



EU Ambassador Charles Whiteley pays a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Gono Bhaban yesterday morning.

PHOTO: PID

### Khasru gets bail in four more cases

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted bail to BNP standing committee member Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury in four cases filed over political violence centring the October 28 BNP rally in Dhaka.

Md Tofazzal Hossain, additional chief metropolitan magistrate of Dhaka, passed the order after his lawyer submitted separate petitions, seeking bail in two cases filed with Paltan Model Police Station and another two filed with Ramna Model Police Station.

The magistrate will also hear the bail petitions of four other cases on January 21, said a sub-inspector at the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court.

Yesterday, the BNP leader was shown arrested in eight cases and separate petitions were filed with the court by the defence.

Khasru was produced before the court during yesterday's hearing.

On January 17, he secured bail in two violence cases filed with Paltan Model Police Station.

On January 14, Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, the chief metropolitan magistrate, set yesterday for hearing on Amir Khasru's petitions in eight cases.

On January 8, the High Court directed him to accept, hear and dispose of the bail petitions of Khasru.

### Around 900kg adulterated spices seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A mobile court yesterday sent one person to jail for a year for adding harmful substances to spice powders in the port city's Chaktai area.

Bachchu Mia, owner of Bachchu Mia Flour Mill at Miakhannagar, was also fined Tk 1 lakh under section 42 of Consumers' Rights Protection Act 2009.

The team, led by Executive Magistrate Protik Dutta of Chattogram District Administration, raided the mill and seized around 900kg of adulterated spice powders from their premises.

### NATIONAL POLLS

# Low turnout of female voters in Ctg

## Sense of insecurity, sporadic violence and lack of competition the reasons

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN

The January 7 national elections saw a frustratingly low turnout of female voters in most constituencies of Chattogram district.

Sense of insecurity, sudden violence at polling centres and lack of competition in the polls demotivated the female voters to exercise their constitutional right, observed this correspondent.

The Election Commission, however, said it has no separate data about votes cast by women. "We only maintain the overall data," said Enamul Haque, senior election officer of Chattogram.

An average of 39.02 percent votes were cast across 16 constituencies of Chattogram.

Chattogram-6 (Raozan upazila) saw the highest 73.24 percent votes cast while Chattogram-II (Bandar) saw the lowest 20.45 percent, said election officials.

There are a total of 63,14,397 voters in Chattogram, including 32,89,590 male, 30,24,751 female and 56 third gender. The

January 7 polls saw 23,23,841 votes cast, of which 22,46,971 were counted as 76,870 were cancelled over various reasons, they added.

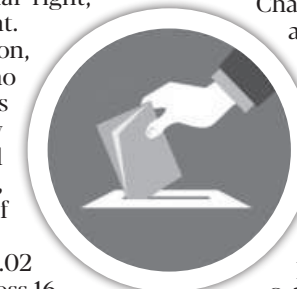
Our correspondents talked to nearly 100 female voters in Chattogram-5 (Hathazari), Chattogram-2 (Fatikchhari), Chattogram-14 (Chandanish),

Chattogram-15 (Satkania-Lohagara) and Chattogram-II (Bandar-Patenga) during the polls.

"At first, I was confused whether I should come to vote as my previous experience during union parishad polls was not good. But I gathered courage and cast my vote finally," said Peyer Jan, 70, at Khagoria Gani Para Govt High School centre in Satkania.

At the centre, only four female voters were seen in the queue in the morning. Of the 2,698 female voters at the centre, only around 20 percent of votes were cast, said presiding officer Abul Bashar.

A similar situation prevailed in Demsha Govt Primary School centre under SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



# Housing at the cost of a pond

## 50-year-old waterbody being filled up flouting laws



The field in the photo used to be a 50-year-old pond in Brahmanbaria's Bijoyagar upazila a couple of months ago. The owners of the property are working round the clock, employing tractors and bulldozers, to fill it up illegally, defying laws.

PHOTO: STAR

MASUK HRIDOY, Brahmanbaria

A 50-year-old pond with an expanse of 72 decimal area is being filled up with truckloads of earth in Brahmanbaria's Bijoyagar upazila, flouting rules.

Meanwhile, the authorities concerned have turned a blind eye to this.

Located near Chandura-Akhaura regional road, just around 500 metres from the upazila parishad office, the pond has been an integral part of the daily lives of the area's residents for decades.

However, over the last two months, one Malai Miah and his brothers, who claim ownership of the pond's land, have been filling it up.

Locals said Malai and his brothers plan to build a market on the pond's land. "I have informed the UNO about the pond's current state, but no action has been taken yet," said Ziaul Haque Bakul, chairman of Ichhapura Union Parishad.

