



Although kids these days are mostly seen busy in front of a digital screen for entertainment, the youths of Barishal's Bashkola village prefer playing with marbles with their friends. After getting their chores and lunch done, the children gather in the yard in front of their house in the afternoon for an exciting match. This photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

People suffer as salinity

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drums regularly, we have to buy bottled water, which costs Tk 20 per litre," she added.
Hasan Murad from Chawkbazar area said, "I work as a computer operator at a private firm. Buying water from outside is an extra burden for me."
Like Manashi and Hasan, thousands of residents in different areas including Jamal Khan, Chawbazar, Kattoli, Bakalia, City Gate, Halishahar and Bahaddarhat have been suffering due to water salinity.
According to Chattogram Wasa, content of total dissolved solids (TDS), mainly different types of salts, remains at 10 to 15mg per litre of water supplied by Wasa in normal times, but the TDS has increased to 300 to 350 mg now-a-days as the rivers Halda and Karnaphuli, Wasa's two main sources

for collecting water, have become more saline.
As Wasa does not have salinity removal plants, the authorities are now waiting for rainfall so that the salinity decreases in the waterbodies.
Admitting the fact, Ariful Islam, superintendent engineer of Chattogram Wasa, said usually, salinity in Halda increases in dry season. "Usually, we blend the Karnaphuli waters with Halda's to reduce salinity," he added.
"On the other hand, the salinity of Karnaphuli river is decreased by the upstream water released from Kaptai Hydroelectric Project Dam," Arif went on saying, "As there was no rain in the past three months, the level of water in Kaptai dam is 12 feet down now from that of normal time."
"So, salinity in both Halda and Karnaphuli rivers has increased," he

said. "During high tide, the situation worsens further."
According to Chattogram Wasa officials, the daily water supply in Chattogram is around 46 crore litres per day. At present, around 41 crore litres is being supplied from four water treatment plants of Wasa.
Ariful, however, said although people feel discomfort to drink the supplied water, it's "not harmful" for the human body.
Contacted, Dr Sujat Paul, a former professor and head of medicine department at Chattogram Medical College, said water with a TDS content of less than 500mg/L will not create any health risk if the water is not contaminated by microorganism.
However, patients with high blood pressure should avoid drinking water that is more saline, he said.

Still fighting

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our hope, desire to establish a democratic state, to establish a democratic society. But today, the autocratic-authoritarian Awami League government is eliminating the opposition to establish a one-party government."
Alleging that BNP leaders and activists are being harassed by "false" cases, he said, "More than 35 lakh leaders and activists are being harassed in false cases."
Fakhru expressed hope of establishing democracy

through a struggle by uniting democracy-loving people.
"We have started the struggle to bring back democracy, to bring back the right to vote, to bring the price of rice, lentil and oil to a tolerable level and to make the country a truly democratic state. And we will continue our struggle."
BNP standing committee members Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain, Nazrul Islam Khan, Abdul Moyeen Khan and other senior leaders of the party were present on the occasion.

Anti-liberation

FROM PAGE 3
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paid respect to the Liberation War martyrs by placing wreaths at the National Memorial in Savar marking Independence and National Day.
Later, Hasina, also Awami League president,

along with her senior party colleagues paid respect on behalf of the party.
Quader also said that under the leadership of Hasina, the country is on the right track.
"Building a smart country is now the only commitment," he added.

Kids explore novo theatre, museum for free on holiday

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"There were several other children who went to visit the novo theatre with their parents. All of them were seen playing in the zone, enjoying space exhibition, scientific and digital exhibit gallery, and 5D movie.
Maksuda Begum, an assistant teacher at Jigatola Model Government Primary School, who came to the planetarium with her 32 students, said, "This visit will help students get attracted to innovation and science."
Besides, the children also get to watch a documentary on Bangabandhu and the Liberation War.
Golam Zakaria, public relations officer at the novo theatre, said the

planetarium is kept open for all free of cost on the occasion of Bangladesh's 53rd Independence Day.
The presence of visitors is lower than expected due to Ramadan, the official added.
Bangabandhu Military Museum, which is close to the planetarium, also remained open for all free of cost marking the same occasion.
William Shekhor Corraya, facilities operations manager of Business Support Service at British Council, went to visit the museum with his family.
He said, "I take my wife and two children here to make them aware of the country's military history,

The country will become

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freedom fighters including the Father of the Nation with deep respect and said without Bangabandhu the history of Bangladesh cannot be written.
Mentioning that Bangabandhu united the Bangalee nation and prepared the countrymen step by step, the minister

said, "His able daughter Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has given due status to the brave freedom fighters and is taking the country forward."
Deputy minister of the ministry Begum Habibun Nahar, secretary Dr Farhina Ahmed and additional secretary Iqbal Abdullah Harun spoke as special

guests at the discussion. Before the meeting, the environment minister and guests placed wreaths on the portrait of Bangabandhu. After the discussion, prayers were offered for the salvation of the departed souls of the brave martyrs and the prosperity of the country and the people.

