



This canal at the port city's Colonel Hat is under development works for the last three months. While that's well and good, its construction materials are kept right in front of a nearby foot overbridge, which is creating difficulties for pedestrians. On the other hand, as the adjacent road has been dug up, people are crossing the canal using a thin, railing-less pipe, which is an extremely risky undertaking, especially during the rainy season. These photos were taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN

## Extradition of Sohel Rana hangs in the balance

Delhi yet to respond to Dhaka's call

MUNTAKIM SAAD

The extradition of suspended Banani police inspector Sohel Rana, who was held by Indian Border Security Forces for trespassing, is uncertain as Delhi police are yet to respond to Dhaka's call.



Talking to The Daily Star on Saturday, Mohiul Islam, assistant inspector general of National Central Bureau (NCB) of the Police Headquarters, expressed doubts about whether they were getting back Sohel anytime soon.

He said they sent two letters to the Indian interface of Interpol in New Delhi to enquire about Sohel and to start processing his extradition. However, the Indian counterpart did not respond to the emails.

"There is a case against him in India. From our experiences we can say as long as they have a case against him [Sohel], they would not hand him over until the trial is over," said Mohiul.

Sohel is allegedly involved with E-orange, an e-commerce platform which made headlines for reportedly embezzling

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SUHRWARDY UDYAN

## Govt can implement project protecting environment: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday observed that the government can implement construction project in Suhrawardy Udyan, protecting the environment and historical elements.

The article 18A of the constitution and the spirit of the 2009 High Court verdict must be maintained in implementing the construction project, the HC bench of Justice Farah Mahbub and Justice SM Maniruzzaman said while delivering order on a writ petition in this regard.

The article says, "The State shall endeavour to protect and improve the environment and to preserve and safeguard the natural resources, biodiversity, wetlands, forests and wildlife for the present and future citizens."

Following another petition, the HC on July 7, 2009 directed the government to identify and preserve all the important historic places related to the republic's Liberation War and to set up memorial monuments at the historic places at Suhrawardy Udyan, maintaining international standard so that people from



The article 18A of the constitution and the spirit of the 2009 High Court verdict must be maintained in implementing the construction project.

HC BENCH

home and abroad can pay homage to martyred freedom fighters.

Yesterday, the HC bench, however, summarily rejected a petition filed seeking its directive on the government to refrain

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## 'Just a tip of the iceberg'

TIB calls for fair probe into irregularities in recruitment of 18 constables in Narayanganj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has called for an impartial, fair and thorough investigation in quickest possible time into the recruitment of 18 constables in Narayanganj two years ago through massive fraud and possible bribery.

"The recruitment of police constables in Narayanganj through massive fraud and possible bribery is an unforgivable and heinous crime; which risks exacerbating the erosion of confidence in law enforcing agencies," TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman said in a press release yesterday.

The Daily Star ran the report yesterday. He said unless punishment is ensured to perpetrators through a fair and impartial investigation into the incident, it will not be possible to prevent the reckless recurrence of such irregularities in the future and the perpetrators will become more daring.

"This will further erode public trust and confidence in the law enforcement agencies," said Iftekharuzzaman.

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## Art is for everybody

Ghartera's 'In the Terrains of Fear' shatters barriers of normative art forms



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



MORMEE MAHTAB



PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION LAW

## A conspiracy to snatch peoples' rights: Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday said the proposed personal data protection bill is nothing but a conspiracy to snatch the rights of citizens' freedom of expression.

"The standing committee think this sort of act is a conspiracy to snatch away citizens' freedom of expressions. This act will turn into a big threat for democracy. The meeting urged to uphold the personal rights and freedom of expressions," party's secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir told journalists.

Fakhrul said party's standing committee members held a meeting on Saturday with its acting chairperson Tarique Rahman in the chair.

The meeting discussed the details of the three-day series meetings held between September 14-16.

Fakhrul said the meeting also decided to hold views-exchange meetings with the



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## 'Non-Muslims, transgender people their new target'

CTTC officials on Ansar al Islam's recruitment process

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Militant outfit Ansar al Islam, said to be the Bangladesh chapter of Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent, is now targeting non-Muslims and transgender people to recruit them into militancy, according to the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime Unit (CTTC).

They have adopted this strategy as these members would not invite suspicion from law enforcers or others, said officials.

As per the plan, they targeted 711 different Christian institutes in Dinajpur.

The CTTC unit claimed to have unearthed this information following a drive in Dinajpur, during which 18 people were arrested for their involvement with the outfit.

The outfit was working on this project through an institute named Islamic Online Madrasa (IOM). Mufti Jubayer Ahmad is the so-called chief of the institute.

Counterterrorism officials claimed that Jubayer is one of the members of Ansar Al Islam's "Mufti Board" (expert wing) and that they are "looking for him".

CTTC, along with district police, conducted the

drive on Friday. Of the 18 arrested, seven were shown arrested in different cases filed earlier by CTTC.

Dinajpur district police filed three separate cases against 11 others with Dinajpur Sadar, Biral and Bochaganj police stations on Friday night. The arrestees were brought before a local court on Saturday, which fixed September 21 for hearing.

Earlier, during the drive, the CTTC and district police detained 42 persons but the rest were released from custody immediately as no militancy connection were found against them, Abdul Mannan, deputy commissioner, CTTC's special action group, told The Daily Star yesterday.

CTTC informed that the IOM used to impart religious training to people through online platforms and take them on field visits, with 14 members in each batch.

Due to Covid-19, IOM used to train three batches at a time, said officials.

Investigation sources said the outfit leaders would mainly recruit members during the training procedure.

"During the training, they taught them how to convert a non-Muslim into a Muslim and drag

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FACE-OFF OVER PARIR PAHAR

## Ctg lawyers demand removal of DC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chattogram District Bar Association (CDBA) leaders yesterday demanded removal of Deputy Commissioner of Chattogram Mohammed Mominur Rahman, accusing him of resorting to falsehood against the lawyers' association.

They said the DC should apologise to lawyers for making "derogatory remarks" about the organisation. They also accused the DC of taking rent from illegal structures by leasing the hill area in the name of lawyers.

The leaders came up with the demands while addressing a press conference at the city's CDBA Auditorium.

The demands come amidst an ongoing face-off between the district administration and lawyers of Chattogram Court Building over the construction of two establishments at Parir Pahar, popularly known as Court Building hill.

It began when the CDBA issued a tender to construct two 12-storied buildings on the hill.

CDBA general secretary AHM Zia Uddin said, "He (the DC) has been peddling serious falsehood centring our establishments. We want peaceful coexistence, but if needed, we will take the legal path."

"CDBA's buildings are constructed by the donation of PM, law ministry, and self-funding by the association. If the buildings are illegal, then the donation would not be approved by the PM and ministry," he added.

CDBA president advocate Enamul Haque said, "We have seen in the news media that the DC office has sent a confidential report to the PM office filled with

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Journalist associations held a rally in front of Jatiya Press Club yesterday, protesting the move of seeking bank account details of 11 journalist leaders by Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit.

PHOTO: STAR

## 241 more hospitalised with dengue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 241 new dengue patients were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till 8am yesterday, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS). Of them, 59 are from outside the capital.

With the new cases, a total of 5,345 were diagnosed during the current month, out of a total 15,701 infected.

Of this total, 1,778 patients are from outside Dhaka.

At least 7,698 were hospitalised in August, 2,286 patients were hospitalised in July, 272 in June, while 43 were infected in May, according to DGHS data.

Meanwhile, 59 people have died of dengue infection in the country this year. Twelve people have died in July, 34 in August, and 13 in September so far.