

## Everyone cries at ‘Kannakattir Mela’

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

For five hours yesterday, a no mans' land in Lalmonirhat was transformed into a witness of bittersweet, short-lived reunions.

The spot, at border pillar 925 besides Maldah river under Gorol union of Kaliganj upazila, was thronged by thousands of people from Bangladesh and India as the border was kept open for five hours from 12:00pm to 5:00pm, marking the Ganga Puja at India's Ververi area.

What made yesterday's occasion even more special was that this was the first time the border fair, locally known as “Kannakattir Mela” (a festival of tears), took place after two years of suspension due to the pandemic.

Locals told The Daily Star the fair has been taking place since the Pakistan period. Bangladeshis and Indians who were separated come together on this day to meet their loved ones from across the border.

It is held on the bank of Maldah, right besides barbed-wire fences, during the Bengali month of Chaitra every year. It is said that everyone cries during the fair, which is why it came to be known as Kannakattir Mela.

Bangladeshi Protap Chandra Roy (75), of Lalmonirhat's Aditmari upazila, came with his son Bishnu Chandra Roy (48) to meet his daughter Narayani Rani (45), who is an Indian citizen. As soon as they met, Protap broke down in tears. “My health is getting worse by the day. I may not be here for too long. There's no way I would miss out on the fair this year. I'm meeting my daughter after four years,” Protap said.

Nayerhat village's Ratan Chandra Roy (65) told The Daily Star that he came to the border to meet his younger brother Suresh Chandra Roy (60), who lives in India.

Gorol UP chairperson Nurul Amin said several thousand Bangladeshis from Lalmonirhat and adjoining districts come to the border fair every time it takes place.



This year's “Kannakattir Mela” took place after two years due to the pandemic. This deprived families, separated by the border, from meeting each other at the only place where they get to be together. They broke down in tears as soon as they met at yesterday's fair at Ghongagachhi border in Lalmonirhat's Gorol union.

PHOTO: STAR

## Two students killed in road accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Mymensingh

Two college students were killed as their motorbike and a truck collided head-on on Nakla-Chandrakona road in Pagli Market area in Nakla upazila of Sherpur yesterday.

The deceased are Rabbi Alam (22) and Wasim Islam (18) from Nakla.

Both the victims studied at Nakla Government Hazi Jalmamud College, said OC Md Mushfiqur Rahman of Nakla Police Station.

Rabbi died on the spot. Wasim was rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital where he died around 8:00am.

Meanwhile in Netrakona, Abdul Khaleq Munshi (80) died when a fish-laden pickup hit him on Kendua-Atharabari Road at Horinagor in Kendua on Tuesday.

## Ashrayan project keeps spreading smiles

DIPAN NANDY, from Savar

Twenty years ago, Mominul Islam lost his house in Chilmari, Kurigram to river erosion. In search of fortune, he migrated from there to Savar's Shimulia union. Although it was no easy task, he managed to eke out a living working on other people's land.

But the good times are about to arrive for Mominul. As part of the Prime Minister's Office's Ashrayan project, he is set to have a house of his own again.

Along with Mominul, 65,474 families have been allotted houses in the second phase of the project, as a Mujib Borsho gift from the prime minister for the landless and homeless.

After the houses are completed, the PM will officially handover these semi-permanent houses, along with 200 acres of land, free of cost at a convenient time.

Mominul spoke to this correspondent while inspecting the project site at



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Gohailbari in Shimulia yesterday.

“I lost everything and came here 20 years ago,” he said. “I was running my family by farming on other people's land. I cannot believe I'm about to get a house of my own, that too as a gift from the prime minister.”

Sixty-four families will be provided single houses at the project site at Gohailbari. Twenty four of them have already been selected through lottery, while the rest are to be picked soon as well.

Each house will be brick-walled, roofed with colourful tin-shed. Floors will be made of concrete, while there will be two bedrooms with a tin canopy, a kitchen, a toilet and an open front porch.

Abu Saleh Mohammad Ferdous Khan, project director of Ashrayan-2, told The Daily Star that it will be the first and largest instance of providing free housing to so many people in the history of the world.

“Special care is being taken in land selection. Taking experience from the first two phases of the project, the houses are being made in even more sustainable manner,” he said.

In the third phase, the cost of constructing each house has increased, with each set to cost Tk 259,500, compared to Tk 171,000 for the first phase and Tk 195,000 for the second.

However, as a result of being exempt from tax and VAT, the houses can be constructed at a cheaper price than the market price, said officials concerned.

## Jubo Dal leader dies in Ctg jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Jubo Dal leader died in Chattogram Central Jail yesterday while he was undergoing treatment at Chattogram Medical College Hospital.

