





**FASTBUILD**  
PROVIDES RODS OF  
ANY SHAPE AND  
SIZE AS PER DESIGN





**PADMA BRIDGE**

Proud  
Construction  
Partner



## Hridoy Mondal acquitted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Hridoy Mondal, a Munshiganj schoolteacher whose harassment and arrest had sparked outrage across the country, has been acquitted in the case filed against him on charges of hurting religious sentiments.

Jashita Islam, senior judicial magistrate in Munshiganj, passed the order in writing yesterday.

The case was filed on March 22 with Munshiganj Sadar Police Station under sections 295 and 295 (A) of the CrPC, by Asad Mia, an office assistant (electrician) of the school.

Hridoy, an assistant teacher of Ramkumar High School in Munshiganj Sadar upazila, was arrested and sent to jail the same day. He was released on bail on April 10.

So far, he has had to appear in court five times in this case.

After being acquitted, he said, "I am very happy that I have been discharged from the case. No other

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



An almost immobile tailback on the capital's Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue yesterday. Traffic on major thoroughfares came to a standstill as trucks carrying Awami League activists to a rally organised by the party's Dhaka South and North city units blocked roads adjacent to the Suhrawardy Udyan.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## Give info on salary, perks of Wasa MD HC tells authorities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday wanted a report on the salaries, allowances and others facilities given to Dhaka Wasa MD Tqsem A Khan in the 13 years since his appointment.

In response to a writ petition, the court ordered the chairman of Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority to submit the report to it in 60 days detailing Tqsem's total gross salaries, performance bonuses, travel allowances and daily allowances, and all other benefits in terms of cash paid to him.

The HC also questioned the legality of Tqsem holding the position of managing director and CEO of Wasa, despite his failures, and being paid Tk 6.25 lakh as gross monthly salary.

The court issued a rule asking the government authorities concerned to explain why their inaction in removing Tqsem from the post of Wasa MD and CEO and in cancelling previous decisions increasing his salary in violation of the Service Order (Salary and Benefits), 2015 and the finance ministry notification issued in this regard

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



### CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT

# 14.8m to be at risk of hunger by 2030

Says global report; 750m in South Asia affected

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Climate change will put about 14.8 million people at risk of hunger by 2030, says Global Food Policy Report 2022.

The report, prepared by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), says the number of victims of hunger would be 11.3 million in 2030 if there was no impact of climate change.

According to the report, launched yesterday for Bangladesh at a Dhaka hotel, over 750 million people in South Asia are affected by floods, droughts, and climatic hazards caused by climate change.

"In Bangladesh, near-term projections estimate a reduction of up to 17 percent in total calorie consumption by 2030 due to climate change."

The unprecedented suite of climatic changes has caused crop yield declines and production losses in the region, read the report.

The study found that subsistence fisheries in India and Bangladesh provide up to 60 percent of animal protein in people's diets, but

increasing salinity intrusions in inland aquaculture ponds have resulted in fish mortalities.

It says while the average temperature rise was 0.7 degrees Celsius between 1901 and 2018, a larger increase was observed over the Himalayas (1.3 degrees Celsius).

In Bangladesh, according to the report, average annual

**The unprecedented suite of climatic changes has caused crop yield declines and production losses in South Asia.**

temperatures have increased in the last six decades, with warming accelerating from 2001 onward and a decline in precipitation of about 84mm per decade was observed from 1981 to 2010.

Extreme precipitation events will be 1.7 times more likely in Bangladesh by 2050 than they are now, read the report presented by Aditi Mukherji, principal researcher at the International Water Management Institute.

The report terms the 2017 Bangladesh flood "one rare case". In 2017, flash floods in Bangladesh damaged nearly harvestable boro paddy on about 220,000 hectares. The floods caused a 30 percent year-on-year rise in paddy prices.

Another study projects loss of ecosystem services as a result of climate change in the range of \$18 million to 20 million by 2050 in Bangladesh under low- and high-emissions scenarios.

The IFPRI report, based on the analysis of different studies, says the use of urea, a major emitter of nitrous oxide, is heavily subsidised across South Asia, especially in irrigated areas, resulting in its widespread overuse.

Speaking at the event, Shahidur Rashid, director (South Asia) of IFPRI, said the climate change impact would make it extremely challenging for the region to achieve the SDG goal of zero hunger by 2030.

Channing Arndt, director of IFPRI's Environment and Production Technology Division,

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3



## A near-death experience

Back home, Wasfia describes her K2 summit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Any of the falling boulders, shifting snow on the slopes, and oxygen starvation could have taken her out and the bodies strewn all the way to the top of K2, the world's most notorious mountain, tested Wasfia Nazreen's nerves.

The eminent mountaineer said it required an extreme level of mental strength as seeing bodies and facing such harsh conditions strained the spirit. "Once you lose your senses, you end up dead."

Washia, the first Bangladeshi and one of only 54 women to have conquered K2, was narrating her experience yesterday in Dhaka yesterday.

She credited the achievement to the collaborative team effort that made it possible to return unhurt

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

## Earth's water may be from asteroids



AFP, Tokyo

Water may have been brought to Earth by asteroids from the outer edges of the solar system, scientists said after analysing rare samples collected on a six-year Japanese space mission.

In a quest to shed light on the origins of life and the formation of the universe, researchers are scrutinising material brought back to earth in 2020 from the asteroid Ryugu.

The 5.4 grams (0.2 ounces) of rocks and dust were gathered by a Japanese space probe, called Hayabusa 2, that landed on the celestial body and fired an "impactor" into its surface.

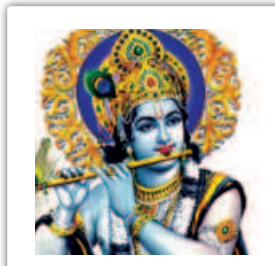
Studies on the material are beginning to be published, and in June, one group of researchers said they had found organic material which showed that some of the building blocks of life on Earth, amino acids, may have been formed in space.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3



Piles of garbage mindlessly dumped at the edge of the Dhaka-Aricha highway near Bolyarpur in Savar by different private company vehicles. Not only does this pollute the surroundings, it also contributes to traffic jams in the area as drivers try to swerve away from the stench. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



## Janmashtami today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hindus across the country are celebrating Janmashtami, the birthday of Lord Krishna, today with festivity and due religious fervour.

Krishna is perceived by the Hindus to be an avatar (incarnation) of God Vishnu. It is believed that all other deities are manifestations of him. Krishna is considered to be a warrior, hero, teacher and philosopher by the Hindus.

Today is a public holiday.

President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in separate messages yesterday greeted the Hindu community members on the occasion of Janmashtami. They

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3