

# Roads across Tangail river

## Sand traders choke New Dhaleswari to transport sand

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

An influential sand trading syndicate has built three roads across the New Dhaleshwari river, cutting off its flow at Kalihati in Tangail to transport sand extracted from the nearby Jamuna river.

The roads near the confluence of the Jamuna and Dhaleshwari have also stopped the water flow into the rivers' downstream, which rejuvenates all the four rivers of the capital during the monsoon.

The syndicate is led by Hazrat Talukder, former chairman of Gohaliabari union, local sources said, adding that several local Awami League leaders have been earning crores of taka from the business, after paying hefty bribes to different quarters.

Contacted, Hazrat denied being involved with the syndicate and said he

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Influential sand traders have built a road across the New Dhaleshwari river in Beltia of Kalihati upazila in Tangail. They have also built another road across the river in the same village and a third in Shamshoil village. PHOTO: STAR

# Padma bridge tender floated

## 5 pre-qualified firms asked to submit bids by Sept 9; Muhith doubts work order by Dec

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday finally floated tender for construction of the main bridge of the Padma project.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith, however, said he was not sure if the work order could be issued by December.

In advertisements published in today's newspapers, five pre-qualified firms have been asked to submit bids by September 9.

Besides placing ads in national dailies, Bangladesh Bridge Authority (BBA) has posted the tender on its website.

The BBA said it would hold a pre-bid meeting with the bidders on August 12.

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# GAZPIUR CITY POLLS RMG workers hold the key

SHAKHAWAT LITON and WASIM BIN HABIB, back from Gazipur

The Gazipur City Corporation polls certainly have a unique story to tell, as almost one-fourth of the voters there come from different parts of the country.

A significant number of voters in GCC, which includes Tongi area, are garment workers coming from various districts. Alongside the locals, they will also cast votes to determine the outcome.

More than 2,000 readymade garment factories, employing about 10 lakh workers, are located in Gazipur and Tongi.

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# JP activists campaigning against AL

PANKAJ KARMAKAR & ABU BAKAR SIDDIQUE AKAND, Gazipur

Jatiya Party local leaders and workers are working against Awami League backed mayoral candidate Ajmat Ullah Khan in the Gazipur city corporation poll, in retaliation for the JP candidacy withdrawal.

"We have directed all of our leaders and activists in Gazipur not to vote for

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# Arrogance, whims and vengeance

## Parliamentary majority is being used to legalise illegalities

MAHFUZ ANAM

It is sad and extremely painful to write that after four and a half years of rule by Sheikh Hasina's government, one is forced to conclude that it is a government mainly run on arrogance, whims and vengeance and that it

has missed a historic opportunity to bring about a "politics of change" and transform Bangladesh and its politics through its huge parliamentary majority, something that the Awami League had promised people it would do if voted to power.

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# Debate on GB heats up JS

## Muhith says 'no intention' to change Grameen Bank structure, Yunus is a 'true politician'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Minister AMA Muhith has claimed that the government had no intention to change Grameen Bank's structure.

"The government has yet to do anything centring on the Grameen Bank. The bank is running the way it was operating in the past," he said in parliament yesterday.

Claiming that the bank was the creation of the

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