



"People are dying on the roads every day. More people are dying in road accidents than in epidemic, which shouldn't happen."

NOTED RIGHTS ACTIVIST SULTANA KAMAL (PAGE 3)



"The government also wants to see the BNP as a strong opposition, but the people have rejected the party because of its politics of vengeance."

INFORMATION MINISTER HASAN MAHMUD (PAGE 5)

"I want to tell India that, by detaining thousands of people, you are pushing people into extremism."

IMRAN KHAN ON KASHMIR CRACKDOWN (PAGE 11)



'We demanded our fair share'

BCL GS Rabbani admits amid JU VC's allegation that central BCL demanded commission; Rabbani claims the VC gave JU BCL Tk 1.6cr; VC denies

MUNTAKIM SAAD and MD ASADUZ ZAMAN

Chhatri League President Rezwanul Haque Chowdhury Shovon and General Secretary Golam Rabbani demanded "4 to 6 percent" in cuts from a Tk 1,445-crore project at Jahangirnagar University, Vice Chancellor Prof Farzana Islam alleged yesterday.

After initial denial to a number of media outlets, Rabbani yesterday admitted to The Daily Star that they indeed demanded their "fair share" from the VC, although he would not say how much. He said they wanted money for their "Eid expenditure".

He also brought allegations against the VC and her family of giving Tk 1.6 crore to the Jahangirnagar University Chhatri League so they did not get in the way of the development project.

The VC and the JU BCL President Jewel Rana dismissed the claims.

Jewel said Rabbani was giving false statements to the media. "The central leaders met the vice-chancellor on August 8 without informing us."

The developments come amid allegations of corruption and irregularities in the mega project on the campus, which sparked a huge protest there.

Talking to this paper yesterday, the VC said the two top BCL leaders, who were picked by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, went to her residence on August 8 and demanded the money.

"They insisted that I arrange the money from the companies that got the construction job. As I refused to entertain their demand, they misbehaved with me," she told The Daily Star at her residence.

"At one point, Rabbani said the days of one percent and two percent are long gone. Is it possible [to do such work] without paying less than four to six percent these days? ... It's a big project. If you help us, we will help you too," the VC said, quoting Rabbani as saying on August 8.

A six percent commission on the project fund would be Tk 86 crore.

"I told them how will we construct the buildings then? I also told them not to say such things ever again.... When I refused to cave in to their pressure, they shouted at me and then left," she said.

Rabbani also met the VC at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University on May 26 and put pressure on her to strike construction deals with companies of his

BCL'S LETTER TO PM -- PAGE 2 SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



With Bangladesh reeling at 60 for six inside 10 overs in chase of 145 against Zimbabwe in the opening match of the tri-nation T20I series yesterday, 19-year-old Afif Hossain's scorching 52 off just 26 balls, featuring 8 fours and a solitary maximum, led the Tigers to a three-wicket win.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

SEVEN RINGS CEMENT

FOUNDATION FOR FUTURE

Afif blitz leads Tigers to win

SPORTS REPORTER

Sections of the stands at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur were already empty when Bangladesh were reeling at 60 for six inside 10 overs in their chase of 145 against Zimbabwe in the tri-nation T20I series opener yesterday.

But they were surely cursing themselves on the way home as they missed a magnificent batting display from the young Afif Hossain and Mosaddek Hossain, who turned the game around dramatically as the Tigers clinched a three-wicket win.

It was 19-year-old Afif who went all-guns-blazing in the high-pressure situation, launching a blistering counterattack against a high-flying

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

ROAD CRASH
Constable dies, SP
injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A constable was killed and three others, including the superintendent of police in Feni, were injured when their SUV rammed into a tree by the Dhaka-Chittagong highway yesterday night.

The constable's name could not be known last night.

SP Khandokar Nurunnabi, Additional SP Moniruzzaman and the policeman driving the vehicle were admitted to a hospital.

The accident took place
SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

ANNUAL POLICE MEDALS

Home now wants to scrutinise list

Forms committee, asks for names of awardees a month before handover ceremony; ministry's new role creates tensions with police HQ

SHARIFUL ISLAM

A home ministry decision to examine the list of police medal nominees has created tension between the Police Headquarters and its supervising authority.

The Public Security Division of the ministry formed a six-member committee on May 2 to scrutinise the list, and instructed the IGP office to send the names to the body 30 days before every Police Week, an annual event that normally takes place in February.

On condition of anonymity, several

officials at the Police Headquarters said they considered the move as an aberration in the standard practice and an act of muscle flexing by superior authority.

They argued that the Police Regulation of Bengal empowers only the inspector general of police (IGP) to form such a committee and prepare a list of awardees.

The committee came into being hot on the heels of the Police Week 2019 when a record 349 police and Rab personnel were awarded the prestigious medals in four categories at a ceremony at Rajarbagh Police

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

JUBO LEAGUE MAN MURDER

Two more accused killed in 'gunfight'

STAR REPORT

Two Rohingyas accused of a JUBO League leader murder and an alleged drug peddler were killed in "gunfights" with police in Cox's Bazar and Kushtia early yesterday.

With the two Rohingyas, five, who stood accused in Hnila union JUBO League president Omar Faruk murder case, were killed in so-called shootouts with the law enforcers. All the five were Rohingyas.

Farul was shot dead allegedly by some Rohingya criminals in Teknaf upazila on August 22.

The Cox's Bazar "gunfight" took place in the upazila around 12:30am, reports our district correspondent.

The dead were Abdul Karim, 24, and

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

Killing a river for a road

Local influentials, villagers build a dam on Baulikhal river in Sylhet causing it to dry up

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, Sylhet

A dam in Kakunkhali area of Sylhet's Gowainghat has killed the Baulikhal river at its source, depriving many villages of a freshwater source for about one-and-a-half-year.

Water flow to the Baulikhal, which is a branch the Sari river, has been completely stopped at the confluence by the 400-feet long dam that now serves as a road, locals said.

The Baulikhal, also known as the Hidairkhal, merged with the Kapna river 13-km downstream.

The Baulikhal was a water source for 18 smaller rivers and canals and 37 haors and beels. People of about 39 villages in Gowainhat depend on these waterbodies, officials and environmentalists said.

Alirgaon Union Parishad completed constructing the dam early last year, they added.

Residents of Khola, Budhigaon and Titkulli villages raised Tk 35 lakh

PHOTO ON PAGE 2

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

ঢাকা কেন্দ্রসমূহ :

- 📍 মহাখালী, আইসিডিআর, বি মোবাইল : ০১৭৭৯১০০১০০
- 📍 ধানমন্ডি, রোড নং- ৭, মিরপুর রোড সংলগ্ন মোবাইল : ০১৭৭৯৬০০৬০০
- 📍 গোলাপবাগ, গোলাপবাগ সিএনজি স্টেশনের নিকট মোবাইল : ০১৭৭৯৩০০৭০০
- 📍 রামপুরা, হাজীপাড়া পেট্রোল পাস্সের বিপরীতে মোবাইল : ০১৭৬৬৬৭৬৭৬২৮
- 📍 মিরপুর, সেত অন ডায়গনস্টিকের ২য় তলা মোবাইল : ০১৭৬৬৬৭৬৭৬১৭
- 📍 উত্তরা, সেটির # ১১ গরীবে নেওয়াজ এভিনিউ মাইলস্টোন কলেজের বিপরীতে মোবাইল : ০১৭৬৬৬৭৬৭৬২৯
- 📍 পুরনো ঢাকা, ধোলাইখাল মোড় মোবাইল : ০১৭৬৬৬৭৬৭৬১৮

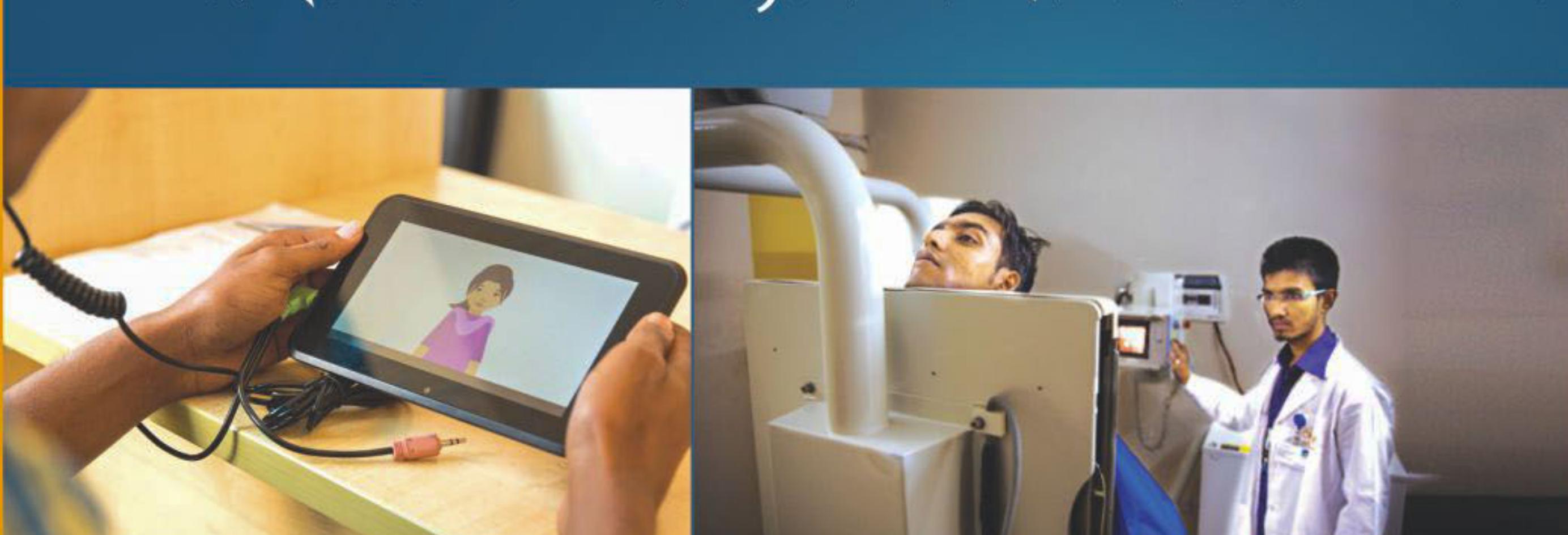
চট্টগ্রাম কেন্দ্রসমূহ :

- 📍 ও আর নিজাম রোড, গোলাপবাড়ি মোড় মোবাইল : ০১৭৬৬৬৭৬৭৬৩০
- 📍 সরদার পুরা (২য় তলা), দক্ষিণ হালিশহর, বন্দর চিলা মোবাইল : ০১৭৬৬৬৭৬৭৬২৭

সিলেট কেন্দ্র :

- 📍 রিকার্ভ বাজার পয়েন্ট (জেলা স্টেডিয়ামের বিপরীতে) মোবাইল : ০১৭৬৬৬৭৬৭৬২১

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