



building a safer nation

THE KANCHPUR-MEGHNA-GUMTI BRIDGES
ARE BEING BUILT WITH HIGHLY DUCTILE GRADE 420
BSRM ULTIMA BARS

BSRM **Ultima**



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CEMENT

ACHIEVED
Superbrands
AWARD

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BANGLADESH'S CHOICE
2018

Once a river ran thru' it

'Ruling party men' occupy 158-acre area of Karnaphuli river in Ctg; build illegal settlements on 3km stretch

MOSTAFA YOUSUF, Ctg

It's a bustling area with thousands of homes, shacks, and markets, farms, factories, brick kilns, and places of worship on the east and west of the roundabout of Shah Amanat Bridge at Bakolia of Chattogram city.

On a three-kilometre stretch of land, 30,000 people of mostly low-income group live in about 300 settlements.

And all of it is on at least 158 acres of the Karnaphuli river.

Ruling party men occupied part of the river and built slums, markets, fish farms, and to deter immediate government action, they set up various religious institutions, including mosques, temples, and monasteries, local sources say.

The settlements on the east of the roundabout are known by one name: Bastuhara Bahumukhi Samabaya Samiti, controlled by Nurul Amin Shanti, president of Boxirhat ward Awami League.

Another slum was built just a kilometre west of Bastuhara occupying the river at the confluence of Rajakhali and Chaktai canals.

The slum on the other side of the roundabout was built by Bhera Sramajibi Kalyan Samiti led by Akhtar Hossen alias Kasai Akhtar, vice-president of Jubo League of Boxirhat unit.

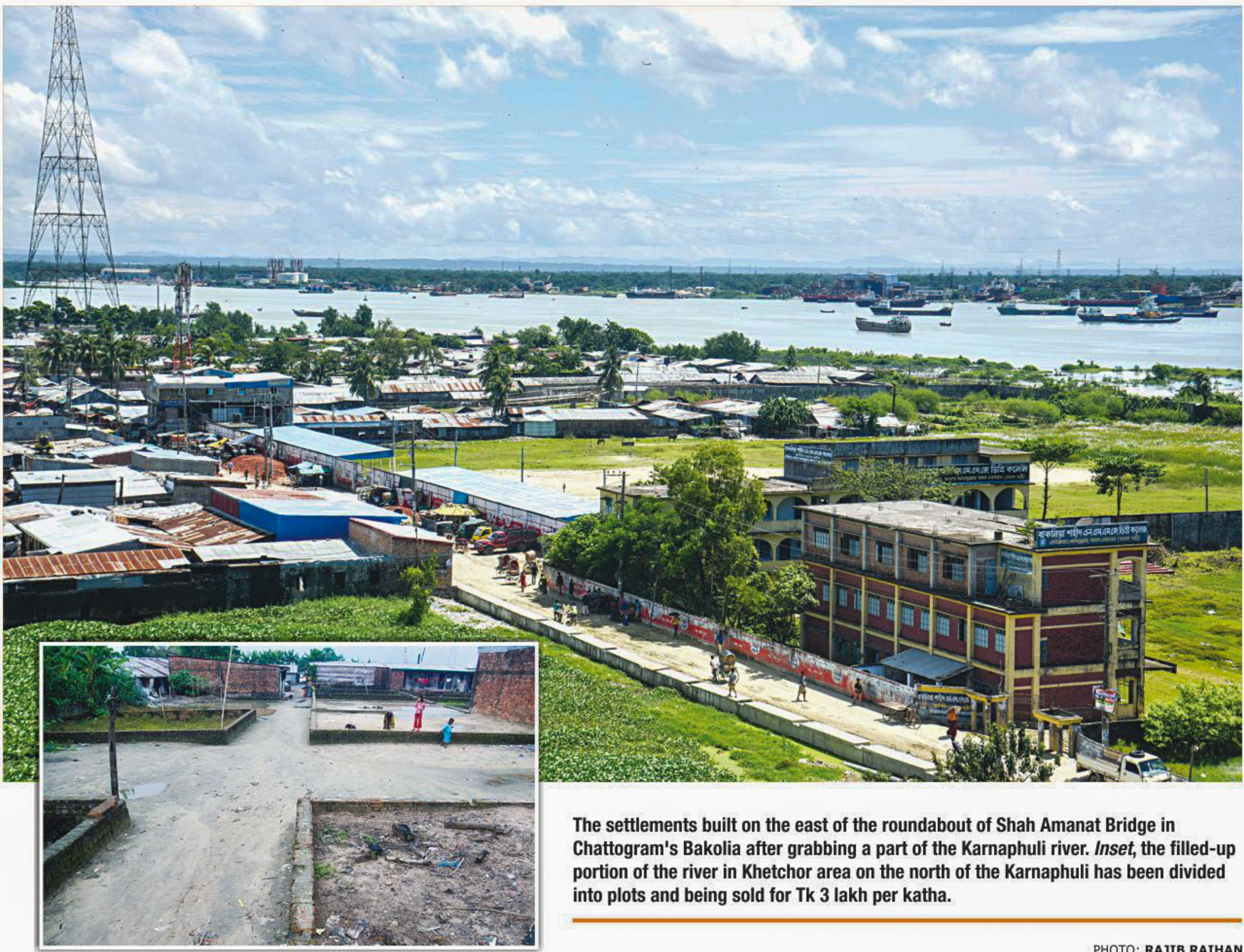
Sources in the ruling party said at least Tk 1 crore is realised as rent from the 300 settlements every month.

