



## PADMA BRIDGE Installation of rail track starts today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Installation of rail tracks on the lower deck of Padma Bridge will start today.

Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujan will launch physical work at Zajira end of the bridge.

Afzal Hossain, director of Padma Bridge Rail Link Project, told The Daily Star that he was hoping the installation work would be done by January next year.

However, a Bangladesh Railway (BR) official said train services are not likely to begin even if the tracks on the bridge are set up on time because setting the tracks from Kamalapur to Gendaria was taking more time for different reasons.

BR is implementing a project to build a 169km rail line from Dhaka to Jashore through the Padma Bridge at a cost of around Tk 39,247 crore.

The entire project is scheduled to complete by June 2024. Physical work made an overall progress of 61 percent as of July this year.



PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Four women sifting through moringa leaves in Boratia village of Khulna's Dumuria upazila yesterday. After the leaves are dried, they will be ground into powder, inset, and sent via a buyer to Dubai. Each kilogramme of powdered moringa leaves, thought to have good nutritional value, fetches Tk 2,000.

## COUPLE'S DEATH IN GAZIPUR

# Blood clots found in their lungs, kidneys



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Doctors have found blood clots in the lungs and kidneys of the Gazipur teacher couple mysteriously found dead inside their car on Thursday.

"It can happen due to poisoning. Samples have been sent to Dhaka's CID lab for chemical tests to determine the actual causes of their deaths," said Shafi Mohaimen, head of the forensic department at Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Medical College.

On Thursday morning, Ziaur Rahman Mamun, 51, head teacher of Tongi Shaheed Smriti High School, and his wife Jolly Akhter, 35, an assistant teacher of Tongi Amjad Ali Sarkar Girls' School, were found inside the car at Borobari of Gazipur's Tongi.

They had been missing for almost 11 hours.

Their family claims that they were murdered as the couple's valuables, including gold ornaments, cash and

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## REGULARISATION OF WORKERS

# Greece to open up scope for Bangladeshis mid-Sept

15,000 undocumented workers could avail themselves of the opportunity, says Bangladesh embassy in Athens

JAMIL MAHMUD

The Greek government is likely to start regularising undocumented Bangladeshi migrants from mid-September, according to the Bangladesh embassy in Athens.

To grab this opportunity, undocumented Bangladeshis who entered the European country before February this year have to get registered with the Bangladesh mission first, Bishwagith Kumer Paul, first secretary (labour welfare wing) at the embassy, told The Daily Star yesterday.

An estimated 15,000 undocumented Bangladeshis are expected to avail themselves of this opportunity.

About 28,000 Bangladeshis currently live in Greece.

The Bangladesh mission is expecting that the regularisation process will be discussed in the Greek cabinet and a "ministerial decision" in this regard will be announced before September 15. Ashud Ahmed, Bangladesh ambassador in Greece, said while addressing an event in Athens on

Thursday, according to a Facebook post by the embassy.

The mission will soon publish a gazette detailing the rules of the regularisation process, the envoy said.

The regularisation will be done in line with the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two countries, signed in February this year in Dhaka.

**Greece will also recruit 4,000 fresh Bangladeshi workers each year for the agriculture sector.**

According to mission sources, many Bangladeshi migrant workers in Greece are exploited by trafficking rackets due to their irregular status.

Undocumented Bangladeshi workers, especially those employed in the agriculture sector in Western Greece, receive wages less than the European country's minimum monthly wage of €713, the sources added.

To address this problem and

also to curb illegal migration, Bangladesh and Greece signed the MoU, a first of its kind between Bangladesh and an EU country.

Under the deal, Greece will also recruit 4,000 fresh Bangladeshi workers each year for the agriculture sector.

European countries, especially EU member states, are sought-after destinations for many Bangladeshi youths mainly because of their strong economic conditions.

To fulfil their dream, many Bangladeshis take risky illegal migration routes, including the Mediterranean Sea, after paying hefty amounts to traffickers.

In his statement, Ambassador Ashud said the mission has started registering names of undocumented Bangladeshis for regularisation and already more than 100 names have been recorded.

