



# The Daily Star



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**“We talk about the spirit of the Liberation War, but it did not reach the children, generation after generation.”**  
FORMER DU VC PROF AAMS AREFIN SIDDIQUE AT A PROGRAMME IN THE LIBERATION WAR MUSEUM (PAGE 3)

**“University students can express their political opinion as a constitutional right. Therefore, you cannot ban student politics by law.”**  
AGRICULTURE MINISTER ABDUR RAZZAQUE AT A PROGRAMME IN GAZIPUR (PAGE 3)

**“Now there are threats from left and right telling us to stop this. We will not step back.”**  
PRESIDENT RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN AMID SANCTION THREATS OVER TURKEY’S OFFENSIVE IN SYRIA (PAGE 8)

## FIGHTING LOAN DEFAULT ‘Match-fixing’ in govt measures Say experts at a programme

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government does not have the eagerness to arrest bad loans and restore corporate governance in the banking sector as the habitual defaulters are now controlling parliament, analysts said.

A good number of delinquent borrowers, who became lawmakers last year, avoided defaulter status by taking advantage of relaxed rescheduling facilities and filing writ petitions with the High Court, they said at a roundtable discussion to find ways to fix the banking sector.

Sushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Sujon), a civil society platform, organised the discussion at the Jatiya Press Club Auditorium yesterday.

Moinul Islam, a former professor of Chittagong University’s economics department, presented a keynote paper on how to fix the banking sector.

According to the International Monetary Fund, the amount of defaulted loans, as of June, is Tk 240,167 crore, The Daily Star reported recently, he said.

If the written-off loans were added, the amount might be closer to Tk 300,000 crore, he said.

“But the government is trying to conceal the real picture ...”

The central bank has recently eased policies for loan classification and rescheduling to artificially bring down the defaulted loan figures, he said.

“The government apparently says it has taken different measures to arrest default loans, but there has been match-fixing. More than 60 percent of the lawmakers are from the business community and the majority of them are habitual defaulters.”

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

## 1.38cr people underemployed Finds government study

REJAUUL KARIM BYRON and MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

For nearly two years, Raushan Mahmud has been working as a cashier at a firm that produces garment accessories in Gazipur.

But this is not the job the 28-year-old man from Sirajganj longed for. He wished to work at a government organisation or a bank.

“I got this job a year after receiving a master’s degree in accounting from Dhaka College in 2016. I’m not enjoying it. The salary is low and there is no job security,” said Raushan, who is now looking for a better job.

He is one of the thousands of graduates who are holding jobs far below their expectations. In other words, they are underemployed.

Now the country has 1.38 crore underemployed people. Of them, 45.3 percent are in the service sector, 30.6 percent in the agriculture sector and 24.1 percent in the industry sector, says a government study.

The General Economics Division (GED) under the planning ministry conducted the study, the first of its kind in the country, between May and June this year to get an insight into the nexus of economic growth, employment generation, productivity and investment.

Underemployment is related to a situation where a person’s employment is inadequate in terms of working

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



“Could you give my son back to me?” reads the graffiti being drawn by an artist depicting Abrar’s father Barkat Ullah on Buét campus yesterday. The students won’t demonstrate today and tomorrow due to the admission tests at the university.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Beat him until he was motionless

Anik, an accused in Abrar killing, tells court; Buét protests relaxed for 2 days for admission tests; 3 dorm rooms sealed; circular issued on meeting demands

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Buét unit Chhatra League leader Anik Sarkar yesterday confessed that he and some other accused kept hitting Abrar Fahad with cricket stumps until he became motionless.

In his confessional statement, the information and research secretary of the unit also said he beat Abrar indiscriminately in two phases and stopped only after the victim vomited several times, said court and police sources.

Anik, a batch-15 student of the university’s mechanical engineering department, was sent to jail after Metropolitan Magistrate Atiqul Islam recorded the statement.

With Anik, three leaders of Buét BCL have given confessional statement in Abrar Fahad killing case.

The other two are Deputy Social Welfare Secretary Ifthi Mosharraf Shakal and Sports Secretary Meftahul Islam Zion of the same unit.

In his statement recorded on Thursday, Shakal, a batch-16 student of the university’s



Locked door of BCL leader Mehedi Hasan Rasel’s dorm room.

biomedical engineering department, said it was Anik who beat Abrar the most. He said Anik struck Abrar over 100 times with a stump on his knees, legs, soles of feet and arms.

On Friday, Zion, a batch-15 student of the naval architecture and marine engineering department, told a magistrate that he also beat up Abrar with a stump.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## Demands met, why continuing protests: PM

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday questioned the justification for continuing the movement on the Buét campus over the killing of Abrar Fahad after the students’ demands were met.

“The Buét vice-chancellor has accepted the 10-point demand of the students. But after that, the students have said they will continue their movement... I don’t know what is the logic behind it,” she said.

Addressing the second conference of the Mohila Sramik League at the capital’s Krishibid Institution, Bangladesh, the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



Traffic at Shapla Chattar, Motijheel, the heart the capital, are inches away from falling into the large hole dug on the road for installing sewer lines. Inset, precast sewer pipes occupying one side of Toyenbee Circular Road in front of Notre Dame College. The photos were taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ



### Announcement

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## Do media have full freedom?

FROM PAGE 1  
freedom faces a problem.”

Talking about the ongoing drives against casinos, he said, “Casinos were operated in Bangladesh for many years. Could journalists run reports on it? No, they could not.”

Journalists jumped on the issue after the prime minister said action would be taken against it.

“Then is there full press freedom in our country? Does it mean fear is at play among you [journalists]? [Do you apprehend] ‘if I do report I will fall in trouble or my editor may face a problem’,” he said.

His comments came amid concerns over media freedom as the World Economic Forum’s Global Competitiveness Index (GCI) this year shows Bangladesh’s position fell to 123rd from 119th last year.

Touching on the killing of Buet student Abrar Fahad, he questioned the inaction of Buet teachers over the ragging and torture in student dormitories even though the misdeeds were an open secret.

“We all are aware about ragging in universities. Newspapers like The Daily Star and Prothom Alo ran stories on the issue,” he said.

“But we were silent, administration was silent, the university authorities were silent. All were silent,” he said, adding that everyone started talking after Abrar was killed and the prime minister said justice has to be done.

“Where were the teaches when there were incidents of ragging, when the culture of torturing students was developing at every university?” he questioned.

“Today, the teachers’ association brings out processions over Abrar murder. Where were you then? What have you done when students faced ragging in your institution? What steps have you taken? Have you lodged complaints with police? You did not.”

Justice Hasan was speaking at a workshop on “Implementation of High Court Verdict to Prevent Sexual

Harassment and Role of Mass Media”.

Law Reporters Forum (LRF) and Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA) jointly organised the event in association with Fair Wear Foundation.

### ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Justice Hasan was critical of the absence of a complaint committee on sexual harassment in the Supreme Court, although the HC gave directives in this regard in 2009.

“We all know incidents of sexual harassment take place among lawyers. We also know such incidents happens among the staff of the Supreme Court. I personally heard one or two such incidents.

“But such issues were resolved somehow rebuking the accused when such incidents were exposed widely.”

Such incidents were covered up or the accused were just transferred, he said.

But the High Court has issued directives for constituting a complaint committee at every work place; carrying out probe into sexual harassment allegations; filing report to police if any allegation contains criminal ingredients, and starting disciplinary proceeding against the accused.

“The High Court said this in 2009 but if you ask the Supreme Court registrar whether a complaint committee has been formed, I guess he will not be able to reply in the positive.”

He said, “If we can’t purify my house, then how can I will be able to purify others. These words are applicable for the judges, the Supreme Court as it applicable for you [journalists].”

He asked journalists to inquire whether his or her newspaper or media house formed such a committee to resolve sexual harassment issues.

Also speaking at the workshop, BNWLA President Fawzia Karim Firoz urged the government to enact a law to prevent sexual harassment at workplaces on the basis of the guidelines issued by the HC.

## Beat him

FROM PAGE 1  
Investigators earlier had said Anik hit Abrar around 200 times with a cricket stump.

Abrar, a second-year student of Buet’s electrical and electronic engineering department, was beaten to death by a group of BCL leaders at the university’s Sher-e-Bangla Hall during October 6 night and early hours of October 7.

The next day, his father filed a murder case against 19 Buet students and several other unnamed accused with Chawkbazar police station.

The gruesome murder triggered a firestorm of protest on university campuses across the country.

Law enforcers suspect Abrar was attacked because of one of his recent Facebook posts, which seemed critical of some recent deals with India.

Yesterday, Anik told the court that he and some other students suspected Abrar to be a Shibir activist because of a Facebook post of the victim. They decided to beat Abrar up a few days before his murder.

After Abrar returned to his room at Sher-e-Bangla Hall from his home in Kustia on October 6, the accused decided to call him to a room.

As per the decision, Abrar was called in room number 2011 around 8:30pm that day. There, he was beaten indiscriminately for several hours which led to his death, said court and police sources.

Meanwhile, the Dhaka Metropolitan Police has formed a six-member committee, headed by joint commissioner of the detective branch, to assist the murder investigation.

### PROTESTS RELAXED

Agitating Buet students demanding justice for Abrar yesterday relaxed the protests for today and tomorrow taking the university’s admission tests into consideration.

At a sit-in, the demonstrators also said they would provide all sorts of assistance to the examinees and their guardians during the tests tomorrow.

“We are relaxing the protests for the time being as the process of implementing our demands has started,” a representative of the students said.

Meanwhile, Buet in a statement said the admission test would be held as per the schedule.

After the murder, the students were protesting over a 10-point demand. But after a meeting with Vice Chancellor Prof Saiful Islam on Friday evening, the protesters are now pressing for five demands, which could be met by the university authorities in a short time.

The demands include issuance of circular on expulsion of Abrar’s killers, cancellation of dormitory seats of illegal occupants, sealing of offices of political organisations and assurance from university that it will provide compensations to Abrar’s family and bear all the costs of running the legal battle over the murder.

The demands also include opening of a dedicated website for posting complaints about ragging and other forms of torture on the campus, installation of CCTV cameras on all floors of every hall.

The university authorities took steps to meet some of the 10-point demands. In line with one of the demands, Buet on Friday banned all political organisations and their activities.

The authorities yesterday issued five separate official circulars on the matters.

In one of the circular, the university’s Directorate of Students’ Welfare said it would start evicting illegal occupants from halls and seal off offices of student organisations yesterday.

Highest punishment would be handed down to those involved in

ragging.

The university has suspended 19 students. They will be expelled after an ongoing probe and in line with the decision of a disciplinary committee and the university syndicate, one of the circular said.

The university authorities will bear all the costs of running the legal battle over the murder and provide necessary compensations to Abrar’s family, another circular said.

The university also said a dedicated website for making complaints would be opened soon.

### BUET SEALS OFF THREE ROOMS

The Buet authorities yesterday sealed off three rooms of two dormitories for illegal occupancy.

BCL Buet unit President Jami-us-Sani told The Daily Star that he lived at room 321 of Ahsan Ullah Hall, but the room was sealed off yesterday as his studentship ended a while ago.

The room of BCL’s Buet unit General Secretary Mehedi Hasan Rasel -- room no. 3021 of Sher-e-Bangla hall -- was also sealed off over the same reason, Jami confirmed.

Rasel was arrested in connection with the murder.

Another room of Ahsan Ullah Hall -- room No. 121 -- was sealed off because it was being used as an office of BCL, Jami further said.

Earlier in the morning, the agitating students resumed the demonstration for the sixth consecutive day as per their earlier announcement.

The agitating students erased graffiti drawn by Chhatra League on the boundary walls of a hall and replaced it with another one depicting Abrar murder.

### ONE MORE ARRESTED

Police yesterday arrested another accused in the case -- Moyaj Abu Hurayra, 20, a Buet student -- from the city’s Uttara.

With Moyaj, the law enforcement agencies have so far arrested a total of 19 people in connection with the murder.

Besides, a Dhaka court yesterday put another accused in the case, Majedul Islam Majed, on a five-day remand. He was was arrested in Sylhet on Friday

### NO TO POLITICS BAN

Meanwhile, Pragatishheel Chhatra Jote, an alliance of left-leaning student organisations, yesterday protested the Buet’s move to politics on the campus.

Its leaders alleged that the Buet students did not have grievances towards student politics rather than Chhatra League.

At a press conference at the Madhur Canteen, they also demanded a ban on Chhatra league’s politics at all educational institutions of the country.

Ducus Vice-president Nurul Haque Nur, at a separate press conference, claimed that the demand to impose ban student politics was raised because of Chhatra League’s “terrorist activities”.

## Zeesan gets

from page 1  
against Zeesan before the court, the source said, adding that he owns a businessman in the country.

Zeesan’s lawyer submitted documents to the court mentioning that he has been doing business in the country for the last 14 years and has a reputation.

The lawyer also said that he regularly paid his taxes and had never been involved with any criminal activities in Dubai.

Bangladesh has no bilateral treaty with the UAE on fugitive extradition. But Bangladesh is willing to sign an agreement with the UAE, foreign ministry officials said.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina holds a crest during the council of Mahila Sramik League at the capital’s Krishibid Institution yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

## 1.38cr people underemployed

FROM PAGE 1

hours, earnings, productivity and use of skills, and the person is looking for better or additional work in conformity with his or her education and skills.

Of the underemployed people, 19.7 percent are looking for new or additional jobs as their present jobs are temporary, while 15.8 percent are looking for new jobs to get higher salary, the study pointed out.

It further said 9 percent want to work for more hours, 8.7 percent wish to have better jobs and activities, 8.6 percent want to work in higher ranks and 7.7 percent are in fear of losing jobs.

The study will be used as an approach paper for preparation of the upcoming 8th Five Year Plan and background paper for preparation of the Vision 2041.

Talking to this newspaper, Prof AK Azad Chowdhury, former chairman of the University Grants Commission, said, “Underemployment is a less-talked-about issue in the country.

“In fact, underemployment is unemployment,” he noted.

### THE FACTORS

“There are many factors that cause underemployment. When workers outnumber decent jobs, they will take anything they can get to pay the bills. It forces skilled and educated workers to take low-skilled, part-time jobs,” Zahid Hussain, former lead economist at the World Bank’s Dhaka office, told The Daily Star.

Experts also blamed the mismatch between the skills offered by the country’s education system and the job requirements in various sectors.

The knowledge and skills that graduates acquire at educational institutions have little application in work, making them less relevant in the labour market.

Bangladesh’s tremendous economic growth has been unable to create jobs proportionately over the last decade. The country has seen little progress in the industry sector and 85 percent of the jobs are in the informal sector, mentions the government study.

“Mismatch between the skills demanded and the skills supplied is another major reason for underemployment in Bangladesh.

pipeline. “This is excessive given the volume of the economy.”

Individuals with strong links with the ruling party have managed to obtain licences to open new banks in recent times, Moynul said.

He went on to cite the case of a Chattogram-based business tycoon who has established ownership of seven private banks to further his point of poor-discipline in the banking sector. “Such an example cannot be found anywhere in the world.”

There were allegations that the businesspeople were siphoning off money from banks using fake names, Moynul added.

“The banking sector has become the ‘casino’ for the financial sector,” said Khondker Ibrahim Khaled, a former deputy governor of the Bangladesh Bank.

Looting money from the banking sector could be stopped only if the

Many college graduates with master’s degrees in subjects not in high demand in the job market take what they get,” said Zahid.

They may end up as caretakers of apartment buildings, waiters, or Uber drivers. Technological change causes underemployment as well. ATM machines and mobile banking, for instance, have replaced the need for many bank tellers, he added.

Prof Azad thinks most of the graduates lack both hard and soft skills.

### EFFECTS

The underemployed people often feel neglected and frustrated, and in the worst cases, they become addicted to drugs and indulge in criminal activities, say experts.

“Underemployment has effects similar to those of unemployment. Both underpin low living standards,” said Zahid.

“In extreme cases, youth underemployment can lead to deviant behaviour such as drug addiction ...”

They experience high stress and anxiety as a result of job insecurity and low salary, said the economist,

adding that some of them retrain for different fields, while others downscale their lifestyle and accept long-term underemployment.

### WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE

The study recommended ensuring quality of education and training.

“The problem of skill mismatch needs to be reduced. Sector-specific training needs to be provided to the workers,” it says.

Steps need to be taken to create decent jobs with fair income and also ensure security at workplace, social protection for families, and better prospect for personal development, the study mentions.

Stressing the need for revamping the education system, Prof Azad said the universities should continuously update their curriculum and design it in line with the need of different sectors.

“Universities here do not update curriculum regularly. We need technology-based education system. The students need to have proficiency in English and acquire skills such as computer literacy and analytical ability,” he added.

## ‘Match-fixing’ in govt measures

FROM PAGE 1

They would use their political influence to not pay back their loans. They would regularise their defaulted loans frequently, file writ petitions with the High Court and use relaxed rescheduling facilities from the central bank, he said.

“Besides, one of the top habitual defaulters in the country is now holding an influential position in the prime minister’s inner circles.”

Key people of a company should be brought to book if their defaulted loans stay in the bad-loan category for a year.

Besides, passports of habitual defaulters should be confiscated and the list of top 10 defaulters of every bank branch should be hung in front of the office, said Moynul, also a former president of the Bangladesh Economic Association.

The total number of banks now stands at 60, with three more in the

government had a strong will. “But how can that be possible if the country’s top habitual defaulter and a stock market scamster secures an important position in the government?”

If anyone raises voice against the irregularities, he or she has to face difficulties due to the “absence of democracy in the country since 2018”, Khaled said.

Political influence was the main reason for the escalation in defaulted loans in Bangladesh, said Syed Abu Naser Bakhtiar Ahmed, a former managing director of Agrani Bank.

The government was yet to take any action against BASIC Bank’s former chairman Sheikh Abdul Hye Bachchu despite his involvement in siphoning off about Tk 4,000 crore from the state-owned Tk.

Some Tk 10,000 crore was looted from Janata Bank by only two to three people, but no exemplary punishment

was handed down.

“Such impunity encourages the vested quarter to not pay back money to banks,” Abu Naser added.

Large sums were being laundered abroad, said Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir, a professor at the Dhaka University’s Development Studies department.

Against this backdrop, the country’s banking sector has failed to create fresh capital to make the economy vibrant, he added.

Badiul Alam Majumdar, secretary of Sujon, moderated the roundtable, while the organisation’s Chairman M Hafiz Uddin Khan presided over the event.

Abdullah Al Kafi Ratan, a presidium member of Communist Party of Bangladesh; Abu Sayeed, a leader of Gonoforum; and Inam Ahmed Chowdhury, an Awami League leader, spoke among others.

