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A village submerged in Char Teligari of Bogura's Sariakandi upazila yesterday. Local union parishad Chairman Shawkat Ali said 22 families of the char in the Jamuna have taken shelter elsewhere after the flooding began a week ago. At Mathurapara point in the upazila, the river was flowing 46cm above the danger level around 6:00pm yesterday. PHOTO: MOSTAFA SHABUJ

## **'TK 132CR EMBEZZLEMENT'** Court returns case against Wasa MD

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday recorded a case against Dhaka Wasa MD and eight others for embezzling Tk 132 crore and then hours later said it did not have jurisdiction over the matter and "restored the complaint to the complainant".

Shahab Uddin Sarkar, secretary of Wasa Karmachari Bahumukhi Samabay Samity Ltd, a cooperative of Wasa employees, filed the fraud case against Wasa MD Taqsem A Khan and the others with the Court of Metropolitan Magistrate Ashek

Shahab accused Taqsem A Khan Tagsem and the others of embezzling the money of the cooperative.

Imam vesterday.

The court, hours after recording the case, said it had no jurisdiction to take the matter into cognizance or even order an enquiry as it was a corruption

The Anti-Corruption Commission has the jurisdiction to register and SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

## Ukraine gets EU candidate status

Europe sends signal the bloc intends to go deep into former Soviet Union

**REUTERS**, Brussels

European leaders formally accepted Ukraine as a candidate to join the EU yesterday, a bold geopolitical move triggered by Russia's invasion of Ukraine but a reminder that the 27-nation bloc will need a major overhaul as it looks to enlarge again.

Although it could take Ukraine and neighbouring Moldova more than a decade to qualify for membership, the decision at a two-day EU summit is symbolic step that signals the bloc's intention to reach deep into the former Soviet Union.

"A historic moment," European Council chief Charles Michel tweeted. "Today marks a crucial step on your path towards the EU," he said, adding: "Our future is together." The move, which also sees Moldova being granted candidate status, kick-starts the EU's most ambitious expansion since it welcomed Eastern European states after the Cold War.

"All the people in Ukraine are watching and waiting for this decision," said Ivan Zichenko, a 34-year-old Ukrainian from the devastated city of Kharkiv, who now lives in Brussels.

"It's very, very important to raise their morale," he said as a few dozen people chanted "Ukraine is Europe" at a rally outside the shuilding where EU leaders were meeting.

Behind the triumphant rhetoric, however, there is concern within the EU about how the bloc can remain coherent as it continues to enlarge.

After starting in 1951 as an organisation of six countries to regulate industrial production, the EU now has 27 members that face complex challenges from climate change and the rise of China to a war on their own doorstep.

Russian President Vladimir Putin says his "special military operation" launched in Ukraine in late February was partly necessitated by Western encroachment into what Russia characterises as its rightful geographical sphere of influence.

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## অবাক বিশ্ব তাকিয়ে রয়

শেখ হাসিনার নেতৃত্বে বাঙালির পদ্মা সেতু জয়

মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী জননেত্রী শেখ হাসিনাকে প্রাণঢ়ালা অভিনন্দন







