

# 272 women, girls faced violence in Jan

Reveals BMP report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 272 women and girls faced violence in the first month of this year, said a report prepared by Bangladesh Mahila Parishad.

Of them, 70 females, including 39 girls were raped, according to the media monitoring report of BMP.

Six girls were gang-raped, one was killed after rape and two girls died by suicide after rape in this period.

Attempts have also been made to rape 10 females, including five girls, as per the report based on information taken from 13 national dailies.

Five females, including three girls, have faced sexual violence during the time, while two have been burnt with acid. 16 females, including 12 girls, have faced sexual harassment, the report mentioned.

On the other hand, 10 females, including six girls, were abducted in January this year and 18 have been tortured due to dowry, out of whom 12 including one girl was killed.

A total of 13 females, including four children, were physically abused in this period, while 44 women and girls were killed for various reasons.

Attempts have also been made to kill 18 women including six girls.

Six women and girls were victims of cybercrime, according to the report.

Forty-seven mysterious deaths of women and girls were reported, of whom, six were children. Four incidents of child marriage also took place.



Load-workers from all over Khulna city gather at Rupsha Ghat in search of work every day. One of their more regular jobs is unloading sand from cargo ships, walking delicately through narrow, makeshift bridges. Each basket of load gets them Tk 3.5, with the average worker unloading 120-150 baskets a day. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

# Right back at it

A day after eviction, hawkers occupy both sides of Savar Bazar bus stand again

AKLAKUR RAHMANA AKASH, Savar

Occupied footpaths have been a longstanding problem for commuters and pedestrians of Savar Bazar Bus Stand area.

Finally on Monday, Savar Highway Police evicted around 1,500 makeshift shops in a day-long drive.

In the evening, the hawkers came down to the Dhaka-Aricha Highway and blocked it for one-and-a-half hours, protesting the eviction that they say were done without prior notice.

By yesterday, the hawkers were back to occupying the footpaths. However, they said they only did this after getting assurance from local authorities.

Hawkers said during their protest they demanded rehabilitation. They said they would continue the blockade, but at one point police as well as local MP and State Minister for Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief Dr Md Enamur Rahman rushed in and assured them, which is when they left the highway.

Kabir Mollah, Savar upazila unit general secretary of Bangladesh Hawkers' League, said the police and state minister, in the face of their demands, told them to setup shop in a way so that there's no obstruction in the movement of transport and pedestrians.

"This is why we've gone back to the footpaths," he said.

But OC Atikur Rahman of Savar highway Police Station refuted Kabir's claim, saying, "Yes, we did assure them of rehabilitation, but did not ask them to set up shops in the area." He said they will conduct another drive if the shops were found at the footpaths.

The Daily Star could not reach Md Enamur Rahman for comments.

### MONTHLY RENT?

Meanwhile, some hawkers said they have to pay Tk 7,000-9,000 to setup shop. The amount is paid to "leaders", although no names were provided. However, hawker leader Kabir Mollah denied this, saying his organisation doesn't do anything like that.



## BARISHAL AIRPORT

# Barely holding it together

Probe team finds damaged runway, dilapidated terminal

RASHIDUL HASAN

Landing aircrafts at Barishal Airport has become a risky endeavour. This is due to the dilapidated condition of its runway as well as other structures, a high-level investigation team of the civil aviation ministry found.

Led by Sukesh Kumar Sarker, additional secretary (Biman and CA) at the ministry, the team found that 75 metres off the northern end of the runway, Sugandha River was moving into the airport due to severe river erosion.



The ministry's team visited on January 3 to inspect the airport first hand.

In its report, the team mentioned the fragile state of the terminal building, unprotected runway, complexities centring the apron area and damaged asphalt surfaces as well.

In light of this, the ministry recently sent the report to Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh for taking necessary measures, sources said.

The report said Barishal Airport is located on the banks of Sugandha, a tributary of Arial Kha River. The border wall on the airport's north side is also at risk due to the severity of the river's erosion.

Regarding the airport's unprotected condition, the report said there are several openings between the boundary wall, through which people trespass.

During the visit, several people were seen wandering

around the airport, the report said. Such movement poses risks to landings and take-offs.

The team made several recommendations, including starting repair and maintenance work of the entire terminal building, repairing asphalt surfaces of the runway immediately, and constructing security walls.

It also recommended taking immediate measures to protect the airport from river erosion by coordinating with water resources ministry and Water Development Board.

In 1963-64, the plant protection department acquired 13.09 acres of land to spray pesticides by aircrafts and made a small airstrip at Barishal's Babuganj upazila. After this, commercial flight operation started there in 1995.

The three airlines of the country - Biman, US Bangla and Novoair - operate a total of eight flights on Dhaka-Barishal route daily.

**ISSUES**

- Fragile terminal building
- Unprotected runway due to trespassing
- Damaged asphalt surfaces
- Border wall at risk due to river erosion

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Repairing damaged structures
- Constructing security walls
- Measures to protect airport from river erosion

"If the ongoing trend of erosion continues, landings and take-offs will become quite risky," the team said in its report. "Amid this situation, if the runway is not repaired quickly, accidents may take place when landing aircrafts," Sukesh told The Daily Star.

# CEC should apologise

Say 37 noted personalities on allegations against Shujan secretary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thirty-seven eminent personalities yesterday called upon CEC KM Nurul Huda to make a public apology if he fails to prove allegation of irregularities against Shujan Secretary Badiul Alam Majumdar within a week.

In a joint statement, they strongly criticised the CEC's remarks, saying, "Chief Election Commissioner Nurul Huda at a programme on January 27 made some baseless, indecent and hostile statements and brought allegations of Tk 1 crore irregularities against Badiul Alam Majumdar." Badiul has already termed CEC's statement fabricated and motivated, and challenged to prove the allegations.

In 2020-21, based on information and media reports, the Shujan secretary and 42 citizens sent two letters to the president, appealing to investigate allegations of misconduct and corruption against the Huda-led commission.

"We think the allegations against Badiul are part of an attempt to cover up these misdeeds," reads the statement. The signatories include Prof Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury, Justice MA Matin, former caretaker government advisers -- Sultana Kamal, Hafiz Uddin Khan and Rasheda K Choudhury, former diplomat Mohiuddin Ahmed and rights activist Hameeda Hossain.

# Rajshahi Wasa triples water tariff

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rajshahi Water Supply and Sewerage Authority has tripled water tariff from yesterday. Rajshahi Wasa announced it through notices on its website and newspapers last month.

Managing Director Md Zakir Hossain said the decision was taken to keep the production costs and supply to a bearable level, in line with the law.

The residential rate, which was Tk 2.27 per thousand litres till January 31, has been increased to Tk 6.81. At the same time, the commercial rate, which was Tk 4.54 per thousand litres before, was increased to Tk 13.62. Zamat Khan, general secretary of Rajshahi Rakkha Sangram Parishad, said, "The decision is against people's interest."

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Local Government Engineering Department  
Office of the Upazila Engineer  
Kumarkhali, Kushtia  
[www.lged.gov.bd](http://www.lged.gov.bd)

Memo No. 46.02.5071.000.14.123.21-103 Date: 01-02-2022

**e-Tender Notice**  
**e-Tender Notice No. 06/2021-22**

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following works, details are given below:

Tender ID No.	Package & name of work	Procurement method	Last selling date & time	Last time for tender security submission	Closing date & time
645144	Construction of additional classroom Kumarkhali J.N Primary School under Kumarkhali, Kushtia	NOTM	Date: 16.02.2022 Time: 17.00pm	Date: 17.02.2022 Time: 11.30am	Date: 17.02.2022 Time: 12.00am

These are online tenders, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd), also from email [ue.kumarkhali@lged.gov.bd](mailto:ue.kumarkhali@lged.gov.bd) or call to 07025-76614 & Mob. 01708161496. Interested persons can communicate with the undersigned during office hours.

**Md. Abdur Rahim**  
Upazila Engineer  
LGED, Kumarkhali, Kushtia  
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GD-197

**Sonali Bank Limited**  
Information Technology Division  
(IT Procurement & Maintenance)  
Head Office, Dhaka

Memo No. HO/ITD (IT P&M)/purchase Date: 31/01/2022  
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following package:

SL No.	Tender ID No.	Name of tender	Last date and time of tender security submission	Tender closing date & time
1.	653178	Procurement of Automated Teller Machine (ATM) for Sonali Bank Limited.	27/02/2022 15.00	27/02/2022 15.30

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to respective time schedule. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

**Mohammad Iqbal Kabir**  
Deputy General Manager

GD-196