



This part of the flyover connecting to Chattogram Port is in a bad shape. Stretching from Port Access Road to the connecting point of two container terminals, this overpass is used for carrying cargo. The photos were taken earlier this week.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

## BANGABANDHU BRIDGE New railway bridge soon: minister

BSS, Rangpur

Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujan yesterday said a railway bridge will be constructed beside the Bangabandhu Multipurpose Bridge to improve communication between the western railway zone and Dhaka.

The minister said this while talking to journalists during his visit to Rangpur Railway Station in the afternoon, ahead of the inauguration of three new inter-city trains to the division. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the service through video conference on October 16.

The minister said construction of the two-line dual gauge Bangabandhu Railway Bridge will begin next January and hoped that it will be completed by 2023.

He said the present government has undertaken a project to construct a direct rail line from Sirajganj to Bogura. "After implementing it, distance from Rangpur to Dhaka will be reduced by around 100km," he said.

Sujan said only one inter-city train -- Rangpur Express -- is currently running from Rangpur to Dhaka, to maintain railway communication between the two cities. "Many bogies of the train have become unusable. The same situation prevails with Lalmonirhat Express," he said.

As a result, schedules of the trains cannot be maintained properly, which causes problems for passengers. "We are importing 50 broad gauge and 200 meter gauge coaches from Indonesia to resolve the crisis," he said.

The minister said the country's roads have improved significantly but not the train tracks.

"All the trains are running on the old tracks. With the increase in number of trains, schedules of trains will be affected further," he said, adding that the government has undertaken a double-line railway project to eliminate the problem.

## VISITS TO NEW YORK, DELHI PM to address media today

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will address a press conference today about the outcomes of her recent official visits to USA and India.

The press conference will be held at her official residence Gono Bhaban at 3:30pm.

The prime minister went to the USA on September 22 on an eight-day visit to New York to attend the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

On October 3, Hasina went to India on a four-day official visit to New Delhi to attend the India Economic Summit 2019 of the World Economic Forum.

During the visit, the PM also held a bilateral meeting with her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi and met Indian President Ram Nath Kovind on October 5.

The two prime ministers jointly launched three bilateral development projects and witnessed the signing of seven bilateral documents.

Indian National Congress President Sonia Gandhi accompanied by former Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Priyanka Gandhi met Prime Minister Hasina at Taj Mahal Hotel on Sunday.

During her stay in New Delhi, the Asiatic Society, Kolkata conferred the "Tagore Peace Award 2018" on Sheikh Hasina in recognition of her contributions to maintaining regional peace and prosperity.

During her visit to New York (September 22-29), Hasina delivered a speech at the UNGA and held a bilateral meeting with Indian PM Narendra Modi on September 27.

Hasina received two prestigious international awards -- "Champion of the Skills Development for Youths" award for her outstanding contributions to skill development of the youth, and "Vaccine Hero" award for Bangladesh's outstanding success in vaccination to immunise children during her visit to New York.

Besides, she exchanged pleasantries with US President Donald Trump at a bilateral meeting with UN Secretary-General António Guterres.

She also had talks separately with ICC Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda and UN Secretary-General's Special Advocate for Inclusive Finance for Development Queen Maxima.

## A manifestation

FROM PAGE 5

University's Teachers' Association in condemnation of the murder. "It is unfortunate that intolerance has been practised at educational institutions over the last few decades," the association said in the statement.

The murder of Abrar is a manifestation of intolerance, it said.

In the statement signed by the association's president Maksud Kamal, DU teachers urged politicians, free-thinkers, students, fellow teachers, guardians and civil society members to help reinstate an education-friendly, safe and humane environment.

Students in Tangail, Patuakhali, Gazipur and Cumilla also took to the streets demanding justice for Abrar.

Meanwhile, social media yesterday was abuzz with posts -- from people of different walks of life -- critical of student politics and the murder.

"Will it be much of a problem if student politics is banned?" one wondered on Facebook.

A journalist posted, "Protest must go on."

A leader of the ruling Awami League wrote, "I am ashamed. Such barbarism cannot be accepted."

A platform of guardians, students and teachers called a protest programme today around 11am, in front of Raju Memorial Sculpture on Dhaka University campus.

(Our correspondents from Narayanganj, Rajshahi University, Dinajpur, Tangail, Gazipur, Patuakhali and Cumilla contributed to this report.)

## Japanese vessels make 3-day stop at Ctg port



PHOTO: COLLECTED

A Japanese navy team placed flowers at Chattogram War Cemetery tombstone dedicated to 19 Japanese soldiers who died there during World War II.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two vessels -- Bungo and Takashima -- of Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) made a port call at Chattogram Port during October 6-8 to promote goodwill and strengthen cooperation between the JMSDF and the Bangladesh Navy.

During the call, navies of the two friendly nations attended various programmes, including a reception, a visit to Bangladesh Naval Academy, and conducted goodwill exercises between the two navies, according to a press statement of Japan embassy in Dhaka.

At the reception hosted by Capt Seiji Ikubo, commander of the dispatched force, Hiroyuki Yamaya, chargé d'affaires

of Japan embassy in Dhaka, highlighted that this visit will play an important role in further strengthening cooperation between Japan and Bangladesh.

