



Skating has become popular among the young people of Sylhet who are often seen enjoying the sport in groups, especially during weekends. However, due to a lack of facilities, skaters have to take to the streets among speeding vehicles which poses a serious risk of accidents. The photo was taken on the city's Airport Road recently.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

## 42,000

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of USDA's assistance, coinciding with the government's preparations for the upcoming national school feeding program, the press release added.

They visited several schools in Cox's Bazar and Ukhiya under the WFP programme, inspected the WFP warehouse in Chattogram, and toured a biscuit production facility in Khulna.

Dom Scalpelli, Country Director of WFP Bangladesh, emphasised the significance of school feeding, saying, school feeding is more than just filling the empty stomachs of hungry children.

It is a sound strategy to combat child hunger and poor nutrition, promoting good eating habits among children and improving livelihood opportunities for their communities, he added.

## JP will go

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the JP... the Langol symbol, from people's hearts," he noted.

Jatiya Party's Secretary General Mujibul Haque Chunnur Additional Secretary General Advocate Rezaul Islam Bhuiyan, Co-Chairman Syed Abu Hossain Babla MP, and other senior leaders also spoke at the event.

GM Quader's wife Sherifa Quader and d Jahid Hasan Limon were selected as the president and general secretary of Lalmonirhat District JP respectively.

**ফ্র্যাট বিক্রয়**  
গুলশান-২নং এ শাভা প্রপার্টিজের  
ভৈরী অভ্যাসনিক, লাক্সারিয়াস একদম  
নতুন সেভেল এ ও ২ কারপার্কিংসহ  
৪৪৫০ বর্গফুটের দক্ষিণমুখী ফ্র্যাট জরুরী  
বিক্রয়। যোগাযোগ ০১৭৯৮০০০০৭৭

## Three members

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joined militant outfit Ansarullah Bangla Team after being inspired by its leader Jasim Uddin Rahmani's speech.

Jewel was in prison for nine months after he was arrested by Rab. During this time, he planned on starting his own outfit.

Jewel also planned to free ABT leader Jasim, who is currently serving his sentence, from prison, the official said, adding that the officials are yet to be known.

"We first arrested Jewel from Rampal in

Bagerhat. Later, based on information provided by him, the remaining two top leaders were arrested. During their detention, eight banners of this new outfit were seized."

The two other arrestees were previously members of militant outfit Hizbut Tawheed, he said.

Asked whether they had any plan to launch terror attack during upcoming national election, the DIG said, "We will question them in this regard. However, there is no information in this regard yet."

## Narsingdi road

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9:45pm on Friday, said Easin Ikbal, station officer of Fire Service and Civil Defence office in Belabo upazila.

The injured were taken to a local hospital and the bodies were sent to Narsingdi Sadar Hospital for autopsy, he told our Narsingdi correspondent.

The deceased were identified as Dolona

Begum,55, wife of Abul Kashem of Bakhornagar in Raipura and her grandsons Arian, 7, and Rana,18, who hailed from Belabo upazila.

All six victims were auto-

rickshaw passengers, added the fire service official.

Safar Uddin, in charge of Bhairab Highway Police, said no one was arrested in this regard. The process to file a case against the alleged bus driver is underway.

## We believe in people

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He said various ill attempts are being made to halt the country's progress, adding that despite all odds, Bangladesh's economy has progressed a lot.

Highlighting the present government's endeavour to change the people's fate, he said: "When we assumed power, the poverty rate was 28 percent. Currently, it is 5 percent. Insha Allah, it will be zero in 2040. Significant success will be achieved in 2030. Literacy rate will be cent percent by 2040."

About the role of the

industrial police in the country, he said the industrial police has created a bridge between the owners and workers in the factory sector.

"The industrial police managed to convince the workers that these factories belonged to them. If the factory is damaged, it is also harmful to them. The idea of this industrial police came from the mind of the prime minister," he added.

Later, the home minister attended a rally of the Awami League at Railgate number-2 area of the city.

## Girls opt

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I think such training is necessary for them," he said.

Participants will learn eight self-defence techniques in four days under this initiative. The Youth and Sports secretary is scheduled to visit the village on September 20 and further decisions regarding the programme's expansion will be discussed with him, said Debashis Kumar Mondal, general secretary of the academy.

Mentionable, four footballers were attacked on July 29 for playing in jerseys and shorts.

