



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



Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant

Work in progress using Shah Cement



4 local NGOs funded terror organisations

Channelled Tk 73cr foreign aid to Ansar al-Islam, Jamaat, extremist groups in last one year, say police

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Four Bangladeshi NGOs have channelled Tk 73 crore, received in foreign aids, to militant outfits and Jamaat-e-Islami over the last one year, law enforcement agencies have claimed following some recent arrests.

On November 8, the counter terrorism unit arrested eight people on charges of instigating Rohingya refugees in guise of workers of an NGO, Small Kindness Bangladesh (SKB). All of them were members of Ansar al-Islam, a banned militant outfit formerly known as Ansarullah Bangla Team, said the unit officials.

Separately, the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) arrested eight employees of three other NGOs -- Bangladesh Chashi Kalyan Samity, Nobo Krishi Private Ltd, and Nobodhara Kalyan Foundation -- on October 28 for "funding radical groups."

The arrestees gave confessional statements to court that they used the funds of the NGOs for the welfare of Jamaat and extremist groups, sources in the CID and Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CITC) unit told this paper on November 25.

The investigators are now on the lookout for 30 staffers

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Fireworks explode over the Sydney Harbour during New Year's Eve celebrations in Sydney, Australia, early today.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Jubo League leader hacked to death by rivals in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Jubo League activist was killed in an attack allegedly by his rivals over previous enmity at Sitakunda in Chattogram yesterday.

Sayed Md Dawud Samrat, 38, president of Sitakunda municipality ward-4 (Maddham Mohadebpur), was stabbed to death around 3:00pm in Bholagiri Kali Mandir area of the upazila, said police quoting witnesses.

Samrat's family alleged that a local lawmaker was involved in the murder.

Faisal Hossain, younger brother of the victim, said members of local Jubo League and Chhatra League were supposed to congratulate the lawmaker after he secured victory for the second time in the constituency on Sunday.

The programme was rescheduled for Tuesday as the lawmaker went to Dhaka yesterday, Faisal added.

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Mother of four 'gang-raped by AL men'

Victim claims she was targeted for voting for 'sheaf of paddy'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

A mother of four was gang-raped in Noakhali's Subarnachar early yesterday allegedly by 10 to 12 Awami League activists.

The 35-year-old woman, who was being treated at Noakhali General Hospital with severe injuries, claimed that she was raped for voting for "sheaf of paddy", the electoral symbol of the BNP, during Sunday's national polls.

The woman alleged the rapists were accomplices of Ruhul Amin, a former member of Char Jubilee Union Parishad. "They had repeatedly insisted that I should vote for boat [the AL's symbol] but I cast my ballot for 'sheaf of paddy'," she said.

Ruhul denied his involvement in the incident. He said the woman was his relative and they had no "enmity". "I just met her once at the polling centre." Asked, he said he was the publicity affairs secretary

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Textbook festival kicks off today

More than 35.21cr textbooks to be distributed for free among primary and secondary school students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Primary and secondary students are set to get new textbooks on the first morning of 2019 as over 35.21 crore copies are ready for free distribution.

Putting an end to the scepticism surrounding timely distribution of the books right after the election, the government has made all preparations in advance to be able to reach the books to 4.26 crore students from pre-primary to class-X.

The government started what it calls the "Textbook Festival" nine years ago, by distributing the books among students across the country as a gift for the New Year.

"Children who will come to schools in morning [today] will return home with a set of new textbooks. We have completed the preparations," Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid told The Daily Star yesterday.

The books have already been dispatched to the educational institutes, he added.

