

19 died

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political and post-election violence continued, while incidents such as abduction in the name of law enforcers, death in custody, and death in torture, have occurred.

Misuse of cyber and digital security laws, obstructing the exercise of constitutional rights to investigative journalism and expression, is taking place, said the report.

In February, violence against women and children such as rape, gang rape, murder, suicide and domestic violence continued as in previous months which is very alarming, said MSF.

The MSF data shows there were 291 cases of violence against women and children last month. Meanwhile, 13 journalists were tortured while performing their duties in February, according to MSF. Among them, 10 were attacked and injured, while three were threatened.

The report also said three cases were filed under Cyber Security Act in February in Noakhali, Mymensingh and Sylhet, with nine people charged in the cases. Two of them were arrested.

In February, three Bangladeshis were injured in BSF firing on the border, while 26 Bangladeshis were taken into custody by BSF and the strangled body of a Bangladeshi teenager was recovered inside the Indian border, said the MSF report.

Speedy Trial

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"I want to say that when this law was passed in 2002, it was intended to persecute the Awami League and other parties who opposed the BNP. However, if you [MPs] observe how this law has been enforced over the last 15 years, your [Chunnu] concern is unfounded," he said.

"Since 2009 to 2024, it [the law] has not been used against political activists or leaders. Many types of violence, chaos have been prevented by this law. This is why this law should be made permanent," he said while defending the move.

The bill does not propose any amendment other than making the law permanent. Therefore, the all the existing sections of the law will remain as it is now.



Most footpaths in the capital's Motijheel have been transformed into makeshift markets, obstructing pedestrian movement. Meanwhile, vendors did not even spare the roadsides. Due to this, many are forced to walk in the middle of the road, risking lives. The photo was taken near Shapla Chattar yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

BCSIR holds stakeholder workshop



STAR REPORT

The Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industry Research (BCSIR) organised a stakeholder workshop on "ISO Standard Services and Research in building smart Bangladesh" in Dhaka yesterday, said a press release.

BCSIR Chairman Prof Md Aftab Ali Shaikh was present as the chief guest while its member (administration) Md Delwar Hossain, member (finance) Kazi Anwar Hossain and member (development) Rokonzaman were present as the special guests.

Engineer Sharker Kamruzzaman, director in charge of INARS, presided over the workshop. More than 200 participants -- including researchers, teachers, and valuable business giants like SQUIRE, ACI, Dhaka WASA and Summit Power -- participated in the workshop.

Kuet holds discussion on 'smart Bangladesh'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A discussion on "Smart Bangladesh and Kuet in Future" was held at Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (Kuet) yesterday.

The speakers at the programme said education plays the biggest role in building a smart Bangladesh. They also emphasised innovation and research, saying that teachers should ensure the maximum utilisation of talent.

Dr Muhammed Alamgir, chairman (additional duties) of Bangladesh University Grants Commission, was present as the chief guest.

Kuet VC Dr Mihir Ranjan Halder and pro-VC Dr Sobahan Mia were present on the occasion.

Besides, deans of the university, institute directors, heads of departments, and teachers attended the programme.

Contractor dies 'falling from roof' He was trying to evade arrest, says family

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

A man, who's accused in two cases, died after "falling from the roof" of a three-storey building in Pirojpur's Mathbaria municipality early yesterday.

Arrest warrants were issued against Abdul Halim Mridha, 45, a contractor from Sabujnagar, in those cases over "financial fraud," said police.

On Wednesday night, Halim took shelter at his relative's house, which police raided around 1:00am, said family members.

Halim went to the roof to avoid arrest, and then he slipped and fell from there, they said, adding that police recovered the body later.

"A total of eight policemen went to the house..." said Halim's younger brother Mamun Mridha.

"When police looked for Halim after entering the house, my brother went to the roof," said Mamun, quoting other family members who were present on the spot.

However, Mathbaria Police Station Officer-in-Charge Shafikul Islam said they neither raided the house nor tried to arrest Halim. Rather, Halim got panicked after seeing a police team patrolling the area, he said.

Later, he went to the roof and fell down, the OC claimed.

"We are investigating the incident. An unnatural death case was filed," he added.

One hospital bed

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to increase the number of beds in all government hospitals in phases.

In reply to another query of independent lawmaker Md Nasser Shahrear Zahedee, the minister informed that there are only five graduate pharmacists in all the government hospitals.

Replying to a supplementary question

of opposition chief whip Mujibul Haque Chunnu, he said he can certainly close illegal clinics and diagnostic centres with support from the lawmakers.

"If the treatment of marginalised population is ensured, there will be no crowd of patients in cities like Dhaka and Chattogram, and no one will have to lie on hospital floor," he also said.

Tk 1,554cr project

FROM PAGE 5
following legal hassles, after at least 73 cases were filed by the encroachers. The cases are still pending with courts.

"The encroachers had prepared fake documents to show the river's land in their names, and constructed numerous structures," said Md Mosharaf Hossain, assistant director of BWDB.

"We have earlier identified 1,053 illegal structures that have

been built, encroaching Ichamati's land, according to a survey by experts from Buet," he also said.

Shudhanshu Kumar Sarkar, the project's director and superintendent engineer of BWDB, said, "Ichamati was significantly disconnected from its mother rivers -- Padma and Jamuna. The project will restore the connection."

The project will be completed within three years, he added.

PSTU VC, UGC

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notices were issued for the "section officer" post on October 31, 2018, and for some other positions on November 16, 2022, by the Registrar's Office of the university. Israt applied for the "section officer" position from Dhaka.

On November 2, 2023, she appeared for an interview. Although the selection board committee chairman was supposed

to be the VC, Treasurer Muhammad Ali became the chairman. Later, the committee recommended the appointment of six individuals for the "section officer" position.

The case details further mentioned that there are rumours of widespread irregularities and financial transactions regarding the appointments in various posts including section officers.

Govt to ensure

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Under this project, 10 courtrooms in nine districts have been refurbished.

The minister also said they have incorporated effective rules in the Children Act.

Adequate logistics support, separate courtrooms, congenial environment and trained manpower are needed

to ensure the effective enforcement of this law. Simultaneously, relevant knowledge and competence of all concerned are vital, he noted.

Huq said his ministry has been working to enhance the capacity of the training institutions to execute relevant laws related to child rights and set up separate courts for children.

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জমি বিক্রয়
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Address poor nutrition among

FROM PAGE 3
former additional secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture, said malnutrition has stunted growth among children in Rangamati and Khagrachhari.

"While nationally the average height of children matches their age, it is 90 percent in Rangamati and 94 percent in Khagrachhari," he said.

Also, 59 percent of people in Rangamati and 57 percent in Bandarban have access to safe water, while the national figure is 99 percent, he added.

Aungsuipru Chowdhury,

chairman of the Rangamati Hill District Council, stressed that the region is lagging significantly behind in nutrition related statistics, and urged the CHT affairs ministry to take more initiatives to this end.

Zakir Hossain Akanda, former secretary to the Planning Commission, emphasised on education, high-value crop cultivation, market linkages and economic development to improve quality of life and nutrition among indigenous people.

Raja Devasish Roy,

chief of Chakma Circle, stressed coordinated implementation of nutrition programmes at district, upazila and village levels.

Mashiur Rahman, secretary to the CHT affairs ministry, said, "Government efforts are on to ensure food and nutritional development among people of CHT region. Strengthening economic stability will further enhance their well-being."

Mohsin Ali, general secretary of Right to Food Bangladesh, presided over the discussion.

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CHATTOGRAM WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE AUTHORITY
Office of the Project Director
Bhandal Juri Water Supply Project
Chattogram WASA

Re-Tender Notice

SL No.	Package No.	Package description	Re-Tender ID No.
1.	46.06.0000.325.014.139/2023	Construction of Speed Boat landing station for the procured speed boat of BJWSP, CWASA.	949381

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 mandatory. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches within date mentioned in tender notice. Further information & guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Muhammad Mahbubul Alam
Project Director
BJWSP
Chattogram WASA

Send 157

FROM PAGE 3
His jail sentence was effective from March 14, 2003 and ended on September 28, 2003. But he is still languishing behind bars in a Feni jail for unknown reasons.

This is the story of one man, but it echoes the plight of 156 others -- serving time in Bangladeshi prisons long after their sentences ended, according to the report.

The court had earlier sought the report in response to the petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer Bivuti Tarolder, challenging the government officials' inaction in releasing and repatriating Govinda Uriya to India's Tripura from Bangladesh upon completion of his jail term for illegal entry.

Deputy Attorney General Amit Das Gupta represented the state during hearing of the petition.

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Science & Technology University
Office of the Director
Planning, Development & Works
www.director.pdw.@bsmrstu.edu.bd

Ref. No. BSMRSTU/R/PD&W/2023-24/1167 Date: 28/02/2024

e-Tender Notice

Sl. No.	Tender Id	Name of work	Last selling date & time	Closing date & time	Opening date & time
1	954214	Printing Different Item in BSMRSTU Campus	20-03-2024 Time 16.00	21-03-2024 Time 14.00	21-03-2024 Time 14.00

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. Further information and guideline are available in the National e-GP System Portal and also from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Tuhin Mahamud
Deputy Director
Planning, Development & Works
BSMRSTU, Gopalganj-8100

We Remember

20.09.33 - 1.3.2003

On his 21th death anniversary today, we profoundly remember late **Matiur Rahman** - a Freedom Fighter, Founder & Chairman of Kisan Group, Former Cabinet Minister and former President of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industries.

Charity Lunches will be served today at orphanage. Please pray for the salvation of his departed soul.

Chondona, Robin, Shuvo & Amit & Members of Kisan Group mrahanfamily@gmail.com