantly increased the financial burden on the government: subsidy allocation for LNG import rose to Tk 9,000 crore in fiscal 2025-26's budget, compared with Tk 2,500 crore in 2019.

The report points to Bangladesh's reliance on external financing to meet its energy import bills, including credit facilities from the International Monetary Fund, International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation and the World Bank.

"Although additional financing arrangements have helped the country secure LNG supplies, further dependence on imported gas could put renewed pressure on foreign currency reserves," IEEFA said, citing downgrading of the credit rating by Fitch.

In May, Fitch revised down Bangladesh's sovereign credit outlook to negative from stable, citing rising external financing pressures and macroeconomic vulnerabilities linked to the conflict in the Middle East.

In a further assessment in October, Fitch estimated that a $10-per-barrel increase in global oil prices could add $1.2 billion to the country's annual oil import bill.

Nearly 40 percent of Bangladesh's electricity generation comes from LNG, while Qatar accounts for around 70 percent of its LNG imports, which is still suspended and Bangladesh needs to import LNG with high rates from spot markets, it said.

The proposed third FSRU will therefore create another requirement: Bangladesh will need to secure additional LNG cargoes regularly to make use of the terminal's capacity, IEEFA said.

Without sufficient financing and affordable long-term supply arrangements, the terminal could only add to the country's infrastructure costs.

IEEFA study found that the utilisation of Bangladesh's gas-fired power plants fell at only 43 percent in 2025, against 53 percent in 2020, despite an increase in installed generation capacity.

Even when both terminals were fully operational, gas availability remained insufficient to meet the demand from power plants.

"This suggests that the problem is not simply a shortage of regasification facilities. The country also needs sufficient and affordable gas supplies to operate its existing infrastructure and power plants," it said.

Bangladesh will need to address the decline in domestic gas production, ensure affordable and reliable LNG procurement, and strengthen its gas transmission network if the additional capacity is to make a meaningful difference to consumers, IEEFA added.

Meanwhile, Rangpur-4 MP Akhter Hossen yesterday questioned the government's decision to award the third FSRU project to the Chinese state company at an additional cost of nearly Tk 6,000 crore.

Addressing Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury at parliament, who also chairs the Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase, Akhter asked whether the government would consider cancelling the project and taking measures that genuinely safeguard Bangladesh's interests.

He also pointed out that once the contracts for the existing terminals expire, the vessels and associated assets will come under Bangladesh's ownership.

However, the new terminal awarded to CNEE will not become Bangladesh's property even after the company operates it for 15 years.

"Several months earlier, a company owned by a member of parliament had submitted a proposal in virtually the same language as the one submitted by the Chinese company," he said.

The proposal was initially placed before the Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase about a month ago but was rejected. However, while the prime minister was on an official visit to Türkiye, it was brought back before the committee and approved.

The National Citizen Party member secretary argued that the new terminal would cost around 35 percent more than comparable projects.

"The country's money is being wasted, and in some cases, opportunities are being created for misappropriation," he said.

In response, Khosru said Akhter's question was not directly related to the main question under discussion, which concerned tax evasion involving rural and small investors.

If the MP submitted a formal notice on the issue, an appropriate answer would be provided, he said.

The new terminal has larger storage capacity and would accommodate both moss-type and membrane-type LNG vessels, meaning larger cargoes can be brought, said Anindya Islam Amit, the state minister for power, energy and mineral resources.

This would reduce LNG import costs by 5 to 10 cents per unit, with estimated savings of around $190,000 per cargo.

Considering 50 cargoes annually under a 20-year contract, the country could save Tk 2,300 crore in the long run through bulk LNG imports, he added.

'We'll honour our sovereign debt'

FROM PAGE 1

"We are carefully managing the trade-offs between domestic and external borrowing, short-term and long-term debt and concessional and market-based financing."

The government is giving greater consideration to the long-term cost of borrowing alongside exchange rate, refinancing and interest rate risks, he added.

Tanvir Shahriar Ghani, special assistant to the prime minister on capital markets and investment, said Bangladesh's ability to secure affordable international financing hinges not just on economic metrics but on clear, credible communication with global markets.

Sovereign debt policy is far more than an abstract fiscal exercise -- it directly dictates the daily lives of ordinary citizens.

"When dollars run short, the first person to feel it is not in this room. It is the shopkeeper in Jashore whose fuel costs rise week after week. It is the medical equipment stranded at the port because a dollar bill has not been cleared. It is the factory ready to hire a hundred people that ultimately decides not to. Debt policy is not a number on a report -- it is literally when the next shipment arrives."

Distilling these discussions into three core questions -- whether the world will lend to Bangladesh, what it will ask in return, and under what conditions -- Ghani identified messaging as the decisive factor.

Drawing on his prior experience on the lending side of international finance, he said opaque communication carries a heavy financial penalty.

"When we could not understand a country, we did not walk away -- we simply charged them more or lent for a shorter duration. Not being understood always has a price, and someone pays that price."

To lower borrowing costs and build market trust, Ghani outlined a two-pronged approach centred on domestic institutional reform and proactive engagement with global capital markets.

First, he pointed to the empowerment of the finance ministry's Debt Management Office, which is working to consolidate all sovereign debt figures under a single umbrella to assess true costs and currency risks.

"Informed public servants backed by political leaders who trust them are the ultimate long-term solution for reforms."

Even though the United Nations General Assembly has granted Bangladesh a three-year extension before graduating from Least Developed Country status, the country should not delay entering commercial international markets, he said.

Traditional concessional lending and commercial markets can operate simultaneously, he said, adding that commercial capital represents roughly 90 percent of global liquidity, spanning institutional investors, sovereign wealth funds, endowments and the Bangladeshi diaspora.

Entering these markets establishes a sovereign benchmark price, allowing investors to compare Bangladesh directly with peers like Indonesia and Vietnam.

In the international market, the true value is not merely the money raised but the familiarity it builds for the nation.

"With one public benchmark price, other deals can follow -- a city's water bond, a Sukuk for a gas pipeline, or a dollar-denominated securitisation for a paid-off bridge. Without that benchmark, every deal starts with a guess, and guessing costs far more in the long run," Ghani added.

Limited domestic revenue mobilisation, rising debt service costs and slower growth are placing increasing pressure on Bangladesh's public finances, said ADB director Cigdem Akin.

Fiscal buffers matter with frequent and complex external shocks, including geopolitical tensions, commodity price volatility, climate-related risks and tighter financial conditions.

Economies that maintain sustainable debt levels and credible medium-term fiscal frameworks are better positioned to withstand shocks without losing credibility.

Effective debt management depends on strong institutions, he said, adding that strengthening debt management requires comprehensive, consistent and coordinated reforms across these areas, supported by close coordination among the government and development partners.

Sustainable debt management must go hand in hand with stronger revenue mobilisation, prudent expenditure management, sound public investment management, effective oversight and greater fiscal transparency, he added.



MAO'S GIFT TO BHASHANI

A tractor that carries a piece of history

MIRZA SHAKIL, *Tangail*



PHOTO: STAR

An old tractor, covered in dust and rust, stands in a tin-roofed shed at Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University in Tangail. It has not tilled a field in decades, but its history goes far beyond farming.

The tractor was a gift from Chinese revolutionary leader Mao Zedong to Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani in 1967, reflecting a friendship between the two leaders and Bhashani's dream of transforming agriculture through cooperative farming.

Today, the tractor remains at Santosh, just northwest of Bhashani's grave, where years of inadequate maintenance have left it in a state of neglect.

The story of the tractor began with Bhashani's visits to China in the 1960s.

In 1963, Bhashani travelled to China as head of the Pakistani delegation attending the country's National Day celebrations. He stood beside Mao at Tiananmen Square and held meetings with him and Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai.

He returned to China in 1964 and later wrote "Mao Zedong-er Deshe" (In the Land of Mao Zedong), drawing on his experiences during the visits.

During his third and final visit in 1966, Mao promised to give Bhashani a tractor. The following year, it arrived in East Pakistan. The gift had a practical purpose.

Bhashani believed that farmers cultivating small, scattered plots could not escape poverty without changing the way agriculture was organised. He advocated cooperative farming, where farmers could work together and use modern machinery to cultivate larger areas of land.

The tractor was capable of cultivating 50 acres of land in a single cropping season, reflecting Bhashani's vision of cooperative farming.

It was first used in Mohipur, under Panchbibi upazila of Joypurhat, where Bhashani had initiated agricultural projects to experiment with cooperative cultivation.

In 1974, the tractor was brought to Santosh in Tangail.

Bhashani later handed it over to the Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC), hoping it would continue serving farmers rather than remain unused.

The corporation operated it in Jamalpur for some time. Eventually, the tractor broke down and became inoperative.

There were even moves to sell it.

But in 1995, the then Board of Trustees of Santosh Islamic University intervened and brought the tractor back to Santosh, saving it from being sold.

It has since remained under the care of the university authorities.

Azad Khan Bhashani, a grandson of Maulana Bhashani, said the tractor remains a reminder of the historic friendship between Mao and his grandfather, as well as Bhashani's ideas on agriculture, farmers and the rural economy.

He called for proper preservation of the tractor as part of a wider government initiative to protect Bhashani's historical belongings.

MBSTU Vice-Chancellor Professor ABM Shahidul Islam said the tractor and other historical items had been inspected in consultation with Bhashani's family. He assured that steps had already been taken to preserve and display them properly.

IN BRIEF

Measles outbreak shows no signs of slowing

1,509 more suspected cases in a day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Measles cases and hospitalisations have continued to rise, while the death toll climbed further, even seven weeks after the government launched an intensified catch-up vaccination campaign to contain the unprecedented outbreak.

A total of 1,509 suspected measles cases and 173 confirmed cases were reported in the 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, according to DGHS. Four more patients died with suspected measles, taking the total death toll to 1,318.

During the same period, 1,405 patients were admitted to hospitals, the second-highest single-day hospitalisation figure since the outbreak began. The highest was 1,415 admissions on July 27.

The government launched an intensified catch-up measles vaccination campaign on September 26. It initially targeted around 34 lakh children and was scheduled to end on October 31. However, an additional 19.06 lakh children have received the vaccine since September 27, as of yesterday.

As the vaccine usually takes three to four weeks to develop immunity, a decline in cases was expected by now. However, DGHS data show that cases and hospitalisations have continued to rise.

In the first 16 days of November, the daily averages stood at 1,405 cases and 1,214 hospital admissions, up from 1,267 cases and 1,088 admissions in October. Deaths averaged 4.12 a day this month, slightly lower than October's daily average of 4.65. In May, the daily average was 10.

Four districts see sporadic violence

STAR REPORT

Several violent incidents, including gunfire, arson attempts, and bomb attacks, took place in four districts between Sunday night and early yesterday.

A group of armed men fired 15 to 16 blank shots while chanting "Joy Bangla" at Dattapara Bazar in Natore Sadar upazila on Sunday night, police said.

The incident took place around 10:00pm. The group arrived in several microbuses, and they also allegedly tried to set a vehicle on fire.

Natore Sadar Police Station OC Monsur Rahman said police went to the spot after receiving information, but the men fled sensing their arrival.

Police recovered 14 bullet casings from the scene. No injuries were reported.

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National health hotline to be back in service within days

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The health ministry has decided to extend the contract with the vendor operating the national teleconsultation service, Shastho Batayan, with the much-needed service expected to resume within a day or two.

Accessible through the 16263 hotline, the round-the-clock service came to an abrupt halt on November 12 after the health authorities decided not to extend the service provider's contract, which had expired last month.

The sudden suspension, without any alternative arrangement, left thousands of service seekers in trouble and drew severe criticism. The hotline enables people across the country to consult doctors and receive health information and advice free of charge over the phone.

"The service is expected to be revived within a day or two," ANM Bazlur Rashid, secretary of the Health Services Division, told The Daily Star last night.

The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) had been instructed to contact the service provider and take necessary steps to renew or extend the agreement, the secretary said.

"There is no scope for shutting down this public service, and the government will not do so," he added.

Contacted, Shohorab Ahmed Chowdhury, managing director of Synesis IT, manager and operator of the service, said they had also heard about the decision but were yet to receive any formal communication.

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'A report doesn't mean anything'

Shama Obaed dismisses BBC Bangla report on India's conditions for Hasina's extradition

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

State Minister-2 for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam yesterday dismissed a BBC Bangla report claiming India had set two conditions for the extradition of the ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, saying it had no basis.



Responding to a question at the foreign ministry, Shama said it had not come from any responsible Indian government authority.

"A report doesn't mean anything. If anything comes officially from India's Ministry of External Affairs or on behalf of the Indian government, we will accept it and respond accordingly," she told reporters.

Asked whether India had communicated the reported conditions to Bangladesh at any level, Shama said there had been no such communication.

According to the BBC Bangla report, Indian government officials had indicated that New Delhi had two main conditions for Hasina's return.

The first was that the Bangladesh Army would have to take Hasina back, either by air or land, as she had arrived in India aboard a Bangladesh military aircraft. India was also prepared to make the

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'I fired at your house today, you'll be next'

Ctg businessman threatened over extortion demand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Ctg*

Gunmen opened fire at a businessman's house in Chattogram's Bayezid Bostami area early yesterday after he refused to pay Tk 20 lakh in extortion money.

The incident took place around 12:30am at businessman Zafar Ahmed's residence in Shahidnagar. The gunshots shattered a windowpane, but no one was injured.

Zafar alleged that associates of Mohammad Raihan, a close aide to fugitive criminal Boro Sazzad, targeted his house over the unpaid demand.

He said Raihan first demanded the money around 10 months ago while Zafar was in India with his wife for medical treatment. He informed police at the time. Raihan renewed the demand and threatened him last Wednesday, he added.

Zafar said Raihan called him after the shooting and threatened to kill him,

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Govt approves two new police stations, municipalities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has approved the establishment of two new police stations and two municipalities, the renaming of a police station, and the relocation of two upazila headquarters.

The decisions were taken at a meeting of the National Implementation Committee for Administrative Reorganisation, chaired by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman yesterday, according to the PM's press wing.

Chakaria Police Station in Cox's Bazar will be split to establish Matamuhuri Police Station at Bottoli in Konakhali union.

Similarly, Shibganj Police Station in Bogura will be split to establish Mokamtola Police Station under the newly formed Mokamtola upazila.

The two new municipalities will be Mokamtola in Bogura and Jaintiapur in Sylhet.

Pagla Police Station in Mymensingh will be renamed Dakshin Gafargaon Police Station.

Meanwhile, the headquarters of Chandraganj upazila in Lakshmipur will be relocated from Motbi and Charchamita mouzas to Uttar Chandrapur and Hajirpara mouzas under Hajirpara union.

Chattogram-Nazirhat commuter train service begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Ctg*

Bangladesh Railway is launching two pairs of commuter trains on the Chattogram-Nazirhat route today, replacing the existing local train services with trains offering more seats and improved facilities.

The trains, named Nazirhat Commuter-1, 2, 3 and 4, will operate with new seven-coach sets, each having 334 passenger seats, according to a letter issued by the Traffic Transportation section of the Bangladesh Railway Director General's Office on November 15.

However, the minimum fare will rise to Tk 20 from the existing Tk 5-11, depending on the distance travelled.

Under the existing schedule, one train will leave Chattogram at 8:30am and reach Nazirhat at 10:10am. It will depart Nazirhat at 10:40am and return to Chattogram at 12:10pm.

Another train will leave Nazirhat at 6:00am and arrive in Chattogram at 7:35am. It will depart Chattogram at 5:45pm and reach Nazirhat at 7:25pm.

Each train set will have five Shovon-class coaches, one power car and one seating-cum-luggage (SLR) coach.

Tarek Md Imran, deputy chief operating superintendent of BR's Eastern Zone, said preparations for the launch had been completed.

Showkat Hossain Chowdhury, president of the Chattogram-Nazirhat Passenger Welfare Association, said the fare increase would



be acceptable if passengers received better services. "The trains should run on time, remain clean, and have light-fan facilities," he said.

Currently, eight pairs of shuttle trains, two pairs of local trains and oil-carrying trains for the Hathazari Power Plant operate on the route.

IN BRIEF

RAMISA RAPE, MURDER

HC verdict on death reference, appeals today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court is set to deliver its verdict today on the death reference and appeals filed by two convicts sentenced to death in the Ramisa Akter rape and murder case.

The bench of Justice Bhishmadev Chakrabortty and Justice KM Rasheduzzaman Raja fixed the date after concluding hearings yesterday.

Attorney General Md Ruhul Quddus Kazal and Deputy Attorney General Osman Chowdhury, representing the state, urged the HC to uphold the trial court verdict, arguing that the charges against Sohel Rana and his wife Swapna Khatun had been proved.

On June 7, the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal in Dhaka sentenced Sohel to death for raping and murdering eight-year-old Ramisa, and Swapna to death for assisting him in the crime. The verdict came just 19 days after the incident.

Ramisa, a second-grader at a school in Dhaka's Pallabi, was found beheaded in the house of her neighbour Sohel on May 19.

1,026 UPs to go to polls in first phase on Jan 21

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission yesterday announced tentative figures for the upcoming Union Parishad (UP) elections, with 1,026 UPs across 131 upazilas set to go to the polls in the first phase on January 21 next year.

EC Abul Fazal Md Sanaullah said in the second phase, elections will be held in 1,113 UPs across 129 upazilas, followed by 1,002 UPs in 118 upazilas in the third phase, 793 in 93 upazilas in the fourth, and 356 in 37 upazilas in the fifth. The EC expects to publish the phase-wise list of all 4,290 UPs on its website by Thursday, he said.

