

## 74pc rise in misinformation between Jan, June

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Political misinformation increased by 74 percent during the second quarter (April-June), compared to the first quarter (January-March), ahead of the national elections, according to fact-checking organisation Dismislab.

A 56 percent increase was recorded in between the second and third quarter (July-September), according to the organisation's analysis of 2,049 reports published on seven fact-checking websites between January and September.

In September alone, fact-checking organisations identified 83 instances of false political information, contrasting to only 31 instances in January. Meanwhile, 44 percent of the misinformation was identified in a single fact check, pertaining to politics. The analysis highlights emergence of visa policies and sanctions as new subjects for disinformation, while the creation of counterfeit photo cards, under the guise of mainstream media, has become a prominent disinformation tactic.

In Bangladesh, the propagation of misinformation revolves around four areas -- politics, religion, disaster, and sports. While the traditional trend of spreading false information about politicians persists, a new trend, targeting the US ambassador has recently emerged, according to the analysis. About 40 percent of the 370 instances of verified political misinformation in Bangladesh were directed towards Awami League, while BNP was targeted in 26 percent of cases.

Most of the false and misleading content carries a negative tone, but each category also contains some instances of fake praise for leaders and their actions.

Out of the 81 manipulated media content identified this year, 69 percent were employed to spread false information around local politics, as per the analysis.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

A bridge, built on the Kala Matia river to connect Nilphamari and Dinajpur districts, has been left abandoned for six years without repairs or maintenance.

Constructed by the relief and disaster management department in 2013, the bridge connected Ramkola village under Nilphamari Sadar upazila on the east end with Basuli Shah Para village under Khansama upazila of Dinajpur in the west.

During the 2017 flood, the river's west embankment attached to the bridge and its approach road were swept away by violent current of river water, creating a 115-foot long and 25-foot deep ditch. Since then, the bridge became disconnected and was left abandoned.

People are now forced to use alternative means to commute between the two sides of the river, either going for a route covering a longer distance during monsoon, or wading through the river in dry season.

"About 40,000 people from 15 villages on both ends are now facing difficulties. It was easier to go to Nilphamari, Domar,



Dinajpur, Khansama, Deviganj and Panchagarh towns using the bridge," said Proshanta Kumar Roy, chairman of Khokshabari union parishad under Nilphamari.

Afzal Hossain, member of Alojkhari UP under Khansama in Dinajpur, blamed poor planning.

Visiting the spot recently, this correspondent learnt that around 6,000 students study in five educational institutions situated on both ends of the bridge.

Rafiqul Islam, 21, an honour's student from Faridabad village in

the bridge's west end, said earlier they could hire battery-run vehicles and cross the bridge conveniently, now they have to travel a long way, which is both costly and time consuming.

"Many farmers like me are facing troubles to take our harvested crops to the market," said Nripendranath Roy, 50, of Ramkola village.

Contacted, Shah Obaidur Rahman, LGED engineer in Khansama, said a 40-metre long new bridge will be constructed over the river soon.

## To-Let

Commercial Space. 3rd Floor, 11096 Square feet Bti Landmark, 16, Gulshan Avenue. Gulshan # 01, Dhaka # 1212. Contact: 01799-805551, 01540-227819

## ফ্ল্যাট বিক্রয়

২৭৬০ বর্ষার্কট ৪ বেড  
রুমের প্রায় রেডি বিলাশ  
ব্লক গ্রামার্টেন্ট বিক্রয় হবে।  
ঠিকানা: বসুন্ধরা ব্রক-বি।  
০১৬১৬১৬৮০২, ০১৬১৬১৬৮০৩



আধুনিক ভাষা ইনসিটিউট  
ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়  
ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি  
শিক্ষাবর্ষ : ২০২২-২০২৩

