

# In the realm of SKELETONS

|| MOHAMMAD SUMAN ||



## PORT CITY CHRONICLES

As soon as you enter the premises you'll come face-to-face with a crocodile with its jaws wide open -- as if it is anxiously waiting to devour its prey. As you turn your eyes, a huge 13-feet python, with its body forming a twisted pattern, reveals itself.

These two reptiles, however, cannot close their mouth, move their limbs, or do anything, really. Only their skeletons remain on display to fascinate visitors.

Such views are abundant at the anatomy museum of Chattogram Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (CVASU), where skeletons along with taxidermied and preserved animals are strewn across the 3,000 square feet indoor space.

While walking through the museum, one will come across skeletons of a friendly deer next to a towering elephant with its mighty

From the skeleton of a crocodile to that of a small sparrow -- the anatomy museum at Chattogram Veterinary and Animal Sciences University will surely enthrall visitors with its collection. Below, specimens preserved in glass containers.



tusks still intact and even tiny birds, among many other fascinating displays.

"This place is full of skeletons of various sizes, from those of small sparrows to deer and elephants. All this is quite educational," said Ibrahim Hossain, a second-year student at CVASU.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Turning to a different section reveals foetuses and infants of various animals on display, preserved in glass containers. Individual animal body parts can also be seen; this is particularly helpful for veterinary students.

If that's not one's cup of tea, they can enjoy going through the fluffy rodents, canines and felines that went through a meticulous taxidermy process.

The museum is located at the university's anatomy and histology department and is open to all with free entry. It was inaugurated in 2017, and its creation was financed by the University Grants Commission under the Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project.

"With its establishment, students can

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## ABRAR MURDER CASE

# Accused wants to withdraw confession

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One of the accused in Buet student Abrar Fahad murder case, Moniruzzaman Monir, yesterday submitted a petition to a Dhaka court for withdrawal of his confessional statement given earlier before a magistrate.

Monir, now in jail, claimed in his petition that he was forced to give the statement while he was on remand. He mentioned that Detective Branch of police took him on remand on October 9 last year. During the remand, he was "tortured inhumanly", so he agreed to give a confessional statement.

In his statement given on October 15, he said he was involved in the plan to beat Abrar from the beginning, and he beat up the victim with a stamp. He also said he

was present until Abrar's death.

The court, however, kept the petition in the case file, and issued no order in this regard.

Meanwhile, the court yesterday ordered police to publish advertisements in two national dailies asking four fugitives in the case to appear before it on January 13.

The fugitives are, Buet BCL deputy office secretary (expelled) Mustafa Rafid and its members Morsheduzzaman Jishan, Ehtashamul Rabbi Tanim (expelled), and Morshed Amartya Islam.

The 21 other accused in the case's charge sheet are now in jail.

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Md Kaisarul Islam passed the order after receiving reports on execution

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## Posing as Titas officials

Five arrested for gas connection fraud

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police on Saturday arrested five people in connection with embezzlement and defrauding people by posing as Titas Gas officers. The arrestees allegedly misappropriated a hefty amount of money by promising to provide illegal gas connections to residential and commercial establishments.

The arrestees are -- Shahadat Khan (45), Aftai Uddin Rahat (24), Zahidur Rahman alias Javed (43),

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# Stop sand extraction from Titas river: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered the government to stop sand extraction from the Titas river near Sheikh Hasina Titas Setu (bridge) in Bancharampur upazila of Brahmanbaria in 48 hours to protect the bridge and flow of the river.

Issuing a suomoto (voluntary) rule, the court asked the government to submit a report before it after complying with the directive in a month.

In the rule, the HC asked the authorities to explain why their inaction to protect Sheikh Hasina Titas Setu, the first Y-shaped bridge in the country, and flow of Titas river should not be declared illegal.

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman issued the order and rule following a report published in The Daily Star on December 25 last year under a headline "Illegal sand trade poses threat to Titas bridge".

Advocate Cumar Debul Dey, a Supreme Court lawyer, filed the news report before the HC bench for necessary order on the government.