He said the commission would hold talks with all registered political parties before December 10 to discuss how to ensure free, fair and credible local government elections.

The discussions are expected to take place over three days, either late this month or early next month.

Asked whether possible unrest over Sheikh Hasina's reported return in December could affect the January polls, he said, "The situation will need to be assessed closer to the time. We do not think these will affect the local government elections."

THE World University Rankings 2027 — Times Higher Education — NSU Joint 1st in Bangladesh — RANKED #801-1000

NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY
Center of Excellence in Higher Education

QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS #901-950 in QS World University Rankings 2027

TENDER NOTICE

SL. No. 1: Rental basis indoor-outdoor plants (Tender No. NSU/26-27/T-09) and

SL. No. 2: Supplying server (Tender No. NSU/26-27-T11)

North South University (NSU) invites sealed offers from reputed organizations/business partners/agents/distributors for the procurement of rental basis indoor-outdoor plants and supplying server for NSU campus.

Interested bidders may collect tender schedule from **Southeast Bank PLC., Bashundhara Branch, Dhaka-1229,** on all working days till **Tuesday, December 01, 2026** by paying non-refundable amount of Taka 1,000.00 (One Thousand) in cash for each schedule/ tender. The bidder must bid for all works listed in the above SL. No. 1 and 2.

The bidders must submit **earnest money @ 2.5%** of the quoted price per year for **(SL. No.1)** and **@2.5%** of the Quoted Price for **(SL. No. 2)** in the form of Pay Order issued from any scheduled bank drawn in favor of **"NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY"** along with their offer. The sealed offer must be submitted on **Wednesday, December 02, 2026 by 2:15 p.m.** at the office of the undersigned. The offers will be opened at **2:30 p.m.** on the same day. Representatives of the participating bidders may remain present at the time of the bid opening. NSU authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without showing any reason.

Director, Procurement
NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY
Bashundhara, Dhaka-1229
Phone: +88-02-55668200, Ext. 1270
Web: www.northsouth.edu

I fired at your house today, you'll be next

FROM PAGE 3

saying, "You didn't pay the money, so I fired at your house today. Tomorrow, it'll be you. Keep your burial shrouds ready."

Bayezid Bostami Police Station OC Iqtear Uddin said four men arrived on two motorcycles, opened fire and fled. Police are trying to identify and arrest them, he said, urging Zafar to file a written complaint.

Raihan is accused in at least 15 cases, including murder, extortion and violations of the Arms Act.

Police said he operates in different parts of Chattogram, using foreign WhatsApp numbers to demand extortion money.

Four districts see sporadic violence

FROM PAGE 3

The OC said they suspected members of the Awami League, whose activities are banned, were involved. A case was filed and one person was arrested in connection with the incident.

In Netrokona, miscreants attempted to set fire to a jute sack containing petrol and engine oil on the veranda of a Grameen Bank branch early yesterday.

Mohammad Saiful Islam, manager of the branch, said the incident took place around 4:00am. Hearing noise, the security guard started shouting, prompting market guards and locals to rush to the scene. The attackers fled without starting a fire.

Netrokona Sadar Model Police Station OC Abul Khayer confirmed the incident.

Meanwhile, miscreants piled dry bamboo and wood on a railway track and set it ablaze near Challisha Railway Station in Netrokona Sadar around 12:30am, said OC Abul Khayer. Locals later extinguished the fire.

The incident did not disrupt train services, said Abdullah Al Mamun, station master of Netrokona Railway Station.

In Khulna, two youths on a motorcycle hurled a petrol bomb at Khulna City Corporation's (KCC) Nagar Bhaban around 12:30am yesterday, said Md Lokmon Hossain, OC of Khulna Sadar Police Station.

"The petrol bomb landed on the staircase. Apart from a slight mark on the steps, there was no major damage," he said.

In Jhenaidah, three explosions were reported at Barobazar Railway Station in Kaliganj upazila early yesterday.

Unidentified miscreants threw the objects at around 3:00am, targeting the station's office room, station master Mobashwer Hossain told journalists.

The wooden door caught fire, but people inside the office quickly extinguished it. No major damage was reported, he said.

Kaliganj Police Station OC Zulfikar Ali confirmed the incident.

[Our correspondents from Pabna, Netrokona, Khulna and Jhenaidah contributed to the report]

PRAYER TIMING
NOVEMBER 17

	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	5-05	12-45	3-45	5-21	7-00
JAMAAT	5-40	1-15	4-00	5-24	7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Janata Bank PLC.
Estate Department (5th floor)
110, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000.
Phone : 02-55110085, 02-55110019
web: www.jb.com.bd

Ref No: JBPLC/ED/RAA/CENTRAL-AC/26/ 535 — Date: 16/11/2026

e-Tender Notice (OTM)

An e-Tender is invited in the national e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of the following items. Interested tenderers are advised to visit the site and read each terms and conditions of tender schedule thoroughly before submitting tender.

Serial No.	Tender ID	Description of Works	Online (e-GP System) Tender Publication Date & Time	Tender/Proposal Document Last Selling Date and Time	Tender/Proposal Closing and Opening Date and Time
1	1370593	Supply and Replacement of Compressor Oil, Refrigerant Filter Drier, Oil Filter and Grease for 02(Two) Nos. (300TR and 350TR) "YORK" brand Centrifugal water chiller at Janata Bank PLC., Head Office, 110, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000.	16/11/2026 15:00	02/12/2026 14:00	02/12/2026 15:00

This is an Online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in National e-GP Portal and no official hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, Registration in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fee for downloading the e-Tender document from National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

(Md. Abubakar Siddique)
Deputy General Manager

GD-2753

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Bangladesh Police
11 Armed Police Battalion
Uttara, Dhaka.

Memo No-APBn(11)/Admin/8628 — Date: 15/11/ 2026

Invitation for e-Tender (OTM)

Tenders are hereby invited through e-GP portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) by Commanding Officer (Addl. DIG), 11 Armed Police Battalion Uttara, Dhaka for the procurement of following packages, available in the e-GP website (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) from date: 17/11/2026; Time-15.00 PM.

Tender ID	Name of Package	Ministry /Organization/ PE	Type & Method	Publishing Date & Time	Last Selling Date & Time	Closing & Opening Date & Time
1373795	Supply of Soya bean Oil. (2026-2027 FY 3rd Quarters)	Ministry of Home Affairs/ Bangladesh Police/ 11 APBn, Dhaka	NCT & OTM	17-November-2026 15:00:00	29-November-2026 09:00:00	29-November-2026 15:00:00
1373900	Supply of Deshi Lentils. (2026-2027 FY 3rd Quarters)	Ministry of Home Affairs/ Bangladesh Police/ 11 APBn, Dhaka	NCT & OTM	17-November-2026 15:00:00	29-November-2026 09:00:00	29-November-2026 15:00:00

These are online Tenders, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To-submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any scheduled banks.
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

(Most. Taslima Khatun)
BP-7503047893
Commanding Officer (Addl DIG)
11 Armed police Battalion
Uttara, Dhaka.
e-mail- co11ap@police.gov.bd

GD-2775

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
Munshiganj
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo.no.46.02.5900.000.07.001.26-2252 — Date: 16/11/2026

e-Tender Notice No: 17 /2026-27 Procurement of Works (NCT)

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

Sl. No.	Package No.	Name of Works	Tender ID No	Tender Document Last Selling Date & Time	Tender Closing Date & Time	Procurement Method
1.	MDIRI DP/Mun /26-27/VR/ W-47	a) Improvement of Kalma Nowpara- Morichadi GPS via Baromocam Bazar Road by BC at Ch. 00-880m. under Louhajang Upazila, District: Munshiganj. (Road ID No: 359444040) (Salvage Material Cost: 13,07,420.00 BDT). b) Improvement of Rosulpur Madrasa Dahirpara Gasbog Khiaghat Road by BC at Ch. 00-1600m. under Louhajang Upazila, District: Munshiganj. (Road ID No: 359444042) (Salvage Material Cost: 4,75,828.00 BDT)	1373682	03-Dec-2026 12:00	03-Dec-2026 14:00	OTM
2.	MDIRI DP/Mun /26-27/VR/ W-52	Improvement of Kanderpar - Sarishaban via Satak Char Road by Uni-Block at Ch. 00-4000m. under Tongibari Upazila, District: Munshiganj. (Road ID No: 359944023) (Salvage Material Cost: 95,03,580.00 BDT)	1373684	09-Dec-2026 12:00	09-Dec-2026 14:00	OTM

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP System portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the national e-GP system portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required.
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from the e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

16.11.26
(Mohammad Borhan Uddin Mollah)
Executive Engineer
LGED, Munshiganj
Phone: 02-998847104
e-mail: xen.munshiganj@lged.gov.bd

GD-2779

Tender Announcement

Tender Numbers: QCBD/Tender/18, 19 & 20/2026 — **Date: 15/11/2026**

Qatar Charity Bangladesh Office invites the submission of tenders under the following reference numbers: QCBD/Tender/18/2026 for the Framework Agreement for Pediatric Open-Heart Surgery Services; QCBD/Tender/19/2026 for the Framework Agreement for the Supply, Packaging and Delivery of Iftar Food Baskets for the Ramadan Iftar Project in Bangladesh (2027); and QCBD/Tender/20/2026 for the Framework Agreement for the Supply, Packaging and Delivery of Zakat Al-Fitr Food Baskets in Bangladesh (2027).

A brief statement of the required items, work or services	Quantity	Deadline for Tender Document Collection by email	Closing date
Framework Agreement for Pediatric Open-Heart Surgery Services QCBD/Tender/18/2026	Mentioned in Tender Schedule	Date: 17/11/2026 to 21/11/2026 Time: 09:00 AM to 06:00 PM	Date: 22/11/2026 Time: by 24:00 BST
Framework Agreement for the Supply, Packaging and Delivery of Iftar Food Baskets for the Ramadan Iftar Project in Bangladesh (2027) QCBD/Tender/19/2026		Date: 27/11/2026 to 24/11/2026 Time: 09:00 AM to 06:00 PM	Date: 25/11/2026 Time: by 24:00 BST
Framework Agreement for the Supply, Packaging and Delivery of Zakat Al-Fitr Food Baskets in Bangladesh (2027) QCBD/Tender/20/2026		Date: 17/11/2026 to 24/11/2026 Time: 09:00 AM to 06:00 PM	Date: 25/11/2026 Time: by 24:00 BST

- Bidders will submit two folders (Technical and Financial).
- Tender documents can be obtained through e-mail qcbangladesh@qcharity.org during official working hours.
- **Bids submission to:** Mentioned in the tender schedule.
- **NB:** If any company asked for the tender schedule and didn't get it then it can complain to Qatar Charity tender committee through the hr.bd@qcharity.org
- **NB:** Bidders must mention the number and date of this tender as shown in the tender documents.

Accept or reject of tender/bid: Qatar Charity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender/bid without assigning any reason and Qatar Charity is not bound to select lowest bidder at any cause.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
নির্বাহী পরিচালকের কার্যালয়
বরিশাল উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ, বরিশাল।

স্মারক নং- ০৩ — তারিখ ঃ ০১/০৮/৩৩ /বঙ্গাব্দ। ১৬/১১/২৬ /খ্রিস্টাব্দ।

নবসৃষ্ট বরিশাল উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষের অফিসের জন্য বরিশাল মহানগরী এলাকায় কার পার্কিংসহ ৯০০০-৯৫০০ বর্গফুট আয়তনের একটি ভবন সরকারি অফিস হিসেবে ব্যবহারের জন্য (গৃহায়ণ ও গণপূর্ত মন্ত্রণালয়ের দর অনুযায়ী) ভাড়ার প্রয়োজন।
আগ্রহী মালিকগণকে আগামী ৩০ নভেম্বর ২০২৬ খ্রি. তারিখের মধ্যে প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজপত্রসহ সিলগালাকৃত খামে নির্বাহী পরিচালক বরিশাল উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ বরিশাল বরাবর আবেদন দাখিল করতে হবে।

আবেদনের যোগ্যতাঃ

১। ভবনটির প্লান যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক অনুমোদিত হতে হবে।
২। ভবনটি সম্পূর্ণরূপে ব্যবহার উপযোগী হতে হবে।
৩। জমির মালিকানা স্বপক্ষে সকল ধরণের বৈধ কাগজপত্র যেমন, এসএ, আরএস, বিএস জরিপ পর্চাসহ হালনাগাদ খাজনার দাখিলা।
৪। ভবনে সৌরবিদ্যুত ব্যবস্থা রাখতে হবে।
৫। ভবনের সামনে কমপক্ষে ২০ ফুট চওড়া রাস্তা থাকতে হবে।
৬। ভবনে অগ্নি নির্বাপক ব্যবস্থা রাখতে হবে।
৭। আবেদন ফরম বরিশাল উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষের নির্বাহী পরিচালকের সরকারী অফিস কক্ষ হতে অফিস চলাকালিন সময়ে নির্ধারিত ফি পরিশোধ সাপেক্ষে সংগ্রহণ করা যাবে।

১৬/১১/২৬
(মোঃ মেহেদী হাসান)
নির্বাহী পরিচালক
বরিশাল উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ, বরিশাল।

GD-2786

Ukraine attacks Russia with drone barrage

Crimea bridge hit; Zelensky urges Musk to lift Starlink curbs

AGENCIES

Ukraine fired hundreds of drones at Russia overnight, aiming towards Moscow and hitting a symbolic bridge that links the annexed Crimean peninsula to Russia.

The strike on the bridge appeared to inflict only minor damage, though it drew an angry response from Russian-installed officials.

French soldiers have been operating in Ukraine for several months, training Ukrainian troops and helping maintain military equipment

Ukraine launched 1,336 drones in the barrage, Moscow's defence ministry said in a statement -- the second-highest daily figure so far this year, according to an AFP tally of official Russian statements.

Meanwhile, Russia struck energy and railway infrastructure in eight regions of Ukraine overnight, President Volodymyr Zelensky said later on Sunday, in attacks he said were made possible partly due to restrictions on Ukraine's use of SpaceX's Starshield service, reports Reuters.

Zelensky had asked officials "to work as closely as possible" with the US government and Musk's company. "It is important to be on the right side of history."

Radio France Internationale (RFI) reported yesterday that French soldiers have been operating in Ukraine for several months, training Ukrainian troops and helping maintain military equipment. Citing sources, RFI said French lawmakers had not been informed of the deployment of the confidential mission, led by a French general.



Flames erupt during an explosion as Israeli forces demolish the house of a Palestinian accused of possessing a rocket, according to his family, in Kafr Nima, near Ramallah, in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, yesterday. PHOTO: **REUTERS**

'I may not return alive'

Pakistan ex-PM Imran seeks medical treatment for himself, wife in open letter to top judges

DAWN ONLINE/ANN

Pakistan's former prime minister Imran Khan yesterday appealed for medical treatment for himself and his wife Bushra Bibi in an open letter to the chief justices of the Federal Constitutional Court (FCC), the Supreme Court (SC) and the Islamabad High Court (IHC).

The letter was shared on the social media platform X by Imran's lawyer Barrister Salman Safdar, who had met the ex-premier at Adiala jail on Nov 2 and Nov 11. The letter said that during the Nov 11 meeting, Imran had directed Safdar to "carry his words to your lordships".

"I have conveyed this letter faithfully and solely on these instructions. The words that follow are his [Imran's]," the letter said, which also bore Safdar's signature.

In the letter, Imran, also PTI founder, detailed his own deteriorating health condition as well as his wife's, pleading with the courts to grant them access to medical treatment.

"I spent my life building hospitals so that those who could not afford treatment would receive it free of cost. Today, I ask only that my wife and I be treated," he said.

SUMMIT IN SHENZHEN

Xi, Trump, Putin to discuss 'world peace': China

AFP, *Beijing*

The leaders of China, Russia and the United States will discuss "world peace" when they hold their first trilateral summit in Shenzhen this week, Beijing said yesterday.

Presidents Xi Jinping, Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin are due to meet in the southern Chinese city on Thursday on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit.

China has provided few details as to what the three leaders will discuss but said they would hold "in-depth exchanges on safeguarding world peace and promoting strategic stability in major-power relations".

"It will be of ground-breaking significance," foreign ministry



spokeswoman Mao Ning told a news briefing yesterday, hours after Beijing confirmed the meeting.

Top Chinese and US diplomats have previously raised the possibility that the three-way talks could broach the sensitive subject of denuclearisation.

Washington, which dislikes China's rapidly expanding nuclear arsenal, said it wants Beijing to be part of a nuclear arms control deal.

Beijing, however, has long maintained that the US and Russia should reduce their giant nuclear arsenals before it agrees to talks on its own stockpile.

After a US-Russia bilateral treaty on nuclear weapons expired in February, Trump called for a "better agreement" including China. Beijing at the time declined to join disarmament negotiations.



PHOTO: **AFP**

Students stage a protest during French education minister's visit to the Lycee Nelson Mandela for its reopening after part of the school was set on fire during a student blockade in early October, in Nantes, western France, yesterday.

IN BRIEF

ATTEMPTED COUP

Two Israeli opposition chiefs denounce Netanyahu

AFP, *Jerusalem*

Two Israeli opposition leaders yesterday denounced an "attempted coup" following press reports that outgoing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office tried to frame members of an Arab-Israeli party ahead of last month's election.

"As more and more details come to light, it becomes clear: This wasn't an attempt to disrupt the elections. It was an attempted coup," wrote Yair Lapid on X, who headed the opposition in the previous legislature and co-chairs the Beyachad list.