Settlements that accommodate a large number of people include Shanti colony, CNG plot colony, Islam Saudagar colony, Alam Kuti colony and Masjid colony.

A government report, prepared by the office of the deputy secretary Chattogram following a High Court order in 2016, blamed two key people for occupation of the Karnaphuli -- Nurul Amin Shanti and Jashim Uddin.

Jashim, who had grabbed most of the land, ran for city councillor as an independent candidate in 2014. Soon after his defeat in the polls, he lost his influence over Nurul and was forced to flee the slums.

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The settlements built on the east of the roundabout of Shah Amanat Bridge in Chattogram's Bakolia after grabbing a part of the Karnaphuli river. Inset, the filled-up portion of the river in Khetchor area on the north of the Karnaphuli has been divided into plots and being sold for Tk 3 lakh per katha.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

6 YRS OF TAZREEN FIRE Survivors pin hope on own factory

AKLAKUR RAHMAN AKASH from Savar

Six years after the Tazreen Fashions factory fire, 10 workers injured in the incident have taken their destiny in their own hands and set up their factory in Ashulia.

After failing to get jobs in other factories, the injured started the "Tazreen Ahoto Sramik Amra Gure Darate Chai" in Buripara area on October 1.

It was the brainchild of Shobita Rani, a survivor of the fire. "When factory authorities started denying us appointments and as we were unable to work full time, I decided to set up a mini-factory," she said to this correspondent.

Later, Shobita shared her idea with some of the other victims of the fire and nine of them agreed to go ahead with the plan.

"Finally, ten of us began the business.

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Trump disputes CIA findings

Says agency didn't firmly place blame for Khashoggi death; Turkey says US president intends to turn 'blind eye' to the issue

ALJAZEERA ONLINE

US President Donald Trump has contradicted the CIA's reported assessment that Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman ordered the killing of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi, insisting that the agency had "feelings" but did not firmly place the blame for the death.

Last week, senior intelligence officials from the US spy agency said that such an operation would have needed the approval of Prince Mohammed, also known as MBS, the kingdom's de facto leader.

Trump defended Saudi Arabia on Thursday, saying MBS and King Salman said they did not commit "this atrocity".

"I hate the crime, I hate the cover-up. I will tell you this: The crown prince hates it more than I do, and they have vehemently denied it."

Asked who should be held accountable for the murder, Trump again refused to place the blame - instead espousing a grim view of the world that he often shares with his advisers.

"Maybe the world should be held accountable because the world is a vicious place. The world is a very, very vicious place."

He also seemed to suggest that all US allies were guilty of the same behaviour,

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2 missing men found dead in Brahmanbaria

