



# The Daily Star

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**"We won't let anyone create anarchy. If they think they are very powerful, they are wrong."**  
HOME MINISTER ASADUZZAMAN KHAN KAMAL ABOUT OPPOSITION TO INSTALLATION OF BANGABANDHU'S SCULPTURE.



**"I have kept our leaders and activists under control up till now. If there are any excesses, the Awami League activists will not sit idle at home."**  
AWAMI LEAGUE GENERAL SECRETARY OBAIDUL QUADER



**"They cheated and they rigged our presidential election but we will still win it."**  
US PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP AHEAD OF CRUCIAL SENATE RACE IN GEORGIA

## PADMA BRIDGE RAIL ROUTE

# Plan to operate electric trains



- Dhaka-Mawa-Jashore line to have provision for electric train
- It will require up to \$525m (Tk 4,454cr) in additional cost
- Electric train will reduce operational, maintenance costs

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Installing the facilities now to run electric trains between Dhaka and Jashore via the Padma bridge might cost the government up to Tk 4,454 crore, a study said.

Once completed, it could be the first line for electric trains in the country.

Following a directive of project authorities, China Rail Link Group, the contractor for Padma Bridge Rail Link Project (PBRLP), carried out the study and submitted its report recently, saying that electrification of the lines was feasible.

The Chinese contractor advised installing the facilities while the rail link construction is ongoing and recommended a decision be made soon to avoid additional

cost and safety risks. The government has not decided when it will install the electrification facilities, now or later.

The project authorities on Saturday organised a technical workshop, presided over by Bangladesh Railway (BR) Director General Md Shamsuzzaman, to discuss the report. Officials of railways ministry, BR, project officials, consultants and experts took part in the workshop held at a city hotel.

The contractor in the report said, "Electrification of a railway can increase transport capacity, improve economic benefits and give full play to railway potentials, conserve energy, protect the environment ..."

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Four of a family riding in a rickshaw but none has taken the precaution of wearing masks. Despite the government undertaking many initiatives to curb the spread of Covid-19, including fining people for not wearing masks, many choose not to heed the warnings. The photo was taken yesterday in the capital's Mugda.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## ANTI-SCULPTURE CAMPAIGN

# Govt warns of tough action

Ruling party activists stage nationwide demonstration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government appears to have taken a tough stance against those opposing installation of Bangabandhu's sculpture after an under-construction sculpture of the Father of the Nation was vandalised in Kushtia on Saturday.

Several senior ministers yesterday issued warnings saying those involved in the vandalism of Bangabandhu's sculpture will face stern action. Law enforcers have already arrested four persons in this connection.

Meanwhile, the ruling Awami League and its front organisations held protests across the country against Saturday's incident.

They demanded that the government take tough action against the perpetrators who acted against the country's constitution and the spirit of the Liberation War.

Different pro-Liberation War forces and political organisations have been criticising the government for its "lenient attitude" towards Hefajat-e-Islam and a few other Islamist organisations that recently opposed installation of Bangabandhu's sculpture in the capital's Dholaipar

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## Vandals were inspired by Hefajat leaders

4 Madrasa students, teachers held; they confess vandalising Bangabandhu sculpture

STAR REPORT

Police arrested two madrasa students on charges of damaging a sculpture of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in Kushtia.

The students, both aged 14, admitted that they vandalised the sculpture on Friday night after they were inspired by the recent anti-sculpture statements from Hefajat-e-Islam leaders Maulana Mamunul Haque and Maulana Faizul Haque, officials told a press briefing at Kushtia Police Lines yesterday.

Two teachers, Alamin, 33 and Yusuf, 38, of Masud (R) Madrasa in the Jugia area of Kushtia, were also arrested for helping the students flee after they vandalised the sculpture.

The right hand, face, and part of the left hand of the sculpture being constructed at

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## MITIGATING COVID IMPACT

# PM for stronger cooperation

Bhutan PM lauds Dhaka's Covid response; preferential trade deal signed with Bhutan



UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said stronger regional and international cooperation is necessary in the coming days for mitigating the impact of the pandemic and for the rebuilding phase.

"The evolving pandemic has propagated beyond a health crisis into a growing threat on socio-economic systems and livelihoods. To counter the impact of this unknown enemy, Bangladesh has shared excellent cooperation with Bhutan and other South Asian neighbours and beyond," she said while addressing the Bangladesh-Bhutan PTA signing ceremony.

Meanwhile, Bhutanese Prime Minister Dr Lotay Tshering highly appreciated Hasina's leadership, saying that Bangladesh is making an

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## COVID-19 PANDEMIC

# People aged 20-40 are 'super spreader'

Experts say; 79pc of the dead were more than 50yrs old

MOUDDUD AHMED SUJAN

As the number of Covid-19 cases keeps rising with the advent of winter, people aged between 20 and 40 are the super spreader of this highly contagious virus, experts said.

They said, people of this age boundary are usually the most exposed to Covid-19 infection as they are of the working age population and need to go outside for livelihood.

According to the demographic case distribution of all confirmed cases in the country, more than half of infected are aged between 21 and 40 years.

On the other hand, death rate is higher among the Covid-19 patients aged older than 50 years.

It is around more than 79 percent, according to yesterday's press release from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

"People of this age group usually go outside more than others to earn livelihood. So, it is more important

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## Editor, publisher of local daily sued under DSA

Sylhet city councillor files the case for 'defamation'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A Sylhet city councillor sued 18 people, including the editor of a local daily, its publisher and reporters, under the controversial Digital Security Act for publishing "a fake report" and sharing it on social media.

Saleh Ahmed Selim, councillor of ward-22 of the city corporation and also a ruling Awami League leader, filed the case with Shahporan Police Station on Friday night.

The newspaper recently published a report on his illegal activities, including attempting to grab the land of a government primary school, and extorting money from landlords and land owners in his area.

Editor of Ekattorer Kotha Chowdhury Mumtaz Ahmed, publisher Md Nazrul Islam, reporters Sayeed Chowdhury Tipu, Jikrul Islam, Md Muhi, Sujjan Chandra Anup and administrative officer Ahmed Maruf are among the accused.

The 11 others are not associated with the newspaper.

In the case statement, the plaintiff said the accused published a fake news and shared it on social media, which is defamatory.

It is also mentioned that the newspaper

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The massive girder of an under-construction overpass in Chattogram's Bayezid-Foujdarhat Link Road area is precariously propped against a pillar. The wire of a crane that was used to lift the girder had snapped yesterday, causing the part of the concrete and steel structure to fall on a truck and injuring one of its occupants, who was admitted to a local hospital.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

## CHARBHADRASAN BY-POLLS

# EC cancels results over 'irregularities'

Move comes after lawmaker, unofficial winner threatened officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission yesterday cancelled the results of the by-polls at Faridpur's Charbhadrasan upazila parishad chairman post after its probe body found "irregularities" during the election.

Ruling Awami League candidate M Kawsar was unofficially elected in the by-polls held on October 10. BNP rebel candidate AKM Obaidul Bari had come in second.

"The commission has decided to cancel the results of the by-polls ... there were irregularities in the election," an election commissioner told The Daily Star yesterday evening.

"We will send letters to the authorities concerned soon notifying them of the matter," the commissioner said.

An EC circular said a probe committee formed by the commission had found proof of flouting of the electoral code of conduct during the by-polls.

Independent lawmaker of Faridpur-4 Mujibur Rahman Chowdhury, popularly

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