Israel's Channel 12 reported Sunday that on the eve of October 27 election, Netanyahu's chief of staff Norden had phoned in a complaint to the police about

Netanyahu accused Arab parties of electoral fraud after they gained a record number of seats

members of the Arab-Israeli Raam party.

Norden reportedly pointed the police to a purported intelligence source who provided information that led to the arrest of three Raam members. The three men were later released when police determined that the information was unfounded.

Netanyahu subsequently accused Arab parties of electoral fraud after they gained record number of seats.

UN chief backs engagement with Myanmar

Calls for post-coup govt to end violence on sidelines of Asean summit

AFP, *Manila*

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres yesterday expressed support for fresh diplomatic efforts to engage with Myanmar's post-coup government, but said that "violence needs to stop".

Guterres made the remarks in Manila, where leaders from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) agreed Sunday to pursue a "calibrated engagement" with the war-torn country.

Myanmar has been excluded from high-level Asean meetings since a military junta seized power in a coup in 2021, but the regional bloc is seeking a path towards normalising diplomatic relations.

"We have never opposed the idea that it is always necessary to engage with whoever is involved in a conflict," Guterres told a press conference on the sidelines of the Asean summit.

While "engagement is not appeasement", Guterres said the "intolerable violations of human rights in Myanmar" must end.

জাহাঙ্গীরনগর বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

সাভার, ঢাকা-১৩৪২

২০২৬-২০২৭ শিক্ষাবর্ষে প্রথম বর্ষ স্নাতক (সম্মান) শ্রেণিতে ভর্তির বিজ্ঞপ্তি

২০২৬-২০২৭ শিক্ষাবর্ষে ১ম বর্ষ স্নাতক (সম্মান) শ্রেণিতে বিভিন্ন ইউনিটের অন্তর্ভুক্ত ৩৭ টি বিভাগ/ইনস্টিটিউটে ১৮৪৮ টি আসনে ভর্তির জন্য নিম্নবর্ণিত যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন শিক্ষার্থীদের কাছ থেকে আবেদন আহবান করা হচ্ছে। আবেদনকারীকে **জাহাঙ্গীরনগর বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ভর্তি সম্পর্কিত ওয়েবসাইট** admission.juniv.edu এ প্রকাশিত নিয়মাবলি অনুসরণ করে সংশ্লিষ্ট ইউনিটে অনলাইনে আবেদন করতে হবে।

১. আবেদনের সময়সীমা: ২২ নভেম্বর ২০২৬ তারিখ সকাল ১০.০০ টা থেকে ১৫ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৬ তারিখ রাত ১১.৫৯ টা পর্যন্ত

২. আবেদন ফি: অনলাইনে ডেবিট কার্ড/ক্রেডিট কার্ড/মোবাইল ব্যাংকিং সেবার মাধ্যমে নিম্নোক্তহারে আবেদন ফি প্রদান করতে হবে:

ইউনিট	আবেদন ফি	সার্ভিস চার্জ
A, B, C এবং D ইউনিট	৮০০/- (ইউনিট প্রতি)	আবেদন ফি'র সাথে ১.২% সার্ভিস চার্জ আবেদনকারীকে প্রদান করতে হবে
E ইউনিট	৭০০/-	
C1 ইউনিট এবং আইবিএ-জেইউ	৬০০/- (ইউনিট প্রতি)	

৩. ভর্তি পরীক্ষার সম্ভাব্য তারিখ: (১০-২১) জানুয়ারি ২০২৭ তারিখ (শুক্রবার, শনিবার ও সরকারী ছুটির দিন ব্যতীত) চূড়ান্ত তারিখ, সময়সূচি ও সিটপ্ল্যান পরবর্তীতে admission.juniv.edu ওয়েবসাইটে পাওয়া যাবে;

৪. প্রবেশপত্র ডাউনলোড: ২৫-১২-২০২৬ তারিখ থেকে প্রবেশপত্র ডাউনলোড করা যাবে;

৫. বিভিন্ন ইউনিটের অন্তর্ভুক্ত বিভাগ/ইনস্টিটিউটে ভর্তি পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের ন্যূনতম যোগ্যতা:

ক. **২০২৩ ও ২০২৪ সালের** মাধ্যমিক/সমমানের পরীক্ষা এবং **২০২৫ ও ২০২৬ সালের** উচ্চমাধ্যমিক/সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ শিক্ষার্থীরা আবেদন করতে পারবে;

খ. **মাধ্যমিক/সমমান ও উচ্চমাধ্যমিক/সমমান পরীক্ষায় ন্যূনতম শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা নিম্নরূপ (৪র্থ বিষয়সহ):**

A **ইউনিট:** মোট জিপিএ ৭.৫০ (পৃথকভাবে ন্যূনতম জিপিএ ৩.৫০ থাকতে হবে);
B **ইউনিট: বিজ্ঞান শাখার** জন্য মোট জিপিএ ৭.৫০ (পৃথকভাবে ন্যূনতম জিপিএ ৩.৫০ থাকতে হবে); **মানবিক/ব্যবসায় শিক্ষা/অন্যান্য শাখার** জন্য মোট জিপিএ ৬.৫০ (পৃথকভাবে ন্যূনতম জিপিএ ৩.০০ থাকতে হবে);
C **ইউনিট: বিজ্ঞান/ব্যবসায় শিক্ষা/অন্যান্য শাখার** জন্য মোট জিপিএ ৭.৫০ (পৃথকভাবে ন্যূনতম জিপিএ ৩.৫০ থাকতে হবে); **মানবিক শাখার** জন্য মোট জিপিএ ৬.৫০ (পৃথকভাবে ন্যূনতম জিপিএ ৩.০০ থাকতে হবে);
C1 **ইউনিট:** মোট জিপিএ ৬.৫০ (পৃথকভাবে ন্যূনতম জিপিএ ৩.০০ থাকতে হবে);
D **ইউনিট:** মোট জিপিএ ৮.০০ (পৃথকভাবে ন্যূনতম জিপিএ ৩.৫০ থাকতে হবে);
E **ইউনিট: বিজ্ঞান শাখার** জন্য মোট জিপিএ ৭.৫০ (পৃথকভাবে ন্যূনতম জিপিএ ৩.৫০); **ব্যবসায় শিক্ষা/মানবিক /অন্যান্য শাখার** জন্য মোট জিপিএ ৬.৫০ (পৃথকভাবে ন্যূনতম জিপিএ ৩.০০) থাকতে হবে;
ইনস্টিটিউট অব বিজনেস এ্যাডমিনিস্ট্রেশন, আইবিএ-জেইউ: বিজ্ঞান শাখার জন্য মোট জিপিএ ৭.৫০ (পৃথকভাবে ন্যূনতম জিপিএ ৩.৫০); **মানবিক/ব্যবসায় শিক্ষা/অন্যান্য শাখার** জন্য মোট জিপিএ ৬.৫০ (পৃথকভাবে ন্যূনতম জিপিএ ৩.০০) থাকতে হবে;

গ. IGCSE/O-Level **এবং** IAL/GCE A-Level **শিক্ষার্থীর ক্ষেত্রে: ২০২১** সাল থেকে তৎপরবর্তী সাল পর্যন্ত O-Level পরীক্ষায় অন্তত ৫ (পাঁচ)টি বিষয়ে এবং **২০২৫ অথবা ২০২৬** সালের A লেভেল পরীক্ষায় অন্তত ২ (দুই) টি বিষয়ে উত্তীর্ণ শিক্ষার্থীরা ভর্তির জন্য আবেদন করতে পারবে। আবেদনকারীর O-Level এবং A-Level এর মোট ৭ (সাত)টি বিষয়ের মধ্যে ৪ (চার)টি বিষয়ে কমপক্ষে B গ্রেড/সমমান ও ৩ (তিন)টি বিষয়ে কমপক্ষে C গ্রেড/সমমান থাকতে হবে।

৬. ইউনিট/বিভাগ/ইনস্টিটিউট ভিত্তিক আসন সংখ্যা:

ইউনিট/বিভাগ/ইনস্টিটিউটের নাম	আসন সংখ্যা		
	ছাত্র	ছাত্রী	মোট
(A ইউনিট) গাণিতিক ও পদার্থ বিষয়ক অনুষদ ও ইনস্টিটিউট অব ইনফরমেশন টেকনোলজি			
গণিত	৩০	৩০	৬০
পরিসংখ্যান ও উপাত্ত বিজ্ঞান	২৫	২৫	৫০
রসায়ন	৩৫	৩৫	৭০
পদার্থবিজ্ঞান	৩২	৩২	৬৪
ভূতাত্ত্বিক বিজ্ঞান	২০	২০	৪০
কম্পিউটার সায়েন্স এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং	২৫	২৫	৫০
পরিবেশ বিজ্ঞান	২০	২০	৪০
ইনস্টিটিউট অব ইনফরমেশন টেকনোলজি	২৫	২৫	৫০
(B ইউনিট) সমাজবিজ্ঞান অনুষদ ও আইন অনুষদ			
অর্থনীতি	৩৮	৩৮	৭৬
ভূগোল ও পরিবেশ	৩০	৩০	৬০
সরকার ও রাজনীতি	৩০	৩০	৬০
নৃবিজ্ঞান	২০	২০	৪০
(C ইউনিট) কলা ও মানবিকী অনুষদ ও তুলনামূলক সাহিত্য ও সংস্কৃতি ইনস্টিটিউট			
বাংলা	৩০	৩০	৬০
ইংরেজি	৩০	৩০	৬০
ইতিহাস	৩০	৩০	৬০
দর্শন	২৫	২৫	৫০
প্রত্নতত্ত্ব	১৮	১৮	৩৬
আন্তর্জাতিক সম্পর্ক	৩০	৩০	৬০
জার্নালিজম এন্ড মিডিয়া স্টাডিজ	১৮	১৮	৩৬
তুলনামূলক সাহিত্য ও সংস্কৃতি ইনস্টিটিউট	২০	২০	৪০
(C1 ইউনিট) নাটক ও নাট্যতত্ত্ব বিভাগ এবং চারুকলা বিভাগ			
নাটক ও নাট্যতত্ত্ব	১৪	১৪	২৮
চারুকলা	১৮	১৮	৩৬
(D ইউনিট) জীববিজ্ঞান অনুষদ			
উদ্ভিদবিজ্ঞান	৩০	৩০	৬০
প্রাণিবিদ্যা	২৫	২৫	৫০
ফার্মেসী	২৫	২৫	৫০
প্রাণরসায়ন ও অণুপ্রাণ বিজ্ঞান	২৫	২৫	৫০
মাইক্রোবায়োলজি	১৮	১৮	৩৬
বায়োটেকনোলজি এন্ড জেনেটিক ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং	১৫	১৫	৩০
পাবলিক হেলথ এন্ড ইনফরমেটিক্স	২০	২০	৪০
(E ইউনিট) বিজনেস স্টাডিজ অনুষদ			
ফিন্যান্স এন্ড ব্যাংকিং	২২	২২	৪৪
মার্কেটিং	২২	২২	৪৪
একাউন্টিং এন্ড ইনফরমেশন সিস্টেমস	২২	২২	৪৪
ম্যানেজমেন্ট স্টাডিজ	২২	২২	৪৪
আইবিএ-জেইউ	৩৫	৩৫	৭০

৭. বিভিন্ন ইউনিটের ভর্তি পরীক্ষার নম্বর বন্টন ও মূল্যায়ন পদ্ধতি:

ইউনিটের নাম	MCQ পরীক্ষায় বিষয়ভিত্তিক প্রশ্ন বন্টন (৮০টি প্রশ্ন)
A ইউনিট	বাংলা ০৩, ইংরেজি ০৩, গণিত ২২, পদার্থবিজ্ঞান ২২, রসায়ন ২২ এবং আইসিটি ০৮
B ইউনিট	বাংলা ২০, ইংরেজি ২০, সাধারণ গণিত ২০, সাধারণ জ্ঞান ১৫ এবং যৌক্তিক বিশ্লেষণ ০৫
C ইউনিট	বাংলা ২০, ইংরেজি ২০ এবং সাধারণ জ্ঞান ও বিভাগ সংশ্লিষ্ট অন্যান্য বিষয় ৪০
C1 ইউনিট	বাংলা ১০, ইংরেজি ১০, সাধারণ জ্ঞান ২০ এবং বিভাগ সংশ্লিষ্ট অন্যান্য বিষয় ৪০
D ইউনিট	বাংলা ০৪, ইংরেজি ০৪, বুদ্ধিমত্তা ০৪, রসায়ন ২৪, উদ্ভিদবিজ্ঞান-২২ এবং প্রাণিবিদ্যা-২২
E ইউনিট	**ব্যবসায় শিক্ষা শাখা:** বাংলা ২০, ইংরেজি ২০, হিসাববিজ্ঞান ২০ এবং ব্যবস্থাপনা ২০। **বিজ্ঞান/মানবিক/সমমান শাখা:** বাংলা ২০, ইংরেজি ২০, গণিত ও Analytical Ability ২০, বিজনেস সম্পর্কিত সাধারণ জ্ঞান ২০
আইবিএ-জেইউ	বাংলা ০৫, ইংরেজি ৩০, Mathematical aptitude and IQ ৩০, সাম্প্রতিক ও বিশ্লেষণমূলক বিষয় ১৫। ভর্তি পরীক্ষায় বাংলা অংশ ব্যতীত সম্পূর্ণ প্রশ্নপত্র ইংরেজিতে প্রণীত হবে।

- প্রতিটি প্রশ্নের **মান ১.২৫** করে এবং প্রতিটি ভুল উত্তরের জন্য **০.২০** (শূন্য দশমিক দুই শূন্য) নম্বর কাটা যাবে। পরীক্ষার সময় **৫৫** মিনিট। তবে OMR পূরণের জন্য আলাদাভাবে **৫** মিনিট সময় দেয়া হবে;
- **সকল ইউনিটের জন্য** MCQ **পরীক্ষার ৯০ নম্বরের মধ্যে পাশ নম্বর ন্যূনতম ৪০;**
- মাধ্যমিক/সমমান পরীক্ষায় (চতুর্থ বিষয়সহ) প্রাপ্ত **জিপিএ-কে ০.৭৫ দ্বারা** এবং উচ্চমাধ্যমিক/সমমান পরীক্ষায় (চতুর্থ বিষয়সহ) প্রাপ্ত **জিপিএ-কে ১.২৫ দ্বারা** গুণ করে MCQ **পরীক্ষায় প্রাপ্ত নম্বরের সাথে যোগ করে** চূড়ান্ত ফল তৈরি করা হবে;

৮. সহায়তায়: সকাল ১০:০০ টা থেকে সন্ধ্যা ০৭:০০ টা পর্যন্ত

আবেদন, পেমেন্ট, ছবি ও স্বাক্ষর আপলোড এবং প্রবেশপত্র, সিটপ্ল্যান সংক্রান্ত ও অন্যান্য	01348307028, 01348307029, 01348307031, 01348307032
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আবেদনের ক্ষেত্রে শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতাসহ বিস্তারিত ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি QR Code স্ক্যান করে দেখা যাবে।

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এবং সচিব, কেন্দ্রীয় ভর্তি পরিচালনা কমিটি

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

Don't leave Khulna at criminals' mercy

Intelligence-led operations needed to rein in the gangs wreaking havoc in the city

It is rather disturbing to see law and order deteriorating in Khulna over the past two years, with no effective security intervention. Since the political changeover in August 2024, the city has slowly descended into chaos, gripped by gang warfare, drug trafficking, extortion, and brazen killings. According to a report in this daily, nine criminal gangs are openly competing for control of territories and illegal businesses. And this crisis has been allowed to escalate despite repeated warnings and operations.

These gangs, which were once confined to smaller neighbourhoods, expanded their reach over the last two years, fighting over drug money, extortion, territorial control, and committing murder—sometimes in broad daylight. Between January 1 and November 14 this year, at least 79 people have been murdered in Khulna city and district. Between October 22 and November 12 alone, nine murders and 13 incidents of shooting were reported. One of these murders took place on the very day Prime Minister Tarique Rahman visited Khulna. Extortion has become the new normal in the city, with almost all the shops having paid some amount to the gangs.

This situation is a damning indictment of law enforcement's failure in Khulna. Police say they have been conducting special operations against these criminal gangs, yet they are struggling to dismantle them and bring the suspects to justice—something the district police chief acknowledged himself. In some high-profile murder cases, most of the accused remain at large months after the incidents. In fact, police personnel in the

Ordinary people have been living in a constant state of panic across the district. The fear of violent retribution has taken root so deep that it now deters people from reporting crimes and testifying in cases. Did Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed take this into account when he asserted on Sunday that law and order across the country were under control?

Khulna district have been instructed not to travel alone at night, following an attack on an inspector. This goes to show how precarious security has become.

As a result, ordinary people have been living in a constant state of panic across the district. The fear of violent retribution has taken root so deep that it now deters people from reporting crimes and testifying in cases. Did Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed take this into account when he asserted on Sunday that law and order across the country were under control? Why has he not visited the district despite so many reports detailing what has been going on? What is happening in Khulna is utterly unacceptable and the government cannot continue treating this as a problem inherited from the previous administration.

Several local leaders met Prime Minister Tarique Rahman on Saturday and briefed him on the crisis. Earlier on Thursday, senior law enforcement officials held a meeting where they decided to launch special joint operations and deploy 200 Ansar personnel, strengthen checkpoints, and increase patrols and intelligence surveillance. These moves, albeit delayed, must bring in tangible results. The government must take targeted initiatives and pursue intelligence-led operations to get a hold of the gang leaders, financiers, potential political patrons, and drug supply networks, alongside the recovery of illegal arms and providing adequate witness protection. Khulna's residents have been left at the mercy of criminals for far too long, and the government must demonstrate through sustained action that no criminal network is beyond its reach.