## Demands met, why continuing protests: PM

FROM PAGE 1

PM issued a strong warning against any wrongdoing on the campus of educational institutions.

Stern actions would be taken against the wrongdoers whoever they might be, she said.

“We say it clearly that we will never tolerate any crime on the campus... we didn’t allow it in the past and will not accept it in future.”

Hasina, also the Awami League president, said the government did not hesitate to take action against Abrar’s killers. “We don’t see who belongs to which party... we treat killers as killers, wrongdoers as wrongdoers and torturers as torturers.”

She said she did not wait after being informed of the killing of Abrar.

“I immediately instructed the police to arrest the killers and collect all information regarding the murder from the video footage. But the police faced trouble while collecting the footage.”

The PM said the students obstructed the police when they were collecting the footage.

Hasina said the inspector general of police rushed to her after the October 6 incident and wanted to know what they would do.

The IGP informed her that students wanted a copy of the footage, she said, adding that she directed the police chief to give a copy to the students.

The PM said she also asked the IGP to identify and arrest the killers and take action against them.

She said the accused could have been arrested immediately if 3/4 hours was not wasted for collecting the video footage. “It seemed that a scope was given to the accused to flee. The protesters can say about it.”

Hasina said those who had grabbed power after the assassination of Bangabandhu in 1975 made the killers of the Father of the Nation heroes and rewarded the accused of seven-murder at Dhaka University.

“We had to wait for 38 years for the trial of the killers of my parents and brothers.... So, it has become a difficult task to eliminate the menaces from the society where the culprits committed such heinous killings and they were rewarded and protected.”

The PM said the country witnessed brandishing of arms on educational campuses during the rules of Ziaur Rahman, HM Ershad and Khaleda Zia.

She said none but the Awami League government held trials of the killings

on campuses. “The trial of the killing of Sabikun Nahar Sony, who died during an intra-party clash of Chhatra Dal at Buet, was not held.”

The premier said nobody protested at that time and the Buet Alumni Association didn’t speak about the incident.

Hasina said everybody enjoys the right to speak when the AL stays in power. “The people can speak... at least this scope is there.”

### DHAKA-DELHI DEALS ISSUE

The PM blasted those opposing the MoUs signed recently with India on the withdrawal of 1.82 cusec water from the Feni river by India and supply of bulk LPG from Bangladesh to India.

About water-sharing of the 140-km long Feni river, she said Bangladesh and India have equal right to use its water.

Hasina said Bangladesh would export LPG to Tripura after importing it.

Recalling the contributions of the people of Tripura during the Liberation War, she said they gave shelter to Bangladeshis and provided food.

The AL chief asked the Mohila Sramik League leaders and activists to create awareness among the people so

that nobody goes abroad by stepping into the trap of brokers.

Citing the selling of a Bangladeshi woman by members of her father-in-law’s family to a brothel in a foreign country, Hasina said the woman was rescued and brought back to Bangladesh.

“We are taking proper steps against those involved in such an offence and we will continue it... stern actions will be taken against the culprits in future.”

The PM also elaborated her government steps for the welfare of the women and said they have to create their own space in the society and build themselves through obtaining proper education.

AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader also addressed the programme, chaired by Mohila Sramik League President Raushan Jahan Sathi.

Earlier, the AL chief inaugurated the conference by releasing pigeons and balloons.

A minute’s silence was observed to show respect to the memories of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, four national leaders and martyrs of different movements, including the independence movement in 1971.

## Nepal hopes for Chinese finance during Xi visit

AFP, Kathmandu

Nepal rolled out the red carpet on Saturday for China’s President Xi Jinping as authorities rounded up Tibetans to prevent protests during his stay.

Xi is making the first state visit by a Chinese leader to Nepal in 23 years following his two days of talks in India.

President Bidhya Devi Bhandari received him at Kathmandu airport as the army band played the national anthems of the two countries.

Xi is expected to use his time in Kathmandu to push Beijing’s controversial Belt and Road infrastructure projects.

The Chinese president said he would use the two-day visit to “renew friendship and explore cooperation

with my Nepali friends” in a signed article published in Nepali newspapers on Friday.

“It is important that we adopt a strategic and long-term perspective and draw up a blueprint for our bilateral relationship to take it to a new height in this new era,” Xi added.

The International Campaign for Tibet (ICT) said at least 18 people

were arrested in the days ahead of Xi’s arrival, including two Nepali shopkeepers selling bags with Tibetan flags or slogans. Fourteen remained in detention on Saturday.

Nepal is home to around 20,000 exiled Tibetans, but under pressure from Beijing the communist government has taken an increasingly hardline stance on their activities.



## PHOTO OF THE DAY

SK ENAMUL HAQ



Two workers hammer down an old building in Malibagh, presumably to make way for skyscrapers -- to match the ones in the background. Manual labour is still a mainstay of construction work in the city, despite the advancement of technology and volume of such work that goes on every day. The photo was taken recently.

## USE OF NATURAL FIBRES

## Bangladesh tables resolution at UN

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh has tabled a draft resolution titled "Use of Natural Fibres such as Jute and Sisal" at the UN for consideration during the 74th General Assembly.

Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN Ambassador Masud Bin Momen tabled the resolution at the plenary of the second committee under Agenda-24, "Agriculture development, food security and nutrition" on Friday.

He said Bangladesh is the third largest producer of vegetables, fourth largest producer of rice and fifth largest producer of inland fisheries.

The negotiation process of this resolution will start soon at the UN headquarters, said the Bangladesh Mission in New York yesterday.

Masud encouraged member states to promote the use of environment-friendly natural fibres such as jute, cotton, and sisal. He said enough has not been done to make people aware of the benefits of the use of natural fibres as substitutes of artificial fibres.

He argued that a resolution of General Assembly is required to signal Bangladesh's commitment to protect environment through using natural fibres. He opined the resolution could be an effective tool to raise global awareness on importance of natural fibres, not only to producers and the industry, but also to consumers for a better choice in saving the environment.

## Reshuffle admin at all universities: Dr Akbar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noted educationist Dr Akbar Ali Khan yesterday called for reshuffle in the administration of all universities, aiming to stop of repetition of the brutal incident in Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet).

"We should not keep our focus only on Buet campus. We should keep in mind that there is a possibility of such problems occurring at other universities", Akbar Ali Khan said about the gruesome murder of Buet student Abrar Farhad, while speaking as chief guest at a debate competition by Debate for Democracy in the capital.

The killing of Abrar, in the hands of Chhatra League activists on the Buet campus, sparked protests in university campuses across the country. Buet Alumni Association and Teachers Association demanded removal of VC Prof Saiful Islam for his failure to ensure security of students.

Meanwhile, Buet administration on Friday

banned all kind of politics on the campus.

Demanding speedy trial of Abrar's killers, he said, "We should not be satisfied with suspension and arrest of them.

One should be satisfied only after their sentences are implemented within the quickest possible time", Akbar Ali Khan said.

"Administration of all other universities should be reshuffled. The education ministry should take steps regarding the issue," said Akbar Ali Khan, also a noted economist and a former bureaucrat.

On another note, Akbar Ali Khan said the ongoing correction drives will contribute to ensuring good governance.

"Good governance comes automatically where rule of law exists. Correction drives are needed when monitoring has been absent for a long period."

Debaters from University of South Asia and Lalmatia Mahila College joined the shadow parliament style debate, with the jury declaring University of South Asia winners.

## 'No one is smiling on the streets of Dhaka'

## Experts discuss mental health issues of children

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Children today are not being given an alternative to internet and mobile phones as a means of recreation, which is deteriorating children's mental health, speakers at a discussion said yesterday.

Besides, understanding the mind of children is very important, where careful parenting and schooling can play the most important role, they also said.

"What alternatives to internet or mobile phones are we presenting before our children? On the contrary, PSC, JSC [or pressure for GPA] is destroying the spontaneity of our children," said Kamal Chowdhury, associate professor of Dhaka University's department of clinical psychology while speaking in the discussion marking World Mental Health Day.

The counseling unit of BRAC University organised the discussion on its campus, titled "Promoting mental health of young adults: Role of Mental Health Professionals and Academic Institutions."

Nobody on the streets [of Dhaka] is seen with a smiling face; everybody seems angry and is in a rat race to with each other, Kamal Chowdhury added.

Moderated by Dr Mehtab Khanam, psychologist and advisor of the counseling unit of Brac University, a number of psychologists and academicians participated in the session.

Some 53 percent parents cannot understand their children, while eight percent children have no friends, Helal Uddin Ahmed, associate professor of National Institute of Mental Health and Hospital said, referring to a 2017 WHO study on 11 countries.

"These tremendous factors have created an abnormal situation, the solution to which needs a collaboration between schooling and parenting," he added.

Dr Mehtab Khanam said, "We are expressing condolence, [and] sympathy to the incidents like Abrar [killing]. But there is not enough thought on what should be done to overcome it."

Prof Afsan Chowdhury spoke of current situation of sexual abuse and other mental problems in the country, compared to the 1990s: "Situation of sexual abuse to children has remained the same as it was in 1998. Almost half of the abused are male."

"Brac University regularly arranges views-exchange meetings with guardians, to take care of mental health of the students. Other institutions, especially schools, can think of such activities," said Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed, head of the counseling unit of the university.

Huraera Jabeen, associate professor of BracU; Salim Hossain, assistant professor of DU; Roufun Nahar of educational and counseling psychology at DU; and psychiatrist Dr Ashique Selim also spoke.

## 'Student politics can't be banned by forming law'

## Said food minister

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

An 18-year old can not be denied the right to their freedom of speech, said agriculture minister and veteran politician Dr Abdur Razzaque yesterday.

Reflecting on the brutal murder of Buet student Abrar Fahad and the subsequent ban on student politics at the country's premier engineering university, he said, "A university student can express their political opinion as a constitutional right," said the minister at a workshop at Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute in Gazipur.

"Therefore, you cannot ban student politics by law," he said.

"Practicing democratic spirit is a fundamental political right."

Party-based student politics is a common practice in many countries of the world including neighbouring India, where elections to students' union are held on the basis of political affiliations, he said.

Student politics has been a long tradition in this country as well, he said, but it has to be transparent, ethical, and in democratic spirit.

Abrar murder is a heart-wrenching tragedy and is utterly unacceptable, said the minister. "It is unthinkable that the country's brightest students may indulge in such brutal act of beating a co-student to death."

## ROHINGYA ISSUE

## Int'l conclave in Hague Oct 18

UNB, Dhaka

An international conclave will be held in The Hague, Netherlands, on October 18 to bring focus the issue of 'justice and accountability' for Rohingyas.

Experts from home and abroad, researchers, policymakers, human rights activists and others are expected to participate.

The Centre for Peace and Justice of Brac University, Asia Justice Coalition, and the International Institute of Social Studies of Erasmus University Rotterdam will organise the event.

"The goal is to bring justice and accountability to the centre of the Rohingya crisis," Manzoor Hasan, Executive Director of CPJ, told the media in Dhaka yesterday.

## Bring forth less-known aspects of Liberation War

## Speakers urge journalists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers yesterday urged journalists to bring forward less explored areas of the Liberation War including accounts of refugees relocated to the Indian state of Madhya Pradesh and participation of indigenous community in the war.

Noting that the 50th anniversary of independence is coming up in two years, they suggested that print and electronic media journalists work on research-based stories that would interest the new generation.

The daylong views-exchange meeting on journalistic articles about the Liberation War for "Bazlur Rahman Smriti Padak" was held at Liberation War Museum in Agargaon.

With financial support from family members and friends of late eminent journalist Bazlur Rahman, the museum authorities have been giving the award since 2008.

Liberation War Museum Trustee Dr

Sarwar Ali said the country has changed a lot since 1971 and audience for the memoir-based articles on the war has declined over time.

Freedom fighter Maj (retd) ASM Shamsul Arefin suggested writing more on the interim Mujibnagar government.

At the event, Researcher and Dean of Faculty of Arts at Dhaka University Dr Abu Md Delwar Hossain shared some less-known aspects about those who surrendered to Bangladesh and Indian joint command on December 16, 1971.

Referring to the killing of Abrar Fahad, former DU Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique said, "We talk about the spirit of Liberation War, but it did not reach the children generation after generation."

He urged journalists to do stories that would rekindle the Liberation War spirit among youths.

Eminent journalist Ajay Dasgupta; media personality Nowajesh Ali Khan, and museum trustees Ziauddin Tariq Ali and Rabiul Hasan also spoke at the meeting.



Labourers push a two-wheel cart carrying some 20 large barrels, tied together by rope, on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue. They said they were taking the empty containers to Karwan Bazar from Old Dhaka to sell those. The photo was in Paribagh area yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



A transformer sandwiched dangerously between two buildings in Lalbagh shows not a lot has changed in terms of fire safety measures in Old Dhaka. Locals often leave their clothes out to dry on adjacent windows, creating an electrical fire risk. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## ABRAR MURDER PROBE

## FORUM-ASIA calls for transparency

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA) has called upon the Bangladesh government to carry out a thorough, impartial and transparent investigation into the murder of Buet student Abrar Fahad and bring the perpetrators to justice.

In a press statement, issued Friday night, the rights body also demanded that the government ensure freedom of expression for all, and respect and protect it as a fundamental right. It also stressed the need for ending the culture of impunity in the country.

Condemning the brutal murder of Abrar, the Forum -- a coalition of 81 rights organisations in Asia -- said the incident indicates that freedom of expression in Bangladesh has been "severely challenged" due to shrinking civic space.

"The killing of Abrar exposes not only crimes committed by Chhatra League, but also the dysfunctions of the institutions of the country, including the law enforcement agencies and the judiciary," the Forum said in the statement.

"The abuses by Chhatra League in forms of harassment, criminal intimidation and extortion are often reported, and there is seemingly no attempt from the government to hold these perpetrators accountable," it added.

It further said the death of Abrar has not only stirred public outcry in Bangladesh, but also earned condemnation from the international community.

## DHAKA TODAY

## PROTEST

Demanding fair trial of Abrar murder and ensuring safe environment in all educational institutes  
Organiser: Swapner Dhaka University  
Venue: National Museum  
Time: 4pm

## REPORT LAUNCHING

Secondary School Teachers in Bangladesh in the Light of SDG's  
Organiser: Campaign for Popular Education  
Venue: LGED-RDEC Building, Agargaon  
Time: 11:30am

## SEMINAR

Artificial Intelligence on Data Science and Machine Learning  
Organiser: Skill Jobs  
Venue: DF Tower, Dhanmondi  
Time: 3pm

## WORKSHOP

American Music and Culture  
Organiser: U.S. Embassy  
Venue: American Centre, Baridhara  
Time: 3pm

## MUSIC CLASS

A Journey with Irish Whistle  
Venue: Jatra Biroti, Banani  
Time: 3pm

## FESTIVAL

Digital ICT Fair  
Venue: Multiplan Centre, Elephant Road  
Time: 10am

## AWARDS

Bangladesh Business Innovation Award 2019  
Organiser: Bangladesh Innovation Conclave  
Venue: Le Méridien Dhaka  
Time: 7pm

## Road accidents kill four, injure three

STAR REPORT

Four people were killed and three injured in road accidents in two districts during the last two days, according to reports from our correspondents.

In Mymensingh, a youth was killed and two persons were injured as human haulier fell into a ditch after skidding off Mymensingh-Phulbaria road at Dapunia in Sadar upazila yesterday.

Robi, 26, from the city's Katakali was declared dead at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital, said police.

In another accident, a battery-run auto-rickshaw driver was killed as the vehicle flipped over on Nandail-Jahangirpur road at Deuldangra on Friday, said police.

In Panchagarh, motorcyclist Md Doulat, 35, was killed and his pillion injured after a human haulier and the bike collided head-on on Panchagarh-Banglabandha highway at Charnile Kadamtali in Sadar upazila on Friday evening.

## Border killing reduced notably: foreign minister

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen has said that border killings have reduced notably in recent years.

"Over hundred people had died [in border killings] back in the years 2001-2002. In 2003, 166 people died in border, whereas only 3-4 people died last year," he said while talking to journalists after arriving at Sylhet MAG Osmani International Airport yesterday afternoon.

The foreign minister said, "People who died at the border are either smugglers or trying to enter India illegally. Border killing will completely stop if illegal border crossing stops".

About the recent deals with India, he said that misconception

is spreading [about gas export], as Bangladesh will actually be benefited by the deal.

"We will not be exporting our produced gas, rather we will be exporting the imported and processed LNG. Its good news for Bangladesh that we found a new market," he said.

Dr Momen also said, "There is also misconception about giving away the Feni river water. We approved it for a town of only six thousand people. They used to withdraw more water using pumps before, but now they have to withdraw within the limit and the Indian government will be monitoring the process."

"By giving away the water, we proved that we are bigger-hearted people," he said.

## IBA holds graduation ceremony

CITY DESK

Institute of Business Administration (IBA), University of Dhaka, arranged its graduation ceremony for 388 graduates of BBA 23rd batch, MBA 56th and 57th batch, EMBA 27th, 28th and 29th batch, and DBA programme on Friday.

"We congratulate all graduates, their parents and mentors on this joyous occasion," said the press release from IBA.

The programme was organised at Bangabandhu International Conference Center (BICC) at the capital's Agargaon. Vice Chancellor of DU, Dr Md Akhtaruzzaman

was present as chief guest of the ceremony and Dr Rubana Huq, President of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) was the graduation speaker. The ceremony was presided by Dr Syed Ferhat Anwar, Director of IBA.

Distinguished guests from different sectors, industry specialists, academicians and media personnel were also present.

The leading business school in the country, IBA was founded in 1966 with the objective of providing professional training to create future business leaders.



## UP chairman arrested with arms, ammo in Sylhet

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Police arrested a union parishad chairman with arms and ammunition at Islamganj Bazar of Sylhet Sadar upazila on Friday evening.

Police seized a pistol, seven rounds of bullets and a knife from Monfor Ali, chairman of Jalalabad Union Parishad.

Monfor is also an accused of nine cases including police assault and extortion

cases, said police.

Okil Uddin Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Jalalabad Police Station, said a new arms case was filed with the station against the UP chairman who was sent to jail by a Sylhet court.

Monfor Ali from Kalaruka village in the upazila was elected chairman of the union in 2016 as an Awami League rebel candidate.

## 53rd death anniversary of Justice Ibrahim

CITY DESK

Today is the 53rd death anniversary of Justice Mohammed Ibrahim.



There will be a milad mahfil in the morning on this occasion. Food will be distributed among the destitute and floral wreaths will be placed at his grave in Azimpur graveyard.

