



Locals blocked the Dhaka-Khulna Highway at Madhukhali upazila in Faridpur for one hour after a student of Arpara High School was killed in a road accident yesterday morning.

## 6th-grader run over by bus in front of school

Locals block Dhaka-Khulna highway until work for speed breakers start on the spot

STAR REPORT

A school student was killed in a road accident on Dhaka-Khulna Highway in front of his school in Madhukhali upazila of Faridpur around 10am yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Fahim Azmal (11). He was a sixth-grader of Arpara High School, reports our Faridpur correspondent. He was killed after a bus hit him, said police.

Following the accident, locals blockaded the highway for an hour and only withdrew it after the UNO started work for two speed breakers in front of the school, said Aminul Islam, OC of Madhukhali Police Station.

The accident took place when a Dhaka-bound bus of MM Paribahan hit Fahim's bicycle as he was coming to school. "Critically injured, he was taken to Faridpur Medical College Hospital, where an on-duty doctor declared him dead an hour later," said Mollah Md Hafijur, headmaster of Arpara High School.

Police have arrested the bus driver and seized the bus, added the OC.

Meanwhile in Rangpur, a pedestrian was killed after being run over by a speeding bus in Kaunia upazila of the district yesterday, reports our Dinajpur correspondent.

Deceased Osman Gani (45) was a resident of Kaunia Bailey Bridge area. Quoting locals, police said Osman was out on his morning walk when the passenger bus hit and critically injured him.

Locals rushed him to Rangpur Medical College Hospital, where he eventually succumbed to his injuries.

The driver managed to flee the scene along with the bus, said police.

PHOTO: SUZIT KUMAR DAS

## Over 3 lakh posts vacant at ministries

State minister for public administration tells JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 3,13,848 posts are currently vacant under different ministries of the government, State Minister for Public Administration Farhad Hossain told parliament yesterday.

He made the disclosure in reply to a query from Jatiya Party MP Mujibul Haque Chunnu, adding that various measures have been taken to fill up the vacant posts.

In reply to a query from Awami League MP Morshed Alam, Farhad Hossain told parliament that the total number of government employees is 12.17 lakh.

The state minister also informed the House that the public administration ministry in 2019 gave approval to create 88,123 new posts under different ministries and departments.

In reply to a query from BNP MP Golam Mohammad Siraj, Farhad Hossain said 290 government officials are currently designated as officers on special duty (OSD) on various grounds, while 177 officials and staffers are working in different ministries and departments on contract basis.

He also said government officials are made OSD for different reasons, including promotion, taking part in training or higher education, and personal reasons.

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## Ex-DIG Mizan, Basir charged with bribery

JNU CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday submitted charge sheet before a Dhaka court against suspended deputy inspector general (DIG) of police Mizanur Rahman and the commission's suspended director Khandaker Enamul Basir in a bribery case.

Judge KM Emrul Kayesh of Senior Special Judge's Court in Dhaka set February 9 for the hearing after ACC Director Sheikh Md Fanaillah placed the charge sheet before it.

On July 16 last year, ACC filed the graft case against the duo for a transaction of Tk 40 lakh

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## Man, missing for eight days, found murdered

Constable, two others arrested; cops say dispute over money led to the killing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A man was found dead in Rangpur yesterday, eight days after he had gone missing.

On information from three arrestees, including a constable, police recovered the body of Tosharaf Hossain from a sugarcane field in Badarganj upazila's Shyampur, said Kotwali Police Station Officer-in-Charge Abdur Rashid.

Family sources said Tosharaf from Dhaka's Hazaribagh was an administrative officer of an urban health care centre in the city.

On January 11, he went to Rangpur to find their missing domestic help, said victim's sister Shajia Arfin Doli. After getting off a bus at the city's Kamarpara, Tosharaf phoned constable Rabiul Islam for help as he was acquainted with the policeman.

Since then, Tosharaf's phone has been found switched off and he remained traceless, she said.

Following the incident, Doli filed a case with Kotwali Police Station on Thursday.

On Friday, police arrested constable Rabiul from a police training

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## Newborn rescued from Ctg dustbin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police yesterday rescued a newborn girl from a bag inside a dustbin in port city's Bayezid Bostami area.

A police team, led by SI Shah Alam, rescued the baby from near a canal around 10:45am.