Closure of Shastho Batayon unfortunate

Restore the health hotline immediately, address failures causing closure

At a time when access to affordable medical care remains out of reach for many, particularly in rural and underserved areas, the sudden closure of Shastho Batayon helpline 16263—the government's free, round-the-clock telehealth service—is deeply concerning. Operated by private company Synesis IT, the service was shut down on November 12 after its contract with the Directorate General of Health Services expired on November 10. Public health experts have warned that the closure, without any alternative arrangements, will particularly affect low-income people.

Since its launch in 2015, Shastho Batayon has handled nearly three crore calls, demonstrating the enormous demand for accessible telehealth services. Its importance became particularly evident during the Covid-19 pandemic, when people unable to visit hospitals could seek medical advice over the phone. The service received more than 1.26 crore calls during the pandemic alone. Even this year, it received an average of over 6,000 calls a day between May and October. Through consultations with trained doctors, electronic prescriptions, and referrals to specialised hospitals, the hotline offered an affordable way to access medical advice without travelling or incurring additional expenses.

However, a prolonged funding vacuum has put the service at risk. While the fourth Health, Population and Nutrition Sector Programme, under which the service was funded, expired in June 2024, the proposed successor programme was scrapped in March 2025. Meanwhile, Synesis IT reportedly had around Tk 16 crore in unpaid bills as of November. The financial strain forced it to cut its workforce by 40 to 50 percent, reducing the hotline's capacity even before its closure.

We must ask: why did the authorities fail to clear the outstanding bills, secure sustainable funding, and did not begin the procurement process early enough to prevent this disruption? While the health ministry has assured that the service will resume soon, questions remain as to how such an essential public service could be allowed to collapse despite repeated warnings.

The government must immediately restore the service, clear outstanding dues, and ensure adequate resources and manpower for its effective operation. If the current arrangement is no longer viable, an alternative must be put in place without interrupting services. For the future, it must also establish a reliable funding mechanism and plan contract renewals and procurement well ahead of expiry dates.

Can COP31 restore confidence in global climate cooperation?

MACRO MIRROR



Dr Fahmida Khatun is an economist and distinguished fellow at the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD). Views expressed in this article are the author's own.

FAHMIDA KHATUN

The 31st United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP31), being held in Antalya, Türkiye, has come at a difficult moment for international climate cooperation. While climate risks continue to grow, economic uncertainty, fiscal pressures, energy security concerns, geopolitical conflicts, and competing domestic priorities are making countries increasingly cautious about stronger climate and financial commitments. But the climate crisis cannot be addressed without coordinated action.

Recent scientific findings indicate that global temperatures could exceed the 1.5 degrees Celsius threshold above pre-industrial levels within the next few years. Even if countries fully implement existing climate plans and meet their additional net-zero commitments, global warming could still rise to around 1.8 degrees Celsius. This implies that the severity of climate change impacts due to higher temperatures may be irreversible. Hence, for climate-vulnerable countries like Bangladesh, the negotiations at COP31 are beyond climate concerns and include issues such as economic growth, fiscal stability, food security, infrastructure, employment, and livelihoods.

Beyond the high temperature concerns, climate finance is central to the conference because the gap between what the developing countries need and the available resources is striking. At COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, in 2024, countries agreed to mobilise $300 billion annually for developing countries by 2035, along with the broader objective of scaling climate finance to $1.3 trillion annually from all sources. At COP30 in Belém, Brazil, in 2025, there was a call to triple international public adaptation finance by 2035. However, climate finance commitments fall substantially short of estimated requirements. Developing countries are estimated to require about $305 billion annually for adaptation by 2035, and international public adaptation finance mobilised was only $28.2 to $31.7 billion in 2024. Even if the current flow of climate finance is tripled, it will meet only about 20 to 29 percent of estimated requirements.

When it comes to financing challenges, it is not only the volume but also the terms and accessibility that matter. Investments in adaptation often deliver substantial social benefits but may not generate commercial returns. Coastal protection, flood management, cyclone shelters, and climate-resilient public infrastructure cannot reasonably be expected to recover their costs through user charges. Consequently, relying on commercial loans to fund adaptation can add to debt burdens. This is especially problematic for developing economies already facing fiscal pressures and rising debt-service obligations. COP31 should therefore establish clear arrangements for delivering existing finance commitments. More emphasis is needed on grants, concessional resources, predictable disbursements, and transparent accounting.

The Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) is another important negotiating issue. The aim of GGA is to strengthen the capacity of countries to adapt to climate change, reduce vulnerability, and build resilience. At COP30 in Belém, countries adopted 59 indicators, which are to be refined before COP32 in Addis Ababa in 2027. Countries have to determine how to measure progress and support implementation, as measuring adaptation is more complicated than measuring emissions. There are disagreements over indicators, implementation, and financing. Therefore, COP31 has to advance operational arrangements and ensure predictable, accessible adaptation finance. Vulnerable countries such as Bangladesh should be supported with adequate resources to strengthen climate resilience, protect livelihoods, and implement national adaptation priorities effectively.

The Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage received 176 funding requests from 119 countries, totalling $2.8 billion, but its initial allocation was only $342 million. This underscores the severe shortage of resources available to climate-vulnerable developing countries. For Bangladesh and other vulnerable economies, COP31 should prioritise additional, predictable, grant-based financing and simpler procedures for accessing funds.

The energy transition is another key issue at COP31, where discussions focus on cleaner energy systems, electrification, energy efficiency, and methane reduction. Türkiye's COP31 presidency has proposed the voluntary 35-by-35 Global Electrification Pledge to accelerate electrification and improve energy efficiency. This aims to raise electricity's share of global final energy consumption from about 23 percent to 35 percent by 2035.

For Bangladesh, the energy transition is crucial for both environmental necessity and economic competitiveness. High dependence on imported fossil fuels makes the economy vulnerable to international energy price volatility, increases foreign exchange pressures, and creates supply disruptions. The country needs investment in renewable energy, energy-efficient technologies, and modern transmission infrastructure. Domestic energy resources are essential for improving energy security, reducing production costs over time, and strengthening economic resilience. However, the energy transition must be managed carefully to ensure reliable, affordable energy for industries and households.

The energy transition has become increasingly linked to export competitiveness. International buyers are placing greater emphasis on carbon emissions, renewable energy use, and environmental standards. The RMG and other export sectors must adopt cleaner production processes to retain their global market share, as sustainable production and consumption are high on the agenda and developed countries have set net-zero targets by 2050. This requires affordable renewable electricity, technological upgrading, investment finance, and skills development.

At COP30 in Belém, countries agreed to establish a just transition mechanism. A just energy transition balances environmental goals with competitiveness, jobs, affordability, and poverty reduction; and climate-related trade rules must not impose additional burdens on developing country exporters.



The global community expects stronger political commitments and concrete measures to accelerate climate action in the remaining days of COP31.
FILE PHOTO: **REUTERS/MURAD SEZER**

In the coming days, as negotiations intensify at COP31, the global community expects stronger political commitments, broader consensus on unresolved issues, and concrete measures to accelerate climate action. More specifically, attention will focus on whether countries can bridge differences over climate finance, adaptation, loss and damage, emissions reductions, and a just energy transition. Hence, the remaining negotiations offer an opportunity to build trust and demonstrate a shared commitment to addressing the climate crisis. However, substantive and meaningful outcomes will require political will, adequate resources, technological capabilities, and clear implementation plans. Discussions in Antalya could renew confidence in multilateral cooperation and rebuild trust for more ambitious and equitable climate action in the years ahead.

How to ensure Gram Sarkar 2.0 helps citizens



Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman is executive chairman at Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC).

HOSSAIN ZILLUR RAHMAN

In 2004, we spoke of a familiar cycle in Bangladesh's decentralisation efforts—governments announce reforms, establish institutions, and gradually return to bureaucratic business as usual. Local government remains weak, and the next government starts afresh. After 22 years, the proposed Gram Sarkar Act, 2026, raises an uncomfortable question: are we about to repeat that cycle?

The BNP government has proposed the placement of a 17-member Gram Sarkar in each of the country's 41,112 wards under 4,568 unions, according to a draft of the act prepared by the Local Government Division (LGD). Its objectives include greater public participation, improved services, and stronger local accountability. These are worthwhile goals, but Bangladesh's experience suggests that creating institutions is easier than making them work.

Gram Sarkar was introduced in 1980, followed by Gram Parishad legislation in 1997, and the Gram Sarkar Act, 2003. The latter faced constitutional challenge, with the High Court ruling against it in 2005. The ruling was subsequently stayed pending appeal. The Union Parishad Act, 2009 then established ward sabhas as statutory forums for grassroots participation.

Ward sabhas are meant to identify development priorities, scrutinise beneficiary lists, and review local projects. Union parishads also have standing committees covering a wide range of public services. But these arrangements have struggled to function as intended. And before the introduction of another institution, we need to understand why previous ones did not work out.

In 2003, the Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC) examined the Gram Sarkar strategy through grassroots consultations and a review of rural development initiatives. PPRC recognised the potential for bringing communities closer to local decision-making but warned against overlapping responsibilities, arbitrary selection, and inadequate resources. Its central recommendation was to retain functional authority with union parishads while using village-level bodies to strengthen consultation, planning, and accountability. Those concerns have lost none of their relevance today. A permanent ward-level organisation could serve a useful purpose. It might improve local information, follow up on public decisions, and give neglected communities a stronger voice. The government's expectation that grassroots participation could improve service delivery deserves consideration. But two risks require particular attention: hassle/harassment and governance capacity.

Consider a widow seeking an allowance or a farmer applying for government assistance. Both may already have to deal with several offices and intermediaries. Will Gram Sarkar make their dealings simpler, or introduce yet another official whose recommendation will have to be secured? The concerns extend beyond financial extortion to repeated visits, conflicting instructions, and uncertainty over who can decide to impose real costs on citizens. Transparency International Bangladesh's 2025 household survey found that the 32.3 percent of households which experienced corruption did not complain, citing fear of harassment or further complications.

The proposed Gram Sarkar would assist with processes for welfare programmes, government benefit cards, and local dispute resolution. But unless responsibilities and grievance procedures are clearly defined, these functions could create additional opportunities for discretion and harassment.

Governance capacity presents a second

Consider a widow seeking an allowance or a farmer applying for government assistance. Both may already have to deal with several offices and intermediaries. Will Gram Sarkar make their dealings simpler, or introduce yet another official whose recommendation will have to be secured?

concern. The draft assigns responsibilities spanning infrastructure, agriculture, education, health, and social protection. It provides for subject committees and further sub-committees across more than 41,000 wards. But who will support this extensive network? Union parishads already face constraints in staffing, finance, and authority. Many relevant services depend on government departments operating through separate administrative chains. Meetings, records, accounts, and supervision require time and resources. The draft act provides for financial contributions from union parishads but no predictable funding formula matching the proposed responsibilities.

This brings us to the deeper weakness of decentralisation in Bangladesh. Successive reforms have expanded local responsibilities without sufficiently addressing the concentration of administrative and financial authority. Elected local representatives are expected to answer for services over which they often exercise limited control. Adding another body may further complicate local governance without addressing its underlying weaknesses.

In earlier reform programmes, direct fiscal transfers, institutional training and stronger financial accountability have improved union parishad performance. These experiences deserve greater attention than they have received.

The government should first establish what Gram Sarkar would contribute beyond existing ward sabhas and union parishad committees. It should clarify how responsibilities, resources, and accountability would be divided. A limited first operating phase, independently evaluated, could test whether the proposed arrangement improves citizens' access to services before nationwide implementation. The test should explore specific questions: are services easier to obtain? Are public decisions more transparent? Do citizens receive effective remedies? Is local government better equipped to act?

Bangladesh has spent decades changing the structure of local government without sufficiently changing how it works. The Gram Sarkar proposal offers another opportunity to confront that failure. We should judge it not by the number of bodies established, but by the capacity built, the authority clarified, and the difficulties removed from citizens' lives.

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50TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF MAULANA BHASHANI

A rebel dervish on the grey horizons of Bengal's history



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

■ MOHIUDDIN AHMAD

History is shaped not only by rulers, presidents, and state-builders, but also by those rare souls who remain forever in opposition to power. They challenge authority whether it wears the uniform of empire, nationalism, military rule, or independent statehood. Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani belonged to that extraordinary lineage. In the political history of India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh, he stands less as a conventional politician and more as a moral force, a restless conscience who walked alongside the poor and questioned every throne he encountered.

Bhashani's life resembled an epic journey across the turbulent landscapes of the 20th century. He was at once a religious scholar, a peasant leader, an anti-imperialist activist, a socialist sympathiser, and a wandering mystic. Yet none of these labels fully captures his identity. He moved through history as a figure larger than ideology, carrying with him the aspirations of farmers, workers, and the dispossessed.

This connection with rural Bengal became the foundation of Bhashani's influence. He possessed an unusual ability to combine the language of faith with the language of resistance. In his speeches, Islamic notions of justice merged naturally with demands for social change. He did not translate foreign ideologies word for word; rather, he transformed the universal desire for dignity into a language that resonated with Bengal's peasants. He could stand before a congregation as a preacher and depart as a revolutionary leader.

When Pakistan was created in 1947, Bhashani initially welcomed the new state with hope. For many Muslims of Bengal, partition promised an escape from political marginalisation and economic hardship. Like countless others, Bhashani believed Pakistan might provide a more just future for poorer Muslims. But his optimism soon met the harsh realities of governance.

Out of this growing dissatisfaction emerged one of the most significant political developments in the history of Bengal: the formation of the East Pakistan Awami Muslim League in 1949, later known as Awami League. As its founding president, Bhashani helped establish a platform that would ultimately shape the destiny of Bangladesh. Among the younger activists within that movement was a charismatic organiser named Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. History brought together an experienced rebel and an ambitious young politician. Their relationship would evolve over decades, marked by mentorship, admiration, disagreement, and political divergence. In those early years, Bhashani played an essential role in nurturing a movement that demanded greater rights for Bangalees.

The turning points in Bhashani's political career often emerged from his refusal to compromise deeply held convictions. One of his most significant ruptures occurred with Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy. While Suhrawardy emphasised parliamentary democracy, constitutional politics, and pragmatic alliances with Western powers, Bhashani increasingly looked towards a more radical path.

At the time, anti-colonial movements were challenging old structures of power across Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Revolutionary currents swept through newly emerging nations. Bhashani found inspiration in these struggles, particularly in the rise of China and the broader movement against imperial domination. His politics grew increasingly internationalist, connecting the plight of Bangalee peasants with larger global struggles for justice and liberation.

This ideological divergence became dramatically visible during the historic Kagmari Conference of 1957. There, Bhashani's symbolic farewell to West Pakistan sounded like a warning delivered by a prophet. Long before separation became inevitable, he had sensed that the relationship between East and West Pakistan was moving towards a crisis. Shortly afterwards, he left Awami League and formed the National Awami Party, starting a new chapter in his lifelong rebellion.



ILLUSTRATION: BIPLOB CHAKROBORTY

Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani (1880-1976).

What made Bhashani especially remarkable was his refusal to fit neatly into established political categories. He was too religious for many orthodox socialists and too socialist for many traditional religious leaders. Nationalists often found him insufficiently constrained by national boundaries, while Marxists regarded his spirituality with suspicion.

These very contradictions formed the essence of his uniqueness. Bhashani sought a politics grounded in both moral faith and social justice. His vision blended Islamic ethics, peasant activism, anti-imperialism, and egalitarian aspirations in a way that defied conventional classification. The complexity of his political life is also evident in debates surrounding his relationship with President Ayub Khan. Historians continue to examine periods when their interests seemed to overlap amid the shifting geopolitical realities of the Cold War. However, any attempt to define Bhashani through those tactical intersections overlooks a more significant reality.

In 1968, East Pakistan erupted with growing dissatisfaction against military rule. Students, workers, intellectuals, and farmers increasingly challenged the authoritarian regime. At this critical moment, Bhashani emerged once more as a powerful mobiliser of popular resistance. His calls for mass action spread rapidly across towns and villages. Demonstrations intensified and political awareness deepened. The result was one of the most important democratic uprisings in Pakistan's history. The regime that once appeared invincible began to crumble. Ironically, the very man who had sometimes been accused of accommodating power became one of the forces contributing to its downfall. Such paradoxes characterised much of Bhashani's political journey.

The defining moment of Bhashani's life was during the Liberation War of 1971. As violence engulfed the land and millions faced displacement, uncertainty, and suffering, Bhashani stood firmly with the cause of independence. Despite his advanced age and declining health, he lent his immense moral authority to the liberation struggle. Serving as chairman of the advisory council of the provisional government, Bhashani provided not only political support but also symbolic legitimacy. During one of the darkest periods in Bangalee history, his voice reminded people that independence was more than a geopolitical objective: it was a moral imperative rooted in justice, dignity, and self-determination. The ageing rebel once again found himself aligned with a historically decisive movement.

Of course, the tensions that had long shaped his political life did not disappear after independence. Bhashani's relationship with Sheikh Mujibur Rahman entered a new and more difficult phase. As economic hardship, corruption, and political disillusionment spread during the early years of Bangladesh, culminating in the devastating famine of 1974, Bhashani became one of the government's most vocal critics. Some viewed this criticism as disloyalty, while others saw it as the continuation of a lifelong commitment.

Bhashani's allegiance had never been to governments or institutions, but to ordinary people. Whenever he believed rulers had forgotten the suffering of the poor, he felt compelled to speak. The same instinct had guided him under British rule, under Pakistani rule, and within independent Bangladesh as well.

