

'We want permanent solution to water crisis'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,  
Rajshahi

Hundreds of people from all walks of life, called on the authorities concerned to solve the ongoing water crisis in the Barind region.

They made the call at a public hearing held at a primary school ground in Tanore upazila of Rajshahi yesterday.

The hearing was jointly organised by Barind Area Youth Organization Forum and BARSIK at the Tribal Primary School ground yesterday.

They shared their ordeal as the water crisis has become severe in the areas for unethical extraction of groundwater and climate change.

Women, children and farmers, who participated in the hearing, showed different placards, containing their various demands in it.

Ahibus Hembrom (48), a farmer, said many of

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Holding placards containing their demands, hundreds of women, children and farmers take part in a public hearing on the ongoing water crisis in the Barind region yesterday. This photo was taken at a primary school field in Rajshahi.

PHOTO: STAR

DEFAMING PM  
SC stays bail  
of two in  
DSA cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday stayed two High Court orders that granted bail to a Swecchhasebak Dal leader and a youth in two defamation cases filed under the Digital Security Act.

Md Tariqul Islam, a leader of the associate body of BNP from Narail, was sued for making 'derogatory' remarks about Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on his Facebook account on August 6 after the government increased prices of petroleum products on August 5.

District Chhatra League president Akash Ghosh filed the case with Lohagora Police Station on August 8 and police arrested Tariqul the same day.

Raju of Belsara village under Baliadangi Police Station in Thakurgaon was arrested in the case filed for distorting photos of PM Hasina and Indian PM Modi and posting those on Facebook on March 29 last year. The HC recently granted bail to Tariqul

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## 100 families at risk due to Padma erosion

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

Houses and croplands of over 100 families are at the risk of being devoured by a Padma river tributary due to erosion in Munshiganj Sadar upazila.

Around one acre of land along with a temple in Haldarkandi area have already gone under water over the last few months, said locals.

Illegal sand lifting and excessive water flow are blamed as primary reasons for such severe river erosion. And yet, district administration turns a blind eye to illegal sand lifting, alleged local

near my house that got washed away around a week ago," he said.

"I've been living in makeshift houses on the river bank for around 20 years. During these two decades, I shifted my home multiple times from one place to another due to river erosion," said Rupak Begum, another resident.

"Now, river has again come nearer to my house and I'm preparing to shift once again."

Another resident Mamun Bepari said, "The tributary was almost dry the last few years. But this year, there's a huge flow of water. If such erosion continues,

prevent erosion. We hope that the erosion's intensity will reduce after one week," he added.

However, Mrinal Kanti Das, local lawmaker, alleged that such severe erosion is going on due to illegal sand lifting. Normally, the district administration leases out a certain area of the riverbed for lifting sands to ensure the river's navigability.

Taking the lease, a group of traders are lifting sand illegally in a large scale going beyond their designated area. That is why river erosion has taken a serious turn this year, said the lawmaker.

"I asked the district



PHOTO: STAR

lawmaker.

"The river's now just around 10 metres away from my home. We fear that our house and lands may be swallowed by the river at any time. We've left our house and took shelter at our relative's house," said Shambhu Narayan Barai, a Haldarkandi village resident.

"Even, there used to be a temple

50 houses will disappear within the next two weeks."

Contacted, Ranendra Shankar Chakraborty, executive engineer of Water Development Board (WDB) in Munshiganj, also blamed excessive flow of water from upstream for such severe river erosion.

"We are continuously dumping geo-bags on the river bank to

administration several times to take action against such illegal sand lifting, but to no avail."

Contacted, Munshiganj Deputy Commissioner, Kazi Nahid Rasul denied the allegations and said, "We sent a magistrate to inspect the area. We found that the traders are lifting sands from their designation area, obeying rules."

Ranga-era ends in Rangpur  
JP's new committee approved

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Dinajpur

Jatiya Party chairman GM Quader reportedly approved a 31-member committee for Rangpur on Tuesday with freedom fighter Abul Masud Nantu as convener and Abdur Razzaq as secretary member.

The recently-sacked JP leader Moshirul Rahman Ranga has been excluded from the Rangpur committee, which is a first in its history.

Ranga has served as president and general secretary of JP Rangpur for the last 28 years.

Talking to The Daily Star over phone, Ranga said GM Quader wrongfully discharged him from the party after being "misguided" by a section of party insiders.

A letter issued by MA Razzaq Khan, the office secretary of JP in Rangpur, confirmed the formation of the convenor committee yesterday, adding that JP member secretary Mujibul Haq Chunnu recommended it.

Moshirul Rahman Ranga was removed from all party posts on September 15 this year.

A JP leader said Ranga's interview to a private TV channel irked GM Quader as he spoke in favour of Raushan Ershad and the ongoing rift between them.

## Include mental health in the curriculum

Speakers tell event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Professors, researchers, and doctors yesterday recommended including mental health in the educational curriculum as well as teacher's training to create more awareness and break the stigma associated with mental illness in the country.

The recommendations came at a dissemination event organised by ADD International Bangladesh at Brac Centre Inn auditorium.

Produt Roy of the educational psychology department at University Putra Malaysia and Prof Kamal UA Chowdhury of the clinical psychology department at Dhaka University jointly presented the findings of the study, titled "Understanding the Impact of Stigma on People with Mental Illness in Bangladesh."

The study also recommended providing training to both doctors of private and government hospitals and all medical staffers and establishing a functional referral pathway where general physicians would assess both physical and psychological problems.

ADD International Bangladesh officials also recommended establishing community-based psychosocial support services.

Attending as chief guest, Manoj Kumar Roy, additional secretary of the Health Service Division at the Health and Family Welfare Ministry, said the government has been working to strengthen the mental health support system

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## Colonial hangover?

DU assistant proctor goes berserk as students don't address VC as 'Sir'

**The assistant proctor yelled at us because we did not say "Sir". We did not expect such behaviour from a teacher.**

ARMANUL HAQUE  
STUDENT OF IR AT DU

DU CORRESPONDENT

An assistant proctor has allegedly harassed some Dhaka University students for not addressing the vice chancellor and proctor of the university as 'Sir'.

A video of the bizarre incident went viral on social media yesterday. In the video, Prof Mohammad Mahbubur Rahman, an assistant proctor and also a faculty member of the Institute of Education and Research (IER), was seen talking to the students in an aggressive manner.

The incident happened when the assistant proctor visited DU student Hasnat Abdullah, who was on a hunger strike to press forward his eight-point demand to stop irregularities at the DU registrar building, fell ill yesterday.

"Hasnat would have broken his hunger strike if the vice chancellor and the proctor paid him a visit," Hasnat's friends told Mahbubur during his visit.

All of a sudden, the assistant proctor broke into a burst of rage. "Who is the VC? Call him Sir," he was heard yelling at the students.

At one stage, he asked his proctorial team to seize the IDs of the students present there.

Armanul Haque, a student of the international relations department who was with Hasnat, told this correspondent, "The assistant proctor yelled

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

PRAYER  
TIMING  
SEPTEMBER 22



Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-40 12-45 4-30 6-05 7-30  
JAMAAT 5-15 1-15 4-45 6-10 8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Sonali Bank Limited

Establishment and Engineering Division  
Head Office, Dhaka  
Phone: 02-41051440

Email: [dgmeed@sonalibank.com.bd](mailto:dgmeed@sonalibank.com.bd)

### e-Tender Notice

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender please register on e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

e-Tenders are invited in e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Additional Chief Engineer, Establishment and Engineering Division, Sonali Bank Limited, Head Office, Dhaka for the procurement as below.

e-Tender details can be downloaded e-GP System Portal <http://www.eprocure.gov.bd> for pursue.

Tender ID & Ref No.	Name of works	Tender publication date & time	Last selling/ downloading date and time	Tender closing/ opening date & time
732328 & 170	Supply & Installation of Brand New 02 Set 7.00 KVA Prime Power Single-Phase Diesel Generator including related electrical works for Sonali Bank Limited, (a) Khadimnagar Branch, Sylhet and (b) Mahimagonj Branch, Gaibandha.	25/09/2022 at 11:30	10/10/2022 at 12:00	10/10/2022 at 15:00

Additional Chief Engineer

Covid positivity rate rises to 14.73pc

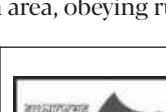
UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh reported 641 more Covid cases in 24 hours till yesterday morning.

With no new deaths reported country's total fatalities remained unchanged at 29,345 while with the new caseload rose to 2,019,470, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

The daily case test positivity rate rose to 14.73 percent from Tuesday's 12.73 percent as 4,351 samples were tested.

The mortality rate remained unchanged at 1.45 percent while the recovery rate dropped to 97.13 percent.



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department

Office of the Executive Engineer

District: Mymensingh

[www.lged.gov.bd](http://www.lged.gov.bd)



Date: 21-09-2022

### e-Tender Notice: 18/2022-23

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of

So. No.	Package No. & Scheme Name	Tender ID	Last selling date & time	Closing/opening date & time	Tendering method
1	IRIDP-3/MYM/DW-126 a) Improvement of Pabliajuri Lorhi Khal to Gurakpur Bazar via Gurakpur Uttar para Primary School Road (Ch. 500m-2760m) [Road ID: 361244152] under Haluaghata Upazila, District: Mymensingh. b) Construction of 10 Nos. 0.625mx0.600m U-Type Culvert at Ch. 612m, 750m, 870m, 910m, 1040m, 1360m, 1465m, 1640m, 2150m & 2500m on the Same Road.	734248	Date: 17-Oct-2022 Time: 13:00	Date: 17-Oct-2022 Time: 14:00	OTM
2	IRIDP-3/MYM/DW-127 a) Improvement of Mukamnia Union Road - Chota Sunai via boro sunai Road (Ch. 00m-2900m) [Road ID: 361815168], under Phulpur Upazila, District: Mymensingh. b) Construction of 05 Nos. 0.625mx0.600m U-Type Culvert at Ch. 212m, 460m, 912m, 2185m & 2866m on the Same Road.	734249	Date: 17-Oct-2022 Time: 13:00	Date: 17-Oct-2022 Time: 14:00	OTM

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The e-Tender security submitted last date & time from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches respectively. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocurement.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocurement.gov.bd)) also from E-mail: [xen.mymensingh@lged.gov.bd](mailto:xen.mymensingh@lged.gov.bd) or Call to 091-66376, 091-66110, 091-64365.

Interested persons can communicate with the undersigned during office hours.

Md. Ashrafuzzaman  
Executive Engineer  
LGED, Mymensingh  
Phone: 02-99664365  
[x](mailto:xen.mymensingh@lged.gov.bd)