



To prevent corrosion of rods in water reservoirs, use corrosion-resistant steel

**BSRM Centura**

Fusion Bonded Epoxy Coated Rebar



Call for Order 01954 55 66 33

**SHAH CEMENT**

READY-MIX CONCRETE

SMART CONCRETE SOLUTION

## Every Dhaka street will have CCTV coverage

### Home minister says

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

All roads in the capital will be brought under CCTV camera coverage, which would benefit the city's traffic management and help control crime, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan said yesterday.

He was speaking at the ninth general assembly of "Nirapad Sarak Chai", a platform working to ensure safe roads.

"We are taking initiatives to make Dhaka a safe city. We will bring the whole city under CCTV camera coverage. If we can do it, then we will do the same for Chattogram and Rajshahi cities. We are working towards achieving that goal. It will benefit many areas, particularly in traffic and crime control," the minister said at an event held in the capital's Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

Asaduzzaman said many people point fingers

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



A bit of greenery, a result of a private initiative, offering passersby shade and relief from the sun. Such foliage is hardly seen in the capital. The photo was taken on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue near Paribagh yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## JCD protests nationwide

### BCL launches its own counter protests

SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal has staged protests across the country against the recent attacks by Chhatra League.

The BCL, however, has also announced protests against what it calls "attacks on its leaders and activists and general students by Chhatra Dal".

Educationists now fear clashes between the two major student fronts may spread across the country if the government and educational institutions don't take appropriate measures.

Amid this face-off between the BCL and the JCD, the Awami League and the BNP are also trading blame.

AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said the BNP was making ill attempts to create a chaotic situation in the country.

Senior BNP leader Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain alleged that the recent attacks on JCD men were carried out by Chhatra League in Dhaka University area at the behest of the highest levels of the government.

BCL men attacked JCD leaders and activists on Tuesday when they tried to enter the DU campus to attend a programme. On Thursday, JCD men again came under attack by BCL activists during their protest over the previous attack.

Yesterday, Chhatra Dal staged protests at the metropolitan and district levels. The organisation



will stage protests at the upazila and college levels today.

Chhatra League yesterday announced that it would form human chains in all districts today protesting "attacks by Chhatra Dal" and demanding peace on the DU campus.

Witnesses said BCL activists yesterday took positions in different areas of the DU, including TSC, Curzon Hall, Fuller Road, near the Central Shaheed Minar and Madhur Canteen. Many of them were carrying sticks and cricket stumps.

Saddam Hussain, general secretary of DU BCL, said they will make sure that no organisation can be violent on the campus.

"We will prevent Chhatra Dal from entering the campus at any cost," he told The Daily Star.

Several JCD leaders told this correspondent that they would soon try to enter the campus again.

JCD General Secretary Saif Mahmud Jewel said they would come up with tougher protest programmes if they fail to enter the DU campus to stage protests peacefully.

"We have already urged the university authorities to call a meeting of the Paribesh Parishad to ensure peaceful coexistence of all student organisations on campus," he said.

Eight leftist student organisations have also raised the same demand.

Educationist Prof Syed Anwar Hossain said, "If the government and the university administration cannot stop clashes with the help

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

## World's loneliest post office



ODDITY CENTRAL ONLINE

Deep in the Tengger Desert of Inner Mongolia, surrounded by sand dunes as far as the eye can see, lies the world's loneliest post office, a surprisingly bustling outpost of human connection.

Measuring only 15 square meters, the wooden post office of Tengger Desert is not much to look at, but that's ok, it doesn't get too many visitors anyway. Besides, after being abandoned for over 35 years, it actually doesn't look half bad. Thanks to the efforts of a few intrepid individuals who learned about the existence of an old abandoned desert post office by mistake, it has been given a new lease on life, and thanks to the magic of the internet, it has actually become quite a busy operation.

Despite rarely receiving any visitors, over 20,000 letters and postcards were sent from the Desert Post Office in the month of December 2021 alone. And it was all thanks to the efforts of Ms Zhang, one of the people involved in the revitalization of the post office.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

## Egg prices a new worry for consumers

SUKANTA HALDER

The prices of eggs, the most affordable source of animal protein, have gone up by 20 percent in a month at the retail markets in the capital, according to the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh.

