

## Sushanti Barua no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sushanti Barua, 95, mother of journalist and Jatiya Press Club member Khokon Barua, is no more.

She died at her residence in Chattogram's Raujan on Wednesday.

Her funeral ceremony was held at her family crematorium on Thursday.

She left behind three sons, a daughter and a host of admirers to mourn her death.

## Debate competition for medical students starts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A two-day event titled "Unimed Unihealth 8th NDF BD ShSMC National Medical Debate & Cultural Festival '23" started yesterday at the capital's Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College (ShSMC) by the National Debate Federation Bangladesh (NDF BD) and ShSMC.

Around 150 people from 68 medical colleges around the country attended the festival.

During the opening ceremony, Prof Abul Bashir Mohammad Khurshid Alam, Directorate General of Health Services, said, "The art and education of debate are both beneficial. It supports one's reasoning and encourages rational speech to establish right behaviour."

"From all parts of Bangladesh, medical students and teachers have traveled to this debate competition. These young people will be able to overcome any obstacles in their professional and personal lives as a result of the unity and knowledge that will be created here," he added.

AKM Shoaib, chairman, NDF BD, asserted, "Since medical students are the future doctors, debate among medical colleges is significant. They must interact and converse with members of every society. So, it is essential that they possess flexibility as well as creativity..."

After the inauguration ceremony and opening speeches, debate teams were formed, and quiz, song, recitation, and music video competitions were held. Following this session, young debating participants took part in the cultural event when the medical students performed.

## TQM expert Prof Noriaki Kano arrives tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prof Noriaki Kano, an expert on Total Quality Management (TQM), will arrive in Dhaka tomorrow on a three-day visit.

During his visit, he will attend launching ceremony of "Kano-BSTQM Quality Award" at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel at 6:00pm on the same day. Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi is expected to attend the programme as the chief guest.

Bangladesh Society for Total Quality Management, a voluntary organisation, has invited him to visit Bangladesh from July 30 to August 1.

During the visit, he will be delivering speeches on "TQM" at various events. He will be the chief guest in the 26th National Annual Quality Convention at 9:00am on July 31.

Dr Kano is the professor emeritus of the Tokyo University of Science. He is the founder chairman of the Asian Network of Quality.



More than 100 bridges constructed over various canals in Barguna remain dilapidated due to a lack of maintenance. As a result, locals, especially workers and students, continue to suffer.

PHOTO: STAR

# 147 Barguna bridges lie unrepaired

SOHIRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

As many as 147 iron bridges out of 200 have been unusable in Barguna for a long time due to a lack of maintenance and repair, causing immense suffering to thousands of locals.

More than 200 such bridges were constructed over canals in the district under "Light vehicles transport project" of Local Government Engineering Department in 1997-98 fiscal year, LGED sources said.

But 147 of those bridges have become dilapidated as those have not been taken care of since their construction. Among the damaged bridges, 28 are in Sadar, 18 in Betagi, 42 in Bamna, 7 in Taltali, 22 in Amtali and 30 in Patharghata upazilas.

Cyclones like Sidr, Aila, Mahasen, Bulbul, Yas and Ampan caused damage to the bridges. Besides, various parts of those bridges were stolen. Parts of many

of these bridges have collapsed and locals use those with great risk.

In 2018, the bridge over Subandhi canal collapsed near Locha Government Primary School in Amtali. It has been unusable since then.

Dulal Mia, a local resident, said, "Although this bridge collapsed several years ago, no steps were taken to repair it."

Although students and pedestrians use it at risk, the vehicular movement has totally been stopped.

Similarly, the bridge over Chawra canal in Amtali broke down in June, 2021.

Another bridge in

Mahishdanga village of Amtali has caved in and stayed in this state for two years. The residents walked on the bridges with risk.

Sumon Mallik from the area said at least 20,000 people of 10 villages – including students

of eight educational institutions – are suffering due to the bridge collapse.

To minimise the suffering, locals have made a makeshift bamboo bridge at that place; but it has become fragile now.

Asaduzzaman Mallik, chairman of Haldia Union Parishad in Amtali, said, "In my area, five bridges have been broken. People cannot move through those."

Locals' suffering will not end

until the bridges are rebuilt, he said.

Moreover, the iron bridge near Haldia Bazar has cracked.

Saidul Pada, a local trader of the market, said thousands of people cross this bridge every day. At present, it is impassable and may collapse at any time.

In Sadar upazila, an iron bridge has been damaged for two years.

Nazrul Islam, a resident of Bibakhattar area in the upazila, said a portion of the bridge has broken in the middle. However, hundreds of auto-rickshaws and motorcycles are still plying this bridge every day due to lack of an alternative path, he said.

Contacted, Supriya Mukherjee, executive engineer of LGED in Barguna, said, "Initiatives have been taken to rebuild these bridges. I have spoken to senior officials about the issue several times. I hope, tenders for these bridges may be offered by the end of this year."



## Youth crushed under wheels of train in port city

UNB, Ctg

An unidentified youth was crushed under the wheels of a train in Dewanhat area of the port city yesterday.

Salauddin Khan Noman, sub-inspector of Chattogram Railway Police Station, said locals spotted the body on the Dhaka-Chattogram rail track after a train crossed the area in the morning.

Police recovered and sent the body to Chattogram Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy, he said, adding that they were trying to find out the identity of the deceased.

## Dhaka air quality 'moderate'

UNB, Dhaka

Dhaka's air quality was in the "moderate" zone yesterday.

