



Near the Charail playground in the capital's Keraniganj where a three-storey building toppled on its side on Friday, a number of other buildings stand on concrete pillars going into wetlands, one of them six-storied. Some building owners have even put additional bricks to support their building (inset). Each of these establishments, presumably erected flouting legal guidelines, is a tragedy waiting to happen. The photos were taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## 'Reopen campus, dormitories now'

Rajshahi University students stage sit-in, issue 24hr ultimatum to authorities

RU CORRESPONDENT

Students of Rajshahi University yesterday staged a sit-in in front of the residence of the vice chancellor and gave the authorities a 24-hour ultimatum for reopening the campus and dormitories.

Around 100 students brought out a procession from Paribahan Chatter around 11am and stopped in front of the VC's residence, parading the main roads inside the campus.

There, they staged the sit-in to press home their demand. They were shouting slogans: "Vaccine ano, vaccine dao, campus khule dao" (give vaccine, reopen campus), and "Moder dabi ekta, hall campus khola chai" (there's only one demand, reopen halls, campus). 8

Students ended their programme around 12:30pm with the 24-hour ultimatum declared by Mahmud Saki of the Department of Islamic History and Culture.

Over the matter, RU proctor Prof Lutfor Rahman said, "The government has not issued any order to open the campus or halls yet..."

All the universities and dormitories across the country have been closed since March last year due to the pandemic.

## BRANDISHING BOMB-LIKE OBJECT Man held over mugging attempt at jewellery shop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police on Saturday night arrested a man after he attempted to mug ornaments from a jewellery shop in Dhaka's Baitul Mukarram Mosque Market, brandishing a bomb-like object.

The arrestee was identified as Saiful Islam, a resident of Naria Upazila in Shariatpur district, said police.

"Saiful wrapped an empty bottle with tape and carried it into a jewellery shop around 8:30pm," Abu Bakar Siddique, officer-in-charge of Paltan Police Station, said quoting shop attendants. The police official said Saiful put two bangles in his bag.

As the shop owner asked for money, he showed the bomb-like object and tried to flee, threatening to explode it, said Atiqul Islam, additional deputy commissioner (DB-Motijheel) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

Shop employees and street vendors caught him and handed him over to police.

Bomb disposal unit of DMP later went there and discarded the object after making sure it was not a bomb, said the ADC.

He said police recovered chili powder and a mobile phone from Saiful's possession. "In primary interrogation, Saiful told police that after mugging, his aim was to throw the chili powder and flee," the ADC said.

Saiful Islam, a deputy commissioner of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime unit, said they are looking into the matter.

## Police arrest six members of Lalbagh hijacker gang

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lalbagh police busted a mugging gang that has been robbing people while disguised as detective branch police or Rab for the last eight years.

They targeted people who would withdraw large amounts from bank or other financial institutions.

Before every operation, all gang members managed new SIMs and used Mobile Number Portability (MNP) service that allows subscribers to swap networks without changing their existing 11-digit number.

Using the MNP, they would register their SIM to other operators and made calls to exchange their internal communications during any criminal operations.

This way, the operator cannot provide law enforcers with call detail record (CDR), last call location and other information, said an officer of Lalbagh Division of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) yesterday.

"It confused the investigators," he told The Daily Star, seeking anonymity.

Police uncovered the details on the gang of 17 while investigating a case filed in connection with the criminals mugging Tk 3.20 lakh from the manager of a plastic factory from Azimpur area on

January 12 after he withdrew the money from a bank in the area.

"We have already arrested six members of the gang including its ring leader on different times from different parts of Bangladesh," Biplob Bijoy Talukder, deputy commissioner of Lalbagh Division of DMP said yesterday.

Police seized three jackets similar to that of Rab, a plastic toy pistol, several SIMs, a Swiss gear knife, two private cars used for snatching, fake NIDs and some cash. Police are trying to seize another private car they use in operation.

The arrestees are ring leader Biplob alias Shyamol; Imran Hossain; Md Ali Bullet and his brother Ahmed Ali Rubel; Jahangir Alam and Al Amin.

Another accused Md Momin was also directly involved in robbing the plastic factory manager. He is on the run. Of those arrested, Imran confessed to his involvement before a magistrate recently, the DC said. One of their members would locate a target withdrawing cash and follow the person after they came out of the bank.

He would then inform the other gang members, who would intercept the target, introducing themselves as law enforcers. They would then blindfold and forcefully take the "target" away in their car.



PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

To begin with, trucks are not allowed to ply city streets in daytime. Beyond just violating that, this one is also carrying exposed bamboo and rods spilling out of its rear end in a blatant display of lawbreaking at Gushan-2. This photo was taken on Saturday.