বিদেশি ভাষার নাম	আরবি, ইংরেজী, চীনা, ফরাসি, আর্মেন, ইতালীয়, জাপানি, ফার্সি, রাশিয়ান, স্পেনীয়, কোরিয়া, হার্টি, হিন্দি, মালয় এবং বালো (গুরুমাত্র বিদেশি শিক্ষার্থীদের জন্য)।
কোর্সের মেয়াদ	১৫০ ঘণ্টা (১ বছরে সমাপ্ত)
শিক্ষা কার্যক্রমের নাম	এলিমেন্টারি সার্টিফিকেট কোর্স। ইংরেজী ভাষার জন্য প্রি- ইন্টারমিডিইট ও ইন্টারমিডিইট স্টাটার্সিফিকেট কোর্স।
ক্লাসের ব্যাক্তিকাল	প্রতিক্রিয়ান ঘণ্টা ক্লাস করে, সমাপ্ত হতে ২/৩ দিন।
ভর্তির ন্যূনতম যোগ্যতা	এইচ.এস.সি / সময়মান প্রার্থীকারী উত্তীর্ণ। মৃত্যুমত রিটার্ন বিভাগের মেডেল/জিপিএ ২.৫ ঘণ্টাতে হবে। ইংরেজী ভাষা কোস্টটি গুরুমাত্র ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের স্টার্টার্সিফিকেট কোর্সের জন্য।
আবেদনপত্র সংজ্ঞা	আধুনিক ভাষা ইনসিটিউটের নির্ধারিত ওয়েবসাইট <a href="http://seba-iml-du.com">seba-iml-du.com</a> এর মাধ্যমে ভর্তির জন্য নির্ধারিত ফরম অনলাইনে পোওয়া যাবে যা, যথাযথভাবে পূরণ করে ক। ১ কপি ছাই ও ১ নিচ স্কার্পের জন্য।
আবেদন ব্যাবস্থা সংজ্ঞা (অনলাইনে)	ক) ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের আধ্যাত্মিক বর্তমান শিক্ষার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে : ৫০০,০০ (পঞ্চাশট টাকা)। খ) স্কুল পত্রের স্টার্টার্সিফিকেট ক্ষেত্রে : ৭০০,০০ (সাতশত) টাকা।
আবেদন ব্যাবস্থা জমা	ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের আধ্যাত্মিক বর্তমান শিক্ষার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে মেয়াদের স্টার্টার্সিফিকেট ক্ষেত্রে : ৫০০,০০ (পঞ্চাশট টাকা)। অ্যালেক্সান্দ্র ও অন্যান্য শিক্ষার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে : ৭০০,০০ (সাতশত) টাকা।
অ্যালেক্সান্দ্র জমা	ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের আধ্যাত্মিক বর্তমান শিক্ষার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে মেয়াদের স্টার্টার্সিফিকেট ক্ষেত্রে : ৫০০,০০ (পঞ্চাশট টাকা)। অ্যালেক্সান্দ্র ও অন্যান্য শিক্ষার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে : ৭০০,০০ (সাতশত) টাকা।
ভর্তি সংক্রান্ত ব্যাপারে যাবতীয় তথ্য ইনসিটিউটের ওয়েবসাইট এবং বিজ্ঞাপ্তি ফলকে প্রকাশ করা হচ্ছে।	

## Around 100

FROM PAGE 5

with the history and heritage of this region," said Nikhil, the elder son.

Following their father's advice, the duo prioritises the quality of their products above all else.

"Without honesty and devotion, it would have been impossible to sustain this business for so many years. Though the prices have increased, we try our best to ensure that it is affordable," said Chanchal.

While the store employs around a dozen employees, the main confectioner is 65-year old Srivas Kirtanya, who has been working here for the last 30 years.

"I was 30 years old when I joined this shop. I am teaching this art to my two daughters to work here in the future," he said.

"Jagar Mishti tastes better than sweets from other regions. The reason behind this is their use of good quality milk from local dairies," said Monowara Latif, UP member.

"No occasion is complete without sweets from Jagar Mishti. The fact that its goodwill has spread across the nation is a matter of great pride for us," she added.

