

Imtiaz Ahmed passes away  
STAR REPORT

Imtiaz Ahmed (Nipu), head of finance, Triune Group, a PR and advertising agency, passed away on Tuesday morning following a cardiac arrest at National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases in Dhaka. He was 58.

He left behind his wife, a host of relatives, colleagues and friends to mourn his death, said a press release.

He was buried at Rayer Bazar Graveyard following a namaz-e-janaza at Baitun Noor Jame Mosque at South Pirer Bagh, Mirpur.

The management and all of his colleagues at Triune Group have expressed deep shock at his demise.



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority yesterday demolished 35 structures constructed illegally on the bank of Meghna river in Sonargaon upazila of Narayanganj.

The move came as part of a two-day eviction drive by BIWTA against illegal establishments on the riverbank.

The structures included seven resorts, 15 shops and 13 other establishments in Charkishorganj and Charhoghla areas.

Taslima Akter, executive magistrate of BIWTA, led the drive from 11:30am till 4:00pm.

MEGHNA RIVERBANK

35 illegal structures demolished



Following a The Daily Star report, the officials took steps to demolish the illegal structures on the Meghna riverbanks.

PHOTO: STAR

Visiting Char Kishoreganj area during the drive, this correspondent observed hundreds of owners of shops and restaurants gathered at the spot armed with bamboo canes, trying to obstruct the drive. Some miscreants threw brickbats at an excavator, breaking its front glass and

leaving its driver with minor injuries, said BIWTA officials.

The crowd was later dispersed by police.

Two people were detained and fined Tk 30,000, said Taslima Akter.

At least three illegal dredgers were also found operating in the river during the drive.

"BIWTA could not demolish the dredgers as the excavator could not reach the vessels," said BIWTA deputy director (acting) Shariful Islam.

The operation came after the National River Conservation Commission sent a letter to BIWTA chairman and deputy commissioner of Narayanganj recommending to take action against encroachers, based on a report titled "Fined, evicted yet in business" published by The Daily Star on December 12.

Mayur damned

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cost of Tk 68 crore, to be completed by April 2025.

Environmentalists expressed concern that the river will cease to exist due to the dam hindering its flow.

Ironically, at the same time, Khulna City Corporation is excavating a portion of the river at a cost of Tk 7.59 crore for the second time to restore its flow. It earlier dredged a 5.9km stretch of the river in 2014.

"Many portions of the river have been illegally encroached upon, shrinking it significantly. The dam and sluice gates are choking its flow from one part, reducing its navigability while causing siltation, and on another part, KCC is excavating it," said Mahfuzur Rahman

Mukul, Khulna divisional coordinator of BELA.

"This is just an instance of double standards among the government entities," he said.

"Also, the construction workers are leaving the earth dug out along the river bank instead of removing it promptly, which will gradually accumulate there and fill up the river bed and obstruct its flow further. And yet, no official from the WDB came to visit the site to witness the menace," he said.

Md Anisuzzaman Masud, executive engineer of RHD, said the construction materials were kept at the site for the time being and will be removed soon. "A pipe has been placed to allow water to flow through the dam into the river," he said.

Louhajang a shadow

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ideal breeding ground for mosquitoes. The stench of its water is unbearable," said Shafiqul Islam, a teacher living in the Beradoma area.

In 2016, the district administration initiated the eviction of illegal encroachers from the 1.5km stretch of the river.

Over 450 illegal structures were identified in Sadar upazila, including 260 within a three-kilometre stretch of the river in the municipal area.

However, the drive got suspended after the removal of a few makeshift

structures. The drives resumed after four years in February 2020, only to be suspended again due to controversies over the river's demarcation and identification of grabbers.

Environmentalists blamed the authorities' negligence for the river's state. They called for a master plan to revive the it through excavation and installing proper waste management facilities.

Deputy Commissioner Kaisarul Islam said he will have a formal discussion with the water resources ministry in this regard soon.

50pc migrant workers

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skills training is pivotal to saving migrant workers from exploitation.

"Sending skilled workers will reduce exploitation and help generate higher remittances," he said.

According to the report, which analysed government data, last year's migration of 13.05 lakh workers is a milestone in terms of number of workers migrating abroad in a calendar year.

The report says compared to 2022, workers'

migration to top-receiving country Saudi Arabia last year declined by 15.88 percent to 4.97 lakh, while migration to Malaysia increased by 22.53 percent to 3.51 lakh. Besides, overall migration of female workers last year declined by 27.45 percent to 76,519 from the previous year.

Prof Tasneem said despite seeing high migration, remittances from Saudi Arabia declined by 3.9 percent last year. A study should be conducted to find out the reasons, she said.

