



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



HIGHEST SELLING  
CEMENT for more than 12 years



# Graft well accepted

Proper education, free media needed to change this reality of the society, speakers say at a TIB discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Corruption has become a norm in today's society -- a reality that must change through building an enlightened citizenry, said anti-corruption campaigners and journalists yesterday.

This will require an education system that helps develop values among people and a free media that creates mass awareness on public affairs and hold power accountable, they added.

The observations came at a discussion on the Digital Security Act and the challenges facing investigative journalism in the country organised by the Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) at its auditorium in the capital.

"We have become complacent [about corruption]. Even if we know somebody is corrupt, we accept them," said chief guest of the programme Gowher Rizvi.

He said poverty will stay as long as there is corruption. But only law is not enough to reduce corruption. The citizens have to be vocal and socially boycott the corrupt, he added.

About the Digital Security Act passed this year, Prime Minister's International Affairs Adviser Rizvi said discussion should continue on the law and it could be amended after the election, if necessary.

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Bangladesh Railway is celebrating Service Week on the seventh anniversary of the establishment of the Ministry of Railways. However, a brief tour of the Kamalapur Railway Station presents a grim picture of the "service". Carriages had ripped seats, broken walls, and rubbish all around. The photos were taken on Wednesday, the second day of the Service Week.

PHOTO:  
PALASH KHAN



## Country's first toll road on the cards

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday signed a contract with a China-Bangladesh consortium to upgrade the 48km Dhaka Bypass Road to a dual carriageway to improve connectivity between the country's north and northwest parts and the Chattogram Port.

This is the first public private partnership (PPP) project of the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) and once completed, it will be the first toll road in the country, officials said.

As per the deal, the expansion of the highway will start within nine months and it will require three years to complete. It will be fully operational within 2022, they said.

The estimated cost of the project is Tk 3,039 crore. The government will provide Tk 224 crore of the

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## CHILD MARRIAGE

# Countries losing billions: WB

AFP, Accra

Respect Ruvimbo Topodzi was 15 and walking home from school in her native Zimbabwe when a 22-year-old man asked her out. She turned him down but it was too late.

Her father saw them and assumed they were already together. He told her she had to marry the man and live with him. She dropped out of school and soon became pregnant.

It was only when her husband became abusive that she was allowed back to the family home. Since then, Topodzi has been working to stop other girls having the same experience.

She took on the government to change the law and increase the minimum legal age of consent for marriage from 16 to 18.

"As a mother and survivor of child marriage, I am so passionate about ending child marriage," she told AFP at a recent conference on the subject in Ghana's capital Accra.

"I know how it feels to be married early and I know how you handle things in your marriage -- that is so difficult."

According to a new World Bank report, more than a third of girls in sub-Saharan Africa marry before their 18th birthday, which costs countries billions of dollars in lost earnings.

Estimates for 12 countries suggest some \$63 billion (55.5 billion euros) is lost because child brides complete fewer years of formal education than their peers who marry later.

Every year of secondary education reduces the likelihood of marrying before the age of 18 by five percent or more, it added in the report, "Educating Girls and Ending Child Marriage".

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## KHASHOGGI MURDER

# US measure for holding MBS responsible

Senators to vote on resolution

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

US senators are to vote on a measure that would hold Saudi Arabia's powerful crown prince formally responsible for the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

A day after leading members of the Senate claimed Mohammed bin Salman was complicit in the journalist's killing after they were briefed by the head of the CIA, a group of senators from both parties introduced a measure that would hold the 33-year prince accountable.

The resolution -- introduced by a group that included Republicans Lindsey Graham and Marco Rubio, and Democrat Dianne Feinstein -- says the Senate believes the crown prince "was in control of security forces" during the killing and "based on evidence and analysis made available to this institution, has a high level of confidence that Mohammed bin Salman was complicit in the murder of Jamal Khashoggi".

"I believe it's vitally important to US national security interests to make a

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## Boy overturns town's ban on snowball fights



AFP, Los Angeles

A nine-year-old boy in Colorado this week threw his first snowball -- legally -- after a battle to overturn a century-old ordinance banning snowball fights in the small town of Severance.

Dane Best said he decided to take on local authorities and persuade them to change the law by using simple logic.

"Today's kids need reasons to play outside," Best said on Monday as he appeared before the town trustees, local media reported.

"Research suggests that a lack of exposure to the outdoors can lead to obesity, ADHD, anxiety and depression."

He said the nearly 100-year-old measure, which bans throwing any stone or missile, including snowballs, was outdated and meant any kids

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## Man shot 'accidentally' in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A man was shot during the inspection of a shotgun at the office of Puthia upazila nirbahi officer yesterday.

Ashiq Iqbal was admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital with pellets in his legs, Puthia police said.

Officials who inspected the weapon said they were not aware that the gun was loaded.

However, Kazi Suza, the man who brought the shotgun to the UNO office, told

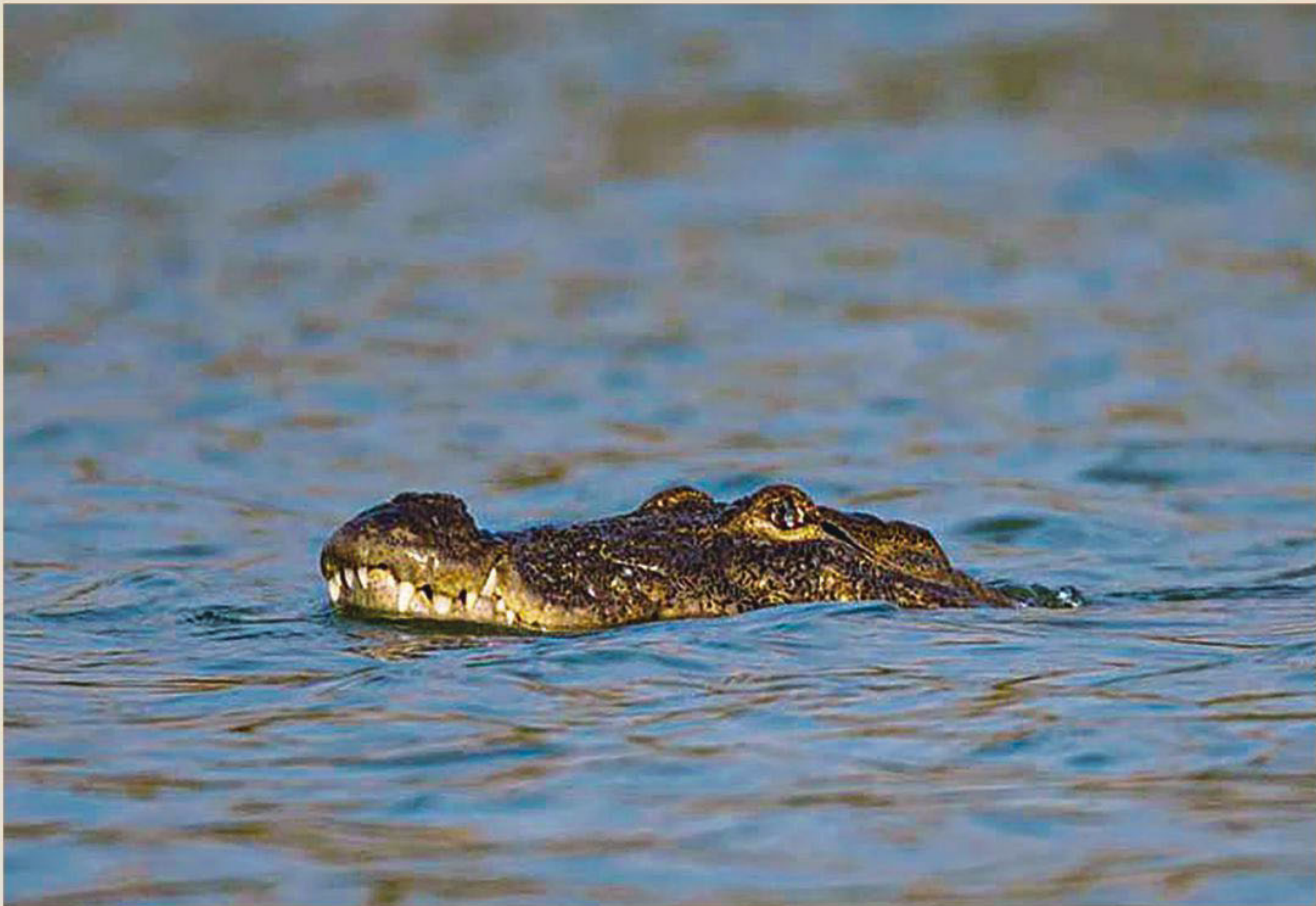
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PRAYER TIMING DECEMBER 7

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 5-15 12-30 3-45 5-19 7-00  
JAMAAT 5-50 1-15 4-00 5-22 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



A freshwater crocodile swimming in a lagoon near the Padma in Pabna's Char Komorpur a couple of days ago. This is the second time a freshwater crocodile has been spotted in a Bangladeshi river in the last 50 years.

PHOTO:  
STAR



## 2nd freshwater crocodile spotted in 50 years

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

For over a century now, freshwater crocodiles were believed to be extinct from the country. However, in the past 50 years two such crocodiles were spotted, the most recent one being at Char Komorpur in Pabna.

The crocodile has taken shelter in a disconnected lagoon of the Padma river for over a week at the char, near Komorpur village.

Locals in the area said since the water level has receded, the lagoon was disconnected from the

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# CO2 emissions up 2.7 percent

Scientists warn world 'completely off course' to curb global warming

AFP, Paris

Global emissions of carbon dioxide mainly from fossil fuel burning will rise 2.7 percent in 2018, scientists said, signalling a world "completely off course" in the fight against climate change.

Last year, CO2 pollution increased by 1.6 percent after a three-year hiatus that raised hopes manmade greenhouse gas emissions had finally peaked despite an expanding world economy.

"This growth in global CO2 emissions puts the goals set out in the Paris Agreement in jeopardy," lead author Corinne Le Quere, director of the Tyndall Centre of Climate Change Research at the University of East Anglia, said in a statement on Wednesday.

"It is not enough to support renewables," she added. "Efforts to decarbonise need to be expanded throughout the economy."

The findings, co-authored by a team of nearly 80 scientists, were published in the journal Open Access Earth System Science Data.

Rapid deployment of solar and wind power, along with gains in energy efficiency, have been outpaced by growth in demand for freight, personal transport, shipping, and aviation, the research showed.

The 2015 Paris climate treaty calls for capping global warming at "well below" two degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit), a goal that scientists say could soon slip out of our grasp if planet-warming continues to climb.

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