## Diplomats

FROM PAGE 3

Ambassador Earl Miller and Indian High Commissioner Vikram Doraiswami laid floral wreaths at Central Shaheed Minar in the early hours of yesterday.

"Honoured to pay tribute to India, with representative of the Diplomatic Community, at midnight on #IMLD2021 at Central Shahid Minar, to the language martyrs who lit the torch of freedom for Bangladesh," Doraiswami said in a tweet yesterday.

Italian Ambassador Enrico Nunziata tweeted, "Preserving multilingualism is key to protect cultural diversity and building more inclusive and equal societies."

Japanese Ambassador Ito Naoki said it is important not only to appreciate one's own mother language, but also to respect other languages and identities.

"In that sense, I believe observing this special day has significant meaning for mutual understanding and promoting peace in both global and local context," he said.

Bangladesh missions abroad also celebrated the day with due fervour, singing amar bhai er rokte rangano and placing wreaths at their temporary Shaheed Minar monuments.

Bangladesh Ambassador to China, Mahbub Uz Zaman, other staff and representatives from diplomatic missions and Chinese government, businessmen and investors from China, and Bangladesh Community members held a rally, discussion and a cultural event at the embassy premises.

Australian dignitaries, including the Australian Capital Territory Environment and Heritage Minister Rebecca Vassarotti; MLA Alister Coe, many ambassadors, Bangladesh community members joined the Bangladesh High Commission in observing the day in Canberra.

Bangladesh missions in Italy, Brunei, Sri Lanka, Austria and elsewhere also observed the day.

## Ruet student found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, RU

A student of Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology (Ruet) was found dead at a mess (shared accommodation) in the city yesterday.

Shakhor Saha -- son of Shapad Saha from Faridpur Sadar upazila -- was a 15th batch student of the civil engineering department, confirmed its head Prof Kamruzzaman.

Talking to The Daily Star, Prof Rabiul Awal, director of Ruet students' welfare, said as university dormitories remain closed Shakhor was staying at a mess near the university area.

Quoting Shakhor's friends, he said students saw him last on Saturday night. Around noon yesterday, fellow residents of the mess knocked on his door but heard no response.

From a window, they saw him lying on the bed and broke open the door.

Later, they took him to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital where the doctors declared him dead, said Prof Rabiul Awal.

Matihar Police Station Officer-in-Charge ASM Siddiqur Rahman said the body was sent to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

## Rich homage

FROM PAGE 3

"InshaAllah, soon we'll establish developed, prosperous and non-communal 'Golden Bangladesh' as dreamt by the Father of the Nation," she added.

Senior Awami League leaders, including General Secretary Obaidul Quader, presidium members Matia Chowdhury and Lt Col (ret'd) Faruk Khan, Joint Secretary Hasan Mahmud, and Cultural Affairs Secretary Asim Kumar Ukil, also paid tributes on behalf of the party president -- Sheikh Hasina.

Sergeant at Arms Commodore Miah Mohammad Nayeem Rahman placed a wreath on behalf of Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury.

Also, members of the cabinet, chiefs of the armed forces, ambassadors and high commissioners of different countries and heads of international agencies, members of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Birth Centenary Celebration National Implementation Committee, members of Dhaka University Alumni Association, and wounded freedom fighters of Muktijoddha Kalyan Trust also placed floral

wreaths. BNP central leaders, led by party senior joint secretary general Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, went to the Central Shaheed Minar in the morning and placed a wreath.

In the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, the government this year requested people to follow health guidelines outlined by it while placing wreaths at the Shaheed Minar.

The government also took various programmes to observe the day.

Different political parties, public and private organisations, and educational institutions including Workers' Party of Bangladesh, Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh, University Grants Commission, Bangla Academy, Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development, Ekattor Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee, Bangladesh Shishu Academy, North South University, Green University, and Begum Rokeya University paid homage to language heroes by organising discussions and webinars and offering floral tributes.

Bangladesh missions abroad including embassies in Washington DC, Tokyo, Rome, Athens, and Cairo

and Deputy High Commission of Bangladesh in Mumbai observed the day through various events.

Besides, marking International Mother Language Day, several hundred people from both sides of the Bangladesh-India border gathered on no man's land near Benapole land port check post in Jashore to pay their tributes, reports our Benapole correspondent.

**BANGABANDHU PLACED DEMAND TO MAKE BANGLA STATE LANGUAGE: INFO MINISTER**

Information Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud yesterday said Bangabandhu as a young student leader raised the demand to make Bangla the state language, reports BSS.

