

## Who is going to be deputy speaker at JS?

### Election today

#### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 19th session of the 11th Jatiya Sangsad will begin at 5:00pm today, and the new deputy speaker will be elected on the first sitting, following the demise of Fazle Rabbi Miah.

Awami League lawmakers Shamsul Haque Tuku, Abdus Shahid, Capt AB Tajul Islam, Shahiduzzaman Sarkar and Whip Iqbalur Rahim may be considered for the post, according to JS and AL sources.

However, the prime minister's decision is final in this regard.

Parliament secretariat sources said this session is likely to continue till September 1.

The Business Advisory Committee of parliament will hold a meeting at 4:00pm at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban with Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury in the chair to finalise the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



With a kulfi in one hand, a little girl stares at the trees, possibly looking at a bird while her father, sitting beside her, joins her in the search. The father and daughter were seen spending an enjoyable afternoon together at Ahsan Manzil yesterday afternoon. PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## Corruption has spread to every sector

### Says GM Quader

#### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party Chairman GM Quader yesterday said corruption has spread to every sector in the country.

Quader, also deputy leader of the opposition in parliament, said, "Democracy cannot be practised if all the powers are in the hands of one person."

He said this at the launching of a book titled "Chhotoder Pallibandhu" at the JP chief's Banani office.

The JP chairman said Awami League and BNP have repeatedly amended the constitution and established constitutional dictatorship in the country.

He said now the political reality is — let democracy die and dictatorship continue.

GM Quader said research has revealed that Awami League has occupied the most land belonging to the Hindu community.

BNP also took possession of the land belonging to the minorities, GM Quader added.

The book "Chhotoder Pallibandhu" was written by JP Presidium Member Sunin Suvho Roy.

In the programme, Jatiya Party co-chairman Kazi Feroz Rashid said history is being distorted in the country.

Those who did not fight in the 1971 Liberation War and did not see Bangabandhu are writing history based on arbitrary and fabricated information, Kazi Feroz Rashid further said.

# Dhaka may be older than we know!

#### HELEMUL ALAM

Dhaka is the capital that is ever growing within its confines, with its colours, chaos and hustle. It has always been a bit difficult to trace the origin of this madness of a city, and the exact time it came to be.

Historians are divided when it comes to the age of Dhaka. While some believe the city is around 400 or so years old and did not come to be before the Mughal era, others say there is substantial evidence for the city to be of almost 1,500 years.

Historians like HE Stapleton, Nalini Kanta Vattroshali, Ahmed Hasan Dani, and Abul Kalam Mohammad Zakaria mentioned the heritages found in Pilkhana, Tejgaon and Chawkbazar in their books as proof of



Inscriptions and sculptures found in different corners of Dhaka point to the possibility that our capital may just be over a thousand years old. Many are still in search of such artefacts to settle this case once and for all. PHOTO: COURTESY



Dhaka's 1,000-year-old urbanisation.

Those heritages include sculptures and coins found in Pilkhana, Bashudeb sculpture found in Churihatta in Chawkbazar and Harishankar sculpture found in an old pond in Tejgaon during excavations.

A group of young researchers has been on the quest to find the capital's real age for 14 years now. Dhaka's Sthapotto Bisoyer Grantha Unnayan Committee (Committee for Documentation on Architectural Sites in Dhaka), headed by Dhaka University's former vice chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, reported that according to its findings, the city is almost 800 to 1,000 years old.

Prof Siddique said their group of young researchers has been working to find out the history of the city. "Manda shilalipi (inscription)" and some other evidence prove that the city's over 1,000 years old, he said. "We are still continuing our exploration."

He said the statue of lord Shiva, discovered during a prolonged study by the Committee for Documentation on Architectural Sites in Dhaka, also offered a new gateway to the

history as well as ancient art and heritage of this region.

It is a stone statue of Nateshwar, a depiction of dancing Shiva on the back of his bull-carrier Nandi, found at Sarangadhar Jeu Akhada in the capital's Chawkbazar in 2011.

According to experts, the presence of the Shiva statue is a testament to the rule of Chandra dynasty in this region as well as a rich civilisation in the 10th and 11th centuries. This dynasty ruled sometime during this period.

Nalini Kanta, sculpture expert and one of the founders of Bangladesh National Museum, in his book titled "Iconography of Buddhist and Brahminical Sculptures in the Dacca Museum" mentioned that many Nateshwar statues have been discovered in the south-eastern districts, especially in Dhaka and Tripura (currently greater Cumilla).

