



## 'They're weeds of the land' PM on critics who dismiss country's achievements

UNB, Dhaka  
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said those who fail to appreciate the country's achievements are "weeds of the land".  
"The Father of the Nation used to say one thing: the land of this country is so fertile that there are plenty of crops

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



At first glance, this appears to look like a garbage dumped road. However, a closer look reveals that it's a canal, the Ramchandrapur canal to be exact, which connects to Turag river. The canal has now turned into a cesspool of stench and insect larvae -- owing to the authorities' failure to provide a long-term solution to stop the locals' purposeful ignorance towards dumping household waste in the waterbody. This photo was taken yesterday at Adabor.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## 2021, a violent year for children

183 killed, 818 raped, reveals MJF report

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 818 children were raped and 94 faced rape attempts last year -- during the closure of schools due to the pandemic.

Fourteen of them were murdered after rape -- the perpetrators mostly being the victims' relatives and neighbours -- Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) said in a report revealed during a virtual press conference yesterday.

The number of child rape victims was 626 in 2020, revealed MJF in its report titled "Bangladesh Child Rights

Situation 2021" -- prepared based on news published in five national dailies. The overall child rights situation is worrying, said MJF.

Last year, at least 78 children -- 57 boys and 21 girls -- died by suicide. The number was 34 in 2020. During this period, 183 children were killed over various reasons, while 135 faced murder attempts.

The number of children killed and injured in accidents decreased to 69 compared to 158 in 2020. Besides, 570 children drowned in 2021 which was 165 in 2020.

Md Muhibuzzaman, additional secretary to the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, joined virtually and said information obtained from newspapers only gives an idea about the crimes against children.

MJF Executive Director Shaheen Anam said their analysis shows that children are not safe even at their homes.

"All must work together to stop child rape and sexual abuse, otherwise, it will continue to rise," she said, urging the government to be more serious in protecting child rights.

## STUDENT'S DEATH PBI given time again to finish probe

### COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday again asked Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) to submit -- by March 13 -- the probe report in a case filed against Bashundhara Group Managing Director Sayem Sobhan Anvir and seven others over the rape and murder of a college student in Dhaka's Gulshan.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Nivana Khair Jesie passed the order after investigation officer Md Alauddin, also an inspector of PBI, failed

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



## Syed Abul Maksud's 1st death anniversary

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the first death anniversary of eminent columnist, researcher and writer Syed Abul Maksud. Maksud breathed his last at a Dhaka hospital at the age of 74, on February 23, 2021.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## MANAGING MEDICAL WASTE

# Tk 214.47cr project for 15 public hospitals

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has approved a project to set up medical waste management infrastructure in 15 public hospitals, with a view to making the facilities safe, clean and infection-free environments, as well as protect the environment from the hazardous waste.

The Tk 214.47 crore project "Hospital-Based Medical Waste Management", was approved at the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec) meeting yesterday, where Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina joined virtually.

"Waste produced in hospitals are very hazardous. For this reason, the project has been approved, initially for 15 public hospitals," Planning Minister MA Mannan told reporters following the meeting. Slated to be completed by December 2024, the project will create the capacity to collect, store, transport, process and remove various medical wastes safely.

The 15 hospitals include Rangpur Medical College Hospital, all the government hospitals in Sher-E-Bangla Nagar area in Dhaka, Kurmitola General Hospital, Sir Salimullah Medical College and Mitford Hospital, Satkhira Medical College Hospital and several district hospitals. Sources said, the DGHS initially proposed the project for 35 public hospitals.

According to the planning minister, the premier has instructed to bring all public hospitals under similar systems.

A 2019 investigation by The Daily Star found all 1,380 healthcare facilities, public and private, in divisional cities excluding Dhaka produce over 20 tonnes of medical waste every day. They're usually dumped in landfills, mixing with household wastes collected by the city corporations.

"When we observe public health hazards (cholera, typhoid, etc.) we don't discuss medical waste, though it might be a key factor," Prof Ahmed Abu Saleh, chairperson of microbiology department at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University told The Daily Star earlier.

In yesterday's meeting, the prime minister also instructed to ensure private healthcare facilities maintain waste management protocols as per the law.

## PRAYER TIMING FEB 23



	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
Azan	5:20	12:45	4:30	6:03	7:30
Jamaat	5:55	1:15	4:45	6:07	8:00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



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নিজের একটি গাড়ি

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- ▶ লোনের পরিমাণ গাড়ির মূল্যের ৫০% পর্যন্ত (সর্বোচ্চ ৪০ লক্ষ টাকা)
- ▶ সহজ মাসিক কিস্তি
- ▶ সর্বোচ্চ ৫ বছর পর্যন্ত মেয়াদ
- ▶ আকর্ষণীয় ইন্টারেস্ট রেট

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