The following day, player Sadia filed a case with Batiaghata Police Station, accusing four people.

Three of the accused threatened an acid attack on the girls if the case was not withdrawn, following which Sadia filed a general dairy on July 31 in this connection.

The accused are currently in jail.

## Social movement

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Eminent economist Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya commented that Bangladesh's constitution has been "communalised" through different amendments.

Social movement must be launched and strengthened to restore the spirit of non-communalism in the country, he viewed.

S w a m i P u r n a t m a n a n d a j i Maharaj, principal of Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission in Dhaka, spoke on the occasion.

Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad General Secretary Prof Chandranath Podder, and several other minority community leaders, among others, spoke at the event chaired by the parishad President JL Bhowmick.

Earlier on Friday night, in a separate programme, Rana Dasgupta had said the country's minority people play the role of catalyst in determining the electoral results in at least 100 constituencies in the national election, according to a press release.

Based on this calculation, the political parties should play their roles before polls, he said.

Rana Dasgupta came up with the statement while addressing a meeting of Dhaka city unit (north) of Hindu Buddhist Christian Oikya Parishad at Tejgaon Polytechnic Institute auditorium.

# Catimon mango brings year-round cultivation prospects

BSS, Rajshahi

"Catimon", a mango variety of Thailand, is creating a scope to produce mangoes throughout the year in Rajshahi region, including its vast Barind tract, breaking the existing record of around three and half months of harvesting season of the delicious fruit from May to mid-August.

Experts said the trees of this exotic variety contains mangoes and flowers or buddings simultaneously, producing yield three to four times in a year against the single yield from the conventional varieties.

Umme Salma, district training officer of Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), said Catimon mango is being cultivated on around 15 hectares of land in Rajshahi.

As a result of taking care of the trees regularly, there is an exceptional yield of the fruits and the mangoes are being sold at a high price. For this reason, more farmers are interested in cultivating the variety, she said.

Many growers have also raised nurseries alongside their orchards for selling Catimon saplings amid the increasing demand, she added.

This mango is not like the seasonal varieties of mango but it is tasty and sweet and has a high demand in the market compared to other varieties, the DAE official also said.

Normally, mango harvesting and marketing take place from mid-May to mid-August in the region.

However, the Catimon variety is still available in the local markets, and are being sold at Tk 8,000 per maund at present (Tk 200 per kg). One kilogramme contains four to five mangoes.

Dr Shafiqul Islam, principal scientific officer of Regional Fruit



Research Station, said they are conducting research on the Thai mango variety to assess its extent of disease infestation.

Local entrepreneurs brought Catimon mango to Bangladesh from Thailand about six years ago and it quickly acclimatised to the local climate.

Since then, entrepreneurs in Rajshahi and its neighbouring districts have been increasingly turning to Catimon cultivation with about 250 farmers now growing the fruit, creating a new dimension in the field of mango farming.

Over time, many high yielding mango varieties and modern technologies are coming and enriching the mango production sector in the country, gradually turning the region's economic sector vibrant.

Shakatwat Hossain Munshi, a mango farmer of Kanaiprara village under Puthia upazila, said almost every year new varieties of mangoes are being cultivated here through

testing their quality.

Rafiqul Islam of Maria village in Durgapur upazila has established an orchard of Catimon mango at his village, inspiring many other villagers to follow him.

Islam had collected 1,100 saplings of the variety at Tk 180 apiece from Dinajpur and planted those on 25 bighas of land three years ago. Flowers started appearing in the subsequent year.

Rafiqul Islam said the number of fruits was not satisfactory due to less weight and height of trees in the first year. He got three to five kilogrammes of yield from each tree during the last three consecutive seasons.

The Catimon trees were planted in rows of three alongside two rows of banana trees, and unlike traditional mango orchards, the trees were rarely higher than six feet.

The agricultural entrepreneur went on to expand his mango orchard on 200 bighas of leased land.

This year, he harvested mangoes worth Tk 3.5 lakh.

## A threat to children's cognitive abilities

FROM PAGE 3  
Population Studies Division, International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (icddr,b) said, "Our continuous research and accumulation of substantial evidence enabled us to realise the magnitude of the lead pollution in Bangladesh. It is high time to design interventions taking the evidence into account to

mitigate the problem at the source."

Dr Mahfuzar Rahman, Bangladesh country director, Pure Earth, said preventing lead exposure has become a top priority considering its profound health and economic impact.

"Pure Earth's Rapid market analysis of about 200 items in three districts showed the widespread sources of lead in daily

commodities such as metallic and ceramic food ware, paint, rice/starch, and toys, posing potentially serious health risks. Strict regulations and increased investment are imperative to further research and implement risk reduction strategies," he added.

The study recommended a 10-point action plan to address the lead pollution crisis, which includes

analysing the lead sources and designing source-specific interventions, building blood lead level surveillance, taking multi-sectoral efforts, increasing monitoring, reviewing the existing policy and enforcing laws and regulations, remediating toxic sites, building capacity of the stakeholders to mitigate the issue, and raising awareness at the national level.

## His journalism stood the test

FROM PAGE 3  
sustainable industry began during the journalist-mentorship of Mansur.

Dhaka University Professor Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury said, though he can be identified as a politician, litterateur, journalist, and lawyer, Abul Mansur was an intellectual first.

"His journalism is still relevant... His work has shown us the path. And for that, we still talk about freedom of speech and express our opinions, we protest something like the Digital Security Act" said Serajul, also president of the parishad.

Mansur about 100 years ago pointed out the problems of farmers as the main problem of our society, he added. "He

wanted a change in the society and for that, he worked as a politician, a journalist...."

Mansur knew for that social change a cultural preparation was needed. So, through his works and writings, he promoted cultural advancement.

"He had the exceptional capacity to portray the society as it was... Unfortunately, we don't have that capacity", Serajul added.

Calling him a man of dignity, Serajul said Mansur used to call a spade a spade. "He always spoke and wrote what he considered right."

Serajul said the current system has promoted poverty and this has increased disparity.

"If we cannot replace the personal property system

with collective ownership, we will not be able to change the society", he added.

The New Age Editor Nurul Kabir said Abul Mansur considered journalism as a politics and journalism could be used for political and economic emancipation of the oppressed class of the society.

He said that Mansur stood beside Bangalee Muslims as 88 percent of them were peasants and were oppressed. However, Mansur stood beside them, not on religious grounds. He stood beside them as they were oppressed.

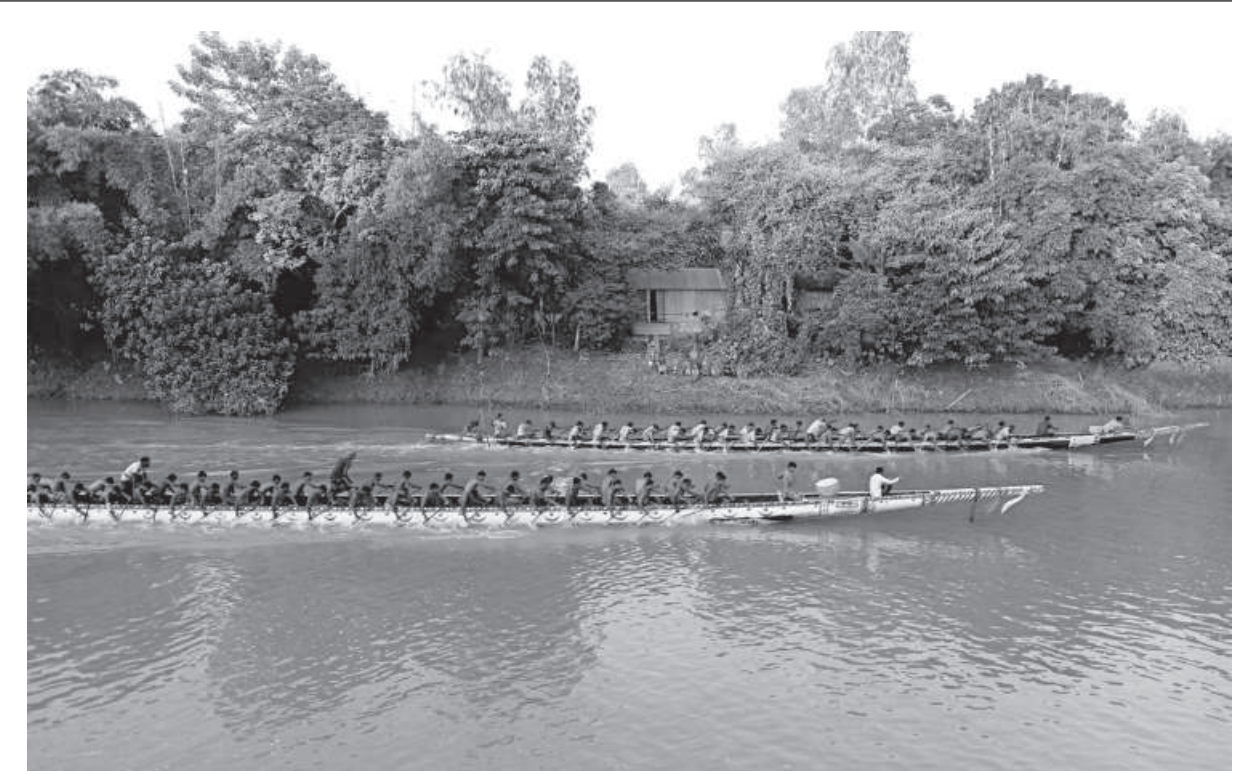
Mansur was the first among the journalists of his time who rightly figured out the importance of language in political discourse and addressed

the issue.

Ali Ar Raji, assistant professor of communication and journalism at the University of Chittagong, said Mansur played a revolutionary role in establishing Bengali Muslim's own language through his works and journalism.

Faruk Wasif, planning editor of Bengali Daily Samakal, and Kazal Rashid Shahin, a prominent journalist, also spoke at the programme. The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam welcomed all by joining the event virtually.

Nine participants received awards in three categories at the event for writing essays on Abul Mansur Ahmad's journalism.



Boatmen paddle in full swing as they race against each other on the Suborno Khali River in Satpoa village of Jamalpur's Sharishabari yesterday.

PHOTO: SAHIDUL ISLAM NIRAB

BIGM

Bangladesh Institute of Governance and Management (BIGM)

Plot: E-33, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka

Phone No. 880-2-223374040-44 (133)

Memo No. BIGM/land/buildg.Maint/22/15/2/23-205

Dated: 16-09-2023

Invitation for Tender (IFT No. 03/2023-2024)

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from all eligible Suppliers in accordance with PPR-2008 (With all amendments) for the undermentioned work.

1.

Agency

Bangladesh Institute of Governance and Management.

2.

Procuring entity name

Additional Director (Strategic)

3.

Procuring method

Open Tendering Method (OTM).

4.

Invitation Ref No. & date

BIGM/land/buildg.Maint/22/15/2/23-205 and Dated: 16-09-2023

5.

Last date & time for selling of tender

08-10-2023 up to office hours.

6.

Last date & time for submission of tender

09-10-2023 up to 12.00 Noon.

7.

Date & time for opening of tenders

09-10-2023 at 01.00pm

8.

Selling, receiving & opening tender document

Office of the Additional Director (Strategic), BIGM.

9.

a) Reputed contractors/construction firms who have minimum 5(five) years of experience in steel structure works.

b) Having experience in successful completion of at least 01 (one) contract of lift core with steel structure within the last 02 (two) years, with a value of at least Tk. 30 lacs.

c) The minimum amount of Liquid assets or working capital or credit facilities of the tenderer shall be Tk.10.00 (ten) lacs only supported by bank certificate in the form of Form PW2a-3, should be counted 28 (twenty-eight) days before from the date of opening of tender. Original bank certificate must be enclosed along with the tender in the form of Form PW2a-3. Otherwise, the tender will be non-responsive.

d) Up-to-date trade license, income tax clearance and VAT registration certificate, ABC category & supervisory license issued from Electrical Licensing Board, original money receipt, work certificates should be enclosed along with the tender.

e) All other terms and conditions as per tender document.

10.

Price of tender document (Tk.)

Tk. 2000/- (two thousand) only.

11.

Name of work

Location

Tender security

Completion time

Construction of lift core with steel structure including Civil, Electrical and other related works at Annex Building, BIGM, Dhaka.

BIGM, Agargaon

Tk. 1(one) lac only in favor of Director, Bangladesh Institute of Governance and Management, BIGM.

60 days

12.

Special instruction:

i) This tender notice can be seen and downloaded from websites of [www.bigm.edu.bd](http://www.bigm.edu.bd)

ii) The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders received without assigning any reason whatsoever.

iii) Other detailed information has been attached to tender documents.

Mohammad Al-Amin

Additional Director (Strategic)

BIGM, Dhaka

GD-1422