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

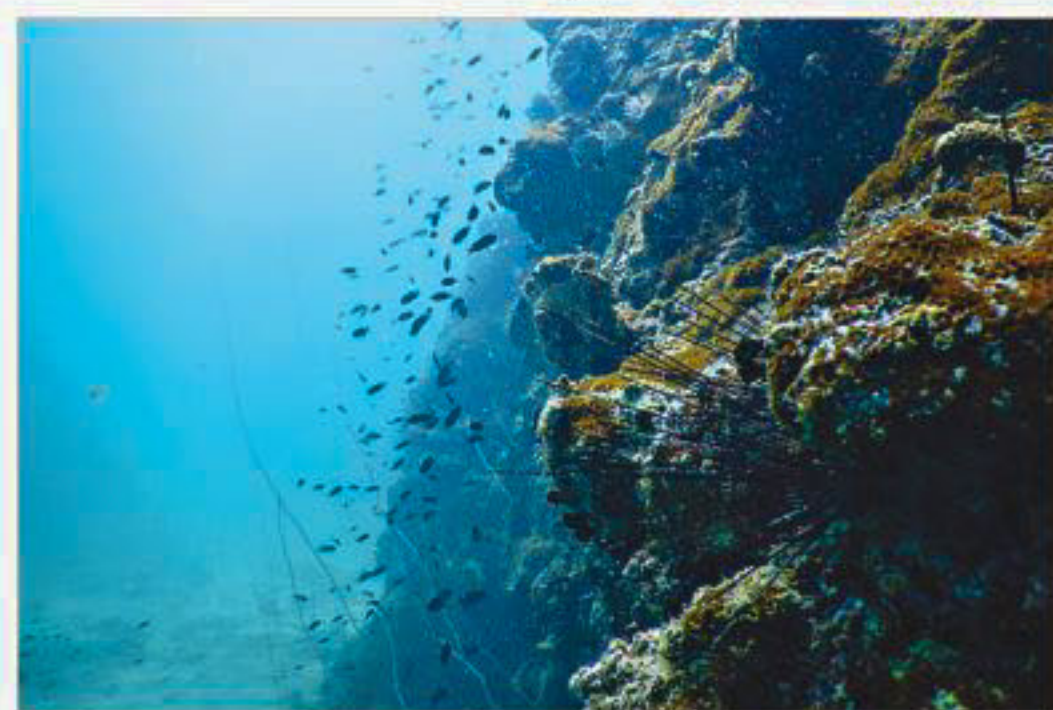
Police recovered the bodies of two missing men from the Meghna river in remote Char-Madhua area of Narsingdi's Raipura upazila on Thursday night.

The two had gone missing during intra-party clashes of the ruling Awami League at Banshgari and Nilakhya villages of the upazila on November 16. The clashes left four people, including an SSC examinee, dead that day.

The two are Kawsar Miah, 35, son of Jaynal Miah of Baluakandi village, and Abdul Hai, 28, son of Hazrat Ali of Rajnagar village. Both were supporters of former Banshgari UP chairman and late AL leader Sirajul Haque.

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CO2 absorbing bacteria found



MAIL ONLINE

Scientists studying the Pacific Ocean have discovered a bacteria that absorbs carbon dioxide (CO2) and could potentially turn itself into a food source for other sea creatures.

The bacteria was discovered in one of the deepest parts of the Pacific Ocean, the Clarion-Clipperton Fracture Zone (CCFZ), a trench which extends 2.5 miles beneath the surface.

Scientists have been exploring the area due to its deep sea mining potential. Trials are set to be

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25 CRIMINAL CASES BNP leader Milon sent to jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chandpur court yesterday sent former state minister for education ANM Ehsanul Haque Milon to jail in three criminal cases, hours after he was arrested from Chittagong city.

Senior Judicial Magistrate of Chandpur Shafiqul Azam sent Milon to jail after police produced him before the court, said defence lawyer Quamrul Islam.

He said his client was accused in 25 cases filed in connection with murder, mugging and vandalism. Arrest warrants were issued in 17 of them.

A former lawmaker from Chandpur-1, Milon is the

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ABU 'MURDER' Police still clueless

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police were still clueless about the death of BNP nomination seeker Abu Bakar Abu whose body was found floating in the Buriganga on Monday, a day after he went missing from the capital's Bijoy Nagar area.

"An unnatural death case was filed on Monday as there was no injury mark on the body. We don't know how the body came to the river," Shah Zaman, officer-in-charge of South Keraniganj Police Station, told The Daily Star.

The OC said they were waiting for the autopsy

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PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 24
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-05 12-45 3-45 5-21 7-00
JAMAAT 5-40 1-15 4-00 5-24 7-30
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Firefighters trying to douse the fire that broke out at a warehouse of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) in Narayanganj yesterday noon. The blaze came under control in the evening.

PHOTO: STAR

POLLS CAMPAIGN MATERIALS

No fix yet for their disposal

STAR REPORT

The authorities are yet to decide how to dispose of banners, posters and other election campaign materials after those were removed from roadside lamp posts, overbridges and walls in compliance with a directive from the Election Commission.

Additionally, those tasked with the disposal are yet to take environmental pollution into consideration to minimise the consequences on human health.

The campaign materials made of plastic were seen dumped, and burnt with a complete disregard for human health and environment.

"We don't know the ultimate destination of plastic or synthetic materials," said Abdul Aziz, chief conservancy officer of Khulna City Corporation. "We will float tenders to sell them. The unsold materials would be dumped or burnt."

Our Khulna correspondent on Tuesday visited the dumping ground at Bastuhara in Khulna city and saw tonnes of banners and posters piled up without those made up of plastic being sorted out.

Ten trucks were used to carry posters, banners to the Rajbadh dumping ground, around eight kilometres from Khulna City Corporation.

The unchecked disposal of campaign materials of election hopefuls was also seen in Savar and Pirojpur municipalities and Gazipur, Sylhet, Mymensingh, Rangpur, Cumilla and Barishal city corporations as reported by our correspondents.

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