

## Graft-free DC office!

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali**

Patuakhali deputy commissioner (DC) on Sunday hung a signboard on the main entrance of his office with a text stating that 'I and my office are corruption-free'.

DC office source said, no bribes are taken in this office for any job.

"I hung the signboard at my office declaring it is corruption-free," said Dr Md Masumur Rahman, DC of Patuakhali.

"We ask all to communicate directly with my hotline number 333 or on my cellphone number if anyone wants bribe or makes any other illegal demand," he said.

"I will take same step in all government offices in the district to build corruption-free administration," he said.

## Another held for instigating girl's suicide

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha**

Police detained Sohel Mia, prime accused in connection with a case for instigating a schoolgirl to commit suicide, from Nakaihat village in Gobindaganj upazila yesterday.

On September 19, Sohel and his friends waylaid Ayesha Siddiqua Misty, a Class IX student, while she was returning from school and proposed her.

As she refused, Sohel physically assaulted her and threatened to kidnap her. Hearing screams, local people later rescued her.

Feeling insulted, Misty took poison the same night and died on her way to Sadullapur Upazila Health Complex.

Following a case, police arrested Ashraf, Nurul Rasel, OC Imrul Quayes of Sadullapur PS said.

# Idle days of idol makers

*They help in making community life festive, but themselves remain uncared for*

**QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT, Thakurgaon**

Idol makers, who play an indispensable role in religious festivals of the Hindus, especially pujas, are relegated to the backyard as soon as the celebrations are over.

With an average yearly earning of around Tk 1 lakh from the seasonal work, the artisans struggle to maintain their families as they virtually remain jobless the rest of the year, said several idol-makers.

"Our religious festivals get fulfillment with the work of the idol-makers, but we do not recognise their contribution properly," said Tapan Kumar Ghosh, general secretary of Bangladesh Puja Uddhayan Parishad's district unit.

Prosenjeet Roy, an artisan of Deogana village in Sadar upazila, said he made a statue of Goddess Durga for Tk 35,000 for Hallpara Durgabari Mandap in the town, but there was very little profit due to price hike of materials and high labour cost.

He and his younger brother Prokash Roy, 32, also made four other idols in Thakurgaon and Panchagarh for Tk 30,000 to Tk 40,000 each, Prosenjeet said, adding that it normally takes four people 10 to 12 days to make an idol of Goddess Durga.

After Durga puja, which ended on Saturday, they will supply idols of Goddesses Lakshmi, Kali and Saraswati for observance of their upcoming pujas.

On average, they earn around Tk 1 lakh a year, which is too scanty to maintain their families as they basically remain jobless the rest of the year, the brothers said.

Ananda Roy, another artisan, said, "I learnt how to make idols from my father. Once our earning enabled us to lead somewhat decent life but it is hard to maintain the family nowadays due to price hike of essentials. I do not want my two sons to join our ancestral profession."

An idol maker's profession is a seasonal one. Durga Puja is at the centre of a cluster of religious events on the almanac -- Viswakarma, Lakshmi, Kali and Saraswati are the other deities whose idols are made in this season for pujas that span from September to January.

"After making idols for four months, many idol-makers have to work as day labourers or farm workers



**An artisan gives final touches to a Durga idol, giving it an impressive look, at Hallpara Durgabari mandap in Thakurgaon town on the eve of the Durga Puja a few days ago.**

**PHOTO: STAR**

for earning their livelihood for the rest of the year. It is hard for the artisans to accept such work as their aptitude and training are different," Ananda said.

About twenty families in their village depend on their ancestral profession, but they are gradually losing interest due to the poor return, he added.

Artisan Atul Chandra Roy, 55, of Pachpir village in Boda upazila of Panchagarh, said his two sons are studying in college but he cannot meet their expenses due to poor income.

"We cannot afford good treatment if anybody of the family becomes ill," he added.

The discouraging factors are high prices of raw materials, rising wages of workers and lack of work for over eight to nine months every year.

Each rickshaw-van of clay used for making idols costs Tk 500 this season, while it was Tk 300 last year. One bamboo costs Tk 300, while it was Tk 200 last year, and a set of ornaments for idols costs Tk 2,500, although it was only Tk 1,200 to Tk 1,500 last year, artisans said.

Puja organisers are not willing to pay more for making idols, although the price of raw materials has gone up by about 30 to 40 percent, they said.

Around 100 families of Thakurgaon and 50 families of Panchagarh are earning their livelihood through their ancestral profession of making idols.

## Job fair at Hasina Software Park Oct 5

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole**

The first ever job fair will be held at Sheikh Hasina Software and Technology Park in Jessore on October 5.

State Minister for ICT Junaid Ahmed Palak will inaugurate the fair as the chief guest.

The fair will be open till 5:00pm from 9:00am, said Project Director Jahangir Alam.

The daylong job fair will be featured by receiving CVs from job seekers and spot appointments, seminar, symposium, workshop and discussion, he said.

Some 40 IT based stalls will be set up at the venue. Students of Jessore and adjacent areas are invited to take part in the events.

## Trishal Degree College boy drowns

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh**

A college boy drowned in a pond in Trishal upazila on Sunday noon.

The deceased, Ashraf Ali, 16, an HSC first-year student at Trishal Nazrul Degree College, was son of Ayub Ali in Trishal municipal area.

Police said Ashraf went out of his home on Sunday noon and did not return for hours.

Later, one of his classmates informed the family that he saw Ashraf bathing in a pond at upazila parishad premises.

As Ashraf did not know how to swim, family members rushed there and found his floating body around 11:00pm, OC Jakiur Rahman of Trishal Police Station said.

## Couple held on charge of trafficking two girls

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh**

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested a couple for their alleged involvement in human trafficking in Sadar upazila on Saturday.

The arrestees are Abdur Rahim, 60, and his wife Jobeda Khatun, 45.

The elite force also rescued two teenage girls, aged about 19 and 17, said Rab sources.

During primary interrogation, the accused confessed that they took the girls to Mymensingh from Dhaka on Saturday with promise of giving them good job.

On information, a team of Rab-14 arrested the couple when they were waiting for their clients to sell out the girls at Tk 2 lakh.

## Rice traders asked

**FROM PAGE 16**

Food officials were not previously aware of the need to collect stock reports due to ignorance or other reasons," the food minister said.

Though the government recently started a nationwide operation of the open market sale (OMS) of rice, the meeting noted that at least 25 percent of the daily OMS allocation (2,105 tonnes) remained unsold.

Sources said as the government had mostly white rice (Atap) in stock, and it was distributing the staple for OMS purpose, consumers who chose parboiled (Shiddo) rice over the white were not willing to buy the OMS rice at a subsidised rate of Tk 30 a kg.

As the government's rice reserve dipped to an all-time low at around 1.5 lakh tonnes in the beginning of the current fiscal year and farmers lost at least 20 lakh tonnes of rice due to flashfloods and fungal disease (rice blast), the government had to go for buying rice through international tender bidding, first time in the last six years.

Following some imports through government-to-government agreements and some private imports after import duty cut, the prices of rice in domestic market dropped by Tk 4-5 a kg in recent weeks, but still remain high by Tk 10-15 comparing to last year's rice price.

## Indian finance

**FROM PAGE 16**

Notes on the Agreement between India and Bangladesh for the Promotion and Protection of Investments" will also be signed in presence of the two finance ministers. The agreement will be signed by a representative of the industries ministry.

The Indian High Commission, in association with the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh, will organise a seminar on "Macroeconomic initiatives of the government of India" tomorrow.

Jaitley and the finance minister of Bangladesh will inaugurate a new scheme for cashless transactions in visa services run by the State Bank of India on behalf of the High Commission. They are also scheduled to inaugurate the Dhaka office of the EXIM Bank of India.

On the second day of his visit, Jaitley may also visit an RMG unit in the afternoon. He will leave on October 5.



**Peacekeeper Manowar Hossain was given a guard of honour by the members of armed forces at Alishia Jainpuri Khanka ground in Barisal Sadar before he was laid to rest on Sunday. Inset, Manowar with his baby daughter.**

## Tales of a tragedy

*UN peacekeeper Manowar laid to rest at family graveyard on Sunday*

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal**

UN peacekeeper Manowar Hossain, killed by an improvised explosive device set by rebels in Mali of Africa on September 22, was laid to rest at the family graveyard in Chandramohon of Barisal Sadar on Sunday.

A pall of gloom descended the area following the death of Manowar as he was the third victim of unnatural death in his family.

The victim's mother Rowshan Ara said Manowar's elder brother Anwar Hossain, then a student of Jahangirnagar University, was killed in a road accident in 2000.

In 2003, Manowar's father Rafikul Islam, a member of Bangladesh Police, was killed by criminals when he was on duty at Agargaon in Dhaka, she said.

A team of 62nd East Bengal Regiment led by Lt Col Nahid reached Chandramohon with Manowar's body on Wednesday night.

Earlier on September 30, the bodies of three members of Bangladesh Armed Forces, who were killed in an explosion in Mali on September 22, reached the country.

Their first namaje zanjana was held at the Army Headquarters in the capital on Sunday morning.

After guard of honour by the members of armed forces, the second namaje janaza of Manowar was held at Alishia Jainpuri Khanka ground. Later, Manowar was laid to rest at the family graveyard around 8:00pm.

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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### e-Tender Notice

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in 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>).

e-Tenders are invited in e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Executive Engineer (PE), RHD, Road Division, Lalmonirhat for:

Protective work by RCC toe wall at different kilometers of Barabari-Lalmonirhat-Burimari Road N-509 under Road Division Lalmonirhat during the year 2017-2018.