Perhaps the greatest paradox of Bhashani's life was that he excelled at inspiring movements but never became a builder of states. He could awaken the masses, shake governments, and influence the direction of history. But he never occupied the commanding heights of power. Instead, he remained a figure on the margins, persistently questioning those at the centre.

History often celebrates the architects of nations. But societies also require prophets, dissenters, and moral critics. Bhashani belonged to this second tradition. He stood outside palace gates, asking the uncomfortable questions which those inside preferred not to hear. Perhaps that is precisely why his legacy endures to this day. He was not the owner of power, but its challenger. Not the architect of governments but the guardian of public conscience. Bhashani's life contained errors, contradictions, and unresolved tensions, yet it was also animated by a profound concern for the downtrodden and forgotten.

Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani may be remembered less as a statesman than as a rebel dervish crossing the stormy plains of Bengal. He carried no crown, commanded no lasting army, and occupied no throne. Still, he left behind a question that remains eternally relevant: does power exist to serve rulers, or does it exist to serve the people? As long as that question continues to echo through political life and discourse, the shadow of Maulana Bhashani will continue to fall over the ever-extending horizons of our history.

Rushing into Phulbari coal mining without assessing its costs will be unwise



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■ JANNATUL NAYM PIEAL

"I think the time has come to explore that coal mine through open-pit mining," Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Iqbal Hassan Mahmood Tuku said on Saturday, bringing the Phulbari coal project back into the conversation. Speaking at the fifth Bangladesh Economic Summit in Dhaka, he argued that modern technology could minimise damage to agricultural land and that the benefits of coal-based electricity could outweigh losses in agricultural production. He said Prime Minister Tarique Rahman had instructed officials to finalise a coal-extraction roadmap within three months, with talks on the bidding process already underway.

His argument is not without merit. Bangladesh does need to secure more reliable electricity, reduce its costly fuel import bill, and ease pressure on foreign exchange reserves. But whether to extract Phulbari's coal is an issue that cannot be settled by weighing the promise of energy security against the immediate financial costs alone; the larger calculation must include the land, water and livelihoods that could be lost if the Phulbari project is reopened.

Phulbari, in Dinajpur, holds an estimated 572 million tonnes of coal, of which around 475 million tonnes is considered mineable. The project's origins date back to August 1994, when the then government signed an exploration contract with Australian mining company BHP following an international invitation for expressions of interest in developing coal resources in north-western Bangladesh. BHP explored the area between 1995 and 1997, before transferring its contract to the British company Asia Energy Corporation in 1998. The latter subsequently submitted a formal open-pit mining proposal to the then government in October 2005. The plan envisaged producing around 1.5 crore tonnes of coal annually over roughly three decades. Supporters have since argued that mining the coal could supply domestic power plants, generate employment, attract investment, and reduce dependence on imported coal.

But the size of the deposit and the promise of greater domestic supply tell only part of the story. The central question is whether the economic gains from extraction would justify the broader cost of developing the mine. The government is also considering establishing a coal-fired power plant near the mine, which could reduce transportation costs. That, however, would make little difference to the larger calculation if the costs borne by affected communities and the environment outweigh the benefits.

To begin with, one of the biggest concerns is water. Open-pit mining requires continuous removal of groundwater to keep the pit dry. In a 2007 piece, engineer AKM Shamsuddin, a petroleum and mining consultant and former official of Petrobangla, cited the project's own estimates that 400 million to 800 million litres of groundwater would have to be discharged every day through the mine's 36- to 38-year life. The surrounding communities depend on the same water for drinking and irrigation. Thus, a sustained fall in water levels could dry tube wells, cut agricultural productivity and strain wetlands. The government may say modern technology and better water management can reduce the risks, but that claim must be tested independently. The north-west already faces considerable pressure on its groundwater, and the effects of further extraction would not stop at the mine's boundary.



'Coal may remain in Bangladesh's energy mix, but that decision should follow a transparent assessment of the economic, social and environmental costs.'

FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

A sustained fall in water levels could dry tube wells, cut agricultural productivity and strain wetlands. The government may say modern technology and better water management can reduce the risks, but that claim must be tested independently. The north-west already faces considerable pressure on its groundwater, and the effects of further extraction would not stop at the mine's boundary.

Then there is the question of displacement. Asia Energy's own estimate was that about 40,000 people would have to be resettled on land covering roughly 67 square kilometres. Activists put the number several times higher, and UN experts warned in 2012 of 50,000 to 130,000 people being displaced, and 220,000 others affected by drying up wells and irrigation channels. A recent report mentions the official expectation of 18,000 to 20,000 relocations under current plans, a gap that itself needs explaining. Prime Minister Tarique Rahman acknowledged the problem in parliament on September 2, saying that affected people must be properly resettled and their livelihoods protected before any decision. This is reassuring, but details matter. Where will the locals go? Will they receive land of comparable quality? What about people who do not own the land but depend on it for their livelihoods? And who remains responsible after the mine closes? These questions cannot be left until after approval.

Phulbari's history cannot be separated from this debate. On August 26, 2006, a protest against the proposed mine ended in a violent confrontation with law enforcement agencies, leaving three people dead and hundreds injured. Four days later, the government and the National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports reached the Phulbari agreement, which included cancelling the deal with Asia Energy and prohibiting open-pit mining in the area. Some locals, however, support mining: on November 6, 2026, more than 300 residents rallied demanding coal extraction, provided it comes with fair compensation, rehabilitation, and jobs for them. This strengthens the case for revisiting the 2006 commitments, but the concerns that shaped the project's history cannot be ignored or set aside without meaningful consultation. If circumstances have changed enough to reconsider it, the government must clearly explain why and involve the affected people of Phulbari from the start.

Another question that cannot be bypassed is who stands to gain from the coal and how much. In its 2005 proposal, Asia Energy offered Bangladesh a royalty of just 6 percent. Two decades later, the company, now known as GCM Resources, is still pressing for government approval, welcoming recent statements that coal remains under consideration in Bangladesh's energy mix. Any fresh bidding process must, therefore, address the questions: who will own the resource, how much will Bangladesh earn, and who will be held responsible for the environmental and social costs? Though unlikely at this point, if the government can present a credible plan for resettlement and environmental protection, it must also make clear what Bangladesh stands to gain. How much coal will be reserved for domestic use? How will its price be determined? Who will pay for restoring the land and managing the long-term damage? Having reduced fuel imports would mean little if most of the gains went to the contracting company while local communities bore the costs.

Nor should the debate be reduced to a choice between imported LNG and domestic coal. Bangladesh also needs to explore its gas reserves, improve the efficiency of its power sector, expand renewable energy and assess its other mineral resources. Coal may continue to be in the energy mix, but that decision should follow a transparent assessment of the economic, social and environmental costs, including resettlement, water management and the challenge of restoring a vast open-pit mine.

The government does not have to rule out using coal reserves to address the concerns surrounding Phulbari, but it should not rush into open-pit mining either, before its economic, environmental and social implications are fully assessed and prepared for. Rather than limiting the exercise to preparing a three-month roadmap, it should commission a fresh, independent assessment of the project's environmental and social impact before inviting bids.

The last official assessments were conducted decades ago, and much has changed since then, including the area's population and agricultural needs. The new findings should be made public so that local communities can examine them, particularly the likely effects on groundwater, farming and families who may have to relocate. The government should also compare open-pit mining with other energy options and clearly explain how much the country stands to gain. Above all, locals must have a meaningful say in a decision that will directly affect their future.

‘Grateful to have spent a lifetime with music’: RUNA LAILA

Legendary singer celebrates her birthday today





PHOTOS: STAR AND COLLECTED

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

For Runa Laila, music is more than a profession—it is her passion, her lifelong companion, and the source of all her dreams. Despite a career spanning decades, numerous accolades including the Independence Award, and immense popularity at home and abroad, her greatest wish remains simple: to keep singing for as long as she can.

As the icon of Bangla music celebrates her birthday today, November 17, the eminent singer looks back on a remarkable musical journey while cherishing the affection of listeners across generations.

The legend fondly recalled the excitement of her childhood celebrations, when the occasion meant new outfits, birthday cakes, and gatherings with friends – in an interview with The Daily Star.

“My childhood birthdays were incredibly joyful and fun. My mother would make dresses for me, and we would celebrate the day at home. There would be cake-cutting, and my school friends would come over. There was so much excitement, laughter, and celebration. Birthdays felt very special back then,” she said.

Her parents would organise the celebrations, bringing together classmates and family members. Those memories, she admitted, still make her nostalgic.

“My parents would arrange everything. My classmates would always be there, along with family members. We would spend such lovely moments together on those special days. The joy was different. Those days are gone, and things are not quite the same now,” she recalled.

Today, her birthday celebrations are considerably more intimate.

“Now, I don’t organise big celebrations. We have a family get-together and celebrate among ourselves,” she said.

Asked what she wishes for at this stage of her life, Runa Laila’s answer naturally returned to music.

“My wish is to continue singing, by the grace of the Almighty. I want to stay healthy and remain connected to music throughout my life. I want to keep performing, both at home and abroad,” she said.

Her schedule suggests that the passion remains as strong as ever. Having performed in London and Australia this year, she has upcoming stage shows in the United States and Canada. Another major programme featuring her songs is also planned in Bangladesh.

“All my dreams are centred around music. I want to keep singing. That’s what matters to me. I want to keep doing what I love,” she added.

For the singer, however, the greatest reward of an artistic career is not awards or recognition, but the love of her audience.

“An artiste’s greatest achievement is the love of people. That affection means so much. If you receive that kind of love throughout your lifetime, you have received a great deal,” she said.

She finds particular joy in knowing that her songs continue to appeal to listeners of different generations.

“People of all ages listen to my songs—the younger generation and older listeners alike. That is a great blessing in an artiste’s life. It is difficult to put that feeling into words. It makes me very happy,” she said.

Grateful to her fans for their continued support and prayers, she remains committed to creating new music for them. Her collaboration with Bappa Mazumder, she noted, has received an encouraging response.

“People have really loved the song I did with Bappa. I tried to sing it with all my heart, and it feels wonderful that listeners have embraced it so warmly,” she said.

She has also recorded a film song with Pritom Hasan, approaching each new project with the same instinctive connection to music.

“Music comes from within. It is my passion, and I devote myself to it all the time. I want to spend my entire life with music,” she said.

As another birthday arrives, her request to admirers is heartfelt and uncomplicated: “Please keep me in your prayers so that I can stay healthy and continue singing.”

SOME TIMELESS CLASSICS TO REVISIT

Although there are hundreds of memorable songs voiced by Runa Laila, here are some that deserve an immediate replay on this joyous occasion.

Dama Dam Mast Qalandar – Her defining signature song and a landmark in South Asian music.
Bondhu Tin Din Tor Barit Gelam– A playful, evergreen Bengali hit.
Shilpi Ami Tomaderi Gaan Shonabo- An iconic song celebrating Runa Laila’s bond with her audience and her lifelong dedication to music.
Jokhon Thambe Kolahol- A soulful melody highlighting her delicate vocal expression and emotional depth.
Ganeri Khatay Swaralipi Likhe- One of the greatest melodies she has gifted to generations of listeners.
Jejon Premer Bhab Jane Na- A folk song that explores love beyond its conventional romantic meaning.
Amay Gethe Daona Maago - A patriotic track that evokes various emotions within the listener.
Onek Brishti Jhore Tumi Ele-A romantic evergreen showcasing Runa Laila’s expressive vocal charm.
Shadher Lau Banailo More Boiragi– A celebrated Bengali folk rendition.
O Mera Babu Chhail Chhabila– One of her most recognisable Hindi recordings.



NEWS

Help AL

FROM PAGE 12

According to senior party leaders, using a BNP position to press police for the release of an arrested AL member would be treated as a serious breach of party discipline.

Hafizul Islam Khan, general secretary of Munshiganj’s Sreenagar upazila unit BNP, said, “There is a very strict message on this issue. Police stations have also been asked to inform senior BNP leaders immediately if any party leader or activist contacts the police or tries to help secure the release of an arrested Awami League member.”

Sylhet BNP President Abdul Quiyum Choudhury said they already received the PM’s instructions. “It should be investigated whether anyone within our party has any kind of contact with leaders and activists of the party whose political activities are now banned.”

He also raised concerns about coordination among grassroots organisers.

“At the grassroots level, there are some problems with coordination among those who took part in political movements. Although we are responsible for running the party’s organisational activities, in some cases things are not being done properly. These issues must be strictly controlled.”

BNP leaders said their concern had increased as AL activists could try to re-organise around December, following ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina’s announcement that she would return to Bangladesh.

Local BNP units have been asked to report suspicious activities to law enforcement agencies and the party’s central leadership.

Party insiders said they did not want counter-programmes or neighbourhood patrols directed at the AL. Instead, party members should continue peaceful political activities and leave policing to the authorities.

BNP leaders said they learnt that a section of party leaders were taking the law into their own hands by detaining and assaulting people suspected of having links with the AL, instead of informing law enforcement agencies.

They said such actions were against the law and could damage the party’s image.

The leadership has therefore asked leaders and activists to avoid any form of violence or harassment and cooperate with the police by providing information about suspected criminal activities.

They have also been instructed to stay active on social media, check information before sharing it, and avoid statements that could worsen the situation.

Meanwhile, the BNP is preparing a series of events across the country in December on the occasion of Victory Day.

Party sources said the programmes may begin on December 1 and run through December 27.

Separate events marking former prime minister Khaleda Zia’s death anniversary are scheduled to begin on December 28, said party leaders.

‘I’m pregnant, yet he kicked my abdomen’

FROM PAGE 12

the abdomen. Nuruzzaman Khan Putul and five or six others beat me. Around 70 to 80 activists were with them. I am five months pregnant. When I told them they would be responsible if anything happened to my unborn child, they became even more furious,” she said, adding that other teachers and guardians later rescued her.

Nibedita said BNP leaders and activists were holding a meeting elsewhere and asked her to join them. Unaware of its purpose, she instead asked them to come to the school’s office to discuss the matter.

“They subsequently arrived at the school and attacked me,” she alleged.

Her husband, Soumitra Majumder, said they had filed a complaint with the upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) over the incident.

Denying the allegations, Anwar said they were holding a meeting with 20 to 30 party activists at a house near the school. They invited the headteacher to join them, but she ignored the invitation, prompting them to visit the school.

“When we reached the school, we saw the headteacher holding a meeting with people from the Awami League. We told her that we would not accept any meeting at the school involving Awami League people,” he added.

He denied any involvement in the assault.

Meanwhile, Atpara upazila BNP issued show-cause notices to Anwar and Putul over the incident.

The notices, signed by upazila BNP President Masum Chowdhury, asked the two to explain in writing within 72 hours why organisational action should not be taken against them for allegedly violating party discipline while holding responsible positions.

Asked about the notices, Anwar said they had heard about them but did not know why they had been issued. He said they would submit written replies.

Ahsan Ullah Mukul, assistant education officer serving as the upazila primary education officer, said an education enthusiast had been elected to the school’s managing committee, but its president had yet to be elected.

He said he had heard about the alleged attack and asked the headteacher to file a written complaint.

UNO Md Ashraful Kabir confirmed receiving the victim’s complaint and said the upazila education officer had been tasked with investigating the incident.

Public debt hits Tk 23.38 lakh crore

FROM PAGE 12

The government was also ensuring that foreign-funded projects aligned with its objectives of rebuilding and restoring the fragile economy and implementing its election manifesto, he said. Particular caution was being exercised in accepting external loans carrying high interest rates and inflexible short-term conditions.

Responding to a question from NCP MP Hasnat Abdullah, the finance minister said the government remained committed to implementing development projects and ensuring the effective use of foreign project assistance to strengthen the country’s economy.

He said foreign aid disbursement had declined by 60 per cent in the current fiscal year compared with the same period of the previous fiscal year.

One of the main reasons for the decline was the country’s prolonged internal instability over nearly two years, coupled with a challenging global environment. These factors had slowed project implementation, resulting in lower disbursement of foreign assistance, he added.

To address the situation and accelerate aid disbursement, the government had taken several measures, including holding meetings with bilateral and multilateral development partners and urging all stakeholders to expedite project implementation.

RMG wage board

FROM PAGE 12

followed the illness of Anwar Hossain, the board’s permanent workers’ representative, although the owners’ proposal was ready. They demanded a new meeting date.

The Bangladesh Garment Workers Unity Council (BGWUC) protested the postponement, while the Garments Industry Wage Increase Alliance -- Bangladesh submitted a proposal seeking Tk 30,000 as the minimum monthly wage.

UNREST CONTINUES

Meanwhile, 40 garment factories remained closed in Savar and Ashulia yesterday, while 22 in Gazipur district and metropolitan areas were shut indefinitely amid wage-related unrest.

Ashulia Industrial Police-1 SP Mohammad Mominul Islam Bhuiyan said no fresh unrest or work stoppages were reported in Savar and Ashulia, where the situation remained normal and the number of factory closures had declined.

Of the 40, 27 were closed under Section 13(1) of the Bangladesh Labour Act, nine indefinitely and four for general holidays. Discussions were under way to reopen them.

However, the postponement angered workers. “The meeting should not have been postponed under any circumstances. This reflects a kind of indifference,” he said.

A BGMEA vice-president, speaking on condition of anonymity, said 90 factories enforced the “no work, no pay” provision under Section 13(1) yesterday, although the number was declining as operations gradually resumed.

In Gazipur, 22 factories were closed for various reasons, including labour unrest, said Industrial Police SP Amjad Hossain. Of them, 13 were shut yesterday.