The Daily Star report said while the government is conducting drives against river encroachment, an influential sand trader is not only constricting flow of the Titas river by occupying its bank, but also endangering Sheikh Hasina Titas Setu.

Ignoring the risk posed to the Tk 94-crore bridge that the prime minister inaugurated last year, the sand trader, Saidul Islam, has taken up several bridge piers that he is using to make an enclosure where he stockpiles sand for sale. Moreover, the sand stockpiled in the enclosure is being lifted from the river right below the bridge -- another violation of the law.

Titas Setu, 771.20 metres in length, has become a popular site to visit and is an alternative option for travellers to go to Chattogram from Dhaka.

Such an asset of the country is under threat, but the authorities concerned seem to be indifferent, alleged many locals, the report said, adding that Saidul has been conducting sand trade for a year in a similar fashion by occupying the bank of the Titas in Charlohania as well.

## CORRUPTION CASES

# Chisty's wife, daughter granted bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted bail to wife and daughter of former chairman of Farmers Bank Audit Committee Mahabubul Haque Chisty in two corruption cases.

The accused are Chisty's wife Rozi Chisty and daughter Rimi Chisty.

Judge KM Emrul Kayesh of the Senior Special Judge's Court of Dhaka granted them ad-interim bail till January 13 after they surrendered before this court seeking bail in the cases.

Earlier on December 24 last year, the two accused surrendered before the High Court seeking bail in the cases. But the HC rejected their bail petitions and asked them to surrender before the lower court concerned in two weeks.

During yesterday's hearing, Public Prosecutor Mahmud Hossain Jahangir told the court that the HC had earlier rejected their bail petition considering the depth of offences, adding that their bail petitions should be rejected.

The defence opposed the prosecution pleas, saying that their clients were implicated in the cases as part of a conspiracy to harass them.

On December 15 last year, the Anti-Corruption Commission filed the cases with its coordinated district office in Dhaka against Rozi and Rimi on charges of amassing illegal wealth worth Tk 37.38 crore and Tk 21 crore respectively.

## Auto-rickshaw driver killed in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

A battery-run auto-rickshaw driver was killed in Narayanganj yesterday.

The deceased -- identified as Tipu Howlader, 25 -- was from Fatullah's Bhoile area.

A gang of snatchers stabbed Tipu in the back and waist at Chhara Kashipur in Fatullah and fled with his auto-rickshaw around 1:30am, said Fatullah Model Police Station Officer-in-Charge Aslam Hossain, quoting locals.

Later, locals took Tipu to a hospital in the city's Khanpur where doctors declared him dead, he said.

Police recovered the body from the hospital in the morning and sent it to Narayanganj General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

The OC said they are investigating the incident and trying to arrest the culprits.



TO KILL A CANAL... A man stares at the sorry state of Sylhet's Goali Chhara canal. Once a free-flowing waterbody, it is now choked by garbage dumped on a daily basis. As the city corporation fails to do regular clean-ups, the canal is on the throes of death. This photo was taken yesterday near Betar office.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

## GLYPHOSATE CONTAINING PESTICIDES

# Form action plan to phase it out: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to form an action plan in 90 days to phase out Glyphosate containing pesticides, including Roundup, and to introduce safe alternatives.

In response to a writ petition, the court also asked the authorities concerned to generate public awareness about the harmful impacts of Glyphosate containing pesticides through print and electronic media.

At the same time, the HC issued a rule asking the respondents to explain in eight weeks why they should not be directed to constitute an independent commission to monitor the pesticides that are hazardous to human health and environment.

In the rule, the court asked them to show cause why issuance and renewal of licence for import, sale and use of Glyphosate containing pesticides should not be declared illegal.

Secretaries to ministries of agriculture, health, commerce, labour, environment and forests; executive chairman of Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council, director generals of Bangladesh Agricultural Extension Department, Department of Environment, and Bangladesh Sugarcane Research Institute; directors of Bangladesh Tea Research Institute, Bangladesh Plant Protection Wing, Soil Resources Development Institute, Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research and Bangladesh Crop Protection Association have been made respondents to the rule.

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman came up with the order and rule following a writ petition filed collectively by seven rights

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