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| | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Total students | 4,26,19,835 |
| Textbooks for distribution | 35,21,97,822 |
| Govt expenditure | Tk 1,082 cr |
| NUMBER OF BOOKS | |
| Primary | 9,88,82,899 |
| Secondary | 18,00,53,000 |
| Pre-primary | 68,56,020 |
| Madrassa | 6,18,67,948 |
| Indigenous languages | 2,76,784 |
| Braille | 5,857 |

Suspended Sramik league leader sued for graft

MOSTAFA SHABUI, Bogura

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday filed a case against suspended Sramik League leader Tufan Sarkar, who came to limelight after "raping" a college girl and shaving heads of both the victim and her mother in Bogura. The case against him was filed for amassing wealth of Tk 1.59 crore illegally.



Tufan

Assistant Director of ACC Aminul Islam filed another case against Tufan's elder brother, Abdul Motin Sarkar, who is former secretary of Bogura's Jubo League, for amassing wealth of Tk 3.09 crore illegally.

Both cases were filed

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Putin scores as his team wins game



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Vladimir Putin has donned his skates on to take part in a traditional festive game of ice hockey in Moscow's Red Square.

The Russian president was unsurprisingly on the score sheet as his side, featuring his defence minister Sergei Shoigu and several former NHL stars, won 14-10 during an annual exhibition match on Saturday.

Video footage showed Putin warming up by taking practice shots against a goaltender, before being teed up to score by a teammate during the game itself.

The event, which involved a mixture of senior Moscow political figures and retired Russian

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39 REGISTERED PARTIES Only 9 make it to House

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Only nine out of the 39 registered political parties that contested Sunday's national election have secured parliamentary seats.

The Awami League saw its victory in 259 seats while the Jatiya Oikyafront, comprised of the BNP and other opposition parties, won in only five.

The BNP took part in the polls with its Chairperson Khaleda Zia behind bars on corruption charges.

The Jatiya Party, a component of the AL-led Grand

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PRAYER TIMING JANUARY 1

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5-30 12-45 4-00 5-30 7-00

JAMAAT 6-05 1-15 4-15 5-35 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

10 AL men injured in post-polls violence

22 houses vandalised

STAR REPORT

Post-polls violence continued yesterday as supporters and activists of Sunday's election winners swooped on those of the defeated candidates.

Ten Awami League activists were injured in an attack by supporters of a rival group in Gazipur while AL activists allegedly set fire to a house and a poultry farm and vandalised at least two other houses of BNP supporters in Chapainawabganj.

In Faridpur, some 20 houses of AL supporters were vandalised and seven more looted Sunday night and yesterday morning allegedly by supporters of an independent candidate who defeated the ruling party contender.

Meanwhile, a BNP activist in Barura upazila, Cumilla, and an AL activist in Rajshahi died of injuries that they had sustained