Tarun Sarkar, a member of the research team, said sculptures made of stone have been found at different locations in Dhaka, supporting the city's existence before the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## 'Make sure you treat the passengers well'

### State minister tells Dhaka airport authorities during surprise visit

#### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Civil Aviation Mahbub Ali paid a surprise visit to Dhaka airport yesterday and gave directives to improve service quality of the establishment and Biman flights.

To get first-hand experience, he went to the airport's luggage-belt, take-off and immigration areas, ground service equipment division, hangar, and Biman Flight Catering Centre (BFCC) from 12:00pm to 4:30pm.

Passengers often claim that it takes a long time to get luggage at the airport after landing. For example, a Dhaka-bound passenger from Bangkok recently said it took around three hours to come to Dhaka from Bangkok. But it took two hours to get his luggage after landing.

Another common claim is that cabin crew of Biman do not behave well with passengers. Immigration and customs officials misbehaving with passengers, especially migrant workers, is also a regular complaint. Recently, a customs official slapped a passenger at the airport while carrying out a routine check.

This triggered widespread criticism on social media.

While inspecting a Dammam-bound flight of Biman, he directed to enrich the content of the national flag

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

## Government out to legitimise rights violators: Fakhrul

#### UNB, DHAKA

BNP yesterday accused the government of trying to give legitimacy to all the human rights violators by including the inspector general of police in Bangladesh's delegation to join the United Nations Chiefs of Police Summit in New York.

Speaking at a press conference at BNP Chairperson's Gulshan office, party Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir also alleged that the government's "irresponsible" and "arrogant" behaviour is putting the country's international relations at risk.

"Confusion has arisen among the public as the US granted a conditional visa to the IGP to attend the summit," he said.

"The Bangladesh government deliberately tarnished the image of the country by providing such a delegation list to the UN," the BNP leader added.

## BNP wants to bring Hawa Bhaban back Says Quader

#### BSS, Dhaka

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said the main goal of BNP is to bring down the government so that it (BNP) can bring back "Hawa Bhaban" in the country through militancy.

Quader, also the road transport and bridges minister, said, "The fall of the government means power. Take back Bangladesh means Hawa Bhaban, destruction, militancy and sectarianism again in the country..." he said.

The minister was talking to journalists after paying tributes to the National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam by placing wreaths at his grave here on the occasion of Nazrul's 46th death anniversary.

"They [BNP] don't think about the people of the country. Their only goal is to grasp power," he said.

### TK 30.84CR U-LOOP PROJECT

## 2 knocked down, 8 of no use

#### DIPAN NANDY

Two U-loops were constructed a year and a half ago in Uttara area on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway by Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) to ease traffic congestion.

The construction cost was around Tk 7 crore.

However, these U-loops had to be dismantled last January. The reasons being — ongoing construction work of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) from airport to Gazipur, and failure to reduce traffic congestion.

Besides, the remaining eight U-loops constructed in Tejgaon, Mohakhali and Banani areas have also proven to be quite useless.

As a result, questions have been raised about the effectiveness of these constructed U-loops, as DNCC has spent Tk 30.84 crore to build 10 U-loops in the capital.

According to transport experts, all the money is going to be wastes as U-loops are not a proper solution to traffic congestion in a populated city like Dhaka.

They also said these initiatives were taken without assessment.

On the other hand, DNCC sources said they do not think the projects have failed, as some U-loops are working effectively. They also said they are planing to redesign the U-loops.

Three U-loops were inaugurated in December 2020 and the remaining seven in April 2021, and with that, road crossings (taking a right turn on both sides of the road) were closed. But they had to be opened again as the U-loops failed to fulfil their purpose.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



Protesting incidents of violence against minorities, people gathered in front of the capital's Raju Memorial and formed a human chain yesterday. The protestors symbolised their issues through red cards and chains during the demonstration.

PHOTO: STAR



Dengue death toll 19

Total number of patients 5,316

586 still undergoing treatment

Number of recovered patients 4,711

131 more hospitalised yesterday

SOURCE: DGHS

**PRAYER TIMING**  
AUGUST 28

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:30	12:45	4:45	6:33	8:00
JAMAAT 5:05	1:15	5:00	6:36	8:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION