



With no safety gear on, a worker welds a gaping hole on a foot-over bridge on the busy Satmasjid Road. Right through the hole, vehicles can be seen passing by the highly hazardous working environment. At any point, either workers or commuters can fall victim to a dangerous accident. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## DNC driver caught in fake currency racket: DB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A driver of Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) has been reportedly involved in a transnational currency forgery syndicate for a couple of years.

The group would smuggle counterfeit Indian rupees from Pakistan to Bangladesh, and then to India. The driver's wife, who is a lawyer, used to help him.

Detective Branch (DB) of police shared this information, after arresting four people, including the couple, from the capital's Hazaribagh and Demra areas in the last two days.

The arrestees are Amanullah Bhuiyan (52), the government driver of DNC in Sunamganj, his wife Kajal Rekha (37), Yasir Arafat Keramat (33) and Nomanur Rahman Khan (31).

"Two families in Munshiganj's Srinagar have been assisting the smuggling. Most members of the families used to live in Pakistan. Arrestee Noman's brother, Fazlur Rahman, currently lives in Karachi," AKM Haliz Akhter, additional commissioner (DB) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, told a press conference yesterday.

"He would collect high quality counterfeit currencies from mafia groups operating there and send it to Bangladesh by sea or airway," he said.

Earlier, police seized Rs 7.30 crore-worth of fake currency notes from the racket in the capital's Dakshinkhan in November last year. The rest of the fake notes, worth Rs 15 lakh, were kept with arrestees Amanullah, Rekha and Yasir, and were seized later on.

The official said the syndicate prints the notes in Pakistan and sends them to Sri Lanka by sea in containers loaded with toys, dried fish, mosaic and marble stones. From Sri Lanka, the containers are shipped to Chattogram port. The consignments are then sent to Dhaka by trucks, and then to Chapainawabganj through courier service, and are finally smuggled to India through members of the gang.



## 70pc cybercrime victims women

Says ASK, citing police survey of last year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Citing a recent Bangladesh Police survey, rights organisation body Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) revealed that of the 522 victims of cybercrime in 2021, 70 percent were women; while 57 percent of them were under the age of 25.

The data were revealed at a virtual roundtable titled, "Preventing Child Sexual Abuse and Ensuring Safe Internet Use of Children: Situation Analysis and Way Forward", organised by ASK, in association with Terre Des Hommes and INCIDIN Bangladesh yesterday.

victims for support in just one year of operation, while it could provide necessary legal advice and assistance for 8,331 victims.

Ambica Roy, ASK's child rights unit coordinator, presented the data and discussed the recent incidents of cybercrimes against women and children during the pandemic.

"Lack of importance to children's mental health, domestic violence, absence of sexual and reproductive health and cyber security education, are the most prominent reasons behind the increase in cybercrimes," she said.

Khaleda Begum, additional superintendent of

### AT A GLANCE

- » 57pc victims under 25
- » 49pc school children regular victims of cyberbullying; 26pc reported
- » 4,675 cases went to trial since 2013
- » 17,770 victims contacted Police Cyber Support in 1yr of operation; 8,331 provided with legal help

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Ensure safe digital space for women, children
- » Raise awareness on mental health
- » Introduce edu content on cyber security; sexual, reproductive health
- » Effective action on law enforcers' part

According to data from the Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology, 49 percent of school children in the country are regular victims of cyberbullying. Of the victims, only 26 percent reported the incidents, while the rest kept silent due to prevailing social stigma.

At least 4,675 cybercrime cases have gone to trial since 2013, mentioned ASK, citing the cyber tribunal registration book and statistics of cases sent to the High Court.

The organisation also revealed that Police Cyber Support for Women was contacted by 17,770

police, said most children and women are reluctant to go to the police station to lodge complaints. She also called upon the police officers to perform their duties more actively.

Dr Helaluddin Ahmed, associate professor at National Institute of Mental Health, said restricting the internet cannot solve the problem.

"Rather, we must ensure that children are using the internet safely. It is important for parents to have proper ideas about psychological help," he said.

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## Don't forget your pledges to people: PM

Ivy sworn in as mayor



PHOTO: PID

AGENCIES

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government is steering the country towards economic prosperity while protecting the rights of its people.

The premier said this while speaking at the swearing in ceremony of newly-elected mayor of Narayanganj City Corporation (NCC) Dr Selina Hayat Ivy and 36 councillors, reports BSS.

The event was held at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in Dhaka. Hasina joined it virtually from Gono Bhaban.

Hasina administered the oath to Ivy while IGRD and Cooperatives Minister Md Tazul Islam administered oaths to the councillors in person, reports UNB.

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## Form separate land commission

### Urge speakers for plain land indigenous communities

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Form land, minority commissions
- » Increase allocation in annual budget
- » Ensure youth employment
- » Engage community leaders to implement SDGs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a conference yesterday demanded the government form separate land and minority commissions to ensure land and rights of the indigenous communities living in the plains, as promised in the election manifesto of 2008.

At the conference titled, "Leave No One Behind: Indigenous Peoples in the Plain Land, Bangladesh", speakers mentioned that out of 50 indigenous communities living in Bangladesh, 38 live in the plains.

However, there is no ministry or division for their development.

For more than 3 million indigenous people of the plains, only around \$70 million (Tk 60 crore) is allotted from the Prime Minister's Office as a stipend or microcredit for income-generating activities.

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PRAYER  
TIMING  
FEB 10



	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
Azan	5-25	12-45	4-30	5-57	7-15
Jamaat	6-00	1-15	4-45	6-01	7-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## Govt using missions abroad for AL propaganda: BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday alleged that the government is using its embassies abroad for spreading ruling party's propaganda.

"It is the responsibility of all embassies to protect the interests of Bangladesh. The state bears all expenses of those embassies with taxpayers' money. But in a shameless and unprofessional way, those organisations are being used against the interest of the people," said BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir.

Addressing a press conference at party chairperson's Gulshan office, he said US Congressman Gregory W Meeks' statement was presented in a distorted way.

"By distorting his [Meeks'] statement and creating a smokescreen in the local and foreign media, the Washington embassy has humiliated Bangladesh to the US. Congressman Meeks on February 4 rejected the Bangladesh embassy statement and presented his statement in his own website and also in the US Foreign Affairs Committee's website."

Fakhrul quoted Meeks' statement, "I strongly support the Biden administration's designation of the Rapid Action Battalion and several of its current and former members under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights and Accountability Act for rights violations. I continue to support the strengthening of the US-Bangladesh relationship and look forward to working to help address rights and democracy challenges in the country."

The BNP leader said government officials from various Bangladeshi-inhabited cities, including those in the Middle East, have been regularly attending the ruling party's functions and behaving like party workers.



Despite a safety blockade being placed under the Mayor Hanif flyover, the space has been occupied by carriage horses, used for recreational travel in Old Dhaka. Passing by the area, commuters are greeted with putrid smell, while the road beside the space remains partially blocked with parked carriages. This photo was taken in the capital's Gulistan area yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON