



At the onset of spring, it seems that life has returned to the rural sceneries, especially after winter left the lands bereft of its grandeur. At the calling of the “king of seasons”, a young bird was spotted pecking away at a newly bloomed palash for food. This photo was taken recently from Barishal’s Bakerganj upazila.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

# Why is CMCH paying more than market price?

ACC finds syndicate’s involvement in manipulating food tenders

SIFAYET ULLAH, Ctg

Chattogram Medical College Hospital (CMCH) is buying one kilo of dressed broiler chicken for Tk 320, when it’s being sold for around Tk 250 in the port city’s kitchen markets.

It’s also purchasing five other food items for patients at much higher prices. This is allegedly because a contractor that is part of a syndicate controls CMCH’s purchases.

There is some evidence to back this claim. Anti-Corruption Commission in its primary investigation has found that a syndicate – comprising hospital officials and staffers – is involved in anomalies centring food tenders.

The Daily Star has obtained a copy of the report. According to the report, Dr Faisal Iqbal Chowdhury, health

## ACC FINDINGS

- Syndicate comprises hospital officials, staffers
- Health affairs secretary of AL’s port city unit patronises process
- Current supplier a member of syndicate

## Chicken

Market price Tk 250/kg  
CMCH purchase price Tk 320/kg

## Mutton

Market price Tk 850/kg  
CMCH purchase price Tk 938/kg

affairs secretary of Awami League’s Chattogram metropolitan unit, patronises the syndicate.

Dr Faisal, also general secretary of Bangladesh Medical Association’s Chattogram chapter, however, denied his involvement. “I’m not an employee

of CMCH, neither am I involved with administrative activities of the hospital. How could I manipulate or influence the tender?”

Regarding the ACC report, Faisal said his political rivals are spreading fake information and are using ACC to

tarnish his image.

“We have found that 21 people of the hospital are part of a syndicate. We sent primary findings to our head office in Dhaka,” Atikul Islam, deputy director at ACC’s Chattogram unit, told The Daily Star.

In June last year, CMCH floated a tender titled “Non-MSR (diet and non-diet) goods for 2021-22 fiscal year”, and nine organisations had placed bids.

The authority selected Rahad Enterprise, the second-lowest bidder, for supplying six types of fish and meat, after Hasan Enterprise of Sylhet, the lowest bidder, was disqualified for not producing an original bank statement.

According to the tender documents, Hasan Enterprise had offered Tk 270 for a kilo of dressed chicken, Tk 645 for

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## Two killed in Ctg road accidents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two people were killed in separate road accidents in Chattogram yesterday.

At Boro Darugarhat in Sitakunda upazila, a Dhaka-bound pickup truck hit a man while he was crossing the road around 2:00am, said Md Abdullah, inspector of Kumira highway police outpost.

Mayeen Uddin (32) from Thakurgaon’s Haripur upazila died on the spot, he said.

In another incident, a man was killed after a truck hit a bus on Dhaka-Chattogram highway around 4:00am at Darugarhat in the same upazila.

Mohammed Nasir Uddin (35) was declared dead at the upazila health complex, said the inspector.

The bodies were sent to Chattogram Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

## Saudi expatriate found dead in Jamalpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Police recovered the body of a Saudi expatriate from Jhenai river at Char Nandina area in Jamalpur’s Sarishabari upazila yesterday morning, three days after he went missing.

The deceased was identified as Mizanur Rahman Abdullah (25).

Quoting family members, Sarishabari Police Station OC Mir Rakibul Haque said Abdullah, who recently returned from Saudi Arabia, left home on Tuesday night for shopping but didn’t return afterwards.

## 3 fishing cats rescued in Patuakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali.



Three young fishing cats have been rescued from a house in Patuakhali’s Bauphal upazila.

According to locals, Md Rubel saw the animals in the corner of their home’s cowshed yesterday morning while bringing the cows out. The cats were then rescued and taken to the upazila forest department official.

Abul Kalam Azad, upazila forest officer, said, “Since the cats will do well if they stay with their mother, they will be kept at the location, so they can return to their mother.”

If the cats do not return, they will be handed over to Patuakhali Forest Department office.

## Hailstorm damages crops in Thakurgaon

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A hailstorm accompanied with rain and strong wind damaged various crops across several unions in Thakurgaon Sadar upazila yesterday afternoon.

Meanwhile, many tin-roofed houses were badly damaged due to the hailstorm, which lasted for around fifteen minutes.

Hekmat Ali (52), hailing from Boikanthapur village in the upazila’s Akcha union, told The Daily Star that his wheat crops planted on five bigha land have been ruined to the point that he’s now fearing that he will get little to nothing once they reach the maturing phase later in the season.

Several wheat, maize, mustard and potato farmers of Nargaon, Salondar, Rahimanpur and Mohammadpur unions are also anxious about incurring such losses.

Contacted, Deputy Director of Department of Agriculture Extension Abu Hossain said field officials have been asked to assess the loss caused by the hailstorm.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer Abu Mohammad Shamsuzzaman said he has already directed respective union parishad chairs to make a list of affected farmers and house owners.

The upazila administration will extend support to the affected people soon, he assured.



The landscape almost seems as though it were a foreign land. The hailstorm, which visited several unions of Thakurgaon Sadar upazila yesterday, left behind a massive wound for farmers as their crops got ruined. Lasting for 15 long minutes, the hailstorm had caused much trouble for locals as well, as many of their tin-roofed houses were badly damaged.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## ‘Evidence points to pre-planned murder’

Alleges Rana Dasgupta on Chakoria Tragedy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Rana Dasgupta, general secretary of Bangladesh Hindu-Buddhist-Christian Oikya Parishad, has alleged that the tragic Chakoria road accident was not a mere accident, but rather a “pre-planned murder”, as circumstantial evidence indicates.

He said this while speaking at a press conference held at Chattogram Press Club yesterday.

Rana said Plabon Shil, brother of the deceased, who was also critically injured in the accident, filed a

case with Chakoria Police Station over the issue. But as he was in mental trauma immediately after the accident, it was not possible for him to ascertain the actual picture of the incident.

“The statement in the FIR filed by Plabon are contrary to the real picture of the incident,” Rana claimed. “Plabon was asked to sign in the FIR, which he was not even given to read out.”

He said the two sisters of the victims who were witness to the accident said the killer pick-up van

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### IMPORTANT DEADLINES

- **Application opens:** February 27, 2022 (Sunday)
- **Last date of application and Admit Card Download:** March 20, 2022 (Sunday)
- **Written test:** March 25, 2022 (Friday); 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
- **Viva-voce:** April 1 & 2, 2022 (Friday & Saturday)
- **Class starts:** 1<sup>st</sup> Week of June, 2022



For further details & application process please visit:  
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