'Law enforcers turn a blind eye to ruling party men'

MSF says in its January report on electoral violence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law enforcers, while being prompt to put opposition men behind bars by filing "ghost cases", were largely inactive towards ruling party men engaged in electoral violence, said Manabdhikar Shongskriti Foundation yesterday.

At least 711 people were victims of 140 incidents of violence that took place centring the January 7 polls. Of them, 12 died and 699 were injured, including 68 who were shot, MSF said in its report for January.

The report noted that almost all the incidents of violence were between activists of Awami League candidates and its independent aspirants.

Since BNP did not contest the polls, leaving the election largely uncompetitive, less violence was expected. The reality, however, is quite different, with conflicts still raging among the supporters of rival candidates even after the polls, it said.

There have been cases of hacking and beating rival candidates' supporters, alongside attacks on minority families and their homes, the MSF report said.

HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION

Incidents	Type	Dec 2023	Jan 2024
Political violence	Case	10	6
	Arrested	165	106
	Killed	1	2
Election violence	Killed	3	12
	Injured	282	699
Prison custody	Death	19	19
Unidentified body	Recovered	31	25
Torture on minority	Killed	1	4
	Injured	3	19

SOURCE: MSF

The role of law enforcers was clearly biased, and their inaction continues even amid sporadic violence after the polls, said the report signed by its founding president Sultana Kamal.

Such flexibility or inaction by the law enforcers towards the ruling party men involved in electoral violence is unacceptable, it said.

Journalists continue to face assaults and

threats for free expression. Attacks continue against minority communities, while recovery of unidentified bodies is increasing.

A total of 19 people died in prison in January, the same as in December last year. In addition to improving medical conditions inside prisons, it is important to properly investigate the causes of deaths in custody, said MSF.

Violence against women and children has been reduced to some extent but still remains worrisome, observed MSF.

The deaths of citizens in BSF firing along the border, including a BGB member, continue despite repeated promises from India to minimise border killing. Lack of government action, including failure to protest and redress the border casualties, continues to raise questions in the public mind, it said.

MSF said it believes that prosecutions, attacks, and arrests in unspecified cases are clear examples of human rights violations as per the Constitution.

It demanded that the authorities concerned take immediate and effective action to stop all forms of violence and disorder and improve democratic norms and legal environment.

My father

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"My father's life is in danger if he goes back to Bangladesh. We know of opposition leaders in Bangladesh who go missing or are poisoned there," the daughter said. "My mother and I appeal to the authorities to respect the court order," Armita told FMT.

Nineteen-year-old Armita said her father, who turned 61 on January 12, suffers from chronic illnesses and he needs medication and visits to doctors often.

"My mother, Shahamin Ara Begum, met him once after his detention on January 12 and is very concerned about his condition," she stated.

She said the three of them had been living in Malaysia with UNHCR cards for nearly 10 years without causing any trouble and that they possessed valid passports.

Armita said police picked up her father from their apartment on January 12 and transported him to the Ampang police headquarters. They were then informed that he was kept in the Semenyih detention centre.

Halda held hostage

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Md Ismail, vice president of the Brick Kiln Owners' Association of Chattogram, said, "We've already directed our members not to buy soil from Halda riverbank."

Asked, Ferdous Anwar, deputy director of the Department of Environment in Chattogram, said, "We will demolish these illegal brick kilns soon." Meanwhile, officials

of Bangladesh Water Development Board said they were not even aware of the criminal activities.

"We weren't aware of soil lifting from the Halda riverbank. Extracting soil from dykes and riverbanks is a punishable offence. We will take legal action after identifying the culprits," said Sowkat Ibne Shahed, BWDB executive engineer in Chattogram.

Abdul Bashar M o h a m m e d F a k h r u z z a m a n , deputy commissioner of Chattogram, said, "The matter is under surveillance, and we are working to identify the soil lifters to take legal steps against them."

Sonai in peril

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dumped on its banks is choking it," he added.

Echoing the fisheries officer, Hasan Al Mamun, agricultural officer in the upazila, said the water has become unfit for use in irrigation, making it impossible for farmers to cultivate on adjoining cropland.

As a result, yield and crop quality have both been compromised, he added.

"We prohibited traders from discharging waste into the river, but no one listens. This river needs to be saved, but it seems no one really cares about it," said Manoj Kumar Paul, president of Madhabpur Merchants Association.

To add to the river's woes, municipality workers have been dumping household waste on its banks for years in the absence of a dedicated landfill.

Habibur Rahman Manik, mayor of Madhabpur municipality, said, "We are yet to receive an allocation from the government, but we hope to get it by this year. Once we have a landfill, waste will not be dumped by the river."

Rahat Bin Kutub, assistant commissioner (land) in the upazila, said, "The district administration is sincere in its effort to free the river from encroachment. Legal action will be taken against law violators."

5 cops sued

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On January 15, the complainant learned through a phone call that Faruk had died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. At the hospital morgue, she found injury marks on his neck, chest, and back.

Contacted, OC Moinul said the allegations against them were fabricated.

"No one tortured Faruk in custody," he claimed.

**PRAYER TIMING**  
FEBRUARY 1

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 5:30	12:45	4:15	5:52	7:15
JAMAAT 6:05	1:15	4:30	5:56	7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Local Government Engineering Department  
Office of the Upazila Engineer  
Upazila: Kapasia, District: Gazipur  
www.lged.gov.bd

**Invitation for Tender (Works & OTM)**  
e-Tender Notice No. 04/2023-24

Memo No. 46.02.8894.000.07.004.23/142 Date: 31-01-2024

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following works, details are given below.

Sl. No.	Package No. & Tender ID No.	Description of work	Tender last selling (date & time)	Tender closing (date & time)
1.	e-Tender/PEDP4/GAZ/K AP/2023-2024/W1-04608(ID.944035)	Construction of Additional Classroom of Uttar Khamer GPS under PEDP4	15-Feb-2024 14:00	15-Feb-2024 15:00
2.	e-Tender/PEDP4/GAZ/K AP/2022-2023/W1-04451(ID.938888)	Construction of additional classroom Namila Govt. Primary School under PEDP4	15-Feb-2024 14:00	15-Feb-2024 15:00
3.	e-Tender/PEDP4/GAZ/K AP/2022-2023/W1-04454(ID.920428)	Construction of Additional Class Room Giaspur Govt. under PEDP4	15-Feb-2024 14:00	15-Feb-2024 15:00
4.	e-Tender/NBIDGSP/GAZ/KAP/2023-24/W2-00152(ID.936411)	1. Construction of Boundary Wall & Gate of Dighab Primary School. 2. Construction of Boundary Wall & Gate of Giaspur Primary School. 3. Construction of Boundary Wall & Gate of Tetuleswar Primary School. 4. Construction of Boundary Wall & Gate of Uzoli Dighipar Primary School.	15-Feb-2024 14:00	15-Feb-2024 15:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender 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 downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches up to 15-Feb-2024 14:00. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

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Kapasia, Gazipur  
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GD- 175

**TO-LET**  
Full Furnished Apartment  
House-35, Road-24, Gulshan-2  
4th floor, 1900sq. ft. 3 bed room, apartment. Ready for Rent.  
Monthly rent Taka: 80,000/-  
01711-877 837

**Commercial building sale**  
5 Katha Land with G+5 Stories commercial building sale in Gulshan-2, Road no-113A. Only Actual purchaser contact with me.  
+8801712021072

**MANARAT DHAKA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL & COLLEGE (MDIC)**  
Plot (CEN) # 16, Road # 104, Gulshan, Dhaka-1212  
Website: [www.manaratcollege.edu.bd](http://www.manaratcollege.edu.bd)

**ADMISSION TO PLAYGROUP & NURSERY**

Forms for admission to Playgroup and Nursery for the academic session 2024-25 are available in the College Office. Forms will be available upto 29 February 2024 during working days between 9.30 am and 3.00 pm.

**Age limit:**  
Playgroup : Between 3 and 4 years of age (as on 01 July 2024)  
Nursery : Between 4 and 5 years of age (as on 01 July 2024)

Last date of submission: 29 February 2024

Requirements: Following documents are to be submitted with the admission forms:

- Two copies of passport sized coloured photograph of the candidate.
- A copy of birth certificate of the candidate issued by the People's Republic of Bangladesh.
- Report card of last academic year (if any) for admission in Nursery.

Note: On the day of interview presence of father and mother is mandatory. Date of interview will be informed later. For further information please contact: 01949800800, 01705953257, 55060039-42, Ext-0/110

**Brig Gen (Retd) Md Mehdi Hassan Pramanik, psc**  
Principal  
Ex-Principal, Sylhet Cadet College, Sylhet & Adamjee Cantonment College, Dhaka

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Local Government Engineering Department  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
District: Rajshahi  
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.02.8100.000.07.183.23.436  
e-Tender Notice No. 57/2023-24

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

Sl. No.	Tender Packages No. & Tender ID No.	Description of works	Tender documents last selling date & time	Tender closing & opening date & time	Tender method
1	2	3	4	5	6
01.	RDIRWSP/RAJ/GOD/R-64 Tender ID No. 942084	Widening & Strengthening of Rajabari GC Damkura GC (Starting from Chaighati) Road from Ch. 00m-9446m, Road ID No. 181342005 under Godagari Upazila, District: Rajshahi.	28-02-2024 Time: 16:00	29-02-2024 Time: 11:00	OTM

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender 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. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

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GD-173