During visits to Gachha, Board Bazar, Borobari, Tongi and Chandana Chowrasta along the Dhaka-Mymensingh Highway, this correspondent found no closure notices outside at least five factories, although residents said production had been suspended.

Our Narayanganj correspondent reports that workers at Metro Garments in Fatullah’s Ramarbagh stopped work around 11:00am on Monday after learning of the postponement.

Industrial Police-4 inspector Anwarul Haque said workers at Metro Knitting and Dyeing in Katharpul, Fatullah, also stopped work but remained inside the factory. A worker said operations had continued normally until news of the postponement, with no untoward incidents reported.

Security was tightened following last week’s protests, with seven platoons of BGB, Ansar Battalion, SRB and police personnel deployed, alongside increased surveillance and patrols.

Workers reported to factories as usual in Shibu Market, Katharpul, BSCIC Industrial Estate, Adamjee Export Processing Zone, Sonargaon, Rupganj and Bandar.

Police said no factory had announced a shutdown over the unrest. Industrial Police-4 SP Abdullah Al Mahmud said Narayanganj’s 1,680 garment factories employed around six lakh workers, with production generally normal except for the reported stoppages.

Murder suspect

FROM PAGE 12

The additional SP said the mob attacked Mehdi following the killing of Swechchhasebak Dal activist Md Suruj Jaman, 35, who was stabbed by unidentified assailants near Barera Masjid Market on Sunday evening.

Quoting locals and family members, he said Jaman, of Madhya Barera, was riding his motorcycle from home when he slowed down near an intersection beside the market.

“Several assailants, including Mehdi, allegedly intercepted him. At one stage, they stabbed Jaman in the chest before fleeing,” he said.

Jaman was rushed to MMCH, where doctors declared him dead.

“The bodies have been sent to the hospital morgue for autopsies. Police operations are underway to identify and arrest those involved in the killings and determine the motive.

“No case has been filed, and no one has been detained over the incidents so far,” he added.

Additional police have been deployed in the area to prevent further violence.

50th death anniversary of Bhashani today

FROM PAGE 12

include doa and milad mahfils, food distribution, and discussions on his life and contributions.

In a message marking the occasion, President Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday paid deep tribute to Bhashani, recalling his lifelong struggle against exploitation, deprivation, discrimination, and injustice.

The president described Bhashani as an unforgettable figure in the politics and liberation struggles of the subcontinent, saying he worked tirelessly to establish the rights of farmers, workers, and ordinary people.

His uncompromising struggle and deep compassion for the ordinary people earned him the title “Mazlum Jana Neta”, meaning the leader of the oppressed, the president said.

Recalling Bhashani’s contributions to the anti-colonial movement, peasant struggles, the Language Movement, the United Front election, and the movements for autonomy and independence, the president said his role remained an important part of the country’s history.

Bhashani was the founding president of the East Pakistan Awami Muslim League, established on June 23, 1949. He later founded the National Awami Party (NAP), also known as Bhashani NAP, on July 25, 1957.

The president also recalled that Bhashani first spoke about Bangladesh’s independence at the historic Kagmari Conference in 1957. During the 1971 Liberation War, he firmly supported Bangladesh’s independence and served as an adviser to the government-in-exile.

After independence, he remained active in various movements to protect national interests and people’s rights.

The president particularly highlighted the historic Farakka Long March in 1976, led by Bhashani to demand Bangladesh’s fair share of the Ganges waters, describing it as a courageous example of political and diplomatic wisdom in the struggle to secure the country’s rights.

He expressed hope that Bhashani’s ideals and work would continue to inspire the nation to uphold patriotism, social justice and the goal of building a democratic and discrimination-free society.

Born in 1880 in Dhangara village of Sirajganj, Bhashani dedicated his life to fighting for the rights of the oppressed and downtrodden.

He also played a significant role in the 1969 mass uprising against Ayub Khan’s autocratic rule.

His lifelong struggle against imperialism, exploitation, and injustice, and his commitment to the rights of ordinary people, made him one of the most memorable figures in Bangladesh’s political history.

Mexican journalist found dead in Acapulco

AFP, *Mexico City*

Prosecutors have opened an investigation into the death of journalist Eduardo Flores, a reporter for the outlet Enfoque Informativo who was found dead Saturday at an Acapulco resort.

Flores’ death marks the tenth death of a journalist this year in Mexico, one of the most dangerous places in the world for the profession.

Flores’ employer said in a statement that the attack “not only takes the life of a colleague, friend and valuable human being. It is also a direct assault on freedom of expression and on society’s right to be informed.”

“They will not silence us. We will continue to report with the same determination,” the publication added.

Dhaka South City Corporation

Office of the Executive Engineer
Waste Management Department
Nagar Bhaban, Dhaka.
www.dscc.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.207.000.12.05.4534.2026 Date: 15.11.2026

e-Tender Notice

The Tender Notice is invited through e-GP Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) by Executive Engineer, Waste Management Division, Dhaka South City Corporation for the procurement of following packages:

Sl. No.	Package No.	Identification of Lot	Tender ID No.	Last Selling Date & Time	Tender Closing Date & Time
1.	DSCC/2026-2027/Drain/W-01	Cleaning Work of Pipe drain & Open drain at Ward-01 Under Zone-2, DSCC (Fiscal Year 2026-2027).	1342978	30.11.2026 up to 12:00	30.11.2026 up to 14:00
2.	DSCC/2026-2027/Drain/W-02	Cleaning Work of Pipe drain & Open drain at Ward-02 Under Zone-2, DSCC (Fiscal Year 2026-2027).	1342979	30.11.2026 up to 12:00	30.11.2026 up to 14:00
3.	DSCC/2026-2027/Drain/W-03	Cleaning Work of Pipe drain & Open drain at Ward-03 Under Zone-2, DSCC (Fiscal Year 2026-2027).	1342980	30.11.2026 up to 12:00	30.11.2026 up to 14:00
4.	DSCC/2026-2027/Drain/W-04	Cleaning Work of Pipe drain & Open drain at Ward-04 Under Zone-2, DSCC (Fiscal Year 2026-2027).	1342981	30.11.2026 up to 12:00	30.11.2026 up to 14:00
5.	DSCC/2026-2027/Drain/W-05	Cleaning Work of Pipe drain & Open drain at Ward-05 Under Zone-2, DSCC (Fiscal Year 2026-2027).	1342982	30.11.2026 up to 12:00	30.11.2026 up to 14:00
6.	DSCC/2026-2027/Drain/W-06	Cleaning Work of Pipe drain & Open drain at Ward-06 Under Zone-2, DSCC (Fiscal Year 2026-2027).	1342983	30.11.2026 up to 12:00	30.11.2026 up to 14:00
7.	DSCC/2026-2027/Drain/W-08	Cleaning Work of Pipe drain & Open drain at Ward-08 Under Zone-2, DSCC (Fiscal Year 2026-2027).	1342984	30.11.2026 up to 12:00	30.11.2026 up to 14:00
8.	DSCC/2026-2027/Drain/W-09	Cleaning Work of Pipe drain & Open drain at Ward-09 Under Zone-2, DSCC (Fiscal Year 2026-2027).	1342985	30.11.2026 up to 12:00	30.11.2026 up to 14:00
9.	DSCC/2026-2027/Drain/W-10	Cleaning Work of Pipe drain & Open drain at Ward-10 Under Zone-2, DSCC (Fiscal Year 2026-2027).	1342986	30.11.2026 up to 12:00	30.11.2026 up to 14:00
10.	DSCC/2026-2027/Drain/W-11	Cleaning Work of Pipe drain & Open drain at Ward-11 Under Zone-2, DSCC (Fiscal Year 2026-2027).	1342987	30.11.2026 up to 12:00	30.11.2026 up to 14:00
11.	DSCC/2026-2027/Drain/W-12	Cleaning Work of Pipe drain & Open drain at Ward-12 Under Zone-2, DSCC (Fiscal Year 2026-2027).	1342988	30.11.2026 up to 12:00	30.11.2026 up to 14:00
12.	DSCC/2026-2027/Drain/W-13	Cleaning Work of Pipe drain & Open drain at Ward-13 Under Zone-2, DSCC (Fiscal Year 2026-2027).	1342990	30.11.2026 up to 12:00	30.11.2026 up to 14:00
13.	DSCC/2026-2027/Drain/W-14	Cleaning Work of Pipe drain & Open drain at Ward-14 Under Zone-3, DSCC (Fiscal Year 2026-2027).	1342993	30.11.2026 up to 12:00	30.11.2026 up to 14:00
14.	DSCC/2026-2027/Drain/W-22	Cleaning Work of Pipe drain & Open drain at Ward-22 Under Zone-3, DSCC (Fiscal Year 2026-2027).	1343002	30.11.2026 up to 12:00	30.11.2026 up to 14:00
15.	DSCC/2026-2027/Drain/W-23	Cleaning Work of Pipe drain & Open drain at Ward-23 Under Zone-3, DSCC (Fiscal Year 2026-2027).	1343003	30.11.2026 up to 12:00	30.11.2026 up to 14:00
16.	DSCC/2026-2027/Drain/W-24	Cleaning Work of Pipe drain & Open drain at Ward-24 Under Zone-3, DSCC (Fiscal Year 2026-2027).	1343004	30.11.2026 up to 12:00	30.11.2026 up to 14:00
17.	DSCC/2026-2027/Drain/W-25	Cleaning Work of Pipe drain & Open drain at Ward-25 Under Zone-3, DSCC (Fiscal Year 2026-2027).	1343005	30.11.2026 up to 12:00	30.11.2026 up to 14:00
18.	DSCC/2026-2027/Drain/W-26	Cleaning Work of Pipe drain & Open drain at Ward-26 Under Zone-3, DSCC (Fiscal Year 2026-2027).	1343006	30.11.2026 up to 12:00	30.11.2026 up to 14:00
19.	DSCC/2026-2027/Drain/W-27	Cleaning Work of Pipe drain & Open drain at Ward-27 Under Zone-3, DSCC (Fiscal Year 2026-2027).	1343008	30.11.2026 up to 12:00	30.11.2026 up to 14:00
20.	DSCC/2026-2027/Drain/W-28	Cleaning Work of Pipe drain & Open drain at Ward-28 Under Zone-3, DSCC (Fiscal Year 2026-2027).	1343009	30.11.2026 up to 12:00	30.11.2026 up to 14:00
21.	DSCC/2026-2027/Drain/W-29	Cleaning Work of Pipe drain & Open drain at Ward-29 Under Zone-3, DSCC (Fiscal Year 2026-2027).	1343010	30.11.2026 up to 12:00	30.11.2026 up to 14:00
22.	DSCC/2026-2027/Drain/W-55	Cleaning Work of Pipe drain & Open drain at Ward-55 Under Zone-3, DSCC (Fiscal Year 2026-2027).	1343011	30.11.2026 up to 12:00	30.11.2026 up to 14:00
23.	DSCC/2026-2027/Drain/W-56	Cleaning Work of Pipe drain & Open drain at Ward-56 Under Zone-3, DSCC (Fiscal Year 2026-2027).	1343012	30.11.2026 up to 12:00	30.11.2026 up to 14:00
24.	DSCC/2026-2027/Drain/W-57	Cleaning Work of Pipe drain & Open drain at Ward-57 Under Zone-3, DSCC (Fiscal Year 2026-2027).	1343013	30.11.2026 up to 12:00	30.11.2026 up to 14:00

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank's Branch.

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

If Necessary, information please contact to the PE's Support Desk.

ডিএসসিসি/পিআরডি/১২৭/২০২৬-২৭

১৫.১১.২০২৬

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নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ট্রেডিং কর্পোরেশন অব বাংলাদেশ (টিসিবি) এর নিম্নবর্ণিত স্থায়ী শূন্য পদসমূহে সরাসরি নিয়োগের নিমিত্ত পদের পার্শ্বে উল্লিখিত শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা এবং নিম্নলিখিত শর্তে প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে অনলাইনে (https://tcb.teletalk.com.bd ওয়েবসাইটে) নির্ধারিত সময়ের মধ্যে আবেদনপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। **অনলাইন (Online) ব্যতীত অন্য কোন মাধ্যমে প্রেরিত আবেদন গ্রহণ করা হবে না:**

ক্রমিক নং	পদের নাম, গ্রেড ও বেতন স্কেল	শূন্য পদের সংখ্যা	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা
১।	উপ-সহকারী প্রকৌশলী (গ্রেড-১০) বেতন স্কেল: ৩২,০০০-৭৭,৩০০/-	০১ (এক)	সিভিল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং-এ ডিপ্লোমাধারী হতে হবে। অভিজ্ঞ প্রার্থীদের অগ্রাধিকার দেয়া হবে।
২।	সীটমুদ্রাক্ষরিক-কাম কম্পিউটার অপারেটর (গ্রেড-১৪) বেতন স্কেল: ২৩,৫০০-৫৬,৮০০/-	০৩ (তিন)	(ক) উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক সার্টিফিকেট পরীক্ষা পাস; (খ) সীটলিপি নোট প্রতিলিপিকরণ ও কম্পিউটার মুদ্রাক্ষরের গতি প্রতি মিনিটে যথাক্রমে বাংলায় ৪৫ ও ২৫ এবং ইংরেজিতে ৭০ ও ৩০ শব্দ সম্পন্ন হতে হবে; সরকারি শিল্প বা বাণিজ্যিক প্রতিষ্ঠানে যাদের ০২ (দুই) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা রয়েছে তাদের ক্ষেত্রে অগ্রাধিকার দেয়া হবে।
৩।	সংরক্ষণ ও বিক্রয় সহকারী (গ্রেড-১৬) বেতন স্কেল: ২১,৯০০-৫২,৯০০/-	০১ (এক)	কমপক্ষে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক সার্টিফিকেট পরীক্ষা পাশ হতে হবে। যাদের সরকারী বিভাগ ও বানিজ্যিক প্রতিষ্ঠানের বিক্রয় ও মাল খালাস, আসবাবপত্র রক্ষণাবেক্ষণের পূর্ব অভিজ্ঞতা রয়েছে তাদের অগ্রাধিকার দেয়া হবে।
৪।	টেলেক্স অপারেটর (গ্রেড-১৬) বেতন স্কেল: ২১,৯০০-৫২,৯০০/-	০১ (এক)	কমপক্ষে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক সার্টিফিকেট পরীক্ষা পাস হতে হবে। তবে বিশেষ যোগ্যতা সম্পন্ন প্রার্থীর ক্ষেত্রে উহা শিথিল করা যেতে পারে।
৫।	অফিস সহায়ক (গ্রেড-২০) বেতন স্কেল: ২০,০০০-৪৮,৪০০/-	০৪ (চার)	প্রার্থীকে কমপক্ষে অষ্টম শ্রেণী পাশ হতে হবে।

** আবেদনপত্র পূরণ ও পরীক্ষা ফি জমাদান শুরুর তারিখ ও সময়: ১৭.১১.২০২৬ খ্রি. সকাল ১০:০০ টা এবং আবেদনপত্র জমাদানের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়: ০৮.১২.২০২৬ খ্রি. বিকাল ০৪:০০ টা।
** শেষ তারিখ ও সময়ের জন্য অপেক্ষা না করে হাতে যথেষ্ট সময় নিয়ে অনলাইন-এ আবেদনপত্র পূরণ ও আবেদন ফি জমাদান সম্পন্ন করতে পরামর্শ দেওয়া যাচ্ছে।
** যে কোনো ধরনের তদবির প্রার্থীর অযোগ্যতা হিসেবে বিবেচিত হবে।

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ফোনঃ ০২-৫৫০১৪২৭১
ই-মেইল: tcbsecretary@tcb.gov.bd

GD-2782

পায়রা বন্দর কর্তৃপক্ষ

কলাপাড়া, পটুয়াখালী
www.ppa.gov.bd

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং ১৫/২০২৬

নম্বর-১৮.২১.৭৮৬৬.০০০.০০১.১১.০০৭৮.২৬.**৯৪৬** তারিখ: ০১ অগ্রহায়ণ ১৪৩৩ / ১৬ নভেম্বর ২০২৬

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পায়রা বন্দর কর্তৃপক্ষে রাজস্ব খাতে অস্থায়ীভাবে সৃজনকৃত নিম্নলিখিত শূন্য পদ পূরণের জন্য বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত নাগরিকের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহবান করা যাচ্ছে:

ক্রম	পদের নাম ও বেতন স্কেল (জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল-২০২৬ অনুযায়ী)	পদের সংখ্যা	১৬ নভেম্বর ২০২৬ তারিখে বয়স	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা
(১)	(২)	(৩)	(৪)	(৫)
১।	পাইলট (৭১,০০০-১,৩৪,০০০/-(৬ষ্ঠ গ্রেড)	০৪ (চার) টি	অনূর্ধ্ব ৩৫ বৎসর।	ক। মাস্টার (এফজি) বা ১ম শ্রেণি (ডেক) কম্পিটেন্সি সার্টিফিকেটসহ বিদেশগামী জাহাজের ১ম মেট হিসাবে ২ (দুই) বৎসরের অভিজ্ঞতা; অথবা খ। ৩য় শ্রেণি (ডেক) কম্পিটেন্সি সার্টিফিকেটসহ বিদেশগামী জাহাজে ৮ (আট) বৎসরের সামুদ্রিক অভিজ্ঞতা।