Retailers were selling brown farm eggs (brown) between Tk 125 and Tk 130 per dozen over the last few days.

Farm owners said rising production and transport costs were behind the price hike.

The prices of soybean meal and maize, the main ingredients for poultry feed, rose by 30 to 40 percent in the last few months, they said.

Also, many poultry farmers have suffered losses and gone out of business during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Nurul Alam Shikdar, a wholesaler in Mirpur's Pallabi Extension area, said many people were buying fewer eggs nowadays.

Contacted, Kayser Ahmed, managing director of Diamond Egg Ltd, one of the largest egg farms in the country, said around 75 percent of the poultry feed was imported.

Feed manufacturers have also reduced their production due to a crisis of raw materials, he added.

The costs of hiring workers and electricity have also gone up, he said.

The overall production of eggs has decreased by 20 percent, Kayser said.

Taher Ahmed Siddique, president of Bangladesh Egg Producers Association, said the current production of eggs was not enough to meet the demand.

As a result, the prices have gone up, he said, adding, "The upward trend of the egg prices may continue until the feed prices come down."

Over 3.5 crore eggs are required to meet the daily demand in the country, he further added.

Prices of local chicken and duck eggs rose to Tk 150 per dozen in Karwan Bazar yesterday.

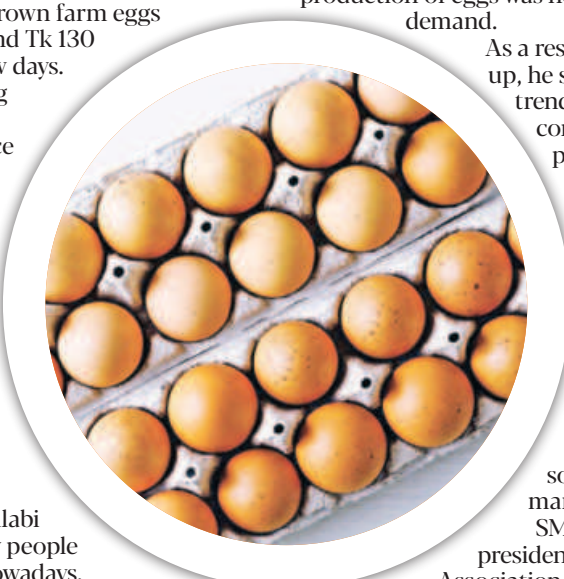
These eggs were being sold at Tk 165 at retail markets.

SM Nazer Hossain, vice-president of the Consumers Association of Bangladesh, said there

was an inflationary pressure in the country now, and it would impact all the sectors.

"The prices of essential commodities have risen and become a major issue for people with limited income."

If this continues, it will not take long for the food security to come under a major threat, he added.



### UKRAINIAN GRAINS

## Russia 'willing to' allow shipments

### Putin tells French, German leaders

AGENCIES

Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday told the leaders of France and Germany in a phone call that Russia was willing to discuss ways to make it possible for Ukraine to resume shipments of grain from Black Sea ports, the Kremlin said.

Russia and Ukraine account for nearly a third of global wheat supplies, while Russia is also a key global fertilizer exporter and Ukraine is a major exporter of corn and sunflower oil.

Russia's offensive in Ukraine and Western sanctions have disrupted



supplies of the key commodities from the two countries, fuelling concerns about the risk of shortages and hunger around the world.

"For its part, Russia is ready to help find options for the unhindered export of grain, including the export of Ukrainian grain from Black Sea ports," the Kremlin said.

It said he also informed French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz that Russia was ready to increase its export of fertilizers and agricultural products if sanctions against it were lifted - a demand

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



Labourers dump sandbags in the Sugandha to protect the bank from erosion in Jhalakathi's Nalchhiti upazila yesterday. The swelling river is threatening arable land and people's homes and business there.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

## Sri Lanka gets Russian oil to ease shortage

AFP, Colombo

Cash-strapped Sri Lanka yesterday took delivery of Russian oil - which could soon be subject to a European embargo - to restart operations at the country's only refinery, the energy minister said.

The island nation is suffering its worst economic meltdown since independence, with shortages of fuel and other vital goods making life miserable for its 22 million people.

The state-run Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC) refinery was shuttered in March in the wake of Sri Lanka's foreign exchange crunch, which left the government unable to finance crude imports.