The deceased is Md Shahjahan (47) from Kulgaon area in the port city.

Dewan Mohammad Tariqul Islam, jailer of Chattogram Central Jail, said Shahjahan was arrested in a drug case on October 19, 2021.

Shahjahan had been undergoing treatment at the jail hospital since March 26 with multiple physical complications, including TB, added the jailer.

“He was feeling unwell on Tuesday noon and was sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital for treatment.”

He died around 12:00am there,” he told this correspondent.

The body was sent to CMC morgue for autopsy, said the jailer.

Contacted, Mohammad Shahed, general secretary of Jubo Dal Chattogram metropolitan unit, said six false cases were filed against Shahjahan.

“The drug case was filed against him for harassment,” he added.

“We don't know whether Shahjahan was provided with proper treatment,” he said.

Bangladesh Krishi Bank					
Divisional Office					
KM Tower (2nd Floor), 19, Amritababu Road, Mymensingh					
Invitation for Tenders					
1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Finance/Financial Institutions Division.			
2	Agency	Bangladesh Krishi Bank.			
3	Procuring entity name	Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Divisional Office, Mymensingh.			
4	Procuring entity code	Not used at present.			
5	Procuring entity district	Mymensingh.			
6	Invitation for	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Note Counting Machines for 25 Branches of BKB, Mymensingh Division.			
7	Invitation Ref. No.	BKB/DO(Mymen)Admin-1(17)/OTM(NCM)-02/2021-2022/3647			
8	Date	29/03/2022.			
9	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM).			
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>					
10	Budget and source of funds	BKB's Own Fund.			
11	Development partners (if applicable)	N/A.			
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>					
12	Project/program code (if applicable)	N/A.			
13	Project/program name (if applicable)	N/A.			
14	Tender Package No.	02/2021-2022.			
15	Tender publication date	29/03/2022.			
16	Tender package name	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Note Counting Machines for 25 Branches of BKB, Mymensingh Division.			
17	Tender last selling date	24/04/2022 up to 02.00pm.			
18	Tender closing date and time	Date	Time		
19	Tender opening date and time	25/04/2022	02:00pm		
20	Name & address of the office(s)	Address			
	-Selling tender document (principal)	BKB, Divisional Office, KM Tower (2nd Floor), 19, Amritababu Road, Mymensingh.			
	-Selling tender document (others)	Do.			
	-Receiving tender document	Do.			
	-Opening tender document	Do.			
21	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	No pre-tender meeting will be held.			
<b>INFORMATION FOR TENDERER</b>					
22	Brief eligibility and qualification of tenderer	1. The tenderer shall have minimum of 03 (three) years of overall experience and minimum of 02 (two) years of specific experience in the supply of goods and related services. 2. Manufacturer's authorization letter (original) is required. 3. The minimum supply value of similar goods under a single contract in the last 3 (three) years to any scheduled bank should be minimum Tk 15.00 (fifteen) lac only. 4. Minimum amount of liquid asset or working capital or credit facility should be Tk 20.00 (twenty) lac. 5. All other qualification will be applicable as specified in TDS.			
23	Brief description of goods	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Floor Mount Type Note Counting Machine with Fake Note Detection Facility.			
24	Brief description of related services	N/A.			
25	Price of tender document (Tk)	Tk 1000/- + VAT (One thousand Taka only + VAT) (non refundable).			
26	Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)	Completion time in weeks/months
	01	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Floor Mount Type Note Counting Machine with Fake Note Detection Facility.	BKB, Divisional Office, KM Tower (2nd Floor), 19, Amritababu Road, Mymensingh.	Tk. 65,000/- (Sixty-five thousand) only	08 (eight) weeks from date of contract signature
27	Name of official inviting tender	Zamil Ahmed.			
28	Designation of official inviting tender	General Manager.			
29	Address of official inviting tender	BKB, Divisional Office, KM Tower (2nd Floor), 19, Amritababu Road, Mymensingh.			
30	Contact details of official inviting tender	02996664205 Email address: gmmymensingh@krishibank.org.bd			
31	Special instructions	i. The procuring entity reserves all the right to accept or reject any or all tenders or to reduce the scope of the requirements for concerned procurement without assigning any reason whatever. ii. All condition should be implemented as per PPR-2008 and next amendment for tender. iii. Tender will be opened in presence of the tenderer/representative (if any). iv. The tender notice will also be found in BKB's website.			
Zamil Ahmed General Manager Bangladesh Krishi Bank Divisional Office, Mymensingh					

## Local seeds for local needs

### Female farmers of Khulna exchange varieties at fair



DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

Seeds of local varieties -- preserved by families for generations -- have been the most adaptive way of cultivation for the distinct climatic conditions of the country's coastal areas.