Officer-in-Charge Priton Sarkar of Bayezid Bostami Police Station told The Daily Star, "A child spotted the baby after hearing her cries. He then told locals, who later informed us."

Police initially took the girl to local Plasma Hospital, from where she was referred to Chattogram Medical College Hospital (CMCH).

"After a brief check-up, CMCH doctors told us she is doing okay," said OC Priton. Quoting on-duty doctors, he said the baby was born yesterday.

"She has been handed over to the authorities of Chhotomoni Nibash [a social welfare ministry-run home for babies] at Roufabad," he added.

## Udichi protests arrest of baul singer Shariat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, M'singh

Udichi Shilpi Goshthi in Mymensingh yesterday organised a musical soiree protesting arrest of Shariat Sarkar and demanding his immediate release.

The programme was organised at Shaheed Firoz-Jahangir Square in the city. Following the soiree, a human chain was formed at the same location. Baul artistes Sunil Karmakar, Emon Talukder, Mohammad Ferdous and Swapon Sarkar rendered songs at the programme.

Terming Bangladesh a good example of a non-communal country, speakers said the arrest of Shariat has created serious concerns for communal harmony in the country.

The programme was addressed by representatives of cultural organisations and leaders of local left-leaning political parties.

On January 11, Mirzapur police arrested the 40-year-old folk singer from Mymensingh's Bhaluka, in a case filed under the Digital Security Act, for hurting religious sentiment.

The same day, he was produced before a Tangail court, which placed him on a three-day remand, said Md Saidur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Mirzapur Police Station.

## A pitha for every mood

Jatiya Pitha Utshab brings 300 varieties to Sylhet

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Hot or cold, sweet or savoury, sticky or crunchy -- there's a pitha in every flavour and texture for every mood. Pitha has been a winter-essential for centuries in this region, but urban life rarely has room for this treat. After all, making pitha can be labour-intensive.

Bhapa and chittoi pitha are the two most common types found in city streets, but there are hundreds of other varieties that are as unique in taste as they're intricate in design.

Jatiya Pitha Utshab is organised to celebrate these traditional treats, and its 13th edition is being held at Sylhet District Stadium's basketball ground. Typically held at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in Dhaka, this is the first time the organisers took the fair outside the capital.

Jatiya Pitha Utshab Udjapon Parishad's president and freedom fighter M Hamid inaugurated the festival on Saturday, where Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen was present as chief guest.

There are 25 stalls from different districts of the country, including Dhaka, Tangail, Rangpur, Mymensingh, and Moulvibazar. Around 300 varieties such as nakshi pitha, malpowa, chandrapuli, rashbhoori, lobongolotika and more are available, while the fair is also selling ingredients such as rice flour and different types of jaggery.

The biggest stall of the festival is of a women's organisation named Grassroots who are displaying and selling around a hundred types of pitha from Sylhet.

Grassroots' organising secretary Salma Begum said that the festival is a huge success and she is hopeful to see bigger crowds in the next few days.

Nasim Ahmed, who came to the fair with his wife, said the festival is very vibrant and it would attract even more customers if it was publicised more.

Jatiya Pitha Utshab Udyapan Parishad organised the event with support from the Ministry of Cultural Affairs and in collaboration with Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

The festival will be open from 3-8pm every day till January 21 and there will be various performances including poetry recital, dance, music and drama every day, said Rajat Kanti Gupta, member secretary of the divisional committee to organise the festival.

## Six million Bangladeshis visually impaired: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over six million people in the country are visually impaired, as they barely have access to quality eye care, speakers at a programme said yesterday.

They were speaking at the launch of a global report by World Health Organization (WHO) at a Dhaka hotel.

International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB), NGO Forum in Eye Health, and the National Eye Care Programme of the government jointly organised the event.

On October 8, 2019, WHO published its first ever world report on vision which said that globally, at least 2.2 billion people have vision impairments.

To address the problem, WHO recommended high quality research on health systems, monitoring progress of

implementation, and raising awareness.

A meeting of Bangladesh National Council for the Blinds (BNCB) was also held, chaired by health minister Zahid Maleque.

Prof Golam Mostafa, director of National Institute of Ophthalmology, also the line director of National Eye Care under the directorate general of health services (DGHS), said in his keynote that there are around 7.5 lakh blind people in the country while the number of visually impaired people is over 60 lakh.

Speaking at the meeting, the minister said, "We are trying to make sure people have access to eye specialists."

Urging members of BNCB to set the goal of setting up community eyecare centres in each upazila by this year, he said, "Money is no more a problem. We [government] would allocate fund for this."

## 'Invest in creative diplomacy'

Prof Imtiaz tells IR conference

DU CORRESPONDENT

A two-day international conference titled "Revisiting International Relations" began yesterday at the Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Building on the DU campus. DU's International Relations (IR) department organised the programme commemorating 100 years of IR as an academic discipline.

In the keynote speech, Prof Imtiaz Ahmed said, "With growth and prosperity, Bangladesh will certainly have more enemies and not less. Since it is an economy that is tied up with globalisation, it is important that we invest in creative diplomacy."

Prof Imtiaz, also director at Centre for Genocide Studies at DU, posited that this change in stance may not be possible by borrowing knowledge from the West. This will require a clear understanding of Bangladeshi people and

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## SC stays High Court verdict on maximum term for OSD

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday stayed a High Court (HC) verdict that declared illegal keeping government employees as "officer on special duty" (OSD) for more than 150 days.

Chamber Judge of the Appellate Division Justice Hasan Foez Siddique stayed the HC verdict for eight weeks, following a petition filed by the government seeking stay on the verdict.

Following a writ petition, the HC on January 8 delivered the verdict declaring illegal keeping government employees as officer on special duty for more than 150 days, as the government circular issued in 1991 does not permit it.

Delivering its verdict on a writ petition, the HC had ordered the government to reappoint officials kept as OSD for more than 150 days back to their original posts immediately after receiving its copy.

The government will move a leave to appeal petition before the apex court after receiving the certified copy of the HC verdict, Additional Attorney General Murad Reza told The Daily Star.

### e-Tender Notice

**Tender Notice No. 53/EED/BZ/Project Code: (224016400)/e-Tender/2019-20**      Date: 19-01-2020

**Name of project:** Vertical Extension of selected Non-Govt Secondary Schools.

e-Tender is invited through the National e-GP Portal for the following procurement of works.

Sl No.	Name of the tender	Tender ID	Type method	Last date & time of selling documents	Last date & time of submission documents
01	VER-09 Vertical Extension of Existing Academic Building in/c Sanitary Water Supply & Electrification Works at Sher-e-Bangla Girl's High School CAT-C5 Sadar Upazila Barishal District.	387925	NCT, OTM	09-Feb-2020 15:00	10-Feb-2020 12:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender document of following packages from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches. Further information and guideline are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).



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উন্নয়নের গণতন্ত্র  
শেখ হাসিনার মূলমন্ত্র

Memo No: 46.02.1395.000.07.067.19-34      Date: 19-01-2020

## Invitation for Tender (LTM)

### e-Tender Notice No.: 04/2019-2020

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

Sl. No	Tender ID	Name of work	Last selling date & time	Tender security submission date & time	Closing/opening date & time
1	409487	e-Tender/uzp/shah/cnd/dev/2019-20/W.01	03-02-2020 17:00Hrs	04-02-2020 14.00Hrs	04-02-2020 15:00Hrs
2	411165	e-Tender/uzp/shah/cnd/dev/2019-20/W.02	03-02-2020 17:00Hrs	04-02-2020 14.00Hrs	04-02-2020 15:00Hrs
3	411169	e-Tender/uzp/shah/cnd/dev/2019-20/W.03	03-02-2020 17:00Hrs	04-02-2020 14.00Hrs	04-02-2020 15:20Hrs
4	409452	e-Tender/uzp/shah/cnd/adpb.grant/2019-20/W.04	03-02-2020 17:00Hrs	04-02-2020 14.00Hrs	04-02-2020 15:20Hrs
5	411155	e-Tender/uzp/shah/cnd/adpb.grant/2019-20/W.05	03-02-2020 17:00Hrs	04-02-2020 14.00Hrs	04-02-2020 15:30Hrs
6	411172	e-Tender/uzp/shah/cnd/adpb.grant/2019-20/W.06	03-02-2020 17:00Hrs	04-02-2020 14.00Hrs	04-02-2020 15:30Hrs

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

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