## Obaidul Huq's death anniv today

CITY DESK

Today is the 12th death anniversary of Obaidul Huq, a prominent journalist, says a press release.



He died at his Banani residence in 2007, aged 96.

Obaidul was editor of The Bangladesh Observer for 12 years since 1972. He obtained his master's degree in philosophy from Dhaka University and completed LLB from Calcutta University.

He made feature film "Dukkhhe Jader Jibon Gora" in 1946.

He was chairman of Press Institute of Bangladesh and Dainik Bangla.

Obaidul received "Ekushey Padak" in 1983 and Bangla Academy Award in 1964. He also got Unicef Gold Medal for journalism.

# Trucks ply at daytime defying rules

|| ARUN BIKASH DEY ||



PHOTO: RAJIB RAHMAN

## PORT CITY CHRONICLES

Traffic chaos has become a common phenomenon in the port city due to haphazard movement of vehicles on streets, gridlocks at intersections and negligence in duty by officials concerned, according to commuters.

To restore discipline, Traffic Department of Chattogram Metropolitan Police (CMP) on January 18 imposed a restriction on movement of heavy vehicles, especially trucks, on certain roads from 8am to 8pm.

However, these vehicles continue to flout rules and ply the roads during daytime, causing huge tailbacks at different points.

While visiting Kalamiah Bazar area last week, a long tailback was seen from Karnaphuli Shah Amanat Bridge to Bahaddarhat in the afternoon. Two trucks, one from Bahaddarhat and another from opposite direction, blocked the road while trying to pass each other.

"I've been stuck here for over 30 minutes," said Jamil Ahmed, a resident of Rahattar Pool area. "I was supposed to be home by now, but don't know when the gridlock will clear," said Jamil while waiting on an auto-rickshaw.

"These trucks were not supposed to ply the road during daytime... but apparently they [drivers] don't care about rules," he said.

Trucks and other heavy vehicles were also seen on major roads in Oxygen Intersection, Majhirhat, Ice Factory Road and Kotwali Intersection areas.

While going to Chawkbazar

area, this correspondent got stuck in traffic at the intersection on a Tuesday morning as couple of heavy vehicles were unloading goods beside the road.

Stuck in traffic, Lipi Rahman, a schoolteacher, said, "If there is a law in effect, how are they [trucks] defying it such unabashedly?"

This correspondent also spoke with several drivers. Wishing anonymity, they said most of the times they are forced to deliver goods during daytime as per clients' demand.

Contacted, Abdus Sabur, general secretary of Chattogram District Truck and Covered Van Workers' Union, said trucks and long

Flouting ban, a truck loaded with scrap metal plies the CDA Avenue in port city's Nasirabad area in the afternoon. The photo was taken recently.

vehicles had stopped plying the roads at daytime since the ban.

When mentioned that trucks can be seen on roads regularly, he said, "They probably do so by managing traffic officials. If the officials remain strict in implementing the law, movement of trucks and long vehicles [at daytime] will stop right away."

Denying the allegation, Harun-ur-Rashid Hazari, deputy commissioner (traffic) of CMP, told The Daily Star that Chattogram is the port city and hundreds of vehicles ply the roads every day.

"We try our best to restrict trucks

SEE PAGE 5 COL 6

## Youth held on rape charges in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'GANJ

Police yesterday arrested a youth from Chashara area in Narayanganj on charges of raping a seven-year-old girl and recording the incident. The accused was identified as Kabir Hossain, 25.

Hailing from Uttar Rampura of Chandpur, Kabir used to work in a bread factory owned by the girl's father. He used to live in a rented house next to her residence, said OC Aslam Hossain of Fatullah Police Station.

One day, Kabir took the girl to his place, forced himself onto her and videoed the incident. He raped her multiple times, threatening to release the video on the internet.

On October 10, she became sick and eventually told her family members about it, said the OC.

Kabir tried to flee the area but family members and locals caught him at Chashara and handed him over to police.

The family filed a rape case, the OC said. Police also seized Kabir's mobile phone, which contained the video.

In primary interrogation, Kabir confessed to the incident, OC Hossain said. The girl was taken to Narayanganj General Hospital for medical tests, he added.

**EUROPEAN UNION**  
DELEGATION TO BANGLADESH

**VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Delegation of the European Union to Bangladesh is looking for a suitable candidate for the function of **"Project Officer"**.

The full job description, job requirements and application guidelines (how to apply) can be found on our website: <http://bit.ly/2AUhIHA>

The deadline for receiving applications is **Wednesday, 30 October 2019 at 16:00 hours.**

**Please note that only electronic applications received within the deadline will be accepted. Paper and late applications will be disregarded.**

**Only short listed candidates will be contacted.**

**Any form of persuasion, telephone call, or other form of contact during the selection process will automatically disqualify the applicant.**

**TENDER FOR "YEARLY CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF CAFETERIA, HOSPITAL and GUEST HOUSE FOOD MATERIALS FOR DHAKA AND MATLAB CENTRE**

**Tender Ref. No. icddr,b/SCM/OTM/2019/43** **Date: October 13, 2019**

Sealed Tenders are invited subject to the general terms & conditions of the RFP from reputed firms having at least 3 (three) years experience with large organizations similar as UN agencies, diplomatic missions, Hospitals and international organizations of providing high quality services for supply of food materials from the following groups.

Sl. #	Name of Group	Schedule of Pre-bid meeting	Selling Price (Tk.)
1.	<b>Yearly Contract for Supply of Cafeteria &amp; Hospital Food Materials for Dhaka Centre</b>	20th October 2019 at 02:30PM	4000.00
2.	<b>Yearly Contract for Supply of Cafeteria, Hospital &amp; Guest House Food Materials at Matlab HRC, icddr,b</b>		3000.00


Cashier's Teller located on the Level 4 of Hospital Building icddr,b will sell tender document from **October 13, 2019 to October 31, 2019 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm** on all working days. Interested Tenderers have to pay cash as mentioned above (non-refundable) for each tender document showing their business card.

Tender should be dropped in the box kept in **Supply Chain Management Office**, Ground Floor of Chiller Building, Mohakhali, Dhaka by **2:45 pm up to November 03, 2019**. Tender opening will be at 3:00 pm on same day (in presence of icddr,b tender evaluation committee members only). If it is not possible to receive & open the tender on the scheduled date for any unavoidable circumstances, the same will be received and opened on the following working day at same time and same place.

Pre-bid meeting will be held as per above schedule at **SCM Conference Room**, Level-2, Chiller Building, icddr,b, Dhaka. Interested tenderers are requested to participate in the meeting on time. The tenderer must bring **NID Card/Company Photo ID Card** with him/her to attend the Pre-bid Meeting and for collection of Tender Document.

Schedule for **Group-2** of above list will be available both from Dhaka Cashier's Teller and the centre's Office at Matlab Health & Research Centre, Chandpur.

The icddr,b Management reserves the right to accept or reject part/whole of any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever. This tender notice will also form a part of the contract and will be binding upon the tenderer.

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Senior Manager, Procurement  
icddr,b, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212  
Tel: 9827001-10, Ext. # 4401 & 4422  
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**CAREER OPPORTUNITY**

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The company is looking for a committed and performance driven Chief Financial Officer (CFO).

**Job Description:**  
The incumbent will be overall responsible to look after company's accounting & financial activities as an In-charge/Head of Finance & Accounts department, will supervise the branch cost & premium collection, monitor Company's budget, VAT & Stamp, Tax, banking & other financial activities in order to achieve company's goal. He will have capacity to prepare all kinds of Accounts and finalize audit work.

**Job Qualification & Experience:**  
The candidate must possess **MBA/M.Com.** (major in Finance or Accounts), or related professional degree with minimum 15 years experience, out of 8 years practical experience as Head in Finance & Accounts department in any non-life Insurance company.

The candidate should have ability to work under pressure, strong decision making & analytical capabilities in personnel & higher level of management skill along with excellent oral & written communication. Knowledge in computer based accounting system is essential.

**Age Limit:** Maximum 50 years

**Job Package:**  
Attractive compensation package for the deserving candidates including contributory Provident Fund, Bonuses, Gratuity and Group Insurance facilities may be offered for the position based on experience & qualifications.

**Contact:**  
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**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
আধুনিক প্রযুক্তির মাধ্যমে কৃষক পর্যায়ে উন্নতমানের  
ধান, গম ও পাট বীজ উৎপাদন, সংরক্ষণ ও বিতরণ প্রকল্প  
কৃষি সম্প্রসারণ অধিদপ্তর  
মধ্য বিল্ডিং (৬ষ্ঠ তলা), খামারবাড়ি, ঢাকা-১২১৫  
স্মারক নং-১২.০১.০০০০.০১৮.৪৪.০০০.১৯-৮৬  
তারিখঃ ১৩.১০.২০১৯খ্রিঃ

**উন্মুক্ত পুনঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

১.	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	কৃষি মন্ত্রণালয়।
২.	এজেন্সী	কৃষি সম্প্রসারণ অধিদপ্তর।
৩.	সংগ্রাহক সভা	প্রকল্প পরিচালক, আধুনিক প্রযুক্তির মাধ্যমে কৃষক পর্যায়ে উন্নতমানের ধান, গম ও পাট বীজ উৎপাদন, সংরক্ষণ ও বিতরণ প্রকল্প, কৃষি সম্প্রসারণ অধিদপ্তর।
৪.	যে কাজের জন্য দরপত্র	ভাড়ায় ৩টি Sport Utility Vehicle (SUV) সরবরাহের জন্য বীকৃত প্রতিষ্ঠান/কোম্পানি বাছাইকরণ।
৫.	সমগ্র পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি।
৬.	বাজেট ও তহবিল সূত্র	উন্নয়ন বাজেট, বাংলাদেশ সরকার।
৭.	টেন্ডার ভকুয়েট সর্বশেষ তারিখ	২০.১০.২০১৯খ্রিঃ (রবিবার) বিকাল ৫.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
৮.	দরপত্র দাখিলের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২১.১০.২০১৯খ্রিঃ (সোমবার) দুপুর ১.৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
৯.	দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান	প্রকল্প পরিচালকের কার্যালয়, আধুনিক প্রযুক্তির মাধ্যমে কৃষক পর্যায়ে উন্নতমানের ধান, গম ও পাট বীজ উৎপাদন, সংরক্ষণ ও বিতরণ প্রকল্প, কৃষি সম্প্রসারণ অধিদপ্তর, মধ্য বিল্ডিং, ৬ষ্ঠ তলা, কক্ষ নং-৬৩০, খামারবাড়ি, ঢাকা-১২১৫।
১০.	দরপত্র উন্মুক্তকরণের তারিখ ও সময়	২১.১০.২০১৯খ্রিঃ (সোমবার) দুপুর ২.৩০ ঘটিকা।
১১.	দরপত্র উন্মুক্তকরণের স্থান	প্রকল্প পরিচালকের কার্যালয়, আধুনিক প্রযুক্তির মাধ্যমে কৃষক পর্যায়ে উন্নতমানের ধান, গম ও পাট বীজ উৎপাদন, সংরক্ষণ ও বিতরণ প্রকল্প, কৃষি সম্প্রসারণ অধিদপ্তর, মধ্য বিল্ডিং, ৬ষ্ঠ তলা, কক্ষ নং-৬৩০, খামারবাড়ি, ঢাকা-১২১৫।
১২.	দরপত্রের মেয়াদকাল	৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা।
১৩.	দরপত্র বিক্রয়কারী দপ্তর	প্রকল্প পরিচালকের কার্যালয়, আধুনিক প্রযুক্তির মাধ্যমে কৃষক পর্যায়ে উন্নতমানের ধান, গম ও পাট বীজ উৎপাদন, সংরক্ষণ ও বিতরণ প্রকল্প, কৃষি সম্প্রসারণ অধিদপ্তর, মধ্য বিল্ডিং, ৬ষ্ঠ তলা, কক্ষ নং-৬৩০, খামারবাড়ি, ঢাকা-১২১৫।
১৪.	দরপত্রের মূল্য	৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা।
১৫.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম, পদবী ও ঠিকানা	মোঃ মোয়াজ্জেম হোসেন, প্রকল্প পরিচালক, আধুনিক প্রযুক্তির মাধ্যমে কৃষক পর্যায়ে উন্নতমানের ধান, গম ও পাট বীজ উৎপাদন, সংরক্ষণ ও বিতরণ প্রকল্প, কৃষি সম্প্রসারণ অধিদপ্তর, মধ্য বিল্ডিং, ৬ষ্ঠ তলা, কক্ষ নং-৬৩০, খামারবাড়ি, ঢাকা-১২১৫।
১৬.	কাজের সময়কাল	চুক্তি সম্পাদনের দিশ (২০) কার্যদিবসের মধ্যে।
১৭.	টেন্ডার শিকিউরিটি	২৫,০০০/- (পঁচিশ হাজার) টাকা। উক্ত টাকা বাংলাদেশের যেকোন সিভিল ব্যাংক হতে পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট আকারে প্রকল্প পরিচালক, আধুনিক প্রযুক্তির মাধ্যমে কৃষক পর্যায়ে উন্নতমানের ধান, গম ও পাট বীজ উৎপাদন, সংরক্ষণ ও বিতরণ প্রকল্প, কৃষি সম্প্রসারণ অধিদপ্তর, খামারবাড়ি, ঢাকা-১২১৫।
১৮.	দরদাতার যোগ্যতা	সরকারি/আধা-সরকারি/স্বায়তশাসিত/আন্তর্জাতিক সংস্থায় গড়ি ভাড়া গ্রাণ্ডমের ন্যূনতম ০১ (এক) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে এবং সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজের জন্য প্রণীত দরপত্র দাখিলে বর্ণিত শর্তাবলী।
১৯.	সংরক্ষিত ক্ষমতা	এ দরপত্র The Public Procurement Act, 2006 & The Public Procurement Rules, 2008 (সংশোধিত) বিধিমালা অনুযায়ী পরিচালিত হবে এবং কোন কারণ দর্শনে ব্যতিরেকে সমগ্রাহক সভা এ নোটিশ বাতিল বা পরিবর্তন বা যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ/প্রত্যাহান/বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

মোঃ মোয়াজ্জেম হোসেন  
প্রকল্প পরিচালক

জিডি-১৬৭১

## Press Workers Union gets new exec council



Alamgir Hossain Kamal Uddin  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Federal Union of Newspaper Press Workers yesterday elected its new committee for the years 2019-2021, with Alamgir Hossain Khan of daily Ittefaq as president and Kamal Uddin of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangtha as secretary general.

All 11 members of the union's executive council including president and secretary general were elected uncontested at Bhorer Shomoy office in Dhaka in the presence of two labour department officials, said a press release.

Other members of the executive council are, senior vice president Shamim Chowdhury (The Daily Star); vice presidents Porimol Das (Dinkal), Ataur Rahman (New Nation) and Maqsubul Ahsan (BSS); joint secretary general Monirul Islam Bhuiyan (The Daily Star); organising secretary Saleh Md Ibrahim (Naya Diganta); office and publication secretary Rafiqul Islam (Ittefaq); publicity, sports and cultural secretary Mominul Haque Chowdhury (BSS), and treasurer Tajammel Haque (Ittefaq).

The union also elected 15 executive members, of whom Md Minhaj Uddin and Md Yusuf Ali are from The Daily Star.

## 3,500-yr-old

FROM PAGE 14  
coffins, Hawass said at a press conference in Luxor, according to the statement.

Hawass' team also uncovered a royal tomb that contained tools used in tomb construction.

A mission launched by Napoleon Bonaparte in the early 19th century discovered a few items at this site, which otherwise remained untapped until a new excavation in 2011. That mission was halted, and Hawass returned to the site in 2017.

Work is currently underway in the Western Valley to find the tombs of Queen Nefertiti and the wife of boy-king Tutankhamun, Hawass added.

In April, archaeologists unveiled an expansive tomb on Luxor's west bank that also dates to the 18th dynasty, believed to have belonged to a nobleman named Shedsu Djehuty.

The west bank of the Nile in Luxor also is home to the Valley of the Kings, a major site where pharaohs and nobles of the New Kingdom were buried.

## Two killed

FROM PAGE 14  
Police claimed to have recovered 5,000 yaba pills and two firearms from the spot.

Three policemen -- Sub-inspector Mohammad Babul, Assistant Sub-inspector Mohammad Ohid and Constable Mohammad Malekul -- also sustained injuries. They received treatment at Teknaf Upazila Health Complex, said the OC.

Two cases were filed in connection with the "gunfight".

A total of 171 people were killed in such anti-drug drives in last 17 months, said police sources. Of them, 45 were Rohingyas, they added.



In this handout photograph taken and released yesterday by the India's Press Information Bureau (PIB) , India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi (R) along with China's President Xi Jinping look on during their summit in Mahabalipuram in Tamil Nadu state.

PHOTO: AFP

## Modi hails new Indo-Sino ties

FROM PAGE 14  
Indian administrative territory.

India has moved closer to the United States and its allies in seeking a counter-weight to China's growing military shadow in the Asia-Pacific region.

It has been infuriated by China's backing for Pakistan, which controls a large chunk of Muslim-majority Kashmir.

The Himalayan region has been a long-standing source of conflict between India and Pakistan. China's proposal for major infrastructure building in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir as part of its Belt and Road programme has faced strong Indian opposition.

China is in turn sensitive to India letting the Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama keep his base in northern India.

But most of the disagreements were pushed to one side so they did not become a summit dispute.

Kashmir was not raised in the two days of talks, Indian Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale said.

They did however agree to step up their efforts so "that the international community strengthens the framework against training, financing and supporting terrorist groups throughout the world," said the Indian statement.

Modern rivalry between the world's two most populous countries dates

back decades.

They went to war in 1962 over disputed Himalayan territory and other border standoffs remain. In 2017, the Indian and Chinese armies faced each other down for more than two months on a high altitude border plateau claimed by China and India's tiny Himalayan ally Bhutan.

Modi and Xi "reiterated their understanding that efforts will continue to be made to ensure peace and tranquility in the border areas, and that both sides will continue to work on additional confidence building measures," said the Indian statement.

On commerce, India and China are both facing a protectionist US

and want greater access to each other's markets. India in particular is concerned by China's \$57 billion surplus in their joint trade.

India's summit statement said high level talks would start on ways to "better balance" trade between the countries. Modi and Xi also agreed to "encourage" more cross-border investment.

No mention was made however of China's campaign for New Delhi to give Chinese telecoms giant Huawei a key part of India's transformation to 5G communications.