Bangabandhu conferred

FROM PAGE 3
SAARC Literary Award is an annual award conferred by FOSWAL since 2001.
The three-day regional literary conference of FOSWAL began in the Indian capital New Delhi yesterday morning. A large number of eminent writers and literatures from the

South East Asian region including Bangladesh have been participating in the conference.
Eminent writer Selina Hossain, Ramendu Majumder, Mohidul Haque and Mohit Kamal, among others, have been participating in the FOSWAL Regional

Conference from Bangladesh. Minister (Press) of Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi Shaban Mahmood and Consular (Political) Safiul Alam were present at the function on behalf of the high commission.

PM, president-elect attend

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leaders, artists, freedom fighters and family members of Birshreshtha gallantry award recipients and distinguished citizens attended the reception.
Newspaper editors and journalist leaders also attended the gathering alongside top civil and military officials.
On the occasion, President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina cut a cake.
They exchanged greetings with the injured freedom fighters and other dignitaries and guests at

the function.
Later, the reception was followed by an iftar party. A special prayer was offered seeking divine blessings for continued peace, progress and prosperity of the country. Pesh Imam of Bangabhaban Jame Mosque Maulana M Saiful Kabir conducted the prayer.
Earlier, the resident paid rich tributes to the Liberation War martyrs by placing wreaths at the National Memorial in Savar, Dhaka in the morning, marking the day.
The president first placed the wreath at the

altar of the memorial followed by the prime minister.
After laying the wreaths, the president stood in solemn silence for some time as a mark of profound respect to the memories of the martyrs of the Great War of Liberation in 1971.
A smartly turned-out contingent drawn from Bangladesh Army, Navy and Air Force presented a state salute at that time while the bugles played the last post. The president also signed the visitors' book kept on the memorial premises.

Coming together for iftar

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correspondent found people from all walks of life sitting at designated places in a row just after the Asr prayers.
A box of iftar items was being distributed around half an hour before the Maghrib prayers.
The iftar at the southern side are a little different. They distribute items on big sized plates. Every three to four people will have to share the iftar items each place which are a mixture of different items like gram, jilapi, beguni, and puffed rice.



"I've been coming to the mosque for the last two days. As a bachelor, I look forward to coming here and breaking fast with many others," said Md Boshir.
Echoing Boshir, Mohammad Manik, a resident of Shuritol, said offering prayers at the national mosque gives him

huge satisfaction and it's also an act of virtue to break fast with many people.
Iqbal Uddin, joint secretary of Baitul Mukarram Jatiya Masjid Musolli Committee, said around 2,000 people from all walks of life take part in the iftar.
He said many -- who can have iftar with their family members -- go there for the unique experience.
Sayek Fazlul Haque, one of the organisers of the iftar at the southern side of

the mosque, said they have been distributing iftar for a long time.
It's free for all and anyone also can take part with them giving money or iftar items.
MK Alam, another coordinator of the iftar, said they have been providing iftar there for the last 26 years.
Another group from Tabligh Jamaat will also start distributing iftar from Monday like other years, he added.

INVITATION FOR TENDER

Pubali Bank Limited, the largest online commercial Bank in Bangladesh is hereby inviting sealed Tenders from the eligible Tenderers who can participate in the following Tender as defined in the tender documents of the under mentioned work as stated below:

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- Please visit <https://www.pubalibangla.com/tender.asp> for more details, interested parties must submit their Tender documents up to **05 April 2023 by 11:00 A.M.** duly filled up all requirements.

(Ashim Kumar Roy)
GM & Division Head



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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Govt. Brojomohun College, Barishal
College Road, Barishal
Website: www.bmc.gov.bd
Memo No. cedp/bmc/otm/2022-23/02 Date: 27/03/2023

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

Tender ID No.	Name of works	Last date and time of tender security submission	Tender closing date & time
805741	Establishment of Campus Networking for Government BM College, Barishal	11-Apr-2023 14:00	11-Apr-2023 15:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted.
To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks' branches up to 10-Apr-2023 16:00.
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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Prof. Dr. Mohammad Golam Kibria
Principal
Govt. Brojomohun College, Barishal
Phone: 0431-64793
E-mail: principalbmcollege@gmail.com

GD-561



USAID

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE


Position Vacancy Announcement

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The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Bangladesh is seeking applications from qualified Bangladeshi nationals for the position of **Project Management Specialist (Collaboration, Learning, and Adapting (CLA)), FSN - 10** in the Office of Program (PRO).

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- Viva-voce: May 12 & 13, 2023 (Friday & Saturday)
- Class starts: 3rd Week of June, 2023

For further details & application process please visit: www.iba-ju.edu.bd/postgraduate_admission

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