

## 'Circular will facilitate loan defaulters'

Petition challenges BB's decision to relax default loan rescheduling policy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A rights organisation has filed a writ petition with the High Court challenging legality of a Bangladesh Bank decision to grossly relax the policy for rescheduling of defaulted loans.

Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB) submitted the petition to the HC on August 28, seeking a stay on the effectiveness of the circular issued by the central bank on July 18.

The organisation said the BB has issued the notice to give facilities to the big loan defaulters, which is discriminatory and contradictory to the constitution. Corruption will take place in the banking sector due to the extra facilities given to the loan defaulters, HRPB's lawyer Manzill Murshid told The Daily Star.

On July 18, the central bank issued the circular allowing the defaulters to reschedule their non-performing loans for four times in contrast to the previous three times.

DAG Tushar Kanti Roy told The Daily Star yesterday that the HC may hear the petition after reopening of the court on October 16.

**PRAYER TIMING**  
SEPTEMBER 5

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4:30 12:45 4:45 6:23 7:45  
JAMAAT 5:05 1:15 5:00 6:26 8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

# 'We can't progress leaving them behind'

Suborno Nagorik Foundation honours inspirational persons with disabilities



Suborno Nagorik Foundation, an organisation that works for the betterment of persons with disabilities, in association with United Commercial Bank (UCB) and The Daily Star, yesterday honoured 15 successful individuals with disabilities, special needs children's parents, organisations that employ physically challenged people, and sports organisations where differently abled people are included. The event held at capital's Daffodil Education Network Conference Hall in Dhanmondi. PHOTO: STAR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 15 persons with disabilities and organisations working for them from different parts of the country were honoured with crests and certificates yesterday at Daffodil Education Network Conference Hall in Dhanmondi.

The event, titled "UCBL Suborna Nagorik Award 2022: Special Citizen Award for Changing perception and Improving the Quality of Life of Persons with Disabilities", was organised by the Suborna Nagorik Foundation, which works for the betterment of disabled people in Bangladesh.

The event was sponsored by United Commercial Bank (UCB), with The Daily Star as

a media partner and Daffodil International University as a strategic IT partner.

The awards were presented in four categories – special needs children's parents, successful persons with disabilities, organisations employing physically challenged people, and sports organisations with specially challenged people.

In a special category, titled "Silent Heroes", seven independent persons with disabilities, who have become self-reliant despite their challenges and have been guiding others to be independent, were also awarded.

This special civic honour was aimed at the issue that physical adversity cannot be an obstacle and persons with disabilities can

reach the expected goal with the collective efforts in building the country.

"The number of people with physical disabilities in Bangladesh is more than one and a half crore. More than half of them are women and children. A large section of the country's citizens are grossly neglected, backward, and unemployed. Their position is at the bottom of the economy," said Suborna Nagorik Foundation founder and CEO Asif Iqbal Chowdhury, also moderator of the event.

"It is not possible to achieve the desired development goals of the country without including this large number of people," he added.

Mostafa Azad Chowdhury Babu, FBCCI senior vice president,

was also present at the event.

He invited the Suborna Nagorik Foundation at FBCCI to discuss a campaign among businessmen across the country to create job opportunities for persons with disabilities.

Syed Ashfaul Haque, executive editor, The Daily Star; Dr Md Sabur Khan, founder and Chairman Board of Trustees, Daffodil International University; ATM Tahmiduzzaman, deputy managing director, UCBL; Abul Kalam Azad, EVP and head of Brand Marketing and Corporate Affairs, UGBL; spoke at the event, among others.

This initiative was officially launched with a press conference at the Gulshan Head Office of UCBL on June 14, 2022.

## Reconsider decision to use EVM Narcos hard to put behind bars

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were not provided with the source code of the machine and we do not have much to say about it at present, we are eager to share our long-standing experience on the election with the Commission," the letter said.

Shujan, in the statement, said EVM is not connected to the internet, and no one has the software

source code. It is almost impossible for anyone to manipulate the machine.

"But a vested quarter with the help of EC officials might be able to take control of the machine by putting malware in the intranet of EC. The existing EVM is a technically weak machine," it said.

"We fear that the disparaging statement of commissioners and EC's

decision to use EVMs [in up to 150 seats] by accepting the ruling party's recommendation has further provoked doubts about the neutrality of the Commission."

In such a situation, Shujan strongly request the commission to reconsider the decision in the larger national interest, it said in the letter.

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"We are aware of the low conviction rate and are trying to improve the condition. We are also training officials about dealing with narcotics cases and ensuring the presence of witnesses," he added.

DNC appointed 68 prosecutors across the country in 2019 to improve the conviction rate and expedite disposal of long-pending cases. But the disposal rate has not improved.

For instance, police arrested Mohammad Babul and Mahammad Golap with 100 bottles of Phensedyl from Uttar Bishil area of the capital's Shah Ali on June 4, 2006.

A case was filed with

Shah Ali Police Station that day.

After 28 days, Anisur Rahman, a sub-inspector of police's detective branch (DB), pressed charges against the duo, and on November 26 that year, a Dhaka court framed charges against them.

Only three out of 10 prosecution witnesses gave their depositions till June 27, 2010, according to court documents.

Since then, the remaining seven witnesses, including IO Anisur Rahman, have not appeared before the court to testify, despite the court issuing several summonses.

The case has recently been transferred to Speedy Trial Tribunal-4 of Dhaka for quick disposal.

Asked about the poor conviction rate, Tohidul Islam, additional deputy commissioner of the transnational crime unit of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime, said the fate of narcotics cases depends on proof of seizure.

"It can only be proved by witnesses' statements, as video footage of seized drugs are not accepted in court as evidence," he said.

The Cabinet Division on July 25 gave the final approval to the draft of Evidence (Amendment) Act, 2022, which will allow electronic records and digital data to be admissible in court.

Once passed in parliament, the proposed amendment will give

both the prosecution and defence the opportunity to produce digital evidence.

**SMUGGLING ON THE RISE**

DNC's annual report shows that narcotics smuggling, especially of yaba, also increased in 2021, when compared with the previous year.

The report shows that the amount of yaba seized, which is smuggled into the country from Myanmar, increased by 45.88 percent between 2020 and 2021.

A similar scenario has been witnessed with regards to heroin and cannabis, which mainly enter from India.

The amount of heroin seized by law enforcers increased by 109.67 percent during the same period,

the report reads. Only eight to 10 percent of total smuggled narcotics can be seized by law enforcers, so 90 percent flood the market.

Usually when smuggling increases so do seizures, according to officials and experts.

## Strengthening

FROM PAGE 4  
Each of the boats also featured different folk culture including Gazir Gaan, Gambhira, Alkap rangaros, sang ranga, Madarer Gaan and Manasa pala.

In Charghat, a

procession paraded the town followed by a discussion.

The discussants said Gram Theatre has been working on the heritage and culture of Bangladesh for more than four decades, aiming to consolidate

the non-communal cultural consciousness of Bangalees and move towards the future.

After the discussion, Rajshahi's Mathal performed a gambhir. In the afternoon, the boat journey ended with returning to the city.

## ACC probing graft

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The suspended mayor allegedly began the works without the consent of the higher authorities and demolished houses on public property for the purpose.

"We will see whether the work was actually done, whether the lands were truly acquired, and whether those affected were compensated. We will also probe whether he spent the money without getting the expected work done."

"We are investigating all allegations of

irregularities in the Gazipur City Corporation. A case will be filed if we find the allegations to be true," said the ACC assistant director.

As part of the investigation, members of the probe committee visited Gazipur to collect information from some government institutions and banks. The probe team members also questioned the GCC officers responsible and collected various documents in this regard.

He further said they have already collected

information on how many banks the GCC has accounts with, names of the accounts holders and how those were maintained.

"Besides, we have also received information regarding corruption involving Tk 2.5 crore that was withdrawn from a GCC account in a private bank in Konabari. The signature was of suspended mayor Jahangir."

The LGRD ministry suspended Jahangir on November 25 last year on various charges such as land grabbing, not

providing compensation to people after taking over their land for widening roads, and working against public interests.

The suspension came days after he was expelled from the Awami League on November 19 for his controversial comments on Bangabandhu and Liberation War martyrs.

Several cases were filed against him in different districts in this regard.

A Faridpur court recently issued a warrant against Jahangir in one such case.

## Find alternative

FROM PAGE 3  
go from the warehouses to the people for OMS and food-friendly programmes.