"Bangabandhu's contribution to the Language Movement remains everlasting... the then young student leader, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, presented the demand for making Bangla the state language," he said.

Hasan, also joint general secretary of Awami League, was talking to reporters after paying homage, along with AL leaders and activists, to the Language Movement martyrs at Central

Shaheed Minar in the morning. Hasan said the country's independence and the movement of self-governance were achieved following the path of the Language Movement.

Noting that the government is working for introduction of Bangla at all levels, he said Bangla is the sixth language of the world in terms of Bangla speaking population.

"Our government is moving forward with a goal of establishing Bangla as the official language of the United Nations," the AL joint general secretary said.

Earlier, at a rally in the month of the Language Movement, Hasan said Bangabandhu arranged a protest rally in Dhaka in 1948 immediately after Mohammad Ali Jinnah declared that "Urdu would be the only state language of Pakistan".

"He [Bangabandhu] also presided over the meeting and was arrested for this movement. In prison, he continued the movement for language through hunger strike," he said.

"We have a responsibility to history to highlight the remarkable contribution of Father of the Nation to the Language Movement," he added.

**Auction Notice**  
Institute of Water Modelling (IWM) invites sealed quotations for supplying & installation of Server & Rack in IWM. For details Specifications, pls visit IWM web site: www.iwmbd.org. Institute of Water Modelling (IWM), Plot# 6, Road # 3/C, Block# H, Sector# 15, Uttara Model Town, Dhaka-1230

**Eastern Refinery Limited**  
(A Subsidiary of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation)  
North Patenga, Chattogram

**Addendum to Tender Notice**  
Tender Name: Custody Transfer Flow Meter with Supervisory Control at ERL Tank Farm  
Invitation Ref. No.: ERL/CTFM-01/2021

Serial	Original Notice	Addendum
01.	Tender last selling date: 22/02/2021	Tender last selling date: 01/03/2021
02.	Tender closing date and time: 23/02/2021 at 14.30hrs.	Tender closing date and time: 02/03/2021 at 14.30hrs.
03.	Tender opening date and time: 23/02/2021 at 15.00hrs.	Tender opening date and time: 02/03/2021 at 15.00hrs.

All other clauses will remain same. GD-344

## Withstanding

FROM PAGE 3

to drown the black pillar in the pond in front of the science department's building, said the historian.

After independence, it was recovered and reinstalled near the college's main gate in February 1972, much to the joy of the district's residents.

From this point, the monument stood proud all the way up to 1988 as the only Shaheed Minar in the district, said reciter Kazi Mahtab Sumon, organiser and joint secretary of Bangladesh Abridged Somonny Parishad.

"In 1988, a new Shaheed Minar was built at Cumilla Town Hall premises," he informed.

Khairul Azim Shimul, former secretary of Sammito Sangskritik Jote Cumilla, said, "It is unfortunate that this historically significant structure of our district remains unknown to the newer generations. All cultural movements and protests should begin from this Shaheed Minar."

In 2016, the Victoria College Shaheed Minar was renovated, in line with its classic design.

Prof Ruhul Amin Bhuiyan, current principal of the college, said, "This Shaheed Minar is a historic symbol of our Language Movement and Liberation War. As such, it deserves a tribute worth remembering. For some years, we have been trying to put together a grand event in memory of at least thirty language veterans who were students and teachers of our college."

**Padma Oil Company Limited**  
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation)  
Strand Road, Sadarghat, Chattogram

Ref: 28.22.0000.857.06.023.17/118 Date: 15/02/2021

**Corrigendum Notice**  
For  
"Installation of Jet A-1 Underground Pipeline from Main Installation of Padma Oil Company Limited, Guptakhal, Chattogram to Shah Amanat International Airport, Chattogram, Bangladesh on Turnkey Basis."  
Ref. No. PD/Capex (DPP)/F-857/P-100/20-21. Date: 31/12/2020

This is for information of all concerned that following amendments of Tender Notice have been made:

Sl. No.	Existing	Amended
18	Tender last selling date 23/02/2021 up to 1400hrs.	Tender last selling date 22/03/2021 up to 1400hrs.
19	Tender closing date and time 24/02/2021 at 02.30pm	Tender closing date and time 23/03/2021 at 02.30pm
20	Tender opening date and time 24/02/2021 at 03.00pm	Tender opening date and time 23/03/2021 at 03.00pm

All other terms and conditions of the Tender Document shall remain unchanged.  
"স্বাধীন মিলে নতুন দেশ, দুরীতমুক্ত বাংলাদেশ"  
Md. Aminul Haque  
General Manager (Projects), Chattogram  
For Managing Director  
GD-342