নিয়োগের শর্তাবলিঃ

১। উল্লিখিত পদে আগ্রহী প্রার্থীদেরকে আগামী ০৮ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৬ তারিখের মধ্যে পায়রা বন্দর কর্তৃপক্ষের ওয়েবসাইটে আপলোডকৃত নির্ধারিত ফর্মে আবেদন করতে হবে। আবেদনের কপির সাথে বয়স ও শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার প্রমাণস্বরূপ সকল সনদ, জাতীয়তা/নাগরিকত্ব সনদ, জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র/জন্ম সনদ, অভিজ্ঞতা সনদের সত্যায়িত কপি ও ৩ কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ছবি সংযুক্ত করে সদস্য (প্রশাসন ও অর্থ), পায়রা বন্দর কর্তৃপক্ষ, কলাপাড়া, পটুয়াখালী বরাবর সরাসরি বা ডাকে প্রেরণ করতে হবে। ০৮ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৬ তারিখের পর কোন আবেদন গ্রহণযোগ্য হবেনা। অবশ্যই খামের উপর পদের নাম উল্লেখ করতে হবে।

২। নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে **"পায়রা বন্দর কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্মচারী চাকুরী প্রবিধানমালা, ২০১৭"** এবং সরকারের বিদ্যমান ও পরিবর্তিত ক্ষেত্রে প্রযোজ্য বিধি-বিধান অনুসরণ করা হবে।

৩। বয়সের ক্ষেত্রে কোন এফিডেভিট গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।

৪। পায়রা বন্দর কর্তৃপক্ষ' এর অনুকূলে যে কোন তফসিলি ব্যাংক থেকে **২০০.০০ টাকা** মূল্যমানের ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার (অফেরতযোগ্য) দরখাস্তের সঙ্গে সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।

৫। প্রার্থী যে পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ হলে আবেদনের যোগ্য হবেন, সে পরীক্ষার ফলাফল অবশ্যই আবেদন গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখের পূর্বে প্রকাশিত হতে হবে।

৬। মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় সকল সনদপত্রের মূল কপি প্রদর্শন করতে হবে এবং আবেদনপত্রসহ সকল সনদের সত্যায়িত কপি দাখিল করতে হবে।

৭। মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য কোন টিএ/ডিএ প্রদান করা হবে না।

৮। প্রার্থী কর্তৃক প্রেরিত আবেদনের কপিতে কোন প্রকার কাটা কাটি/ঘষামাজা গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়।

৯। প্রার্থী কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত কোন তথ্য বা দাখিলকৃত কাগজপত্র জাল, মিথ্যা বা ভুয়া প্রমাণিত হলে অথবা কোন অযোগ্যতা ধরা পড়লে পরীক্ষার পূর্বে বা পরে যে কোন পর্যায়ে প্রার্থীতা বাতিল করা হবে এবং তার বিরুদ্ধে যথাযথ আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।

১০। বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে উল্লিখিত পদের সংখ্যা হ্রাস/বৃদ্ধি ও বিজ্ঞপ্তির আংশিক বা সম্পূর্ণ বাতিল/সংশোধন করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করে। আবেদনপত্র যাচাই-বাছাই এবং নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত বিষয়ে নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।

১৬/১১/২৬

মোঃ হারুন-অর-রশীদ
সদস্য (প্রশাসন ও অর্থ)
পায়রা বন্দর কর্তৃপক্ষ

GD-2788

Don't burden climate victims with debt

Coastal women, fishers seek grants, not loans, as COP31 nears end

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Bagerhat*

Coastal women and fishers in Mongla yesterday demanded grants instead of loans for climate financing, safe drinking water and a just transition to protect their livelihoods, food security and agriculture.

Carrying empty water pots, fishing nets and placards, they formed a human chain and held a rally on the bank of the Pashur river at Dakshin Kainmari in the morning, ahead of the conclusion of the COP31 climate summit in Antalya on November 20.

Mongla Nagorik Samaj, Khaddo Nirapotta Network (KHANI) and three other organisations organised the programme.

Speakers said the climate talks had yet to produce concrete financial commitments for vulnerable farmers and coastal communities, who were struggling with rising salinity, drinking water shortages and threats to fisheries.

Presiding over the rally, Mongla Nagorik Samaj President Mohammad Noor Alam Sheikh said salinity had become one of the biggest challenges for coastal residents.



PHOTO: STAR

Demanding unconditional climate financing, safe drinking water and protection of their livelihoods amid worsening climate impacts, coastal women and fishers form a human chain on the bank of the Pashur river in Dakshin Kainmari, Mongla, yesterday.

"Water is everywhere around us, yet we do not have enough safe drinking water," he said.

He said Bangladesh contributed less than 0.5 percent of global emissions, but its farmers, fishers and rural communities were among the worst affected by climate change.

He urged COP31 negotiators to increase adaptation financing, ensure adequate funds for agriculture and food systems, and provide grants rather than loans to small-scale farmers.

SM Jane Alam Babu, president of Udayan Jubo Sangha, said natural disasters caused losses of Tk 1,79,199 crore between 2015 and 2020, nearly 10 times those in the preceding six years.

He said agriculture remained dependent on imported fossil fuels and urea, while much of the climate finance available to developing countries came as loans.

He called for a just transition to renewable energy in agriculture and recognition of the rights of coastal women, fishers, farmers and agricultural workers in relevant policies.

Climate activist Ratna Sheikh said increasing salinity and unsafe drinking water were causing waterborne and skin diseases, particularly among women and children. Women were also suffering reproductive health complications, she added.

She demanded representation of coastal women, fishers and farmers in drafting the National Adaptation Plan, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and international climate negotiations.

"Climate finance must not become another burden of debt for communities that have contributed little to the climate crisis," she said.

JCD, Chhatra Shakti men beat up 5 JnU officials

FROM PAGE 2

before handing them over to the university authorities.

The officials are Himadri Shekhar Mondal, deputy director of the Controller of Examinations Office; Sanjay Kumar Pal, deputy director of the Finance and Accounts Office; Junaead Hossain, assistant registrar of the Department of Film and Television; Nurul Huda, section officer (Grade-II) at the Registrar's Office; and Saidur Rahman Roni, deputy registrar.

Later in the day, the university authorities suspended the five officials over allegations of AL links.

Sanjay Kumar Pal denied the allegations.

"My mobile phone is with the proctor. He can examine it to verify whether I have had any communication with that person [Finance Secretary Rezwan Ahmed of JnU's BCL unit] or any involvement in subversive activities. We have done nothing wrong, and we have been unfairly implicated," he told The Daily Star.

Rezwan was arrested following a crude bomb blast near the campus on November 9. JCD men caught him and handed him over to police.

JnU Vice-Chancellor Md Rais Uddin said, "Preliminary findings have revealed links between the officials and the Awami League. Therefore, we have suspended them. A probe committee has also been formed, and necessary action will be taken based on its findings."

Asked about the incident, Prof Selim said a portrait of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was found in the department corridor. "They [JCD and Chhatra Shakti men] broke it and came to me, demanding an explanation about who had put it there. They questioned me about the matter. It was humiliating for me as a teacher."

Mehedi Hasan Himel, convener of Chhatra Dal's JnU unit, said they worked with all active student organisations to maintain a conducive academic environment on campus and took a stand against mob violence. However, leaders and activists of the banned organisation are attempting to destabilise the campus.

"We have got specific information against some university officials who held positions in the Awami League and Chhatra League."

A WhatsApp group involving several university officials was found on the phone of BCL leader Rezwan. There are allegations that the officials financed acts of violence, said Himel.

Shahin Mia, president of Chhatra Shakti's JnU unit, said there would be no compromise with officials involved with AL, adding that those identified had been handed over to the university administration.

In another incident, a group of National University officials confined its VC Prof ASM Amanullah to his office in Gazipur for nearly 10 hours, alleging that the university authorities had failed to restore their seniority, ensure promotions, and pay outstanding salaries and benefits to 988 employees reinstated following a court order.

Prof Amanullah said, "My administration will do nothing against the interests of National University. We have done whatever was required in accordance with the court verdict. The government can decide on the remaining issues, and we will implement its decision."

A report doesn't mean anything

FROM PAGE 3

necessary logistical arrangements, the report said.

The second condition was that Bangladesh would have to guarantee Hasina the opportunity to appeal against her death sentence and ensure a fresh trial over the charges related to the July uprising.

On Hasina's extradition, Shama said Bangladesh had repeatedly sought the return of individuals under its extradition treaty with India.

"We do have an extradition treaty with India. Under that agreement, we have sent letters to them multiple times, and our position remains the same. Beyond that, I do not have any new information," she said.

She said law and home ministries are examining the legal aspects of the matter.

Shama also said Bangladeshi citizenship does not automatically entitle someone to a passport, particularly if they have been convicted of serious crimes or faced charges of crimes against humanity.

"If you are a convicted felon, if you have cases against you for crimes against humanity... how she [Hasina] will return is something the Ministry of Law is looking into," she said.

Under the extradition treaty, Hasina, like any other accused person, would have to return to Bangladesh and serve her sentence, she added.

On the impact of the Hasina issue on Bangladesh-India relations, Shama said bilateral ties are much broader. "Bangladesh-India relations started before the Liberation War. This relationship is not limited to this issue. We have issues, and we will resolve them through diplomacy," she said.

On the Bangladesh-India Consular Dialogue, originally scheduled for November 17-18, Shama said it had not been cancelled but deferred to a mutually convenient date.

She described reports of its cancellation as misinformation, saying both sides had agreed to hold the talks later when representatives from both sides were available.

National health hotline to be back in service within days

FROM PAGE 3

"We are ready. Once we receive formal communication, we will revive the service," he told The Daily Star last night.

Launched in 2015, Shastho Batayan has handled tens of thousands of calls, providing healthcare services, particularly to people in remote and underserved areas, free of cost.

The service catered to 11.23 lakh people in the six months from May 2 to October 31, according to an official document. Before the suspension, it received an average of around 5,000 calls a day.

Shastho Batayan was launched under the e-health operational plan of the DGHS Management Information System. The free service offers doctor consultations, health information and ambulance-related information. Doctors listen to patients' complaints and send prescriptions directly to their phones.

However, a funding crisis emerged after the sector programme under which the initiative was financed expired in June 2024. By April this year, the company had 22 months of unpaid bills, forcing it to halve its workforce.

The ministry later extended its contract until October 31. As the deadline approached, the company requested a further extension. However, on November 10, the company was informed that the government would not renew the contract.

Shastho Batayan halted the service at 9:00pm on November 12.

Contacted, Health Secretary Bazlur Rashid said the decision was never to shut down Shastho Batayan, but the ministry had been struggling to arrange funds to pay the service provider more than Tk 16 crore in outstanding bills.

"Earlier, funds for the service were allocated through an operational plan [sector programme]. But we have now shifted to a project-based system, and there was no allocation for it in our existing budget. We were also in discussions with the finance ministry on how to arrange the money," he said.

The service provider's contract expired in the meantime, he added.

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E-mail: eenoa@rhd.gov.bd &
eenoakhalirhd@gmail.com

Reference No. 35.01.7500.457.000.11.0004.20-2377 Date: 16.11.2026

e-Tender Notice

e-Tenders are invited in National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) by Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Noakhali for the Procurement of following works:

Sl No.	Tender ID No	Package No	Description of Works	Tender Last Selling (Date & Time)	Tender Closing (Date & Time)	Tender Opening (Date & Time)
01	1373026	NRD/ e-GP/34/ LTM/ 2026-2027	Construction of RCC Demarcation Pillar on Sonapur (Mannan Nagar)-Char Jabber-Steamer Ghat Road (Z-1424) at 1st Km (P) to 15th Km (P) under Noakhali Road Division during the year 2026-2027	30/11/2026 up to 4:00 PM	01/12/2026 12:15 PM	01/12/2026 12:15 PM

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

The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any Member of Scheduled Banks branches up to 4:00 PM on 30-11-2026.

(Md. Farid Uddin)
ID No.602218
Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Noakhali.

GD-2785

টেক্সটাইল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিভাগ
মাওলানা ভাসানী বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
ফোনঃ ০৯২১-৬২৪০৫ , টেলি ফ্যাক্সঃ ০৯২১-৫৫৪০০

সূত্র : মাভাবিপ্রবি/টিই CHSR/১৬৩/২০২১ তারিখ : ২৪ কার্তিক ১৪৩৩ / ০৯ নভেম্বর ২০২৬

২০২৫-২০২৬ইং শিক্ষাবর্ষে M.Sc. Engg. in Textile Engineering/M. Engg. in Textile Engineering প্রোগ্রামে

ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

২০২৫-২০২৬ইং শিক্ষাবর্ষের জন্য মাওলানা ভাসানী বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের টেক্সটাইল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং (টিই)বিভাগে M.Sc. Engg. in Textile Engineering/M. Engg. in Textile Engineering প্রোগ্রামে সংশ্লিষ্ট বিভাগ কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত আসনে ভর্তির জন্য গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার অনুমোদিত যে কোন বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ে বিএসসি (ইঞ্জিঃ) ডিগ্রীধারী ছাত্র-ছাত্রীদের নিকট থেকে আবেদন পত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে। আগ্রহী প্রার্থীগন টেক্সটাইল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিভাগের অফিসে ১০০০/=(এক হাজার) টাকা জমা দিয়ে আবেদন পত্র সংগ্রহ করতে পারবে।

ভর্তির যোগ্যতা :
ক) এস.এস.সি ও এইচ.এস.সি বা সমমান পরীক্ষায় পৃথকভাবে সিজিপিএ ৩.০০ থাকতে হবে।
খ) বি.এস.সি (ইঞ্জিঃ) এ (চার বছর মেয়াদী) নূন্যতম সিজিপিএ ৩.২৫/প্রথম শ্রেণী থাকতে হবে।
গ) চাকুরীরত প্রার্থীদের অবশ্যই যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে হবে ।

আবেদন পত্রের সাথে নিম্নলিখিত কাগজপত্র সংযুক্ত করতে হবে :
ক) শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সমর্থনে সকল পরীক্ষার মার্কশীট/ট্রান্সক্রীপ্ট এবং সার্টিফিকেটের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি।
খ) নাগরিকত্বের সনদপত্র/জাতীয় পরিচয় পত্রের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি।
গ) সদ্য তোলা ০২ (দুই) কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের রঙ্গিন ছবি।
ঘ) সর্বশেষ শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্রশংসা পত্রের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি।
ঙ) সর্বশেষ শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠানের /বিভাগের মাইগ্রেশন সার্টিফিকেট।

ভর্তি সংক্রান্ত তারিখ সমূহ :

১.	আবেদন পত্র বিতরণ ও জমা সকাল ১০.০০ থেকে বিকাল ৪.০০ পর্যন্ত (বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ছুটির দিন ব্যতিত)	:	১৫/১১/২০২৬ ইং থেকে ১৩/১২/২০২৬ ইং পর্যন্ত
২.	এ্যাডমিশন টেষ্ট/সাক্ষাতকার (সকাল ১০.০০ থেকে দুপুর ১২.০০ পর্যন্ত)	:	২০/১২/২০২৬ ইং
৩.	ফলাফল প্রকাশ	:	২১/১২/২০২৬ ইং
৪.	ভর্তির তারিখ (ছুটির দিন ব্যতিত)	:	০৩/০১/২০২৭ ইং থেকে ১৩/০১/২০২৭ ইং পর্যন্ত
৫.	ক্লাস শুরু	:	১৬/০১/২০২৭ ইং ।

ভর্তি সংক্রান্ত যাবতীয় তথ্য ও তারিখ বিভাগীয় অফিস এবং বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েবসাইট www.mbstu.ac.bd থেকে জানা যাবে।

অধ্যাপক ড. এ. কে. এম. মহিউদ্দিন
রেজিস্ট্রার (দায়িত্বপ্রাপ্ত)
মাভাবিপ্রবি,
সন্তোষ, টাঙ্গাইল-১৯০২।

GD-277

Bangladesh Bank
Information and Communication Technology Department
Head Office, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000
Website: www.bb.org.bd

Tender Notice

This is to notify that the following national tender is invited in the national e-GP Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd):

Sl No.	Tender ID, Reference No.	Procurement Title	Type, Method	Publishing Date, Time	Closing Date, Time
01.	1349029, ICTD-2/3/110/2026	Procurement of 03 (Three) years AMC for various 52 (Fifty-Two) CISCO devices [Core Network SDN (Software Defined Network) Cisco ACI, IPN (Inter POD Network), East-West Firewall etc.]	NCT, OTM	17-Nov-2026 15:00:00	08-Dec-2026 15:00:00

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 portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the national e-GP portal and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

ডিসিপি: ৪৮/২০২৬-২৯২০
তারিখ: ১৬-১১-২০২৬

sd/-
Md. Motior Rahman
Director (ICT)
Email: motior.rahman@bb.org.bd

ব্যাংকিং ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে, হয়রানির শিকার হলে কিংবা কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

GD-2781

বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড
Bangladesh Power Development Board
Directorate of Purchase
Biddut Bhaban (12th Floor),
1 No Abdul Goni Road, Dhaka-1000.
Email: dir.purchase@bpdb.gov.bd.

e-Tender Notice

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

SL No	Tender ID No.	Package No	Reference No.	Description of Goods/ Works	Tender Document Last Selling Date and time	Tender Closing Date and time	Tender Opening Date and time
01.	1373382	1 Fy-26/27	27.11.0000.304. 27.105.26 Date:15/11/2026	Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Solar panels on the Rooftops Various Facilities under Sales & Distribution Division-Bakalia and Distribution Division-Patiya, BPDSB, Chattogram, under Operation & Maintenance Circle Chattogram (South), BPDB, Chattagram. Approximate (165-170KW).	07-Dec-2026 13:00	07-Dec-2026 16:00	07-Dec-2026 16:00
02.	1373440	EE-GRL-31. Fy-26/27	27.11.0000.304. 27.106.26 Date:15/11/2026	(a) Control Cable 4x4 rm-10 Km. (b) Control Cable 4x6m-10Km.	07-Dec-2026 13:00	07-Dec-2026 16:00	07-Dec-2026 16:00
03.	1373478	EE-GRL-01. Fy-26/27	27.11.0000.304. 27.107.26 Date:15/11/2026	11kV Straight Type Cross Arm (0°-4°).	09-Dec-2026 13:00	09-Dec-2026 16:00	09-Dec-2026 16:00

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/ hard copies will be accepted.
To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd/) is required.
The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank Branches.
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).
For more details, please contact to the PE's Support Desk (01768595879).