With an air quality index score of 66 at 9:06am, the capital ranked 25th on the list of cities worldwide with the worst air quality.

An AQI between 50 and 100 is considered "moderate" and acceptable. An AQI between 101 and 200 is considered "unhealthy" and AQI between 201 and 300 is "poor" while a reading of 301 to 400 is considered "hazardous".

In Bangladesh, the AQI is based on five criteria pollutants – Particulate Matter (PM10 and PM2.5), NO2, CO, SO2 and Ozone.

Dhaka has long been grappling with air pollution issues. Its air quality usually turns unhealthy in winter and improves during the monsoon.

## Forgotten amid

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corporation areas. The survey stated that 20.9 percent of these children are involved in waste collection activities.

Dr Fazlul Haque, chairman of Pathashishu Kallyan Trust, told The Daily Star, "Many street children have been suffering silently from dengue. However, we do not know about their sufferings as they are not being diagnosed."

"We have already taken steps to increase awareness among the street children who are living in Mohakhali bus terminal, Karwan Bazar and in several congested parts of Dhaka and outside the city as well. Our mobile teams are providing free dengue tests and medicine to street children. We need concerted efforts from all quarters to overcome this challenge," he added.

When asked about what

the government should do to tackle the situation, Prof Be-Nazir said, "We have a severe lack of reliable data. This is a serious obstacle to fight the spread of dengue virus (among street children)."

"The government should establish medical centres in every ward of both the city corporations to provide free dengue tests and primary treatment. They will also be able to refer serious patients to the designated hospitals," he added.

"The city corporations, health ministry, municipalities and agencies concerned have to act as one body to fight this disease. Citizens should also cooperate with the government bodies," he added.

(Translated by Md Shahnawaz Khan Chandon)

## Illegal dams disrupt

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Al Amin Khan, one of the fish farmers, said, "We are cultivating fish in a part of the canal. Many others are doing the same. If they relinquish their possession over it, we will also unblock the canal."

Other fish farmers, who are illegally using the canal, declined to comment.

Patuakhali Sadar Upazila Agricultural Extension Officer Mostafizur Rahman said, "I raised this matter in the monthly upazila development and

coordination meeting last month."

"The UNO asked me to investigate the matter and inform him about it. I have already visited the area and found the allegations to be true," he added.

He said measures will be taken in this regard, subject to his discussions with the upazila nirbahi officer.

Contacted, Patuakhali Sadar UNO Saifur Rahman said blocking a flowing canal is a crime. All illegal dams on the canal will be removed soon, he assured.

## People have confidence

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Hasina said they have introduced legal aid assistances for the poor and insolvent litigants in all courts across the country to ensure justice for all.

Since assuming office, her government has been working tirelessly to ensure justice for all, she continued.

The premier also thanked the judiciary for the verdict declaring the 15th amendment to the constitution illegal that stopped grabbing state power illegally and smoothened the path of democracy.

The PM said they will establish a law university in Bangladesh aimed at ensuring world class education for law graduates.

Hasina hoped that justice, democratic, socio-economic and cultural rights will be prevailing in the country in days to come.

At the event, Hasina laid foundation of the

SC's "Record Bhaban". She also unveiled the cover of a publication of the SC, "Amader Bicharaloy".

Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Chief Justice Hasan Foez Siddique and Law Minister Anisul Huq spoke on the occasion.

Justice Obaidul Hassan gave the address of welcome.

## Math, English

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English (96.82 percent), while Jashore board examinees had the highest pass rates in mathematics (98.89 percent). According to the Dhaka board, it had a pass rate of 90.03 percent in 2022 and 93.15 percent in 2021. Both exams were held with a shortened syllabus due to Covid-19 pandemic.

The board's pass rates from 2011 to 2020 are 84.65, 85.96, 87.31, 93.95, 88.65, 88.67, 86.39, 81.48, 79.62, and 82.34 percent respectively.



Three men collect Aman paddy seedlings in Karapur area of Barishal Sadar. They said they make around Tk 600 every day for the work, which begins at 7:00am and ends with the setting of the sun. The seedlings are usually planted during monsoon and later transferred to other arable lands. This photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

## WB approves \$300m

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Industrial users, will also be rolled out to demonstrate the viability of smart meters to better monitor and manage gas use in the industrial sector.

The project will also install a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition and Geographic Information System on PGCL's network

to improve gas flow monitoring and help reduce methane leaks. Overall, it will contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emission and better monitor gas networks to help identify and repair methane leaks.

"Improving energy efficiency will be crucial for Bangladesh to achieve its 2021 Nationally Determined Contributions

commitment of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 2030," said Abdoulaye Seck, World Bank country director for Bangladesh and Bhutan.

Sameh I. Mobarek, World Bank senior energy specialist and team leader for project, noted that Bangladesh's biggest source of greenhouse gas emission comes from the oil and gas sector.

## Pass rate, GPA-5

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lowest number in the past five years. Furthermore, it also falls short by more than half compared to last year's 15,457 students.

In 2021, there were 14,313 students who achieved GPA 5; 7,516 in 2020, and 6,287 in 2019.

Additionally, despite a little dip compared to last year, the technical board's 86.35 percent pass rate nevertheless outperformed

that of general and madrasa students.

The pass rate in the general education board this year is 80.94 percent.

As many as 1.05 lakh vocational students passed out of 1.22 lakh students this year, while 18,145 students earned GPA 5.

Meanwhile, 375 students appeared for SSC from abroad in eight foreign exam centres this year, of which 320 have passed.