The United States has been lobbying strongly against letting Huawei spread its influence because of its alleged close links to the Beijing government.

## Mizan denies identity but it doesn't work

FROM PAGE 14  
information during the drive, which lasted over an hour.

However, when Rab found an unlicensed firearm and four rounds of bullets and Tk 2 lakhs among his possessions, he became nervous and subsequently, admitted his identity, he added.

The AL leader and councillor of ward-32 of Dhaka North City Corporation was then arrested on Friday morning at his friend's house in Sreemangal.

Sarwoer also said Rab conducted a drive at Mizan's Mohammadpur residence on Wednesday night to nab him.

They used cell phone tracking to find him. After entering his house, however, Rab found out from his family members that he left the house the day before but

left his cell phones there.

After his arrest, Rab recovered Tk 1 crore in fixed deposit receipts and Tk 6.77 crore in cheques from Mizan's Mohammadpur flat, hours after he was arrested in Sreemangal.

Mizan had gone to Sreemangal as he was trying to flee the country through Sylhet after sensing that law enforcers would be coming after him, Sarwoer said.

Yesterday, two cases were filed against Mizan -- one with Mohammadpur police on charge of money laundering and the other with Sreemangal police station for the possession of illegal firearms, Sarwoer told this paper.

GG Biswas, officer-in-charge of Mohammadpur police station said Rab filed the case that Rab had filed against Mizan over money laundering

with the station was handed over to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID).

Meanwhile, the court of Metropolitan Magistrate Nivana Khair Jessi placed him on a seven-day remand in connection with the money laundering case after CID Inspector Gasuddin produced him before court seeking a 10-day remand, court sources said.

Sarwoer said Mizan had several allegations against him, including for running an illegal drug business at Mohammadpur's Geneva camp, extortion, patronising mugging gangs in Mohammadpur and Dhanmondi areas, and land grabbing.

During primary interrogation, Mizan could not give answers regarding how he amassed his wealth, said Sarwoer.

## Govt signed deals to 'cling on to power'

FROM PAGE 14  
Mosharraf Hossain.

He said the government signed the deals due to its "subservient foreign policy and the policy of appeasing India".

"The main motive behind such deals is to cling to power by force... this regime has sacrificed our interest only to stay in power," Mosharraf said.

The rally was organised as part of the BNP's two-day programme protesting the murder of Abrar and demanding cancellation of "anti-

state" deals with India.

Though the BNP was denied permission by the Dhaka Metropolitan Police, several thousand party leaders and activists joined the rally.

Mosharraf said as the citizens of the country, they have the right to register their protest against the "anti-nation" deals.

He said signing of the agreements was a move to "establish imperialism in Bangladesh".

He said Abrar was killed by Chhatra League men as he stood in

favour of the country and its people and sovereignty through a status on Facebook. "You not only killed Abrar, but also buried the interests of the country's people."

BNP standing committee member Moudud Ahmed alleged that the current government plunged into corruption, and it would not be able to get out of it. "I think the fall of the current government is now just a matter of time. People can't tolerate such a regime for a long time."

Protesting the murder of Abrar, he

said Chhatra League has set up torture cells at halls and hostels in all the educational institutions across the country.

Referring to the PM's comment that she didn't sacrifice the country's interests, the former law minister said, "People are not fools, and they know you have sold out the country's sovereignty. But you could not bring anything for the country's people in return. This failure will remain as a stigma of the current government in history."

## Trucks ply

FROM PAGE 4

and long vehicles... But I have no hesitation in admitting that it's not possible to achieve cent percent success in this regard," he said. "We continue to file cases and fine those who violate the restriction," he added.

When asked about taking strict measures, he said even though they are faced with a lingering manpower crisis, they are trying to address the issue accordingly. "We are also organising programmes to raise awareness among drivers," the deputy commissioner added.

According to the Traffic Department of CMP, the roads off-limits to trucks at daytime are: Baluchhara-BRTA-Oxygen Intersection; from Oxygen Intersection to Sholashahar Gate-2; from Kaptai Rastar Matha to Bahaddarhat Intersection; from Utmarching to Station Road; from Kadamtali to Utmarching; from Kamaphuli Shah Amanat Bridge to Bakalia; from Kamaphuli Shah Amanat Bridge to Kotwali Intersection; from Majhirghat to New Market Intersection, and from Newaz Hotel Mor to Government City College Road.

Goods-laden trucks, covered vans, long vehicles, prime movers and other heavy vehicles fall under this restriction, as per a CMP press release.

However, vehicles on emergency export duties and those carrying emergency food supply could ply the roads with special permission and stickers issued by Chattogram Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association, the press release adds.

Earlier in 2007, a similar restriction was imposed on heavy vehicular movement from 8am to 10pm, which failed to bring any result.

## Samrat

FROM PAGE 14

moved to NICVD's coronary care unit. He remained under observation for more than 48 hours and underwent some medical tests there, the jailor said.

Earlier, Prof Afzalur Rahman, director of NICVD, also the head of a seven-member medical board to assess Samrat's health, informed his condition was stable.

On October 06, Rab arrested Samrat, the former president of Dhaka South Jubo League, and his close aide Enamul Haque Arman, former vice-president of the same unit, from Cumilla.

A Rab mobile court, led by Executive Magistrate Sarwoer Alam, sentenced Samrat to six months' imprisonment for possessing wild animal hides and another six months for possessing illegal liquor.

Rab filed two cases against him with Ramna police station under the arms and narcotics control acts the next day.

The law enforcement officials also recovered from his possessions an illegal 7.65mm pistol, five bullets, 1,160 yaba pills, and tools that could be used for torture.

He came under the spotlight after Rab busted his illegal casino business at different sporting clubs in Dhaka. He was expelled from Jubo League because of his arrest.

## California bans private prisons and immigrant detention centers

AFP, Los Angeles

California on Friday banned private prisons and immigrant detention centers under a bill signed by the liberal state's governor.

The measure stipulates that beginning next year, the state's Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation is prohibited from entering into or renewing a contract with a private, for-profit prison to incarcerate people.

## Checking eyes from miles away

FROM PAGE 14

In no time, the nurse handed her some free medicines and Samira was out the door with a printed prescription that had an electronic signature of the doctor.

The service was made available three months back when a room at the upazila health complex was equipped to function as a community vision centre, one of 50 units already set up under the National Eye Care plan of the health and family welfare ministry.

The plan was developed and signed by the health ministry in 2005 to meet the nation's obligation as a signatory of a global campaign to eliminate avoidable blindness by 2020.

The community vision centre programme is, however, very recent; it was included in the plan only a year and half ago, said Golam Mostafa, director at National Institute of Ophthalmology and Hospital (NIOH), which is implementing it.

It was undertaken to take services to the doorsteps of people like Samira by building an eye-

care network with 200 community vision centres on the periphery. They will be connected to base centres at tertiary public hospitals or district sadar hospitals, where doctors will prescribe treatment.

Until now, RMCH saw 15 centres in as many upazilas connected to it and in operation.

Another 15 such set-ups are functioning under Rangpur Medical College Hospital as the base centre and 20 under Sheikh Fazilatunnessa Mujib Eye Hospital and Training Institute in Gopalganj.

The eye care network is a replication of Aravind Eye Hospitals, a hospital chain having major contribution to eradicating cataract-related blindness in India.

Aravind Eye Care System is providing technological support and training under a memorandum of understanding signed with the government, said M Zahirul Islam, director research and training at the NIOH.

At every vision centre, two senior staff nurses have been posted from the respective upazila health

complexes upon completing four-months of training. They are trained to give spectacles and to measure some parameters. If they come across complicated cases, they have to refer them to the base centres.

The patients referred will be given a card with a code, doctor's name and the location where s/he has to go.

Many people have already begun making use of the services. In Puthia, about 1,000 patients and in Gopalganj, nearly 1,300 patients received treatment between July 1 and September 17.

And 120 people were referred to Sheikh Fazilatunnessa Mujib Eye Hospital during the same time.

A close monitoring is in place, said Zahirul, as he was communicating from the NIOH with Amena Begum in Puthia through the social media and checking inputs from different centres on September 17.

"We can see everything from here -- who are prescribed what medicines, for what symptoms, and the status of drug stock."

With all these, vision centres seem to be a reality of a well-thought-out programme but it also faces a few challenges. Uninterrupted internet connection, quick fixing of any instrument and strong opposition from doctors' community are a few among them, added Zahirul.

The latest available data of national blindness and low vision survey 2003 points to the necessity of a decentralised eye-care system to bridge the gap as 80 percent patients suffer from blindness that is treatable, low vision or blurred images were living in rural areas and 90 percent of the doctors who could provide them with treatment lived in cities or towns.

Zahirul said doctors at district level were still scarce, let alone at upazilas.

This is the scenario when technology is probably showing the way as to how best the government can overcome the challenges of manpower, resources and distance to reach people living in the furthest corner of the country.

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## Only banning student politics is not the solution

*Buet ban should be part of a wider institutional reform*

THE ban on the activities of student-led political organisations on Buet campus, announced by the university administration on Friday, should be seen as a first step toward the wider institutional reforms that are needed to make the campus safe for students. The ban, which came in response to demands raised by students protesting at the murder of Abrar Fahad, was not an organic development born of a politico-academic consensus, nor much can be expected of it before the directive is fleshed out to give a more comprehensive guideline. But the novelty of the decision and its far-reaching potential should be acknowledged. Other public universities should take note, and actively try to find a solution of their own.

It's important to note that this ban doesn't include the students' right to freedom of association or to express their political opinion. It targets the particular brand of student politics that has developed in the country in which the student wings of political parties, especially the ruling party, often use their power to terrorise general students. But only a ban on paper will not work without the sincerity of the government and the university administrations which have the responsibility to create a safe, congenial atmosphere for the students. This is what the authorities in Buet, as in other universities, have so far failed to do. For too long they have abdicated their responsibility to ensure that students are protected from the fallout of their dissent and independent thought, and that they don't suffer at the hands of goons masquerading as students. The ruling party is particularly to blame for the deteriorating condition in the universities and for its failure to check abuse of power by the unruly members of its student wing. Without addressing these issues, a ban on partisan student politics will not be effective. Also, it's important that university administrations are rid of political influences and allowed to function properly to ensure the welfare of the students. Public universities have for decades been plagued by the scourge of student politics and too many precious lives have been lost or scarred. The Abrar incident should serve as a lesson that it's time we broke free of this regressive culture and launched initiatives for a wider institutional reform in the universities, whatever it entails.

## Jamuna gobbles up homes in Tangail

*Victims of erosion need help now*

WATER flow of the Jamuna River has been rising steadily and is threatening homes and livelihoods of hundreds in Kalihati and Bhuapur upazilas of Tangail. Over a 48-hour period last week, at least 28 homesteads were lost as the soil eroded in Kalihati. The situation was much worse in Bhuapur, where people lost around 100 homes. The sad part in this whole story is that the affected people have alleged that their complaints to local administration fell on deaf ears. Apparently, the primary reason for this erosion is due to indiscriminate sand lifting from the banks of the river. Despite protestation by the local communities, the authorities did not make a move to stop the activity.

The damage is done. The bigger question here is what will the authorities do now? Hundreds of people, along with their families, are spending days and nights under the open sky subject to the elements. People in Kalihati upazila's Beltia village have been venting their anger at the apparent apathy of the local administration, stating that they have long been demanding a permanent embankment in the area. Again, these demands have not been looked into. The deputy commissioner who recently visited the affected areas have told this paper that the administration is taking steps to construct a permanent embankment in the area during the next dry season. Why couldn't this embankment be constructed last dry season? It is not as if the problem of erosion happened in a day, and had it been in place, perhaps the people of these two upazilas could still have had their homes. It is one thing to promise the sun and the moon after a disaster has occurred. It is quite another to be responsive to people's needs and avert a problem in the first place. We can only hope that whatever decision authorities take now will be implemented expeditiously so that these people can get back to rebuilding their lives.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@thedailystar.net

### The downside of smartphones

In this digital age, smartphones have become a necessity for most people, regardless of their age. The fact that young people are becoming alarmingly dependent on smartphones needs to be taken more seriously.

The manner in which young students across educational institutions in Bangladesh are becoming "hunchbacks" because of their addiction to smartphones and, in turn, social media, has already unveiled its negative effects on society. I cannot help but ponder what the future holds.

With internet connections readily accessible almost everywhere nowadays, students have started to occasionally misuse it. Many of them spend long hours online, killing valuable time which they could have utilised for their studies instead. Several surveys have shown the alarming rise in the use of social media amongst young students.

Another frightening issue is the addiction towards the easily available adult-content amongst the youth. Surveys have also shown that many young students are falling prey to this mind-altering material, which in turn changes their perception on relationships. The negative effects are countless.

It is high time that parents and school authorities collectively look into the matter and regulate the usage of smartphones, before things get out of hand.

Amdadul H Sarker, Comilla University

## INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

# Forewarning can minimise the devastation of river erosion

*Dr Maminul Haque Sarker, Deputy Executive Director, Centre for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS), talks to Naznin Tithi of The Daily Star about how early prediction can help minimise the impacts of river erosion and the importance of developing a national strategy for river erosion.*

We have been witnessing increasing incidents of river erosion this year, which has already devoured vast areas of croplands and homesteads of people across the country. Do you think river erosion has been causing more damage this year compared to previous years? Recently, we came across a lot of news reports in both print and electronic media about river erosion—how it has already affected a large number of people and damaged vast agricultural land and properties of people. But it cannot be said based on these reports that river erosion has particularly increased this year.

When a char or agricultural land erodes, it does not get much attention from the media. But when big structures such as roads, bridges, hospitals, townships are devoured by the rivers, it becomes news. We often do not give much attention to small scale river erosion, but if we look at the erosion and damage done throughout the year, we would find that a lot of the damage remain unaccounted for.

Usually, we take account of the losses and damage at the beginning of each year using dry season satellite images. We publish a prediction report annually which also includes location-wise annual monitoring of erosion and damaged infrastructure. This report is for the use of the national level stakeholders, such as the Planning Commission, BWDB (Bangladesh Water Development Board), LGED (Local Government Engineering Department), Disaster Management Bureau, etc. Analysing the time-series satellite images, we found that the annual river bank erosion along different large rivers, such as the Ganges, Jamuna and Padma, increases with the upsurge of annual peak flood discharge.

Do we currently have any erosion prediction system or early warning mechanism? Also, what about developing a strategy for addressing the causes and consequences of river erosion?

We at the CEGIS have been making yearly predictions for the last 15/16 years with the financial support from different projects of BWDB, WARPO (Water Resources Planning Organisation), UNDP and CEGIS. We are even giving predictions two years in advance since last year. We have seen from experience

that our predictions are 70/80 percent accurate. Brac had worked in some erosion-prone areas based on our predictions and found the predictions to be 90 percent accurate.

Such predictions should be a part of our river management strategy. Because these predictions and early warnings could minimise erosion or reduce the damage to properties. The government can take initiatives for river bank protection and also for the relocation of the local people who are supposed to be affected by river erosion. But it will only be helpful if the government makes a



Dr Maminul Haque Sarker

national strategy for river management and works based on the predictions.

Moreover, river erosion is a natural disaster and the ministry of disaster management should be handling the issue. It is no longer a problem for the developed countries of the world, because they had taken care of the issue long ago. They have managed their rivers in a way that the rivers do not change their course anymore. However, since it is still a major issue in Bangladesh, it needs urgent attention of the authorities concerned.

Could you elaborate on how the river erosion prediction system works? Understanding the morphological behaviour of braided and dynamic rivers is very important. It was found in late 1990s that time-series satellite images are very useful to understand the main rivers of Bangladesh. At the beginning

of this century, CEGIS research team developed a method to predict the river bank erosion of the Jamuna River. CEGIS also developed the prediction method for the Ganges (Godagari, Rajshahi) to Aricha and Padma (Aricha to Chandpur).

An interpretation of satellite images may provide huge information on the location of dry season channels, sandbar and chars (vegetated island). There are different parameters based on which the predictions are made, such as the curvature of meandering river bend, width of the river channel, approach of channel to the riverbank, location of the channel—upstream or downstream, right or left bank, starting and ending point of river bank erosion with respect to the meandering bend, etc. Several hundreds of data are extracted from the time-series satellite images and are analysed statistically.

The extent of river bank erosion largely depends on the characteristics of the bank materials. Before developing the predictive tools, we have to know the properties of bank materials. Erosion also depends on the curvatures, width of channel, terrain slope and shape of upstream sandbar. We relate the extent of erosion with different parameters which provide the rules for erosion prediction.

During the last one and a half decades, the accuracy of our prediction has increased significantly. By this time, we worked in India to develop tools for assessing vulnerability of different structures and river bank erosion along the Kosi River. Water Resources Department (WRD) of Bihar has been successfully using our tools for the last two years.

**River erosion has been affecting thousands of people annually in Bangladesh and many of the landless people have no other option but to migrate to the cities in search of a livelihood. Do you think the government's rehabilitation programmes are sustainable?**

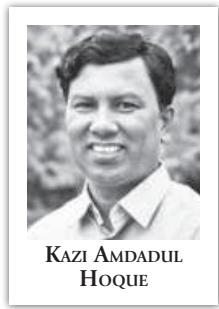
We have a database of how many people have been affected and how much land and resources have been lost to river erosion every year. But sadly, we could not take advantage of this data for lack of a proper plan. Our estimates suggest that currently river erosion affects some

55,000 people annually. Although thousands of people fall victim to river erosion every year, the affected people have little access to institutional support, and the government's measures are restricted to mostly relief distribution to the victims. It would be more effective if the vulnerable people could be taken under the government's Safety Net Programmes. It is important that the government agencies as well as the non-government organisations plan their relief efforts as well as the rehabilitation programmes based on the predictions.

There are NGOs which have been doing a lot of work at the community level. They are building schools and healthcare facilities for the flood and erosion affected people. But often, such facilities are built in erosion-prone areas, meaning that these structures are often washed away by the rivers within a short time. In one instance, we predicted that a certain part of an area was at risk of erosion. But an NGO built a school in that area without taking into consideration the predictions. After a year or two, the school building was devoured by a river. Such incidents can easily be avoided if the early warnings are taken into consideration.

Moreover, protecting the river bank becomes much easier with an early warning mechanism in place. We can take small-scale river bank protection plans or, in some cases, go for big-budget plans. For example, in order to save the banks of the Jamuna near the Jamuna bridge, the government has undertaken some big-budget plans, because the bridge needs to be saved at all costs. However, we can undertake small-budget programmes every year to protect the river banks in the erosion prone areas. The most important thing for the government to do now would be to formulate a national strategy. The government spends a large amount of money every year to rehabilitate the victims of river erosion across the country. By developing a national level prediction system and proper guidelines for addressing the causes and impacts of river erosion, the process could be made much easier and a lot of money could be saved, and most importantly, the sufferings of thousands of victims of river erosion could be reduced.

# Reducing the impact of disaster



KAZI AMDADUL HOQUE

focuses on one of the seven targets of the "Sendai Seven" campaign: reducing disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services.

The world in 2018 had to face 315 natural disasters with 11,804 deaths, over 68 million people affected and USD 131.7 billion in economic losses. Asia suffered the highest impact and accounted for 45 percent of disaster events, 80 percent of deaths and 76 percent of people affected. Among those disasters, earthquakes were the deadliest (45 percent of deaths), followed by flooding (24 percent) and storms (28 percent).

The "Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2019" revealed that the annual economic loss due to disasters cost the region nearly USD 675 billion, about 2.4 percent of its gross domestic product. According to Armida Alisjahbana, the head of UN-ESCAP (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific), the region's countries cannot achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 if their people are not protected from disasters. Around the transboundary river basins of South and South-East Asia—home to hundreds of millions—poverty, hunger and under-nourishment are coupled with intensifying floods that alternate with prolonged droughts. The fragile environments are converging with critical socioeconomic vulnerabilities with disastrous consequences across the region.

Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world, constantly battling with multiple threats—such as on June 11, when there were lightning, fire, nor'wester, landslide, flash flood, waterlogging, building collapse, boat capsiz, bridge collapse, riverbank erosion and flood.

The "Asia Pacific Disaster Report 2019" (UN-ESCAP) gives a grim picture of how disaster-prone Bangladesh is. Its population are subjected to recurrent annual flooding. Cyclones and associated storm surges and floods have led to almost all of the nearly 520,000 natural disaster-related deaths in the last 40 years,

economic damage notwithstanding. Cyclone Sidr in 2007 cost an estimated USD 1.7 billion in damages and losses. What's more, the country's extreme vulnerability to hydro-meteorological hazards, including storm-induced tidal flooding, is likely to increase due to climate change. According to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (2015), about 13 percent households and 12.64 percent of the population live in disaster-prone areas of the country.

Between 1980 and 2008, Bangladesh experienced 219 natural disasters. The geographical location, land characteristics, multiplicity of rivers, coastal morphology and the monsoon climate render Bangladesh highly vulnerable to natural disasters. Bangladesh suffers from floods, cyclones, storm surges, riverbank erosion, earthquakes, droughts, salinity



PHOTO: GMB AKASH

intrusion, fires and tsunamis. Cyclones in 1970, 1991, 2007, 2009 and 2019 killed 364,000, 136,000, 3,363, 190 and 14 people due to various cyclone induced causes.

However, Bangladesh is also known as one of the most resilient countries. Despite the regular and devastating events, the country manages to attain significant progress in almost all sectors. Now the challenge is mainstreaming the disaster risk reduction into development interventions.

Local governments should consider natural hazards in the respective areas for any rural infrastructure. Each and every village/char should have the bare minimum of a raised plinth with cattle sheds as flood shelters and or cyclone shelters. A monitoring mechanism is needed to ensure that rural housing follows standard guidelines of disaster

management.

Unfortunately, severe inequalities between low-and-high-income countries persist, with the lowest-income countries bearing the greatest relative cost of disasters. Human losses and asset losses relative to gross domestic product tend to be higher in countries with the least capacity to prepare, finance and respond to disasters and climate change. The obligation and opportunities to address inequalities in terms of disaster needs to be incorporated into future diplomatic agendas.

Reducing risks must start with understanding the reality of the people most affected—to take initiative with multi-stakeholder's participation. Disaster risk management, response and climate change adaptation are never stand-alone actions. Many individuals need to be pro-

dialogue and build bridges among countries in the region. One of the most extensive such example is the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna river basin shared by Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and India. A vibrant national civil society platform on disaster reduction with NGOs and private sectors can strengthen advocacy to make governments and the international community be more responsive to the felt need. The solution for risk reduction or climate change adaptation can't be an external prescription or imposition but rather spontaneous local initiative—which can be improvised with global expertise and experiences. The government can also explore and support local solutions beyond big projects like embankments.

The Standing Order on Disaster (SOD) in Bangladesh has defined roles at all administrative levels in the country, with spaces to accommodate local innovation and actions. But many stakeholders remain unaware about this "way-forward". However, two significant gaps in addressing the risk reduction remain big challenges. One, the gap between preparedness and emergency response which can be minimised with the help of forecasts. And the other between disaster response-rehabilitation and resilience. "Transition Funding" can be a unique way forward towards resilience—by enhancing economic ability, ensuring social safety net and access to market through poverty mapping.

Forward momentum in disaster reduction by the GO-NGOs at site, the major challenge here is accessing humanitarian funds immediately. The procedures and protocols to get access at the local level remain an obstacle to optimise the use of resources so that they reach people immediately. When forecasting indicates floods, rescue boats and water-sanitation facilities are the immediate priority within a few hours. If local government holds adequate funds and if local NGOs have access to immediate funding, it can reduce crises significantly. The START Fund in Bangladesh has demonstrated how access to humanitarian funds by local organisations within 48 hours can make a big difference. The government and other UN/International agencies can actively think about this idea and to review how "humanitarian funding complexities" can be reduced.

Kazi Amdadul Hoque, Director-Strategic Planning and Head of Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Management, Friendship, Bangladesh. Email: hoqueka@gmail.com

# Freedom Under Siege The ‘Special’ Room

MOFIZUL J ISLAM

IN the light of recent events, to think that we can freely speak our minds would be a grave mistake.

Abrar, a sophomore at Buet, was beaten to death by some BCL students. His last Facebook post had been a brief commentary on the river distribution crisis developing between Bangladesh and India. As if his grieving family's pain wasn't enough, his brother was allegedly beaten up by the police amidst the chaos. Later, Abrar's brother's Facebook account, where he condemned the police, was reportedly taken down.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN/STAR  
Students near the TSC of Dhaka University reenact the violence on campus as part of their protests at the killing of Buet student Abrar Fahad.

A CCTV footage, which shows how Abrar was taken outside after the beating, has been circulating on Facebook. That is enough proof to persecute the perpetrators. But we have to wait to see what actually happens. Conversations are blooming online, making us wonder how student politics has yet to make significant improvements. Condolences are being shared, words of grief pouring all over, crowding our newsfeed.

truly fulfilled its purpose? Does education only mean memorising information, formulae, regurgitating them, securing top scores, passing with flying colours in the BCS examination? If education did fulfil its purpose, we would not be seeing “students” taking up arms to carry out violent acts, we would not see violent attacks on free thinkers.

Abrar's chapter will go down in history as yet another tragic event. And perhaps we will reach no

solution. Perhaps, the exercise of free speech will keep resulting in fatal consequences. Perhaps, there will be no room for criticism. Perhaps our collective psyche will keep getting wounded and more wounded.

We will go on with our lives, our voices stifled and censored heavily. We will trade our voice for safety and stability. But Abrar will not return to life. Nor will Sagor, Runi, Avijit, and many, many more unfortunate souls.

It is relevant to say that in this day and age, the written word is important. It has become necessary more than ever. It is powerful, enchanting, persuasive. An ecosystem of freedom will fail to thrive without it. And that is why, it is feared by those who feel threatened by it and have things to worry about. They call such freedom “incendiary”, “seditious”, “provocative” or some other negative term.

The written word can get you in jail or even killed. It has killed Jamal Khashoggi, put many on trial. The persecution of Turkey's novelists, publishers, Saudi and Hong Kong based activists and booksellers serve as clear examples.

It is as if the written word can only work its charm when a price has been paid. *Dearly*. And we do not want to welcome a world where that is the trend, where there is a warfare on how we think, what we think, where we are “seditious” just because we have valid concerns.

In this world, the fate of free speech appears bleak. It means we have to keep persevering, maybe shed more blood. But for how long? Life is precious. Nobody wants to lose it.

Is shedding blood easy? Is persevering, too? As our hearts remain suffused with questions, longing for answers, we need to take a moment to salute those who speak up, those who resist, those who do not bow down to injustice and deceit, even when the consequences are deadly.

.....  
The writer is a university student.



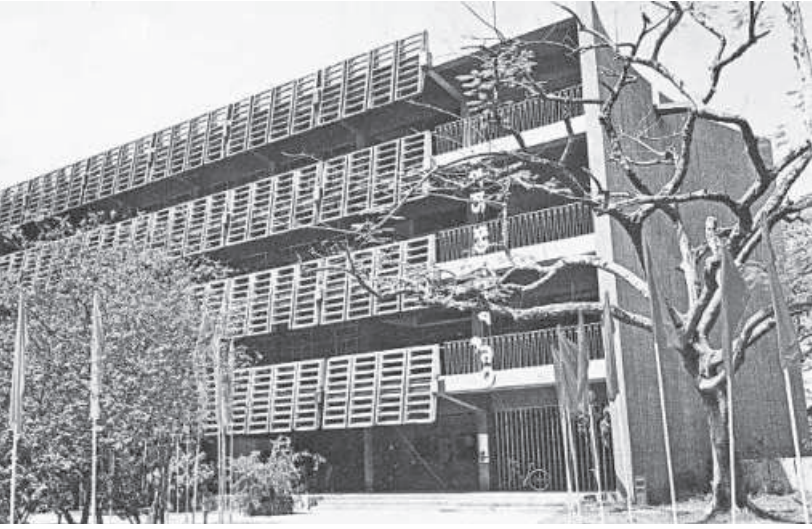
being hit with direct sunlight (remember, the skies were clearer in those days with less pollution) and the furnace underneath. It is also the west most facing room, so, even with the sun eventually tilting to the west, there is the western wall and the glass window to ensure the furnace transforms, at best, to a greenhouse.

But it is a special room, for many a would be engineer comes here for one thing—its steady supply of Fuji Noodles (the predecessor of the now omnipresent Maggi), a water boiling coil and a pan—all one needs for a midnight snack. The chit chat then veers to advice on GRE and TOEFL, for the inhabitant has recently aced both these standardised tests and is waiting to get the daylight out of the never-ending last semester of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) to head off to the US.

The roof of “Boiler”, aka, Nazrul Islam Hall of Buet, is also special. When there is a power outage, the inhabitants of the hall make a bee line for the roof to engage in a battle of illustrious cussing against the equally, if not more, cerebrally adept future doctors of Dr Fazle Rabbi Hall, Dhaka Medical College. Imaginations and the choice of words run wild as the colourful verbal volleyball continues till the collective “ah!”, followed by laughter and applause, as the area gets back its electricity. Engineers, architects and doctors, back to the books.

These are not the only “special” places/rooms in the halls. Rashu's

ROOM 429 is probably the furnace of the boiler. For it is on the topmost floor, thus a few inches of concrete in between the roof above



The Department of Architecture building at Buet.

room at MA Rashid Hall promises live running commentary of cricket, no matter where the match is being played. It is only audio, through crackle, static and noise, received through short wave, analogue radio signals. For some reason, we rarely see Rashu vertical. Perhaps due to his physical build, he is in an eternal horizontal state, eyes closed and dozing off, not without slight snoring. However, he wakes up with clockwork precision immediately upon the fall of every wicket and not only that, gives a thorough analysis of the three prior overs leading to the fall of the wicket with precision and depth that would put every commentator on the radio broadcast fearful of his job security.

The same hall has Ershad Ali's room, known as the “source” (as opposed to us all being “loads”), where the source (of knowledge) would often escape from his own room so that he would not be bothered by the loads looking to be downloaded with explanations of the toughest microwave theories.

Shere-e-Bangla Hall has the special room, the abode of Ruhul, known as the Bhupen Hazarika of Buet. For

the fried brains would always find solace through the unplugged ballads of the cover singer, whom we lose on the last day of our classes before graduation as he sang his last song on “rag day” while lamenting: “I am filled with sorrow as today is the last time I will sing here at my beloved Buet”.

And there is the Venturi, the narrow space between the library and the café where the bohemian few would sit to observe the bulk of the student traffic—class to café, hall to library...you name it. It is called the Venturi for proving the Venturi Effect of increased wind flow due to the narrow wind passage, learned at the hair losing Fluid Mechanics class.

And finally, the Shaheed Minar area, for roasted peanuts and people watching.

So, it's not that Buet didn't have its “special” rooms, nooks and corners. But I suppose, times have changed... ..

Naveed Mahbub is a former engineer at Ford & Qualcomm USA, the former CEO of IBM & Nokia Networks Bangladesh turned comedian (by choice), the host of ATN Bangla's *The Naveed Mahbub Show* and the founder of *Naveed's Comedy Club*.  
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# Kurds - betrayed again



comes as no surprise given the litany of backstabbing the Kurdish people have suffered over the decades.

On October 7, US President Donald Trump tweeted, “I was elected on getting out of these ridiculous endless wars, where our great Military functions as a policing operation to the benefit of people who don't even like the USA.” This came following his phone call with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on the night of October 6.

Turkey and the Kurds have a long history of animosity. The Kurds, finding themselves in a no-man's-land between four nations: Turkey, Syria, Iraq and Iran, have over the decades made multiple attempts to find for themselves a home, often fighting against the Turks. Therefore, America forging an alliance with the Kurds to fight off IS, has been a bone of contention between the two countries. But why did the US form an alliance with the enemy of its ally?

Not that the country did not explore alternatives. The US first looked into local Syrian options, including moderate rebel groups, and according to *Foreign Policy* invested USD 500 million in a train-and-equip programme which yielded limited results: only a small group fighting near the American al-Tanf base in southeastern Syria.

Then America turned to Turkey to find alternative fighting groups. The result again was fruitless, because the forces trained by Turkey was inadequate and would require more expansive and proactive involvement of US military.

This led to the US joining hands with the Kurds who formed the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), with the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) militia to fight the war against the IS. In over four years of fighting, according to CNN, SDF lost nearly 11,000 of its fighters, but freed millions of civilians and hundreds and thousands of square miles of landmass from IS control. And the result: the defeat of one of the most notorious terrorist forces in the world. Whether this defeat is ultimate or temporary is another matter.

Soon after, cracks between the US and Turkey started to become deeper, especially with Turkey regarding YPG as an extension of the designated terrorist group the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). Over the last few months, Turkey has raised concerns about the security of its southern border with Syria, where the Kurds are active and the country has threatened retaliation against them.

All the while, the US has been trying to assuage its NATO partner with plans of joint patrols of the border areas, which

unfortunately was not good enough for Turkey. Erdogan's aggressive rhetoric has only intensified in the last few weeks, culminating in the phone call with Trump and the US troop withdrawal from the region.

In the face of severe bipartisan opposition at home, Trump tweeted, “We may be in the process of leaving Syria, but in no way have we Abandoned the Kurds, who are special people and wonderful fighters.” But his actions suggest otherwise. And although Trump has threatened to punish Turkey if it goes off-limits—“if Turkey does anything that I, in my great and unmatched wisdom, consider to be off limits, I will totally destroy and obliterate the Economy of Turkey (I've done before!)”—he tried to wash his hands of his ally by saying that

As Turkey's operation rolls on, if SDF has to mobilise troops near the border areas to fight the Turks, and flee for their lives, one wonders what would happen to the IS prisoners and their families. There are fears that the distraction caused by the Turkish offensive could easily create conducive circumstances for the IS prisoners to flee, and perhaps to regroup and re-emerge?

With the defeat of the IS still seen as fragile by military experts, one wonders, if it was the right course of action for Turkey, or America for that matter. In a recent tweet Trump said, “The U.S. has done far more than anyone could have ever expected, including the capture of 100 percent of the ISIS Caliphate. It is time now for others in the region, some of great wealth, to protect their own territory.

have been killed since the beginning of the recent Turkish operation along with “dozens of fighters from the Kurdish-led SDF and pro-Turkish factions”. Turkey says it has “neutralised” 399 YPG fighters; the Kurds put the figure at 29. As per UN estimates, the Turkish offensive in northeast Syria endangers the lives of 1.7 million people. Various humanitarian groups have estimated that the attack puts 300,00 people at the risk of displacement.

The Kurds have been used by the US in brewing trouble in Iran, Iran and Turkey, and conveniently been left to their own devices when being nerve gassed by Iraq in the 1980s and slaughtered by Iraqi military in the 1970s. In fact, during the reign of Abdel Karim Kassem, the US had armed the Kurds because the country was having trouble controlling Kassem.



PHOTO: DELIL SOULEIMAN/AFP  
Syrian Kurds protest against a threatened Turkish military invasion next to a US armoured vehicle in Syria's Hasakeh province on October 6, 2019.

the Kurds “didn't help us in the second World War, they didn't help us with Normandy for example”.

But more than the domestic and partisan backlash, Trump or America, along with the rest of the world, have another major concern in the face of the current Turkish offensive: around 12,000 IS fighters (*Al Jazeera*), almost one-third of them foreign nationals who have been held captive in seven prisons by SDF near the city of Raqqa. And the thousands of family members and relatives of the IS fighters kept in different camps in the areas that fall within the “safe zone” that Turkey wants to create to accommodate some of the displaced Syrian refugees.

THE USA IS GREAT!”

But if SDF is not able to endure the attack of Turkey—reports of plumes of smoke rising into the air and people fleeing in panic, fear of displacement in the region are frequent, especially in towns of Ras al-Ayn and Tal Abyad near the Turkish border are already making the rounds of international headlines—who will prevent the IS fighters and their families from slipping out?

The French President Emmanuel Macron is perhaps right in fearing that Turkey's attacks run “the risk of helping Daesh [Islamic State] rebuild a caliphate”.

According to BBC, at least 11 civilians

And with the fall of Kassem in the 1963 coup, according to *The Intercept*, America backtracked on its policy towards the Kurds, cut off the aid and supplied the new government with napalm, which inevitably was used on the Kurds. Given this history of betrayal, one wonders why had the Kurds not considered the possibility of their new-found alliance turning sour again?

In the midst of this chaos, one can only hope the tenuous defeat of IS in the region is not just a brief interlude in another bloody and senseless chapter of our history.

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Tasneem Tayeb is a member of the editorial team at *The Daily Star*. Her Twitter handle is @TayebTasneem

**HERBERT BAYARD SWOPE**  
(1882-1958)  
American journalist

*I can't give you a sure-fire formula for success, but I can give you a formula for failure: try to please everybody all the time.*

**CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH**

**ACROSS**

1 Dance move

5 Seaport setting

10 Radio part

12 Truman's home-town

13 Extreme

14 Bowl

15 Long of "Soul Food"

16 Toe count

18 Jar part

19 Kind of tap

21 Belongs

22 Charcoal kin

24 Pacific island group

25 Buffet quantities

29 Composed

30 "Forget it!"