Sl No.	Tender ID No.	Tender Ref. No.	Tender last selling	Tender closing date	Tender opening date
1.	123272	eGP-09/EE/LRD/2017-2018	24-Oct-2017 17:00	25-Oct-2017 13:20	25-Oct-2017 13:20

Reference No. 1879  
Date: 28.09.2017  
GD-2030

**Md. Shazedur Rahman**  
ID No. 602167  
Executive Engineer (c.c.), RHD  
Road Division, Lalmonirhat

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
District: Netrakona  
www.lged.gov.bd

### e-Tender Notice No: 15/2017-2018

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

Memo No.	Name of work	Package No.	Tender ID
LGED/XEN/NET/2017/1908 Date: 28-09-2017	a) Improvement of Chandigor Bazar-Telipara via Rajpara road (Ch. 00-1360m), b) Construction of 01 No. (625mmx600mm) Culvert at Ch. 700m on the same road, under Durgapur Upazila, District-Netrakona. (Road ID: 372184065)	IRIDP-2/NTK/DW-101	123580
LGED/XEN/NET/2017/1908 Date: 28-09-2017	Improvement of Chowrasta FRB Kistapur Bazar road (Ch. 00-1100m) under Durgapur Upazila, District-Netrakona. (Road ID: 372184032)	IRIDP-2/NTK/DW-108	123587
LGED/XEN/NET/2017/1908 Date: 28-09-2017	Earth Filling Work at BIRTAN Regional Office under Netrakona Sadar Upazila, District: Netrakona.	BIRTAN/NET/W-05	124148

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.

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The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks' branches up to 19-10-2017 at 12:00 noon.

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

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## Tigers go down without a fight

**FROM PAGE 1**

score on 49 for three. It is Bangladesh's joint fifth-lowest score and their first sub-100 total since being bowled out for 62 by Sri Lanka in July 2007.

The rot started as early as two overs into the day when, in the 18th over, a snorter from Kagiso Rabada had Mushfiqur fending away from the body for Hashim Amla to take a sharp, overhead catch at slip. The captain's departure for a 55-ball 16 with the score reading 55 for four started a procession of Bangladesh batsmen to and from the dressing room.

Mahmudullah followed seven runs later, chopping onto his stumps for the second time in the match and giving Rabada his second wicket.

Liton Das's review when he shouldered arms to a Rabada ball swinging into middle and leg was symptomatic of the blind optimism that was on display in the fourth evening when he said that Bangladesh had never been out of the match, and in both cases the optimism proved to be unfounded.

Sabbir did as Sabbir does -- batting on four he tried to knock

the cover off the ball but his sweep missed completely and gave left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj his second wicket of the innings. A sharp turner from the same bowler trapped Taskin Ahmed in front to bring Bangladesh down to 71 for eight, and four runs later Shafiqul Islam's run out just underlined the confusion in the ranks. Mehedi Hasan Miraz hung around to inch the score towards hundred, but Maharaj ended the contest when Mustafizur Rahman offered him a simple return catch to give the spinner his fourth wicket.

Although the batting will be in focus for the fifth-day debacle, all-round it was one of Bangladesh's worst performances in recent memory. The Test had started with Mushfiqur's inexplicable decision to field first on a flat track, after which South Africa piled on 496 for three. On a pitch that batsman Sabbir Rahman had described as resembling a Chittagong wicket, the batsmen -- apart from Mominul Haque, who scored 77 off 150 -- then seemed to have no confidence in their ability to stay at the wicket and score runs as they

were bundled out for 320.

Such was the inefficacy of Bangladesh's bowling and captaincy that they could take just nine South African wickets across both innings as the home side played risk-free cricket and declared for the second time in the match after scoring 247 for seven in just 56 overs. Three of those wickets were taken by part-time left-arm spinner Mominul, as halfway through the innings Mushfiqur had seemingly given up, judging by the defensive fields set and the bowlers used.

The tourists' mental disarray was obvious on the fourth afternoon after South Africa's declaration when, after Tamim Iqbal was bowled by Morne Morkel for a duck in the first over, Mominul discussed with Imrul Kayes and decided against reviewing a leg-before decision that was quite obviously sliding down leg. If the batsmen's lack of belief in their ability to spend time out in the middle played out just below the surface in the first innings, it took full bloom after those two wickets left Bangladesh on zero for two in their second essay. Imrul and

Mushfiqur were liberal with their strokeplay in response to the crisis, and while Mushfiqur reined himself in after being bowled off a Morkel no-ball Imrul carried on unfettered after a dropped catch by Du Plessis at slip.

Given the manner of Bangladesh's batting in this Test, those reprieves were unlikely to have bothered South Africa much. Soon enough, Imrul was caught behind off Maharaj for 32, a dismissal that ushered in the tea break. The entire last session was washed out on the fourth day, without which the match would have ended inside four days.

On the fifth day, when the Tigers were eventually put out of their misery, there was rainfall about half an hour after when lunch would have been if the match was still ongoing. Clouds persisted even after the thunderstorm abated, so it is conceivable that if Bangladesh had showed a bit more gumption a draw could have been thought of. But that would have been a miscarriage of justice considering the performances of each team.