Contacted, Malai Miah said they bought the pond's land in 2000, adding that he submitted a written application to the UNO for permission to fill it up. "We will build houses here for our family," he added.

However, as per Section 2 of the Water Reservoir Conservation Act-2000, a pond cannot be filled even if it is a private property, while the provisions of the Environment Act-1995 and Natural Water Reservoir Conservation Act-2000 also

prohibit filling up of any waterbody.

Locals alleged that the upazila administration and the environment department officials are neither monitoring the issue properly nor taking strict disciplinary action against the law violators.

Contacted, Bijoyagar UNO Rubaiya Afroz said no one has been allowed to fill up the pond.

"The assistant commissioner (land) has been asked to investigate the issue," she added.

"After receiving complaints, I ordered the owners to cease the pond filling work. However, they did not listen to us. We are planning to take further action against them," said Mehedi Hasan Khan Shaon, assistant commissioner (land).

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Ministry of Agriculture  
**Barind Multipurpose Development Authority**  
HEAD OFFICE  
Barendra Bhaban, Rajshahi-6000

Memo no: 12.08.0000.14.07.014.23.539 Date: 18.01.2024

### e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of following works/Goods. These are applicable for the of Program on Agricultural and Rural Transformation for Nutrition, Entrepreneurship and Resilience in Bangladesh (PARTNER), BMDA, Rajshahi.

Sl. no.	Tender ID	Description of works.	Last Selling Date & Time	Closing & Opening Date & Time
1	931797	Supply of Deep Tube Well Sinking Materials 355.60 mm (14") diameter MS Housing Pipe, 152.40 mm (6") diameter SS Strainer, etc.	14-February-2024 16.00	15-February-2024 15.00
2	931806	Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Solar system for BMDA's Existing Deep Tube Wells with Net Metering.	18-February-2024 16.00	19-February-2024 15.00

This is an online Tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no Offline/Hardcopies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender document from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any CPTU registered Bank. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System portal and from e-GP help desk.

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Ref. No : 57.03.5659.300.18.01.24-38 Date : 18/01/2022.

### Invitation for e-GP Re-Tender

Invitation for Re-Tender to be invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of the following goods

Sl	Re-Tender Id	Package No.	Description	Tender Publishing Date & Time	Tender Last Selling Date & Time	Tender Closing & Opening Date & Time
1	938673	MPI/Rev/23-24/ PG-07	Supply of Electrical Modern Equipments (Electrical High Voltage & Testing Lab) (4112304)	21 January-2024 9:00	5-February-2024 13:00	5-February-2024 15:00
2	938684	MPI/Rev/23-24/ PG-08	Supply of Electrical Modern Equipments (Electrical Circuit Lab) (4112304)			
3	938685	MPI/Rev/23-24/ PG-09	Supply of Electronics Modern Equipments Lab-1 (4112304)			
4	938688	MPI/Rev/23-24/ PG-10	Supply of Electronics Modern Equipments Lab-2 (4112304)			
5	938689	MPI/Rev/23-24/ PG-11	Supply of Electronics Modern Equipments Lab-3 (4112304)			
6	938691	MPI/Rev/23-24/ PG-19	Supply of Refrigeration and Air conditioning Modern Equipments Lab-4 (4112304)			
7	938692	MPI/Rev/23-24/ PG-28	Supply of Furniture (4112314)			

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenders 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 fees for selling/downloading the e-Tender Documents from the e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to Scheduled date and time. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk +8809609112233, +8801762625528, +8801762625529).

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## Institute of Environmental Science

### University of Rajshahi

#### Notice No. 1/2024

#### Post-doctoral Fellow, 2024 (Re-advertisement)

The Institute of Environmental Science invites applications for the Post-doctoral Fellow from deserving candidates at home and abroad. The applicants are asked to apply in the prescribed application form available on the Institute's website: ([www.ru.ac.bd/ies](http://www.ru.ac.bd/ies)). The applicants from Bangladesh should pay Taka 3000/- whereas applicants from abroad are required to pay \$30 in favor of the Director, Institute of Environmental Science, University of Rajshahi, through online banking (Account No. 0200002283475, Agrani Bank, Rajshahi University Branch, Routing No. 010812112, Swift Code: AGBKBDH027).

All academic certificates, research papers published in national and international journals, and bank payment documents should be submitted along with the research proposal to the address below:

Those who applied earlier need not to apply further.

Dr. Sabrina Naz  
Professor and Director  
Institute of Environmental Science  
University of Rajshahi  
Rajshahi-6205, Bangladesh