32 Pendulum path

33 Middle: Abbr.

34 Gardner of film

35 Play place

37 Essential

39 Corroded

40 Lesson leader

41 Winter weather

42 Theater prize

**DOWN**

1 Astounds

2 Dutch export

3 Involve

4 Individually

5 Big family

6 Galley item

7 Reformer Bloomer

8 Marbles, so to speak

9 Catches

11 Machine gun sound

17 Tin or titanium

20 Twangy

21 Swindle

23 Encouraging phrase

25 Doorway

26 Find

27 Crude shed

28 Get for less

29 Lawyer's jobs

31 Bird on a court

33 Minimal change

36 "My word!"

38 Bolt's partner

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**YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS**

S	A	M	O	A		C	I	T	E	D
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L	A	K	E	S		T	O	K	E	N
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C	H	I		D	I	A		I	R	A
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WRITE FOR US. SEND US YOUR OPINION PIECES TO [dsopinion@gmail.com](mailto:dsopinion@gmail.com).



**Bhukshimoil School and College in Moulvibazar's Kulaura upazila. Inset, the floor of the institution building's extended part loosens after only a little effort with bare hands as very low quality materials were allegedly used for the work.**

PHOTO:STAR

BHUKSHIMOIL SCHOOL & COLLEGE IN KULaura

# Locals stop ext work as low quality materials used

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

The extension work of Bhukshimoil School and College building in Kulaura upazila of Moulvibazar has remained stopped amid allegation of using low quality materials. Aggrieved locals stopped the work on October 4 and filed a complaint with signatures of over 100 people to the upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) on Thursday. Copies of the complaint were also sent to the local lawmaker, deputy commissioner, upazila parishad chairman, and Anti-Corruption Commission office in Moulvibazar. "Locals stopped the work as there were

widespread irregularities in the work. Rods with lower than the stipulated quality were used in the building work. Instead of chip stones, small amount of cement and sand mixture was used on the floor," said Azizur Rahman Monir, chairman of Bhukshimoil union parishad (UP). "Former UP chairman and general secretary of upazila Awami League (AL) Rafiqul Islam Renu was involved with the work. We demand a departmental inquiry," he said. Locals also observed a human chain recently protesting the use of substandard materials in the construction work. M/S Juber Ahmed got the work order

worth Tk 1 crore 18 lakh 42 thousand for upward expansion (second and third floors) of the existing academic building of Bhukshimoil School and College and building a toilet block within nine months, said officials at the Department of Education Engineering in Moulvibazar. The work was scheduled to start on November 7 last year but the contractor started it in March this year. Contractor Juber Ahmed said, "The work is currently suspended. Cement and sand mixture has been used due to shortage of stones. We will do the work with stones." Abu Saeed Muhammad Rahi, in-

charge of the Department of Education Engineering in Kulaura, confirmed the irregularities and said, "I have told the contractor to do the work according to the schedule." Contacted, Rafiqul Islam Renu, also governing body president of the institution, said, "After hearing the matter, I called the contractor immediately and told him to modify the work. I will bring a defamation suit against those who accused me without knowing." UNO ATM Farhad Chowdhury said, "I have received the complaint. Legal action will be taken after investigation. No excuse will be acceptable on the quality of work."

## Kotchandpur UZ to see all EVM polls tomorrow

*BNP candidate alleges hindrance by ruling party men*

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Tomorrow's election to Kotchandpur upazila parishad will be held solely with electronic voting machines (EVM). Election office sources said EVMs will be set up in all the 295 booths of 53 centres in the upazila where 1,08,882 voters will exercise their right to franchise. Three persons are contesting for the upazila chairman post – Awami League (AL) nominated Sharifunnessa Miki, BNP nominated Abdur Razzak and independent candidate Khairul Hossain Sathi. AL backed Abdul Karim, Kamal Hauladar, Rezaul Islam Reza, Riaz Hossain and Shariful Islam, BNP candidate Rostom Kabir and independent candidate Nimay Chandra Dey will contest for two vice chairman posts while AL nominated candidate Rubina Khatun, Pinki Khatun and BNP candidate Nasima Islam will contest for the vice chairman post reserved for women. In the last upazila election in Kotchandpur, Jamaat-e-Islami nominated candidates won the upazila chairman and vice chairman

posts including the one reserved for women but this time they are not contesting. BNP backed candidate Abdur Razzak alleged that there is no level playing field in the upazila as the ruling party activists are creating hindrance to campaign and have vandalized BNP's election office. "Former mayor BNP leader Salauddin Bulbul Sidor has been arrested although he is on bail. Ignoring the rule, Awami League lawmaker Shafikul Azam Khan Chandhal is conducting door to door campaign for the party candidates. They are threatening the BNP voters. I have submitted written allegation to the election officer but to no effect," Razzak said. AL backed candidate Sharifunnessa Miki refuted the allegation, saying, "We are not doing any activity which harms the image of the election. The BNP backed candidates are running their campaign without any hindrance." Kotchandpur Upazila Election Officer Mehedi Hasan said, "There is no situation here to create chaos by any candidate, whether they are from Awami League or BNP. We are working to conduct a free and fair election."



PHOTO:STAR

**Prof Mohammad Alauddin, vice-chancellor of Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University in Tangail, inaugurates construction work of a mural of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in front of the university's central library yesterday marking the 20th founding anniversary of the institution.**

## Two cousins die in hornet attack

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Two minor boys were killed in an attack by a swarm of hornets in Parbatipur upazila of the district yesterday. The deceased are Nishad Islam, 5, son of Belal Hossain, and his cousin Arafat Rahman 6, son of Alamgir Hossain, of Roghobindapur village in the upazila. Hamidpur Union Parishad (UP) Chairman Sadekul Islam said the two kids along with their grandmother were going to one of their relatives' house yesterday morning. When they reached Dhulauldal village a swarm of hornets suddenly attacked them around 10:00am. Family members rescued them and took them to adjacent Phulbari Upazila Health Complex, where the doctors referred them to Rangpur Medical College Hospital. But, instead of taking them to Rangpur, their parents brought them back to their respective homes, where both the kids succumbed to their injuries within an hour, the UP chairman said.

## Three kids drown

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Three children, including two siblings, died in separate incidents of drowning in Patuakhali and Jashore yesterday and on Friday, report our correspondents. Two minor brothers drowned in a pond at Bilbilas village in Patuakhali's Baufal upazila around 11:00am yesterday. The deceased, Abdullah, 5, and his young brother Yasin, 3, were sons of Saddam Hossain of the village. Quoting the victims' family members, Officer in Charge of Baufal Police Station Mostafizur Rahman said both the kids went out their house around 9:00am for playing and went missing. After a frantic search, family members and locals rescued their bodies from a pond nearby their house and informed the police, the OC said. Away in Jashore, a two year-old-boy drowned at Rajganj Dighirpar village in Monirampur upazila on Friday. The deceased was identified as Tahsin, son of Mahbub Gazi of the village. Police quoted deceased's family members as saying that the kid accidentally fell into a pond near his house while playing on its bank and drowned. Later, villagers spotted Tahsin's floating body in the pond and rescued it, Officer in Charge of Monirampur Police Station Rafiqul Islam said.

## DISPUTE OVER SETTING NETS Man beaten dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

A fisherman was beaten to death allegedly by one of his neighbours, centring a feud over setting up fishing nets along the Pona river, in Bhandaria upazila on Friday night. The deceased, Rafikul Howlader, 23, was son of Motaleb Howlader of Laxmipura village in the upazila. Quoting locals, Officer in Charge of Bhandaria Police Station Maksudur Rahman said an altercation took place between Rafikul and another fisherman Abdul Mannan over setting up fishing net along the bank of Pona river on Friday evening. At one stage, Mannan beat up Rafikul mercilessly with stick and left the place. Being informed, divers from Barishal Fire Station went to the spot and recovered the body from the river around 10:00pm.



**People crossing the 150-foot-long bamboo bridge on Pochakoralia canal and the 120-foot-long bridge on Ramjir canal, inset, in Taltali upazila of Barguna. PHOTO:STAR**

## Years pass, sufferings remain

*25,000 villagers in Barguna's Amtali upazila using three risky bamboo bridges for long 20 years*

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

When it comes to road communications, a lot has changed in the country over the last 20 years. But more than 25,000 inhabitants, in 16 villages of Barguna's Amtali upazila, still have no other way but use three bamboo bridges built at least 15 years ago over three wide canals. The smallest of the bridges is 100 feet long and the largest one is 150 feet long. The longest one was built 20 years ago by locals on Pochakoralia canal for communications between Pochakoralia union in Taltali upazila and Arpangashia union in Amtali upazila. Jasim Uddin Sikder from Kalarang village under Pochakoralia union said villagers on both sides of the canal built the bridge with their own funds and they have been spending money on its yearly maintenance ever since. Their repeated requests for a concrete bridge on the canal fell on deaf ears, he added. Contacted, Arpangashia Union Parishad

Chairman AKM Nurul Haq said around 15,000 people including students of at least 20 educational institutions, on both sides of the canal, use the bamboo bridge every day. He claimed that on many occasions he requested officials of Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) to construct a permanent bridge on the canal and he had raised the issue at upazila development meetings too. A 120-foot long bridge on Ramjir canal was built nearly 15 years ago by residents of Gurudol, Holdia, Chila and Nachnapara villages in Holdia union under Amtali upazila. Now the bridge is used by around 5,000 people including hundreds of students every day. A concrete bridge should be built on the canal as the bamboo bridge is risky for all, especially for school going children, said Chila village resident Ambia Khatun. Mohammad Mamun, member of Holdia Union Parishad, said, the villagers have been suffering immensely and the authorities

concerned should build a concrete bridge there. The third bamboo bridge, 100 feet in length, was also built by locals on Tepura canal, running through Amtali's Holdia union and Champapur union in Kalapara upazila of Patuakhali. This risky bridge is the only means of communications for 5,000 inhabitants of the two unions. Arif Billah, a tenth grader, said, "It's quite dangerous to cross the bridge during rainy season when it usually gets slippery." For the sake of schoolchildren and villagers' safety, the authorities need to construct a proper bridge on the canal, said Alam Mollik, headteacher of Tepura Government Primary School. When this correspondent reached Nazrul Islam, LGED engineer in Amtali upazila, and asked what his department was doing to address sufferings of the villagers in the upazila, he said although they currently do not have funds for bridges on the three canals, they would take necessary steps in this regard.

WHAT'S ON



**Group Art Exhibition**  
Title: Jolokabbo 2  
Venue: Edge Gallery, Gulshan-2  
Date: September 18 – October 26  
Time: 10am-8pm



**Art Exhibition**  
Title: Feeling the Void by Hamiduzzaman Khan  
Venue: Dwip Gallery  
Date: October 7-November 3  
Time: 3 pm – 9 pm



**Cultural Festival**  
Title: Ganga-Jamuna Cultural Festival  
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
Date: October 11- October 20  
Time: 7 pm



**Exhibition**  
Title: Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
Venue: National Art Plaza, BSA  
Date: September 28 – October 26  
Time: 11am - 8pm



**Album Launch**  
Title: Kichu Kotha Kichu Gaan - Launch of Ghaashphoring Choir's Album  
Date: October 19  
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
Time: 5:30 pm onwards



(L) Dhaka Theatre's 'Ponchanari Akhyan' staged at Experimntal Theatre Hall, BSA. (M) Guests and organisers at the inaugural ceremony. (R) Palakar troupe's 'Ujane Mrityu' staged at Studio Theater Hall, BSA



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

# 8th Ganga-Jamuna Cultural Festival kicks off

ASHLEY SHOPTORSHI SAMADDAR

The 8th Ganga-Jamuna Cultural Festival was inaugurated at the National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA), recently. A hundred and twenty-one organisations from India and Bangladesh are currently entertaining art loves at the fiesta.

State Minister for Cultural Affairs K M Khalid graced the occasion as the chief guest. Actor extraordinaire and former Minister of Cultural Affairs, Asaduzzaman Noor and Meghnath Bhattacharya inaugurated the festival by lighting *Mangal Pradips* (small lamps). Liaquat Ali Lucky, Director General of BSA, Dr Neepta Choudhury, Director, Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, Mannan Hira, President of Bangladesh Path Natok Parishad, and Kamal Bayazid, Secretary General, Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation (BGTf) were also in attendance, among others. The inaugural ceremony was presided over by Ghulam Quddus and was anchored by Ahkam Ullah, General Secretary of Bangladesh Abritti Somonnoy Parishad.

After the inauguration, the guests were



(L)'Hason Janer Raja' staged by Prangonemor troupe at National Theatre Hall, BSA. (R) Spondon's performance at the inaugural ceremony

then honoured with *uttorios* and crests. This was followed by a welcome address by Dr Neepta Choudhury. "I feel this kinds of festivals are very important as they forge a strong bond of friendship between



(L)'Hason Janer Raja' staged by Prangonemor troupe at National Theatre Hall, BSA. (R) Spondon's performance at the inaugural ceremony

Bangladesh and India. I am very glad to be a part of this event," she said.

Asaduzzaman Noor, in his speech said, "I wish we could have such an audience every day while we stage our theatres. I believe,

fest. Their dance routine was choreographed by Anik Basu. Three plays were staged in different theatre halls at BSA after the inaugural ceremony.

Prangonemor's, *Hason Janer Raja* was staged at the National Theatre Hall, BSA. Based on the life of famous Bengali poet, mystic philosopher and songwriter from Sylhet Hason Raja, the drama is written by Sakoor Majid, and directed by Ananta Hira.

Palakar troupe's thirteenth production, *Ujane Mrityu* was staged in the Studio Theater Hall of BSA. Originally written by Syed Waliullah, Shamim Sagor has worked on this adaptation.

Dhaka Theatre's 37th production, *Ponchanari Akhyan* was also staged at the Experimntal Theatre hall of BSA. The play is written by Harun Rashid and has been directed by Shahiduzzaman Selim. Renowned theatre actor Rosy Siddique plays five different roles in the drama -- Jolekha, Antora, Monoroma, Morium and Montaz. All the characters were confined to a boundary created by an enduring patriarchal society.



PHOTO: COURTESY

## Curtain falls on the third season of 'Ispahani Mirzapore Banglabid'

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

After months of an entertaining linguistic journey, the latest season of Channel i's knowledge-based TV reality show, *Ispahani Mirzapore Banglabid*, came to an end on October 11. In order to motivate the young generation to use and practice Bengali language correctly, this program is being organised since 2017.

The grand finale of this competition was held in Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel,

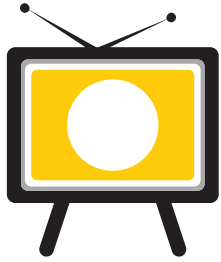
Dhaka.

Over the past months, the linguistic knowledge of the participants was put to test. Poet Anisul Hoque, Professor Dr Soumitra Shekhar and Media Personality Tropa Majumdar were the main judges of Banglabid TV Show. Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman attended the show as a guest judge.

The crown for this year's Banglabid was given to ,Shajedur Rahman Shahed from Bogra, who earned a scholarship of BDT 10 lakh. Ankita Zannat from Mymensingh

became the first runner-up and Ayon Chakrabarti from Borishal won the position of the second runner-up. Both of them received BDT 3lakh and 2 lakh, respectively.

Dr Dipu Moni, MP, Minister of Education, Bangladesh Government was present in the event as the Chief Guest. Mirza Shakir Ispahani, Managing Director of M M Ispahani Limited and Mirza Ahmed Ispahani from M M Ispahani Limited were present at the event as special guests.



### TV WATCH

'Ghore Baire', directed by Nazrul Islam Raju, will be broadcast on Maasranga Television at 8 pm today. The tele-fiction features Apurba, Mamo, Moushumi Hamid and Shahiduzzaman Selim, among others.

PHOTO: COURTESY

## 'Feeling the Void' at Dwip Gallery

### Hamiduzzaman Khan's solo exhibition

Renowned sculptor-painter Hamiduzzaman Khan has experimented with new media and diverse styles throughout his five-decade artistic career. An amiable personality, his artworks reflect his inner feelings, real life experiences, nostalgic memories, serenity of nature and innovative thoughts. They bring together his dynamism in paintings and sculpture alike.



From left: Ivy Zaman, Hamiduzzaman Khan, Nisar Hossain, Hasnat Abdul Hye, Monirul Islam and Mustafa Zaman at the opening ceremony.

PHOTOS: COURTESY

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Dwip Gallery has organised a solo art exhibition titled *Feeling the Void* at its art space in Lalmatia, Dhaka. Eminent writer-critic Hasnat Abdul Hye, artist Monirul Islam and Dean of the Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka, and Professor Nisar Hossain, inaugurated the exhibition on October 11.

Curated by Mustafa Zaman, the exhibition displays sculptures, installations and paintings by the artist. "Abstraction, as an idiom, has always been defined in relation to the artist's ability to vacate the painted space of all contents. Though this artistic conviction never held sway over the

exponent of abstraction in Dhaka. Yet, in the discursive field, it was mostly perceived as a total effacement of visual cues, be that to natural or human environment," says Mustafa Zaman.

"The works of Hamiduzzaman Khan are testimony to how effacement often translates into an unfurling of the metonymic visuals which work as a bridge between the interior landscape and the world outside," he concludes.

Dwip gallery is part of a platform called 180 Degrees, which is working towards providing momentum to the thriving art scene in Bangladesh. The exhibition remains open from 3 pm to 9 pm daily except Monday, till November 3.

# Suicide is not an option

STAR HEALTH REPORT

World Mental Health Day is observed on 10 October every year, with the overall objective of raising awareness of mental health issues around the world and mobilising efforts in support of mental health. The day provides an opportunity for all stakeholders working on mental health issues to talk about their work, and what more needs to be done to make mental health care a reality for people worldwide.

While the World Health Organisation (WHO) has made suicide a priority issue for a number of years, it is important to emphasise that it is a topic that has attracted the interest of most fields of study for centuries, which is why it has been explored by philosophy, religion, medicine, sociology, bioethics, law, and psychology, among other fields.

According to the WHO, more than 800,000 people die by suicide a year, making it the principal cause of death among people 15-29 years old.

It is often believed that it is only adults who exhibit suicidal behaviours, but it should be made known that many children and young people engage in this kind of behaviour as a result of violence, sexual abuse, bullying



and cyberbullying.

Suicide is a global public health problem that deserves the attention of all the actors in the field of mental health, including scientific and professional organisations, organisations for mental health users and their families, and universities.