"In the last couple of days, the price of rice has decreased by Tk 4-5. The pressure on the people has reduced significantly due to OMS and food-friendly programmes," he said.

The cabinet secretary said he had recently held a meeting with several deputy commissioners who reported that Aman's irrigation work is going well due to uninterrupted power supply from midnight to dawn in village areas.

In the meeting, the cabinet, in principle, approved the Bangladesh Institute of Management Act, 2022, reports BSS.

Besides, ratification of the Protocols Amending Articles 50 (a) and 56 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation was also cleared by the Cabinet in yesterday's meeting.

**PM OPENS BEKUTIA BRIDGE**  
Meanwhile, the PM yesterday inaugurated the

1,493-metre "Bangamata Begum Fazilatun Nesa Mujib 8th Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge" over Kacha River at Bekutia in Pirojpur, reports UNB.

The bridge has established uninterrupted road connectivity between Khulna and Barishal divisions.

The premier joined the event through a virtual platform from her office in the capital.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader and Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Li Jiming also spoke at the opening ceremony conducted by PM's Principal Secretary Ahmad Kaikus.

The Chinese envoy said the bridge will give a strong boost to the development of southern Bangladesh.

To continue such a precious tradition of friendship, China is determined to build the 9th Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge, he said. Experts from the two countries are already preparing for feasibility study on the project.

### Obituary and Dua

Mrs. Najma Khasru, wife of late Syed Amir Khasru passed away on Sept 2 (Friday), 2022 afternoon after Juma prayers. There will be a Dua for her on Sept 9 (Friday) at the residence of her son Prof. Syed Munir Khasru after Asr prayers from 4:30-5:30 pm. Cousins, relatives, friends, and well wishers are requested to join. Address: Dhanmondi, Road 3 (Opposite Labaid hospital), House 11, Urban Nestlewood, Apt 9B. Contact: Emran: 01711532092.

**বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, গোপালগঞ্জ**  
নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, গোপালগঞ্জ-এর পরিকল্পনা, উন্নয়ন ও প্রকল্প দপ্তরে পরিচালক পদে নিয়োগের জন্য বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত ও স্থায়ী নাগরিকদের নিকট থেকে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।  
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তারিখ: ০৪/০৯/২০২২

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD E/M Division-1  
Tejgaon, Dhaka. Phone: 0255030115

**e-GP Tender Notice**

The following tender has been called through e-GP System.

Sl	Tender name	Opening date & time
01.	Construction of 10-Storey building with a semi-basement Sobhanbag Mosque at Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi (Sub-Head: Supply & Installation of 2 Nos. 1000-Kg, 10-Stop Passenger Lift and 1 No. 1600-Kg, 10-Stop Fire Lift)	25-SEP-2022, 15:00

All others information is available in [www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd)

**Dr. Md. Ashraful Islam**  
Executive Engineer  
PWD E/M Division-1, Dhaka

GD-1681

## Pakistan beat India in a thriller

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over but Pakistan turned things back with Nawaz and Shadab Khan. When Mohammad Hasnain sent back Hardik Pandya for naught, it looked like India might be in trouble at 135 for 5 in 15 overs. Kohli's 44-ball 60, however, saw them reach 181 for seven.

In reply, Rizwan seemed breezy yet taking things

into account with Babar Azam at the other end. After the Pakistan skipper was sent back by Ravi Bishnoi, Rizwan brought out a few of his specials. Fakhar Zaman departed to Chahal for 15 and Pakistan sent in Nawaz, changing their batting order for a matchup advantage against Indian spin. The move worked magnificently as the

Rizwan-Nawaz duo stitched together a 73-run third-wicket stand, picking up the run-rate from 7.44 to 9. Rizwan played through pain but after Nawaz departed for a 20-ball 42, Rizwan holed out at deep mid-off after a 51-ball 71.

Pakistan needed 34 off 18 and the 18th over became pivotal as Asif Ali top-edged a dolly to Arshdeep

Singh off Ravi Bishnoi only for the youngster to drop it at short third. Asif Ali and Khushdil Shah capitalised on that to take the equation to two needed off four deliveries. Things got tight when Asif fell to Arshdeep, but needing two off two, Iftikhar Ahmed picked up a full toss over the bowler's head and got the winning runs.