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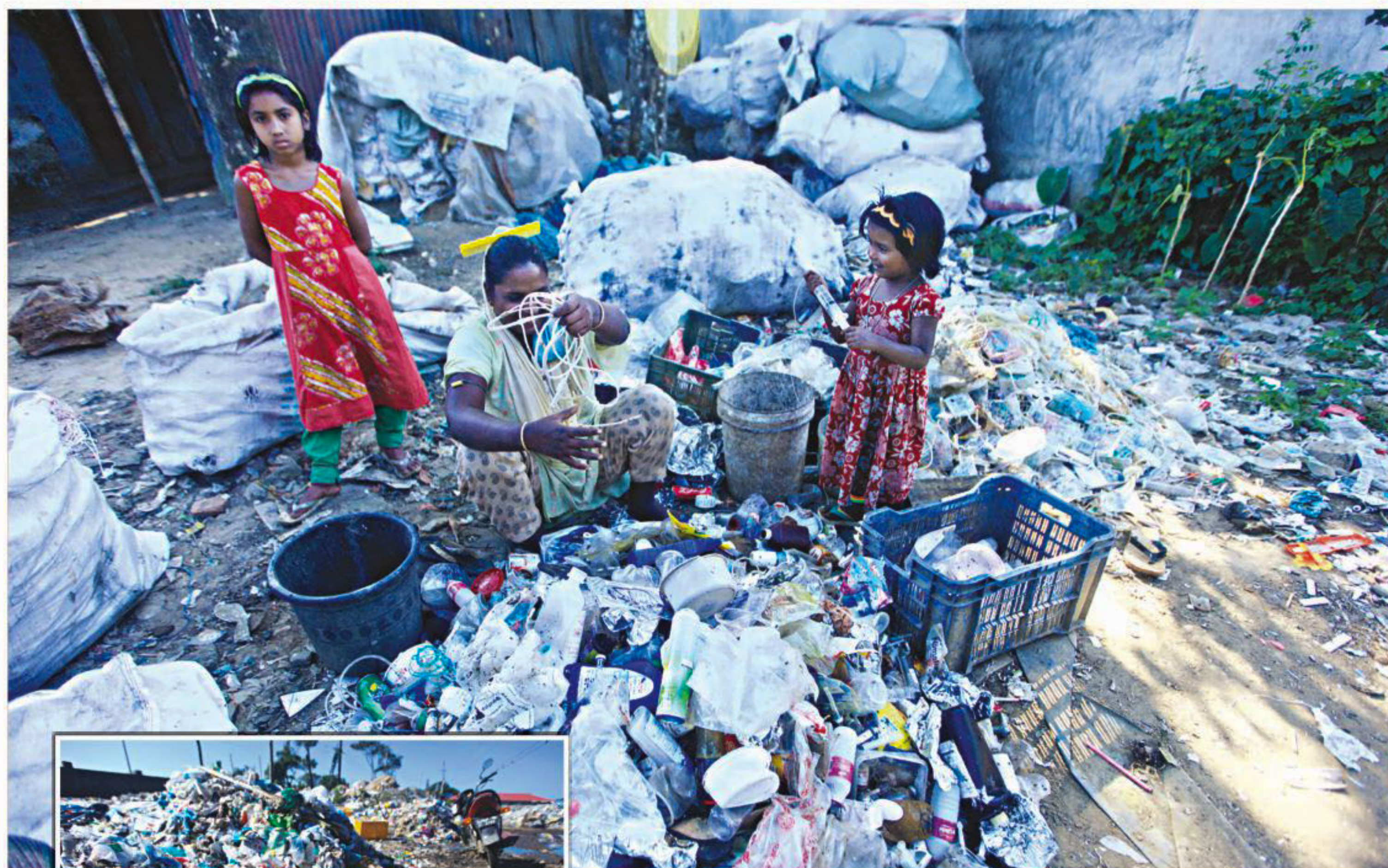


PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

A woman sifting through medical waste while her two daughters look on at a dump site in Sylhet's Dakshin Surma upazila. Every day, Sylhet City Corporation authorities collect such garbage from hospitals and dump those here. Raggickers from nearby areas sort out the recyclable ones without gloves or any other safety gears, exposing themselves to infections and diseases. They then sell those to local scrap dealers. The photos were taken recently.

India foils Pak troop's attempt

2 intruders killed; Islamabad asked to take back bodies

NDTV ONLINE

Pakistani forces made an attempt to strike a forward Indian post along the Line of Control (LoC) at Naugam sector of Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday, which has been foiled, the army said in a statement yesterday.

A team of Pakistani Border Action Team or BAT had tried to cross the Line of Control and two men have been killed, the army said. Pakistan has been asked to take back the bodies.

Helped by the cover fire of mortars and rockets, the team had tried to sneak in through the dense jungles, but was spotted in time by the Indian troops.

The intense gunfight continued throughout the night. In the morning, the Army launched a search operation and confirmed that two men, suspected to be Pakistani soldiers, have been killed.

The rest are believed to have escaped across the Line of Control under the cover of Pakistani firing and low visibility induced by the bad weather.

The Army also found a huge supply of weapons, which indicated that the men had come prepared for a prolonged encounter. It was estimated that they intended to carry out a large-scale attack on the Army's forward post at Naugam sector.

Search operations are still underway at the sector to sanitise the area, a spokesman said.

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