It deserves particular attention from national health authorities, since it is their responsibility to craft policies and directives aimed

at establishing strategies to prevent suicide and promote the public's mental health.

There are numerous complex factors that contribute to a suicide, but what is most important is that all of our actions must be geared toward prevention.

The object of making suicide prevention the theme of World Mental Health Day in 2019 is to attract the attention of governments so that the issue

might be given priority in public health agendas around the world.

## Prevention and control

Suicides are preventable. There are a number of measures that can be taken at population, sub-population and individual levels to prevent suicide and suicide attempts. These include:

- reducing access to the means of suicide (e.g. pesticides, firearms,

- certain medications)
- reporting by media in a responsible way
- school-based interventions
- introducing alcohol policies to reduce the harmful use of alcohol
- early identification, treatment and care of people with mental and substance use disorders, chronic pain and acute emotional distress
- training of non-specialised health workers in the assessment and management of suicidal behaviour
- follow-up care for people who attempted suicide and provision of community support.

Suicide is a complex issue and therefore suicide prevention efforts require coordination and collaboration among multiple sectors of society, including the health sector and other sectors such as education, labour, agriculture, business, justice, law, defense, politics, and the media. These efforts must be comprehensive and integrated as no single approach alone can make an impact on an issue as complex as suicide.

Source: World Health Organisation

## HEALTH bulletin



### Treating insomnia in depressed patients may also reduce suicidal ideation

A hypnotic added to an antidepressant helped to modestly decrease observer-rated suicidal ideation, especially in patients with severe insomnia.

In a first-ever randomised controlled trial, researchers examined controlled-release (CR) zolpidem or placebo added to open treatment with a selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI) in 103 medication-free patients with major depression, insomnia (delayed onset or prolonged awake periods after sleep onset, plus low sleep efficiency), and suicidal ideation (but no plan or intent). At 8 weeks of the study, ratings of insomnia and suicidal ideation fell in all groups. Zolpidem-CR improved insomnia more than placebo.

Decades ago, Swiss and German psychiatrists popularised *dauerschlaf* (prolonged sleep therapy), now long out of favour, for severe psychoses. Experts comment that this study reminds us that attention to sleep quality might benefit both depression and suicidal ideation. These findings do not support routine hypnotics for depression but do suggest that patients with insomnia and suicidal ideation might well benefit from focused attention to sleep improvement.

## Causes of pain in the tummy

PROF DR ANISUR RAHMAN

Pain in the tummy is frequently experienced by many of us. Beyond the acute, temporary discomfort that we all have experienced, there are several forms of tummy pain that can be a sign of serious health issue and should not be ignored. Tummy pain can range from minor discomfort to excruciating life threatening conditions.

Though it can be pretty tricky to figure out if the tummy pain that you are having, is the type that will resolve on its own or a doctor should be consulted without delay, the following types of tummy pain, however, should not be brushed aside.

**Pain that is not going away:** Any tummy discomfort, however trivial it may be, if it is persistent which lasts even three months or longer, should be consulted with a doctor. This sort of discomfort includes symptoms like ongoing diarrhoea, constipation, pain after eating, feeling full after just a few bites of food and bloating. It is important to see a gastrointestinal (GI) surgeon to rule out anything serious like inflammatory bowel disease, coeliac disease or primary stage of cancer.

**Pain accompanied by vomiting:** Tummy discomfort that comes along with nausea and vomiting can happen for a number of reasons like gall bladder stones, appendicitis, bowel obstruction, GI infection or inflammation. It is important to see a GI surgeon if the abdominal pain comes with nausea, vomiting and fever or if the pain is unfamiliar, getting

worse or is not going away.

**Pain with blood in the stool:** It is important to keep in mind that blood in the stool won't always be red; it can also be black and tar-like, which is often indicative of bleeding from somewhere higher up in the digestive tract, such as the stomach. GI bleeding can come from a number of sources including colitis, diverticulosis, haemorrhoids, bleeding gastric ulcer and GI cancer.

**Pain that is intense and sudden:** Experiencing strong and severe tummy pain indicates something probably is not right. Specific and localised pain that involves a sharp shooting sensation which takes breath away, or cause you to double over or hold the area, and happens in waves, could be from bile duct blockage by gallstones, appendicitis, ulcer or pancreatitis.

Often this will be the type of pain that keeps on worsening, comes suddenly or does not go away. It is important not to delay getting help when sharp pain is involved.

**Pain with unexplained weight loss:** Unexpected or unintentional weight loss with abdominal pain is always concerning and must be evaluated; this could be a sign of a risk for GI cancer, chronic pancreatitis, Crohn's disease or other illnesses.

All being said and done, we know our body better than anyone else. If something wrong is felt with the tummy, whether it is serious or not, it is always best not to delay seeing a GI surgeon.

The writer is a Consultant of General, Laparoscopic and OncoSurgery working at United Hospital Limited, Dhaka. E-mail: anisurgeneral@gmail.com



## EYE PROBLEM



### Why vision impairment is rising globally?

More than 1 billion people worldwide are living with vision impairment because they do not get the care they need for conditions like short and far sightedness, glaucoma and cataract, according to the first world report on vision issued by the World Health Organisation.

The report found that ageing populations, changing lifestyles and limited access to eye care, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, are among the main drivers of the rising numbers of people living with vision impairment.

Globally, at least 2.2 billion people have a vision impairment or blindness, of whom at least 1 billion have a vision impairment that could have been prevented or has yet to be addressed.

Eye conditions that can cause vision impairment and blindness – such as cataract, trachoma and refractive error – are the main focus of national prevention and other eye care strategies. But eye conditions that do not typically impair vision, including dry eye and conjunctivitis, must not be overlooked as they are among the main reasons for people to seek eye health care services in all countries, the report states.

Other main drivers of the most common eye conditions include:

**Myopia (near-sightedness):** Increased time spent indoors and increased "near work" activities are leading to more people suffering from myopia. Increased outdoor time can reduce this risk.

**Diabetic retinopathy:** Increasing numbers of people are living with diabetes, particularly Type 2, which can impact vision if not detected and treated. Routine eye checks and good diabetes control can protect people's vision from this condition.

**Late detection:** Due to weak or poorly integrated eye care services, many people lack access to routine checks that can detect conditions and lead to the delivery of appropriate preventive care or treatment.

### Why men need to open up about mental illness

DR SAYEDUL ASHRAF

From childhood, boys are told to be strong, as if nothing can make them feel sad, as if they cannot cry or feel hurt. Contrary to this belief, strong men are usually the ones who are able to cry.

The stigma and fear related to mental illness has hurt boys more than men over the last decade or so. Depression and suicide are ranked as the leading cause of death among men, but treatment for men has been far less than women which adds to this tragedy. Boys do not seek help and if they do, they come at a terminal stage which makes recovery difficult.

A lot of boys tend to see depression as a sign of personal weakness. They think they will be laughed at by peers, they might not be promoted in their jobs, will be mocked by his spouse and the fear goes on and on.

Men have to understand that mental illness is just like diabetes or any other physical condition. We also need to help anyone whom we see have recent changes in behaviour, thought process and mood. If men are less willing to ask for help, they will continue to experience the symptoms contributing to depression. So, my suggestion for men - help is available, please seek it timely and be your own best friend.

The author is the Lead Consultant Psychiatrist and Managing Director of LifeSpring Limited, a community-based mental health institute. E-mail: kushal@lifespringweb.com



/StarHealthBD

## International Infection Prevention Week

October 13-19, 2019

VACCINES  
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In Search of Excellence

# Focus on finishing

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh captain Jamal Bhuiyan is optimistic that his side can make it hard for India in the World Cup qualifying fixture at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata on Tuesday.

The Bangladesh team, who lost their first game of the qualifying campaign 1-0 against Afghanistan last month before going down 2-0 against Qatar at home on Thursday, reached Kolkata on Friday and wasted little time in starting preparation for the crucial match.

“We will have to be mentally and physically ready for the match against India because India will play at home and they will come hundred percent for a win. But we will also go for the win. It’s going to be a tough match. We have not lost to India in the last two matches -- 1-1 and 2-2 -- but since then India have developed a lot. It’s going to be a big match for my team, but we will go for the win,”

Jamal told local reporters on reaching Kolkata.

Although statistics favours India heavily in matches between the two neighbouring countries, Bangladesh would want to take encouragement from their spirited display against Qatar where Jamie Day’s charges had more shots on target than the reigning Asian champions. However, the Red and Greens could not convert those shots into goals, thanks to some excellent defending from the Qataris as well as some wayward shooting from the Bangladesh forwards.

Hence the focus on yesterday’s two-hour practice session at the Salt Lake Stadium practice ground was mostly on finishing.

“The coach stressed on tactical aspects as well as finishing during today’s practice session. He worked separately with the



The Bangladesh national football team players take part in a practice session at the outer ground of the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata yesterday ahead of their World Cup and Asian Cup qualifying game against India on Tuesday.

PHOTO: BFF

forwards,” team manager Satyajid Das Rupu told reporters after yesterday’s practice session.

“Our finishing was not good against Qatar. We created a number of scoring opportunities, but could not score from those. That’s why the coach gave special attention to finishing,” Rupu added.

While Bangladesh are sitting at the bottom of Group E with zero points from two matches, India have one point, thanks to their valiant goalless draw against Qatar following a 2-1 defeat against Oman. The India players and coach are eager to get their qualification campaign running with a victory over Bangladesh. Home crowd could be a big advantage for India at the 85,000-capacity stadium, but former

Bangladesh captain Mamunul Islam hopes Bangladesh will also enjoy the crowd rather than get overwhelmed by it.

“We know there will be a lot of people at the stadium to watch the match. The crowd will be an encouragement for us too and we will definitely try to capitalise on the chances we might get,” said the midfielder, who was an unused member of ISL franchise Atletico de Kolkata in the 2015 season.

The coach, later in the video analysis session, got the message through to his charges that they should not become complacent by their performance against Qatar, rather they should try to rectify their mistakes in front of goal so that they do not have to leave the field again with regrets.

# Saif unlocks a milestone

SPORTS REPORTER



If anything, Sri Lanka are difficult to beat at home. However, Bangladesh A team opener Saif Hassan took charge and scripted a small piece of history for the visitors’ second-string side as his blazing hundred clinched the three-match one-day series yesterday.

Bangladesh rode on Saif’s 110-ball 117 to win the series against their Sri Lankan counterparts 2-1, beating the hosts by 98 runs in the DLS method in the final game at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo.

Bangladesh fought back in the series with a thrilling one-wicket victory in the second game after losing the opener and went hard at the hosts in the series-deciding game courtesy of Saif and Naim Sheikh, who lay the foundation by stitching together a 120-run opening stand.

“Saif played a brilliant knock while Naim missed a deserving hundred because of an unfortunate dismissal. The boys played good cricket here. It’s always a tough task to beat any Sri Lankan side on their home soil,” chief selector Minhajul Abedin told The Daily Star over phone from Colombo.

“If I am not wrong then it’s the first time any senior team from Bangladesh won a series in Sri Lanka. It will give lot of confidence to our cricketers,” he added.

Saif smote 12 fours and three sixes during his 110-ball innings as Bangladesh posted a mammoth 322 for nine after being sent in to bat.

In reply, Sri Lanka A scored 130 for six in 24.4 overs before bad light stopped play. The fate of the match was decided by the DLS method. Saif took two wickets for 25 runs while Ebadat Hossain also claimed two scalps in exchange for 26 runs.

Kamindo Mendis scored a team-high 65-ball 55 that featured two fours and three sixes.

Earlier, Bangladesh got off to a good start



SAIF HASSAN ... 117

courtesy of openers Saif and Mohammad Naim, who made 66 off 76 balls with the help of five fours and two sixes. The 120-run opening stand was broken when Naim was dismissed for obstructing the field.

“He was unlucky. We saw nothing wrong but we had to accept the umpire’s decision,” Minhajul said regarding Naim’s dismissal.

Captain Mohammad Mithun was the other notable scorer with a 35-ball 32, featuring one four and two sixes. Pacer Shiran Fernando was the most successful bowler for the hosts, taking four for 50 runs.

# India tighten grip on second Test

AFP, Pune



India bowled out South Africa for 275 despite a battling half-century by ailing tailender Keshav Maharaj in the second Test yesterday.

Maharaj, who hit a career-best 72 with an injured shoulder, and Vernon Philander, unbeaten on 44, put on 109 for the ninth wicket to frustrate the Indian bowlers in Pune.

Ravichandran Ashwin broke the stand by taking number 10 Maharaj in the final overs and then claimed last man Kagiso Rabada, for two, to wrap up the innings with figures of 4-69.

India, who scored 601-5 declared, have until the start of play on Sunday to decide whether to enforce the follow-on. South Africa still trail India by 326 runs.

The Proteas, who resumed on 36-3, slipped to 162-8 after skipper Faf du Plessis fell for 64 to Ashwin’s off spin.

Maharaj, who injured his shoulder while fielding on Friday and went off the pitch for scans, came out to join Philander to make a last stand.

Maharaj passed his previous Test best of 45 with a boundary off Ashwin and completed his fifty to an ovation from the crowd.

Philander, a pace-bowling all-rounder, also played a patient innings. He stayed on for 192 balls before running out of partners.

Fast bowler Mohammed Shami struck early to remove nightwatchman Anrich

It’s (shoulder) very sore. Yesterday (Friday) I dived on it so lot of bruising. But hopefully I’ll be fine for the rest of the series. Vernon and I said to ourselves that we’ll just get through to tea and see after that. Being a lower order batsman your fingers do itch to play a big shot but Vernon kept me in a good mind space.

KESHAV MAHARAJ  
SOUTH AFRICA SPINNER

Nortje for three when he edged a delivery to Virat Kohli at fourth slip.

Theunis de Bruyn was caught behind off Yadav for 30 as the tourists slipped to 53 for five.

Wicketkeeper-batsman Quinton de Kock put on a 75-run fourth wicket stand with du Plessis to offer some resistance before Ashwin’s off spin bowled him for 31.

Kohli hit a career-best 254 not out to surpass Don Bradman’s Test tally of 6,996 runs on Friday as India tightened the screws on the tourists.

A victory for India, already one up in the three Tests, will see them beat the record of 10 straight home series wins they share with Australia.



India’s Rohit Sharma may be appearing to tackle a fan, but he simply lost his balance when an overenthusiastic supporter attempted to touch his feet on the third day of the second Test against South Africa in Pune yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

# Kamrul gives Barishal sight of a win

SPORTS REPORTER



Despite no play being possible on the majority of the first two days due to rain and a wet outfield, Barishal managed to take control against Sylhet -- who are trailing by 118 runs with eight wickets in hand in their second innings after being bundled out for just 86 in their first innings.

National discard Kamrul Islam bagged six wickets with his fiery pace bowling yesterday to leave Barishal eyeing a win on the fourth and final day of the National Cricket League game at the Shaheed Kamruzzaman Stadium in Rajshahi.

Sylhet ended the day on 27 for 2 after Barishal took a first-innings lead and declared for 231 for eight, riding on fifties from skipper Fazle Mahmud (70) and Shahriar Nafees (63).

After resuming the third day on 68 for three in their first innings, Sylhet faced the music from



Sumon Khan ... 27-09-50-5



KAMRUL ISLAM ... 16.1-05-24-6

Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna was heading for a draw as the hosts ended the third day on 192 for three in their first innings.

Resuming the day on 169 for five, Rangpur were bowled out for 227 in their first innings. Tanbir Hayder top-scored with 64 and Sohrwardi Shuvo scored fifty. Left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak bagged four wickets.

In reply, Khulna openers Robiul Islam and Imran Uzzaman added 136 for the first wicket. Both openers were dismissed in the seventies, leaving Imrul Kayes on 29 to resume on the final day.

Meanwhile, a 148-run eighth-wicket stand between Zabid Hossain and Shahidul Islam helped Dhaka Metropolis take a first innings lead over Chattogram at the Sher-e-Bangla National in Dhaka.

Both were unbeaten in the eighties after Dhaka resumed on

66 for two and were struggling on 201 for seven. Chattogram’s young leg-spinner Minhajul Abedin Afridi scalped three wickets.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**  
**CHATTOGRAM V DHAKA METRO**  
CHATTOGRAM: First innings 290 (Tasamul 90; Sunny 6-87.)  
**DHAKA METRO:** First innings 349 for 7 (Shahidul 82 not out, Zabid 81 not out; Afridi 3-103)  
**DHAKA V RAJSHAHI**  
**DHAKA:** First innings 240 and 206 for 6 (Taibur 67 not out; Taijul 3-82)  
**RAJSHAHI:** First innings 197 all out (Mushfiquer 75, Jahurul 64; Sumon 5-50)

**RANGPUR V KHULNA**  
RANGPUR: First innings 227 all out (Tanbir 64, Shuvo 50; Razzak 4-81)  
**KHULNA:** First innings 192 for 3 (Robiul 76, Imran 71; Mahmudul 1-9)  
**SYLHET V BARISHAL**  
SYLHET: 86 and 27 for 2 (Imtiaz 14 not out; Tawhidul 1-2)

**BARISHAL:** First innings 231 for 8 decl (Fazle 70, Shahriar 63; Rejaur 3-74)

## HIGHLIGHTS

National discard Kamrul Islam gave Barishal control of their game against Sylhet as the pacer took six wickets for just 24 runs.

Pacer Sumon Khan registered a maiden five-wicket haul to help Dhaka Division take the first innings lead over Rajshahi. The right-arm seamer was instrumental and ended with figures of 5 for 50 from 27 overs.

## Flower, ECB part ways

AFP, London

Former England coach Andy Flower has ended his 12-year stay with the England and Wales Cricket Board.

Flower was appointed England assistant coach to Peter Moores in 2007 and took over as head coach two years later.

The Zimbabwean switched to working with the Lions in 2014 and has opted to step down shortly after Chris Silverwood’s appointment as England’s new head coach.

During his spell as head coach, Flower led England’s Test side to number one in the world, victory at the 2010 World Twenty20 and Ashes success in Australia in 2010-11.

# FIFA president due on Oct 16

SPORTS REPORTER



FIFA president Gianni Infantino will arrive in Dhaka on Wednesday on a two-day ‘goodwill visit’, informed

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) officials yesterday.

The 49-year-old supremo of world football’s governing body will be arriving from Mongolia on Wednesday evening and will leave for Laos on Thursday afternoon, along with his entourage which will include deputy secretary general Matthias Grafstrom, chief of communications Onofre Costa, director of member associations of Asia and Oceania Sanjeevan Balasingam and president’s office manager Federico Ravinglione.

BFF president Kazi Salahuddin said, since this is a ‘goodwill visit’, they will try to highlight the country’s footballing status as there will be no



GIANNI INFANTINO

specific agenda for the tour.

“His visit is very important for us. He will see for himself the activities we are undertaking in football development. However, since this is a goodwill trip, it will not be appropriate for us to make any demands to him. However, if things

come up during our discussion, we will talk about it,” Salahuddin told reporters.

Kazi Nabil Ahmed, vice-president of BFF, informed that the FIFA president will pay a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Thursday morning.

“FIFA president Gianni Infantino will have discussions with BFF executive members where we will share our status regarding FIFA’s vision and goal.

Then on Thursday morning, he will pay a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Prime Minister’s Office on Thursday morning,” Nabil said.

This will be the first visit to Bangladesh by the current FIFA president, who took office in February, 2016. Joao Havelange was the first FIFA president to visit Bangladesh in 1980 while Sepp Blatter came here twice, in 2006 and 2012.

# What to WATCH

STAR SPORTS 1

India v South Africa

Second Test, Day Four

Live from 10:00am

SONY ESPN

2020 Euro Qualifiers

Hungary v Azerbaijan

Live from 10:00pm

International Friendly

Slovakia v Paraguay

Live from 12:45am (Monday)

TEN 1

2020 Euro Qualifiers

Wales v Croatia

Live from 12:45am (Monday)

TEN 2

2020 Euro Qualifiers

Belarus v Netherlands

Live from 10:00pm

Estonia v Germany

Live from 12:45am (Monday)

DAY'S EVENT

National Cricket League

Four-Day Match, Day Four

Time: 9:30am

Rajshahi v Dhaka

Venue: KSOAS

Rangpur v Khulna

Venue: SANS

Barisal v Sylhet

Venue: SKS

Dhaka Metro v Chattogram

Venue: SBNCS

# Three Lions tamed

## Ronaldo inches closer to Ali Daei

AFP, Paris

England missed an opportunity to qualify for Euro 2020 on Friday as they slid to a 2-1 loss in the Czech Republic, while Cristiano Ronaldo scored his 699th goal in a routine Portugal win over Luxembourg.

Harry Kane converted a fifth-minute penalty in Prague after Raheem Sterling was clipped by Lukas Masopust, the Tottenham striker taking his qualifying tally to seven goals.

But Czech Republic, humbled 5-0 by England in the reverse fixture last March, levelled shortly after as Jakub Brabec bundled in from a corner for his first international goal.

Substitute Zdenek Ondrasek swept home the winner on his debut for the hosts on 85 minutes, a goal that ended England's decade-long unbeaten run in qualifying spanning 43 matches.

"I think we have had a lot of credit over the last couple of years and tonight we did not do enough," England manager Gareth Southgate told ITV.

"Our performance was not good enough, it's as simple as that. The goals we conceded were typical of the chances we gave away."

England's last qualifying defeat came ahead of the 2010 World Cup when they lost 1-0 away to Ukraine in October 2009.

CRISTIANO RONALDO

Southgate's side remain top of Group A on 12 points alongside the Czechs, who have played a game extra. England could still clinch qualification on Monday with victory in Bulgaria if Kosovo fail to beat Montenegro.

World champions France claimed a 1-0 win away to Iceland as Olivier Giroud delivered the only goal with a penalty on 66 minutes in Reykjavik.

Giroud has played springily for Chelsea this season but the 33-year-

old is now just four goals behind Michel Platini (41) for second on France's list of all-time leading scorers.

France are level on 18 points with Turkey atop Group H ahead of Monday's showdown in Paris, where victory would send Didier Deschamps' men through to the finals.

"It was very difficult, a really hard match. We needed to take the three points and now we have an important game coming up at home," said Antoine Criezmann, who was fouled for the penalty.

Iceland's first home loss in qualifying since June 2013 dropped the Nordic island nation six points adrift of the top two.

Juventus star Ronaldo grabbed his 94th goal at international level in Portugal's 3-0 home victory over Luxembourg.

Bernardo Silva opened the scoring in Lisbon in the first half before Ronaldo added a second on 65 minutes with a magnificent chip following an error in the visitors' defence.

Goncalo Guedes added a late third although defending champions Portugal still trail Group B leaders Ukraine by five points.

Portugal next travel to Kiev to face a Ukraine side on the cusp of qualification following a 2-0 home win over Lithuania secured by Atalanta midfielder Ruslan Malinovskyi's brace.

PHOTO: AFP

Czech Republic's Jakub Brabec and goalkeeper Tomas Vaclik celebrate after their side secured a 2-1 win over England in a UEFA Euro 2020 qualifier match in Prague on Friday. (Inset) England were understandably downcast after the defeat seeing as it ended a 43-match unbeaten run in qualifiers.

## Hosts clinch hockey series

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh under-21 hockey team clinched the five-match series 3-1 following a 4-1 victory against their Omani counterparts at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

The hosts had won the first match 5-1 before being held to a 2-2 draw in the second match. The men in red and green took the third match 2-0 on Friday before another comfortable victory yesterday. The last match of the series will be held on Tuesday.

Mahbub Hossain gave Bangladesh the lead from a field goal in the 13th minute before Ashraf Islam's field goal made it 2-0 in the first quarter. Although the hosts failed to score in the second quarter, Shohanur Rahman Sabuj, who was wearing the captain's armband in this match, scored in the 40th and 43rd minutes from penalty corner to give the hosts a comfortable lead.

Rashed Al Fazari scored a consolation goal for Oman in the 58th minute.

## Zverev sets up final clash with Medvedev

AFP, Shanghai

The dominant Daniil Medvedev reached a staggering sixth final in a row but will need to beat Alexander Zverev for the first time to win the Shanghai Masters today.

The US Open finalist defeated fellow rising star Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece 7-6 (7/5), 7-5.

In the other semifinal yesterday, Germany's Zverev eased past Matteo Berrettini of Italy 6-3, 6-4 in a showdown between two more budding talents.

With Roger Federer and world number one Novak Djokovic ousted in the quarterfinals on Friday, the next generation of men's tennis stars has made its mark in China.

The 23-year-old Russian Medvedev embellished his fast-growing reputation with a fifth victory in as many matches against Tsitsipas, 21.

In contrast, he is yet to overcome the 22-year-old Zverev in four attempts.

"I did say before this year and during this year in the beginning that Sascha [Zverev]

was the best in our 'Next Gen' group," the world number four said. "He won three Masters when none of us were even close to doing this."

The seventh-ranked Tsitsipas, who dumped out defending champion Djokovic in three sets on Friday, said that Medvedev's formidable serve had been the difference.

"Same vibes, same thing all over again," said Tsitsipas of yet another defeat to the red-hot Russian.

"I don't mean to be rude at all, but it's just boring. It's so boring that I hate myself for putting myself into that kind of situation where I have to play in his own terms and not in my terms."

Sixth-ranked Zverev, long touted as the man most likely to join the "Big Three" of Federer, Djokovic and Rafael Nadal, has had a disappointing year, winning only one title.

But the German defeated 20-time Grand Slam champion Federer on Friday and took that momentum into his last-four clash with the 23-year-old Berrettini.

The Italian, 13th in the world, put up a better fight in the second set but was broken in the ninth game as his hopes of an upset faded.

DANIIL MEDVEDEV

ALEXANDER ZVEREV

## U-15s take on India today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will face India in their last group match of the SAFF U-15 Women's Championship at the Changlimithang Stadium in Thimphu today in what will be a dress rehearsal for Tuesday's final between the two sides.

Both sides are already through to the title-deciding match following two wins each, and today's match, which will kick off at 3:00pm, will be an opportunity to weed out mistakes of previous matches for both sides.

Bangladesh, the 2015-edition champions, won 2-0 against Bhutan before beating Nepal 2-1 while India, the defending champions, have been much more convincing, beating Nepal 4-1 before thrashing Bhutan 10-1.

Bangladesh, though, will have an opportunity today to exact revenge for their 1-0 defeat in the last edition's final against their neighbours ahead of the final.

### SHORT CORNER

FARAAZ GOLD CUP

Southeast romp into final

Women's game abandoned again

T20 cricket tournament begins

Southeast University moved into the final of the Faraz Gold Cup Inter-University Football Tournament, beating Bangladesh University of Textiles (Butex) 4-1 in the first semifinal at the Bishreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Mohammad Aurangzeb put Southeast ahead in the 23rd minute before Mohibur equalised for Butex six minutes later. However, Mubassher scored in the 51st minute to give Southeast the lead back before goals in the last minute from Shaheen and Aurangzeb confirmed a comprehensive victory.

--SPORTS REPORTER


Mo Farah angrily hit back at critics on Friday, saying he was never given any banned drugs while a member of the Nike Oregon Project and claiming he has been unfairly singled out in the scandal surrounding his former coach Alberto Salazar.

Farah said "there are no allegations" against him as controversy continued to rage over Salazar who has been slapped with a four-year ban by the United States Anti-Doping Agency.

"I was never given anything," said four-time Olympic champion Farah, breaking his silence on the scandal. --AFP

Ruman Sana (2nd from L) receives a crest from Bangladesh Olympic Association secretary general Syed Shahed Reza during a felicitation programme organised by the Regency Hotel and Resort yesterday to honour the archer winning a gold medal in the recently concluded Asia Cup: Stage-3. Ruman's coach Martin Frederick (L) and Bangladesh Archery Federation high-ups were also present.

PHOTO: STAR



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# Checking eyes from miles away

Eye doctors in hospitals remotely treating patients in upazilas



BISHAKHA DEVNATH

Samira Begum's eyes were itchy and watery for a few days when she finally decided to get a check-up at the Puthia Upazila Health Complex of Rajshahi on September 17.

In a room at the healthcare centre sat senior staff nurse Amena Begum who took some readings like eye pressure and blood pressure and entered the data in a software.

Mahbube Habiba Kabita, an ophthalmologist, sitting behind another computer miles away at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) looked at the records, talked to the patient and prescribed treatment accordingly.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1



BNP activists during a rally protesting the killing of Buet student Abrar and demanding the release of party Chairperson Khaleda Zia in front of the party's main office in the capital's Nayapaltan.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## Govt signed deals to 'cling on to power'

Complains BNP about recent Dhaka-Delhi MoUs

UNB, Dhaka

BNP senior leaders yesterday alleged that the government signed "anti-state" deals with India only to hold onto power by appeasing the neighbouring country.

Speaking at a protest rally in front of the BNP headquarters in the city's Nayapaltan, they also urged the people to wage a united movement to protect the country's interests and sovereignty by ensuring the fall of the current government and thus value the blood of slain Buet student Abrar Fahad.

"We think the deals with India on withdrawal of water from the Feni river, use of Chattogram and Mongla ports, supplying LPG and installation of a coastal surveillance system are against the national interests," said BNP standing committee member Khandaker

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2

## Two killed in 'gunfight'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Two suspected drug peddlers, including a Rohingya man, were killed in a "gunfight" with police in Cox's Bazar early yesterday, hours after their arrest.

The dead -- Abdur Rahman, 46, inhabitant of Noyapara Rohingya Camp, and Ahmed Hossain, 45, of Hatya upazila -- had six drug related cases filed against them, said police.

Pradip Kumar Das, officer-in-charge of Teknaf Police Station, said the duo was arrested in Teknaf around 8:00pm on Friday.

On their information, a police team, along with the two "criminals", conducted a drive in Hatiargona Malir Hill area of Teknaf around 1:00am yesterday to recover drugs and firearms, he claimed.

As soon as they reached the area, a group of criminals opened fire, forcing the law enforcers to retaliate. Abdur and Ahmed sustained bullet injuries during the "gunfight". Later, they were taken to Teknaf Upazila Health Complex, he added.

On duty doctors at the health complex referred the duo to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital as their condition was critical. When taken to the hospital, doctors declared them dead, he claimed.

The bodies were sent to the hospital morgue for autopsies.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

## Modi hails new Indo-Sino ties

Indian and Chinese PMs agree on steps to reduce trade deficit

AGENCIES

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday hailed a "new era" in relations with China as he held talks with President Xi Jinping aiming to overcome troublesome differences between the world's two most populous nations.

Modi and Xi strolled along a pristine Bay of Bengal beach and held one-on-one talks from chairs overlooking the ocean before their delegations sat down to official negotiations at the historic resort town of Mahabalipuram, south of Chennai.

The two leaders met for the second time in 18 months at an informal summit in a bid to ease tensions over border disputes, the troubled Kashmir region and China's domination of trade between their huge economies.

They reaffirmed a pledge made at the last summit in Wuhan, China, that "both sides will prudently manage their differences and not allow differences on any issue to become disputes," said an Indian government statement.

Modi said the Wuhan summit had given "increased stability and fresh momentum to our relationship".

"Our Chennai vision today has launched a new era of cooperation between our two countries," he added.

Xi said in his opening remarks to the summit delegations that he and Modi held "candid discussions as friends."

The buildup to the summit has been dominated by India's move in August to end the autonomous status of Jammu and Kashmir state. Changes ordered by the New Delhi government will see Kashmir's Ladakh region -- part of which is claimed by Beijing -- turned into a separate

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2

## Mizan denies identity but it doesn't work

Rab arrests him in Sylhet

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

In a desperate attempt to avoid arrest, Awami League leader and ward councillor Habibur Rahman Mizan tried to deceive Rab personnel during a drive in Sreemangal on Friday.

When Mizan was confronted by Rab officials at his acquaintance's house, he denied his name and identity.

When Rab officials enquired him during the drive, his response was "My name is not Mizan, neither am I a ward councillor," said Executive Magistrate Sarwoer Alam, who led the drive.

He also denied being from Dhaka's Mohammadpur area and said he was from Jhalakathi district, Sarwoer added.

He said Mizan continued to confuse Rab officials with false

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2

## 3,500-yr-old industrial park!



REUTERS, Luxor

Egypt, as part of a larger effort to ramp up tourism, has unveiled a 3,500-year-old industrial area, a first-of-its-kind collection of artifacts, on the west bank of the Nile River in Luxor.

The discovery in the Western Valley, also known as the Valley of the Monkeys, dates to the New Kingdom's 18th Dynasty, approximately 1543-1292 B.C., the antiquities ministry said in a statement.

Egyptologist Zahi Hawass, who spearheaded a two-year excavation in the area, said the site includes 30 workshops where funeral furniture for royal tombs was made.

The team also discovered an oven used to produce clay products, a water storage tank, two silver rings and objects used to decorate royal

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

## Samrat back to prison after hospital stay

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former Jubo League leader Ismail Hossain Chowdhury Samrat, an alleged kingpin of the illegal casino business in the capital, was taken back to Dhaka central jail yesterday after being given treatment at National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD).

He was brought back to his cell around 12:30pm, jailor Mahbubul Islam told The Daily Star.

Samrat was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital on October 8 as he "felt sick" and was later

SEE PAGE 5 COL 6



PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 13


Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4:45 12:45 4:15 5:45 7:15  
JAMAAT 5:20 1:15 4:30 5:50 7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION




An explosion is seen over the Syrian town of Ras al-Ain from the Turkish border town of Ceylanpinar, Sanliurfa province yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS



**MADDHAPARA GRANITE MINING CO. LTD.**  
মধ্যপাড়া গ্রানাইট মাইনিং কোম্পানী লিমিটেড  
(পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানী)



"মধ্যপাড়া গ্রানাইট পাথর ব্যবহার করে তৈরি করা হয়েছে।"  
"মধ্যপাড়া গ্রানাইট পাথর ব্যবহার করে তৈরি করা হয়েছে।"

**মধ্যপাড়া জু-গর্ভস্থ খনির গ্রানাইট বোন্ডার, ক্রাশড পাথর ও স্টোন-ডাস্ট ব্যবহারের জন্য সকলের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ।**

খনির গ্রানাইট পাথরের গুণাগুণ ও মান পরীক্ষার প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহঃ

- বাংলাদেশ প্রকৌশল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় (বুয়েট)।
- এমআইএসটি, মিরপুর, ঢাকা।
- কু-তত্ত্ব বিভাগ, ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়।
- এজমোটারিয়াল টেকনোলজী ল্যাব লিমিটেড, সিংগাপুর।
- কিউইটি ইন্ডিপেন্ডেন্ট এন্ড কনসালটেন্ট লিমিটেড, ফ্রান্স।

খনির গ্রানাইট পাথরের মাধ্যমে নির্মিত গুরুত্বপূর্ণ স্থাপনাঃ

- হাতিরঝিল ব্রহ্মক
- শাহজাদাবাদ আন্তর্জাতিক বিমান বন্দরের সমস্ত সড়ক
- রূপপুর পারমাণবিক ব্রহ্মক
- পদ্মা সেতু ব্রহ্মক
- কলকাতার আন্তর্জাতিক বিমান বন্দর
- বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ের বিভিন্ন স্টেশন ব্রহ্মক
- বঙ্গবন্ধু সেতু
- পার্বত্য এল আলফাউন বিল্ডিং নদী শাসন কাজে

গ্রানাইট পাথরের আকার ভিত্তিক বিক্রয়মূল্যঃ				
ক্রমিক নং	পাথরের আকার	মিডিয়াম মার্শিন ডাস্ট, টন	মিডিয়াম টাংক/সি-একটি	সি-একটি/টন
০১।	বোন্ডার (> ২০০ মি.মি.)	৩০.০০	১০০.০০	২৪.০০
০২।	০৫-২০ মি.মি.	৩২.০০	১১৫.০০	২৫.০০
০৩।	২০-৪০ মি.মি.	৩৩.০০	১২২.২৪	২৬.০০
০৪।	৪০-৬০ মি.মি.	৩০.০০	১০৫.০০	২৪.০০
০৫।	৬০-৮০ মি.মি.	২৯.০০	১০২.১০	২৪.০০
০৬।	স্টোন ডাস্ট (< ৫ মি.মি.)	১০.০০	৩৫.০০	২২.০০

\* প্রতি মেট্রিক টন ক্রাশড পাথর ও ডাস্টের লোডিং চার্জ ৬০.০০ টাকা এবং বোন্ডার পাথরের লোডিং চার্জ ৮০.০০ টাকা  
\*\* প্রতি মার্শিন ডাস্ট = ৮৪.০০ টাকা হিসেবে (০১ ডিসেম্বর ২০১৯ পর্যন্ত)

যোগাযোগঃ উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক, ইনচার্জ (পিপিএওএম)

ফোনঃ ০১৭০০০২২০০, ০১৭০০০২২০১ ও ০১৭০০০২২০২  
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