The names will be forwarded to the Greek authorities who will open an online platform for submission of applications and other necessary documents by Bangladeshis

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## Bring an end to torture, enforced disappearances

Demand 27 eminent citizens

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-seven eminent citizens yesterday demanded an end to enforced disappearance, torture and illegal detention by the law enforcers.

They also demanded investigations into officials and agencies that were named in the media for their alleged involvement in those crimes.

The probe body conducting the investigations must include representatives from families of the victims, human rights organisations and civil society members, said a statement.

They demanded that the government approve the United Nations' requests to investigate serious human rights violations.

"We believe that continued and planned enforced disappearance, torture, and illegal detention are not only serious violations of human rights and the rule of law, but also tantamount to crimes against humanity," reads the statement.

The statement mentioned that the allegations were being made by different local and international forums that included the United Nations Human Rights Council.

"The experiences of victims of enforced disappearances and illegal detentions reported recently by a Sweden-based online portal and some other media outlets have made us deeply concerned," reads the statement.

"We want to remind the government that torture, enforced disappearance and illegal

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## Megalodon shark could eat a whale in a few bites

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK



A giant shark that swam in the world's oceans millions of years ago could devour prey up to 26ft long – the size of a killer whale – in just five bites, scientists say they have discovered.

Researchers used fossil evidence to create a 3D model of the megalodon, one of the biggest predatory fish of all time,

which lived an estimated 23 million to 2.6 million years ago.

At around 50ft long from nose to tail, the megalodon was bigger than a school bus – about two to three times the size of today's great white shark, according to a study published in the journal Science Advances.

Researchers calculated that the megalodon would have weighed around 70 tons – as much as 10 elephants.

The giant fish required more than 98,000 calories a day – that's 49 times as many as a woman – and had a stomach volume of almost 10,000 litres. To allow it to consume so much, its jaw opened to almost 6ft wide.

The megalodon migrated across oceans with ease for months at a time, the researchers say. It

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## DEPRESSION IN BAY

# Tidal surges may lash low-lying areas in 15 dists

STAR REPORT

Low-lying areas of 15 coastal districts are likely to be inundated by tidal surges caused by depression on the bay, said a special bulletin of the Bangladesh Meteorological Department yesterday.

Meanwhile, the maritime ports of Chattogram, Cox's Bazar, Mongla and Payra have been advised to keep local cautionary signal three hoisted.

Under the influence of the deep depression, the low-lying areas of Satkhira, Khulna, Bagerhat, Jhalakathi, Pirojpur, Barguna, Patuakhali, Bhola, Barishal, Laxmipur, Chandpur, Noakhali, Feni, Chattogram and Cox's Bazar are likely to be inundated, the bulletin said.

A depression over the northwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining area has moved west-northwestward and intensified into a deep depression, the BMD said, reports UNB.

At noon, the depression was centred over northwest Bay and adjoining Bangladesh and India's West Bengal. It is likely to intensify further and move more northwestward.

"Sea will remain rough near the centre of the deep depression. Under its influence, deep convection is taking place over the north Bay and adjoining coastal areas" the weather department said.

Deep convection refers to the thermally driven turbulent mixing that moves air parcels from the lower to the upper atmosphere.

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Plumes of smoke from factories cover the sky above Kolagaon in Chattogram's Patiya upazila along the Karnaphuli river. Such grave air pollution is a health hazard for locals. The photo was taken from Kalurghat bridge area recently.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

## 'LAND GRABBING'

# 4 of Munda community wounded in attack

A CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

An influential local man and his cohorts yesterday assaulted three women and an elderly man of the underprivileged Munda community and damaged their seedbeds with a tiller machine in Shyamnagar, Satkhira.

Witnesses said Rashidul Islam Sardar, his brother Ebadul Islam Sardar, and over 100 villagers wielding sticks and iron rods went to Antakhali Mundapara around 9:00am to evict eight families of the ethnic group from their homes.

They stood in front of the huts of the families, preventing anyone from coming outside, and used a tiller machine to plough through the seedbeds the families were preparing on a piece of land.

As Sulta Rani Munda, 35, Bilashi Rani Munda, 37, Rani Munda 35, and Narendra Munda, 65, who happened

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