বিদ্যুৎ/জন-৩৭৩(২)/১৬/১১/২৬

(Md. Shahedul Azim)
ID No.1-01460
Director
Directorate of Purchase
BPDB, Dhaka.

GD-2789

DHAKA TUESDAY NOVEMBER 17, 2026, AGRAHAYAN 2, 1433 BS

SPORT



> Given that the team is currently not competitive, I want to do more. I want to do more because I enjoy being here, so that the team can become more competitive on the global stage.
>
> Brazil coach **CARLO ANCELOTTI**

Pakistan eye historic title against champions India

SPORTS REPORTER

On one side are nine-time champions India, and on the other are first-time finalists Pakistan. On paper, the SAFF Championship final might look like a foregone conclusion, but the two teams' contrasting journeys suggest otherwise.

India (138), the top-ranked team in the tournament, have reached the final with an all-win record, having beaten Pakistan 3-2 in their opening match, before defeating Maldives 1-0 and edging past Bhutan by the same margin in the semifinals. Pakistan, meanwhile, are the lowest ranked at 197, and recovered from their opening defeat to India by beating Maldives 3-0 in their final group match before overcoming hosts Bangladesh 1-0 in the semifinals.

India arrived with a second-string squad and have been further depleted by the departure of six players midway through the tournament. Pakistan, in contrast, received a boost with the arrival of five Europe-based players ahead of the semifinal, strengthening their hopes of a historic title.

Coached by Nolberto Solano, Pakistan have already enjoyed a promising run, having won a four-nation tournament before impressing in the FIFA ASEAN Cup. They will now look to cap their campaign with their first SAFF crown.

Solano, however, insisted that neither side should consider themselves favourites, describing the final as a 50-50 contest.

"We have a lot of respect for India. Both teams have the same chances, 50-50, and it will depend on how well we perform on the pitch," he said, praising his players for their commitment during nearly a month of preparations.

Pakistan captain Abdullah Iqbal described reaching the final as a major milestone for the country's football and said winning the title would make it even more significant.

India coach Noushad Moosa, meanwhile, said his side would adopt a different approach from their opening encounter against Pakistan, taking into account the changes in their opponents' squad.

The final kicks off at 8:00pm at the National Stadium in Dhaka tonight, bringing the curtain down on two weeks of football.

Final ticket prices slashed drastically

Ticket prices for the SAFF Championship final have been reduced following Bangladesh's elimination from the tournament, with gallery tickets now costing Tk 200, club house tickets Tk 500 and VIP tickets Tk 750.

Sajeeb Rashid, CEO of TSA Sports & Entertainment, said the discounted tickets were available online and would also be sold at the stadium gates on matchday.

Sri Lanka coach fined $500

SAFF has fined Sri Lanka head coach Abdullah Al Mutairi USD 500 and issued him a warning for criticising refereeing and accusing the regional body of favouring host nations.

The Kuwaiti coach questioned SAFF's impartiality after his side drew with Bhutan, alleging that the organisation wanted a Bangladesh-India final for commercial reasons. After Sri Lanka's 4-0 defeat to Bangladesh, he also accused SAFF of prejudice against Arab coaches and said he would not return to its competitions. The SAFF Disciplinary Committee decided on the punishment at an online meeting.



PHOTO: **STAR**

WHAT TO WATCH

T SPORTS
Pakistan vs Sri Lanka
2nd Test, Day 1
Live from 10:30 am
South Africa vs Bangladesh
1st Test, Day 3
Live from 2:00 pm
SAFF Championship Final
India vs Pakistan
Live from 8:00 pm

SONY SPORTS 4
UEFA Nations League
Wales vs Portugal
Live from 1:45 am
(Wednesday)

SONY SPORTS 5
UEFA Nations League
Poland vs Sweden
Live from 1:45 am
(Wednesday)



Litton Das's 120 took Bangladesh to a challenging total of 400 in the first innings of the first Test against South Africa at the Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg yesterday. (Inset) Later, Hasan Mahmud took three wickets as the hosts were restricted to 287 for four at stumps on the second day. PHOTO: **AFP**

In stillness, Litton finds time

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI

Time is perhaps the most valuable aspect of batting, and Litton Das appeared to have ample amounts of it in his hands on the opening day of the first Test between South Africa and Bangladesh in Johannesburg on Sunday. In his stillness, he finds time.

Litton produced another special knock when the team were in dire need of one at the Wanderers Stadium. The importance of the runs, coupled with the consummate ease with which he scored them, put pressure back on one of the best bowling units in the world.

Albeit coming on against the old ball, Litton's role in red-ball cricket aligns with his batting template. He takes the game forward, taking advantage of the softer ball operating in the 60 to 80 over. While Tawhid Hridoy and Tanzid Tamim did the early hard work against the new ball, Litton's job was to ensure that hard work paid off.

He immediately put pressure on the South African attack, which appeared to play to his tune. That tempo he set offset the two quick wickets Kagiso Rabada had produced in back-to-back deliveries of Day 1's second session. A fluent but controlled pull shot off Rabada showed he was in his elements, for short deliveries are bread and butter for the Bangladesh wicketkeeper-batter. Short-arm jabs and well-controlled pulls were the facets of his early innings.

Both he and Hridoy are wristy customers, but how differently they applied themselves showed how Litton can arrest an opposition's momentum. In particular, Litton appeared to take Proteas' lone spinner Simon Harmer out of the attack, using his feet to dictate proceedings.

Hridoy added a trigger movement to pace, similar to Australia's Steve Smith in particular, shuffling across to counter movement. It was designed to take off-side dismissals out. Rabada explained it perfectly at the press conference.

"It just looked like they were just getting into our channel, and the wicket wasn't as quick off the fuller length, uh, as it normally is," Rabada said, hinting that the off-stump line was appearing to be one where both Hridoy and Litton could work the ball off their bodies.

Hridoy certainly enjoyed scoring from flicks. Litton could just pull Rabada from an off-stump line. While Hridoy's shuffles were noticeable, Litton's impeccable wristwork allowed him to add that little uncertainty in bowlers' minds, where they had to adjust to a wider line outside off. Then he went for drives. On a quicker wicket, it could spell trouble, but Rabada felt the batters already knew the pace of the wicket allowed both of the batters' approach.

"I think they just got into the channel, played at a few balls where if the wicket was a bit quicker, they would be getting themselves into a bit of trouble," Rabada said.

"I think that they identified that and they left well when we bowled wider, but got into the channel and almost forced us to go a bit straighter and kind of scoring on both sides of the wicket."

Litton also left well, producing a signature knock reminiscent of the one he played in Christchurch in 2022. Over the last five years, he has been among the top eight batters to score centuries in away Tests. The Wanderers hundred was his fourth, but despite his fluency, there was disappointment when he fell to Dane Paterson yesterday, a tame dismissal off a short delivery.

That regret was heightened by the sense that Litton was good for more, as Bangladesh's innings ended on 400 before South Africa piled on the runs.

- Bangladesh's 400 was well above the Wanderers Stadium's average first-innings score of 314. England were the last visiting side to win a Test in Johannesburg, in 2020, after scoring 400 batting first.
- Bangladesh's total was their highest against South Africa, surpassing their 326 in Chattogram in 2015, and their highest in South Africa (320 in Potchefstroom. 2017).
- Bangladesh became the first subcontinental side to score 400 in the first innings of a Test series in South Africa.
- No team have lost at the Wanderers after scoring 400 or more in the first innings.
- Litton Das's 120 was his eighth Test century and first against South Africa, making him the third Bangladeshi to score a Test hundred against the Proteas after Mahmudul Hasan Joy and Tawhid Hridoy. All three centuries came in South Africa.
- Litton has scored Test hundreds in five countries: Bangladesh (four), Pakistan, New Zealand, the UAE and South Africa (one each).



England's Jude Bellingham (L), Anthony Gordon (C) and Harry Kane celebrate after beating Spain 3-2 in their UEFA Nations League clash in Madrid on Sunday. The victory ended the world champions' 43-match unbeaten run in competitive football. Kane, Ezri Konsa and Ben White scored for England while Mikel Oyarzabal and Nico Williams scored for Spain. The win secured England top spot. PHOTO:**AFP**

IN BRIEF

Lukaku retires from int'l football

REUTERS

Romelu Lukaku, Belgium's all-time leading scorer, announced his retirement from international soccer on Monday after a 16-year career in which he scored 94 goals in 135 games.

The 33-year-old striker, the fifth-highest scorer in men's international football history, helped Belgium finish third at the 2018 World Cup.

"These 16 years I gave all I had for the national team. I went through every emotion possible," Lukaku said on Instagram.

"I played with amazing teammates that I will always be grateful for. I want to thank them all. I want to thank all the coaches as well for pushing and trusting me to help the team. It was a nice ride and I enjoyed every single moment.

Lukaku played in four World Cups and three European Championships.

"I will never forget those moments," he said. "I'm at peace with my decision to stop here. It was amazing, I'm grateful - thank you."

Tigresses' fate hangs in the balance

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh suffered their second defeat in the ICC Women's Emerging Nations Trophy 2026, losing to the Netherlands by five wickets in their third Group B match in Ajman on Monday.

Batting first, Bangladesh managed 129 for eight, with opener Dilara Akter top-scoring with 51 off 46 balls, her second consecutive half-century. Nigar Sultana Joty made 20, while Shorna and Sharmin Akhter scored 19 each. Heather Siegers took four wickets for 21 runs.

The Netherlands reached 131 for five in 19.4 overs, thanks to Sterre Kalis's unbeaten 68 off 50 balls.

Bangladesh, fourth in the five-team group with one win from three matches, must beat Thailand on Wednesday and rely on other results to reach the Super Six, with the top three advancing.





50th death anniversary of Bhashani today



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 50th death anniversary of Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani, a legendary political leader in the subcontinent, will be observed today.

He passed away on November 17, 1976, and was buried in Tangail's Santosh.

Maulana Bhashani Science and Technology University in Tangail and various socio-political organisations have chalked out elaborate programmes to mark the day.

They will place wreaths at his grave in Santosh in the morning. Other programmes

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4



Bangladesh's Litton Das celebrates his eighth Test century by displaying a handwritten message dedicated to his daughter that read, "Happy Birthday my Princess, This 100 for you", during the second day of the first Test against South Africa at the Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg yesterday. The wicketkeeper-batter scored 120 as Bangladesh posted 400 in the first innings. The hosts, in reply, ended the day at 287 for four.

PHOTO: AFP

Public debt hits Tk 23.38 lakh crore

Says finance minister at JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh's total public debt stood at an estimated Tk 23.38 lakh crore as of June 30, Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury told parliament yesterday.

Of the total, approximately Tk 10,00,325 crore was external debt and Tk 13,37,250 crore was domestic debt, he said in response to a question from BNP MP Mostafizur Rahman Babul during the question-and-answer session at the Jatiya Sangsad.

Under the Appropriation Act, Tk 8,08,778 crore has been allocated in the current fiscal year for debt servicing, covering both principal and interest payments, the minister said.

Replying to a question from BNP MP Farida Yasmin, Amir Khosru said the government had repaid $2.95 billion in external loans between March and September 2026.

He said the government had been working since assuming office to keep external debt at a sustainable level. Before approving any new project financed through foreign borrowing, both the project proposal and the associated loan proposal were being thoroughly scrutinised to prevent unnecessary projects from being undertaken.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 6

RMG wage board meeting put off amid unrest

Board member's illness cited; fresh date yet to be set

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The third meeting of the wage board formed to recommend the minimum wage for garment workers, scheduled for yesterday at Sramo Bhabon in Dhaka, was postponed after a board member fell ill.

The owners' representative was due to submit a wage proposal, while the workers' representative had proposed Tk 32,000 at the previous meeting.

Wage board Chairman Syed Azad Subhani said a new date had yet to be fixed, but work was continuing, including factory visits to assess industry conditions.

Industry insiders suggested the postponement may have stemmed from fears that the owners' proposal could fuel labour unrest and prolong the crisis, or from the ongoing political situation.

Babul Akhter, workers' representative on the board, said six members, including the chairman, visited three factories of different sizes in Narayanganj on Sunday, with the visits continuing until 8:30pm. The chairman informed them of the postponement during the visits.

Babul suggested the owners' and independent representatives might not have been ready with their proposals. Political factors and labour unrest could also have contributed, he said, adding that he would seek a new meeting date.

Owners' representative ABM Shamsuddin said the chairman had cited unavoidable circumstances without elaborating. He urged an early announcement of a new date.

40 garment factories remained closed in Savar and Ashulia yesterday, while 22 in Gazipur district and metropolitan areas were shut indefinitely amid wage-related unrest.

In a joint statement, the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) termed the postponement unfortunate, saying it

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

Help AL, face expulsion

BNP warns grassroots amid complaints

SAJJAD HOSSAIN



The ruling BNP has warned that grassroots leaders and activists who shelter Awami League members, try to secure the release of arrested members, or assist them in other ways could be expelled from the party if the allegations against them are found to be true.

The instruction comes as BNP sources say the leadership has got complaints from eight districts that some of its local leaders are helping AL members, whose political activities are now banned.

Senior BNP leaders said the party would examine such complaints and take action without considering the position or influence of those involved. They said the party would also help police pursue legal action against them.

The party has asked grassroots leaders to watch for possible violence or sabotage ahead of December and provide the police and local administration with relevant information.

BNP Joint Secretary General Syed Emran Saleh Prince said, "If anyone is involved in helping Awami League leaders or activists, they will certainly be held accountable. The party will take strict disciplinary action against them."

"Instead of increasing conflict, our leaders and activists have been instructed to help the administration by providing information," he told The Daily Star.

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Two oil tankers hit mines in Hormuz

Say Iran's Guards as USS Theodore Roosevelt joins US warships in Middle East

AGENCIES

Two oil tankers hit mines in the Strait of Hormuz that led to explosions, Iran's Revolutionary Guards said yesterday, as the USS Theodore Roosevelt arrived in the Middle East.

Six tankers caught fire in similar incidents in the strategic waterway on Sunday and yesterday, the Revolutionary Guards statement added.

The aircraft carrier Roosevelt joins two others operating in the US Central Command area of responsibility, a US official told Al Jazeera.

Meanwhile, Yemen's Houthis were advancing on the interim seat of the internationally recognised government, positioned just 60 kilometres from Aden, sources told AFP, as government forces rushed to defend the city.

Four military sources within government forces and two government sources said the Houthis had seized control of two districts in Lahj province and were moving towards Aden.

They said the Houthis were positioned at the Al-Kharaz camp in Al-Madariba, 60 kilometres (about 40 miles) from the city.

The Iran-backed group also targeted the King Khalid International Airport and a financial centre in the Saudi capital Riyadh with two ballistic missiles, Reuters reports.

Houthis advance on Aden as govt bolsters city defences

The Iran-backed group launches missiles towards Riyadh

Tehran bars UN inspections of damaged nuclear sites

A senior Iranian official said in a televised interview late Sunday that Iran will not let UN inspectors visit its damaged nuclear facilities until the Middle East war has ended and the United States meets its conditions.

In a post on X, Iran's foreign minister, Abbas Araghchi, has suggested the US could face defeat despite its confidence in the ongoing war.

"'Don't quote laws to men with swords' was uttered by a Roman general whose final campaign ended in crushing defeat, despite numerical superiority," Araghchi writes. "He was beheaded after fleeing the battlefield."





The vandalised and torched BNP office and shops belonging to party supporters at Chowrangi intersection in Gopalganj's Tungipara, following an attack allegedly carried out by Awami League activists on Sunday. *Inset*, police and BGB personnel deployed near the Gopalganj Deputy Commissioner's Office to maintain law and order after two days of protests, clashes, vandalism and arson.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

NEWS IN FOCUS

Murder suspect beaten to death in Mymensingh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Mymensingh*

A man suspected of involvement in the murder of a Swechchhasebak Dal activist was beaten to death in Mymensingh city early yesterday, hours after the activist was stabbed to death in the same area on Sunday evening.

Md Abdullah Al Mamun, additional superintendent of police (administration), identified the victim as Mehdi Hasan, 31, of Barera Masjid Road in the city's ward 26.

Quoting locals, he said Mehdi was the younger brother of Jahangir Alam, president of the ward unit of Jubo League.

"Critically injured Mehdi was taken to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH), where he died yesterday morning," he told The Daily Star.

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'I'm pregnant, yet he kicked my abdomen'

Headteacher accuses BNP leader; 2 show-caused

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Netrokona*

A local BNP leader and his associates have been accused of assaulting a pregnant teacher, including kicking her in the abdomen, over a dispute regarding the formation of a school managing committee in Netrokona's Atpara upazila yesterday.

The incident took place at Kacharpar Government Primary School in the upazila's Teligati union.

The victim, acting headteacher Nibedita Deb, alleged that the attackers included Anwar Hossain, president of Teligati union BNP, and Nuruzzaman Khan Putul, a former teacher at the school and a BNP-backed candidate for the post of managing committee president.

"Anwar Hossain kicked me in

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