In what is considered a yearly tradition, female farmers exchange the seeds at the “seed fair”, organised every year by the local farmers' organisation and non-government development organisation LoCos at Gangarampur Union Parishad ground in Khulna's Batiaghata upazila.

In yesterday's edition, local women displayed, exchanged and distributed over 200 varieties of seeds in the fair's 53 stalls.

One of them was Laxmi Rani Mondal (53), of Gangarampur union's Jharvanga village. She has been preserving seeds for 16 years. Her motivation came from not being able to cultivate on vast lands owned by her husband for lack of quality seeds.

Laxmi has preserved around 248 local seeds so far. “Over 300 women in the locality preserve local seeds, just like me,” she informed.

Laxmi is not the only example of beneficiaries from the practice. Shamoli Sarker of the same village became self-reliant by selling seeds and vegetables. She has been able to preserve 78 varieties of local seeds and sow them in her cultivable land.

Robiul Islam, upazila DAE officer of Batiaghata, told this correspondent, “Preserving seeds helps people carry out organic farming.”

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh				
Local Government Engineering Department				
Office of the Upazila Engineer				
Upazila: Natore Sadar, Dist: Natore				
www.lged.gov.bd				
Memo No. 46.02.6963.000.07.007.20.137				Dated: 29/03/2022
<b>e-Tender Notice: 01/2021-22</b>				
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal ( <a href="http://www.eprocure.gov.bd">http://www.eprocure.gov.bd</a> ) for the procurement of works as stated as below.				
Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Package No.	Name of works	Tendering method
1	2	3	4	5
1	680508	ADP (Gen)21-22/Nat-Sadar/01/01	Improvement of HBB Road from Srikrishnapur Pucca Road-towards H/O. Professor Ashrafuzzaman Road (Ch. 00.00-170.00m) Under Union: Tabaria, Upazila: Natore Sadar District: Natore	LTM
2	680509	ADP (Gen)21-22/Nat-Sadar/01/02	Improvement of Road by Carpeting and Palisading near Par Athgoria Culvert – towards up to H/O. Judge Mr. Mahabur Rahma via H/O. SP Humayan Kobir Road (Ch. 0.00 – 385.00m) Under Union: Laxmipur Kholabaria, Upazila: Natore Sadar, District: Natore	LTM
3	680510	ADP (Gen)21-22/Nat-Sadar/01/03	Improvement of Palisading work beside Gunarigam GPS for breach protection Under Union: Boro Horishpur, Upazila: Natore Sadar, District: Natore	LTM
4	680511	ADP (Gen)21-22/Nat-Sadar/01/04	Procurement and Distribution of Ripple Galvanized Iron Corrugated Sheet for subsequently Disaster under Upazila: Natore Sadar, District: Natore	LTM
5	680512	ADP (Rev. Ex.)21-22/Nat-Sadar/01/05	Improvement of HBB Road from Tea Stall of Ismail Hossain in front of H/O. Babu Shonkor Gobindo Chowdhury – up to H/O. Shamol Professor (Ch. 0.00m-87.00m) Under Union: Chatni, Upazila: Natore Sadar District: Natore	LTM
6	680514	ADP (Rev. Ex.)21-22/Nat-Sadar/01/06	Improvement of HBB Road from beside Dorappur Muktiyodha Technical College – towards H/O. Sangbadik Kalidas (Ch. 00.00 – 308.00m) Under Union: Laxmipur Kholabaria, Upazila: Natore Sadar District: Natore	LTM
7	680513	ADP (Rev. Ex.)21-22/Nat-Sadar/01/07	Improvement of Road by HBB from Jolarpara Bridge near H/O. Nazir – towards West Charpara Road Under Union: Kafuria, (Ch. 0.00m-250.00m) Upazila: Natore Sadar District: Natore	LTM
This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and offline/hard copies will not be accepted. To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-GP System Portal ( <a href="http://www.eprocure.gov.bd">http://www.eprocure.gov.bd</a> ) 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 4.00pm date: 17/04/2022.				
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and also from e-GP help desk (E-mail: <a href="mailto:ue.natore-s@lged.gov.bd">ue.natore-s@lged.gov.bd</a> Or Call to 0771-66665).				
Interested persons can communicate with the undersigned during office hours.				
Sk. Md. A. S. Mostafazur Rahman Upazila Engineer LGED, Natore Sadar, Natore Phone No. 0771-66636 E-mail: <a href="mailto:ue.natore-s@lged.gov.bd">ue.natore-s@lged.gov.bd</a>				
GD-614				