Yamaya and Capt Ikubo made courtesy calls to Rear Admiral M Abu Ashraf, commander of Chattogram Naval Area; Rear Admiral Zulfikur Aziz, commander of Bangladesh Navy Fleet; Rear Admiral M Nazmul Hassan, chairman, Chattogram Port Authority; and AJM Nasir Uddin, mayor of Chattogram City Corporation.

They also visited Chattogram War Cemetery and presented flowers to the tombstone dedicated to 19 Japanese soldiers who died in World War II during their stay in Chattogram.

The Bungo and the Takashima left Chattogram Port yesterday.

## Daily hospital admissions

FROM PAGE 3

Three dengue patients died so far this year in the hospital while five are undergoing treatment.

### SPELL OF RAIN RAISES DENGUE RISK

The spell of rain over last one week is increasing the risk of new dengue cases, experts warn.

They suggested continuing effective measures by all so that the number of dengue cases does not increase.

"This spell of rain can increase the number of Aedes mosquitoes if the authorities concerned as well as people from all walks of life do not continue their anti-mosquito efforts," Prof Kabirul Bashar, an entomologist of Jahangirnagar University, told The Daily Star recently.

He said anti-Aedes drives from government and private level will have to continue at least till the end of October.

Rain expands the breeding sources of Aedes mosquitoes and all parties will have to remain alert to destroy the sources, he said.

Echoing Bashar, Kinkar Ghosh, an epidemiologist of Dhaka Shishu Hospital, said the current spell of rain will not cause a rise in the number of dengue patients if the authorities concerned are proactive and people are aware.

## Newlywed

FROM PAGE 5

this connection," said inspector Shahadat. The autopsy of the victim was performed at CMCH morgue yesterday.

### HUSBAND CONFESSES TO SCUFFLE BEFORE MAGISTRATE

Meanwhile, Liton was produced before a Chattogram court yesterday, following which he gave a judicial confession before a magistrate under Section 164, said Kazi Masum, sub-inspector of Panchlaish Police Station and investigating officer of the case. Liton said a scuffle broke out between the two that night, and at one point he pulled the scarf she was wearing around her neck.

When she fell unconscious, he rushed her to the hospital, said the police official.

Masum added that the couple were the only ones at their house, as Liton's mother, who lives with them, was out at the time. "We will continue investigation to verify his claims," the IO added.

## Misconception

FROM PAGE 5

said, "Thailand earns 23 percent of its GDP from tourism while we earn only 0.005 percent. We have the scope to develop our tourism sector."

During the visit to Sylhet, Dr Momen also inaugurated his regional office at a shopping complex in Zindabazar.

## Cancer care services

FROM PAGE 3

the medical colleges to increase the number of doctors," he added. Prof Dr Kanak Kanti Barua, vice chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), said cancer is now a major challenge for the country.

"Concentrations and patterns of pollution in developing countries like Bangladesh have altered dramatically with rapid economic development and urbanisation over the past decade, which is associated with cancer or mortality, especially for high pollution ranges and lifestyle factors," Prof Barua said.

"We need adequate skilled manpower to address the problem," he observed.

Prof Parveen Shahida Akhter, chairperson of Medical Oncology Society in Bangladesh, said cancer treatment is a multidisciplinary approach and medical oncologists are part and parcel of comprehensive cancer management.

"We've a few medical oncologists, which is very insufficient compared to the need. Also, seats are limited at the entry point and there is scarcity of posts," she said.

Besides, there are no medical oncology departments in medical college hospitals in our country except for NICRH, Suhrawardy Medical College and Hospital, Cancer Centre and Combined Military Hospital, she said.

Prof Akhter said all these centres are Dhaka-based and overburdened with huge number of cancer patients. "This situation frequently hampers the quality of cancer management and increases the treatment costs and sufferings of patients."

To overcome the problem, the country needs to decentralise cancer care and ensure modern and well-managed cancer facilities in the peripheries as soon as possible, she stressed.



Officials of the Department of Fisheries in Barishal yesterday distributed leaflets among fishers yesterday, aiming to raise awareness about the 22-day ban on catching hilsa that begins today. The photo was taken from the city's Port Road area.

PHOTO: TITU DA

**Floor Rental in Uttara**  
Rajuk approval commercial floor rent in (4000 sq ft per floor) Uttara, Dhaka-Mymensingh highway road (Nearest Abdullapur Bus Stand), Multinational Company office, University Campus & any business office first priority.  
Mobile: 01611-066307

**STAY UPDATED WITH**  
**The Daily Star**  
@  
thedailystar.net  
#dailystarnews

## INDUSTRIAL LAND FOR SALE

The Land Location Is On A Very Attractive Business Junction At **MATLAB, CHANDPUR**; Approximate Land Area: 07 Acres Of Industrial HIGHLAND With Complete Brick Boundary + Security Angle And Wired. It Has A Running 33,000 Volt Commercial Electric And Natural Gas Connection. For Larger Volume Of Business, This Land Also Has Parallel Communications With The River **MEGHNA & DHAKA CHITTAGONG HIGHWAY**.

Business Entrepreneurs - Foreign / Local Are Requested To Knock The Owner Directly.

Cell: 01819-284862, Email: DIRECTOWNER@HOTMAIL.COM