## 48 years on, justice still elusive

FROM PAGE 3

On this day in 1975, five army personnel, wearing khaki uniforms and carrying STEN guns and SLRs (self-loading rifles), arrived at the erstwhile Dhaka Central Jail around 4:00am. The five, including one who introduced himself as Captain Muslemuddin and attached to the Bangabhaban, entered the jail and shot the four leaders to death after charging bayonets at them, says the FIR.

The leaders, who had led the Liberation War in 1971 after Bangabandhu's detention by the Pakistan army -- were put behind bars soon after the August 15, 1975 bloodbath that claimed the lives of Bangabandhu and most of his family members.

The leaders, who had led the Liberation War in 1971 after Bangabandhu's detention by the Pakistan army -- were put behind bars soon after the August 15, 1975 bloodbath that claimed the lives of Bangabandhu and most of his family members.

"I was 30 years old when I joined this shop. I am teaching this art to my two daughters to work here in the future," he said.

"Jagar Mishti tastes better than sweets from other regions. The reason behind this is their use of good quality milk from local dairies," said Monowara Latif, UP member.

"No occasion is complete without sweets from Jagar Mishti. The fact that its goodwill has spread across the nation is a matter of great pride for us," she added.

A day later, Kazi Abdul Awal, the then deputy inspector general (prisons), filed the FIR with Lalbagh Police Station.

ABM Fazlul Karim, the then Lalbagh OC, was tasked with the investigation and he collected evidence from the scene after a magistrate made an inquest report of the bodies, and a post-mortem report was prepared.

The Indemnity Ordinance, however, halted the investigation and trial for about 21 years until the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) resumed probe on August 18, 1996.

In 2004, a trial court in Dhaka handed punishments to 11 perpetrators.

Of the convicts, eight still could not be traced

by the government despite efforts through diplomatic channels, intelligence agencies and the Interpol.

In the case verdict by the Appellate Division of the SC, the then chief justice Surendra Kumar Sinha observed that the assassination of the four national leaders was the result of a criminal conspiracy with involvement of very powerful state machineries.

The apex court on April 30, 2013 upheld a Dhaka court's verdict that gave death sentences to three former army personnel -- Muslemuddin, Marfat Ali Shah and Abdul Hashem Mridha -- and life imprisonment to eight others -- Khondaker Abdul Rashid, Shariful Haq Dalim,

Noor Chowdhury, Rashed Chowdhury, Ahmed Shariful Hossain, Abdul Majed, Kismat Hasem and Nazmul Hossain.

Four other accused -- Syed Farooq-ur Rahman, Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan, Bazlul Huda and AKM Mohiuddin Ahmed -- who were executed in the Bangabandhu murder case in 2010, were exempted from charges.

Law Minister Anisul Huq recently said the verdict has been implemented through the execution of the convicted killers of Bangabandhu, as most of the convicts were involved in both the assassinations.

The government is now working to set up a commission to identify all those behind the killings.

Pragati Life Insurance Limited		THIRD QUARTER FINANCIAL STATEMENTS-2023 (UN-AUDITED)				
		Balance Sheet (Un-Audited)				
		As at 30 September 2023				
CAPITAL AND LIABILITIES	30 Sep'23 Taka	31 Dec'22 Taka	Growth Rate (%)	30 Sep'23 Taka	31 Dec'22 Taka	Growth Rate (%)
<b>SHAREHOLDER'S CAPITAL</b>						
Authorized Capital	1,00,000,000	1,00,000,000	-	133,632,774	124,636,906	7.22
Issued and Paid-up Capital	325,452,880	325,452,880	-	147,591,051	194,798,957	(24.23)
fully paid up in cash				89,116,832	68,789,444	29.55
Share Premium Accounts	76,757,755	76,757,755	-	560,729,119	530,819,950	5.64
Life Insurance Fund	6,231,733,552	6,216,457,794	0.25	71,353,772	85,167,426	(16.22)
Reserve for Unsettled Losses	25,000,000	25,000,000	-	1,546,635,332	1,448,733,262	6.76
Liabilities and Provisions	596,448,103	596,171,641	0.05			
Fair Value Change Account	(221,595,289)	(213,370,644)</td				