

## Cop among two killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

Two men, including a police personnel, died in separate road accidents yesterday.

Yunus Ali, 40, constable of Konakhali Police Outpost under Dakshin Keraniganj Police Station, died on the spot after an unidentified truck ran over his motorcycle at Guilla area under Tangail's Basail upazila around 2:00pm.

He was on his way to work from his residence in Chhoy Ani Bazar in Tangail Sadar, said Mollah Tutul, officer-in-charge of Gorai Highway Police Station.

His body will be handed over to his family after completing formal procedures, he added.

Meanwhile, Gathia Roy, 44, of Konsopara village under Dinajpur's Birganj upazila, died after a cattle-loaded truck ran him over around 4:15pm near Jodur Moore area on Panchagarh-Dinajpur highway, said Anwar Hossain, sub-inspector of Birganj Police Station.



Fishers cast 'Haata Jaals', a local fishing net used to catch small fish varieties, in the shallow waters of Phulbari Beel in Sylhet's Kanaighat upazila yesterday morning.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

## Digital literacy essential to empower women: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fostering female-friendly organisations and enhancing their technological engagement can empower women leaders and contribute to achieving a smarter Bangladesh, said speakers at a summit yesterday.

They were addressing the inaugural ceremony of the two-day summit, titled "Pursuit of Women's Economic Independence", organised by Women in Leadership at a hotel in Dhaka, marking International Women's Day.

"Positioning women at top levels requires attention and reformation at different levels. Individual, social and organisational barriers bar their run towards leadership," said Prof Tulsi Jayakumar, executive director of Center for Family Business and Entrepreneurship.

"Females on top have to struggle through more insecurities and anxieties than males as their network is considered less efficient. Alongside helping women in nurturing confidence, proper mentoring is necessary to overcome these challenges," she added.

Mahzabin Ferdous, co-founder and managing director of CThreeSixty; and Tasnuva Ahmed, CEO and managing director of Cloud Convoy, shared their inspirational stories during the discussion.

Emphasising the importance of digital literacy and self-branding for growth, Mahzabin said, "I always try to align my personality with the online presence and professional endeavours. Connecting to brands that are authentic and reliable leads my way forward with a positive energy and attitude."

Saad Jashim, area head of Talent, Culture and Inclusion, British American Tobacco, Bangladesh, mentioned of the

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## Plastic pollution choking Ctg canals

Waterlogging may turn worse in monsoon, fear experts

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

With most canals in Chattogram city choking on non-biodegradable plastic waste, waterlogging is likely to worsen in the coming monsoon, fear experts.

To ensure rainwater is drained off easily, the waterbodies need to be excavated immediately. Regular monitoring is also necessary to stop indiscriminate dumping of single-use plastic and polythene round the clock, they recommended.

During a recent visit to Chaktai Khal in the city's Chawkbazar KB Aman Ali Road, this correspondent saw the surface of the canal covered with floating plastic and polythene bags. Workers were seen excavating the canal under a mega project initiated by Chattogram Development Authority to address waterlogging.

A similar scenario was witnessed in Birza, Jamal Khan and Rajakhali canals.

Due to a blatant lack of civic awareness and absence of proper dustbins, the city's residents often throw household garbage in nearby canals and drains. Poor waste management by the Chattogram City Corporation further adds to the menace.

"The situation would not have been so dire if people had not dumped non-biodegradable waste into Chaktai canal for years. The authorities concerned hardly take any steps to prevent it," said Fazlur Rahman of Phultala area.

Unplanned discharge of untreated and non-biodegradable waste into waterbodies not only harms its ecosystem but also leads to waterlogging, mosquito breeding, and air pollution for locals, said Prof Dr Swapan Kumar Palit of civil engineering department at CUET.



He stressed the need for tough legal action to save the waterbodies.

The city produces around 3,000 tonnes of wastes daily, 249 tonnes (8.3 percent) of which are non-biodegradable in nature, according to a study conducted by CUET's civil engineering department in 2022.

However, the CCC can collect and safely dispose only 109 tonnes of plastic and polythene wastes daily, while the rest 140 tonnes remain uncollected. This clogs canals and drains and hinders their waterflow, especially during monsoon, the study revealed.

Reducing use of plastic products and enhancing the CCC's waste management capacities are necessary to improve the situation, mentioned Prof Swapan, the study's supervisor.

According to Mandatory Jute Packaging Act 2010 and Mandatory Jute Packaging Rules 2013, it is mandatory to use jute products for packaging of essential items, including paddy, rice, wheat, maize,

fertiliser, sugar, ginger, garlic, onion, potato, fish feed, poultry feed, flour, chillies, lentils and rice bran. However, implementation of the laws are hardly seen in market, he said.

"Around 90 percent carry bags used in grocery shops and kitchen markets are made of plastic and polythene," he said. He suggested awareness-raising initiatives and mobile courts to enforce the laws.

According to local sources, most of port city's 37 canals are badly affected by these non-perishable wastes, which eventually flow into the Karnaphuli river during monsoon, polluting it too.

Citing a 2019 BUET study, Chattogram Port Authority sources said the Karnaphuli riverbed is covered in 2-7-metre thick plastic layers in different areas which hampered the river's dredging work during that time.

"CCC workers do not clean canals regularly. So, plastic wastes keep piling up in Chaktai canal round the year," said Sadhan Das, a local.

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## Unite to combat child sexual abuse

Say speakers

BSS, Dhaka

Community engagement and integrated efforts of organisations concerned can be the best way to end sexual harassment and exploitation against children, said academics and experts yesterday.

Since children are the driving force to take the nation forward, utmost emphasis should be given to freeing them from all sorts of exploitations, repression, and discrimination, they observed while addressing a dialogue titled "Sexual Exploitation against Children and Survivors Protection" in Dhaka.

The Association for Community Development organised the dialogue, supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, and Free A Girl.

Prof Rabiul Islam of the social work department at Rajshahi University identified girls as the main victims of sexual exploitation.

"Adolescent girls are sometimes victimised by being lured by promises of jobs abroad. Once they are sexually abused, they don't have an alternative way to return home," he said.

PRAYER  
TIMING  
MARCH 10

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 5-05	12-45	4-30	6-12	7-30
JAMAAT 5-40	1-15	4-45	6-15	8-00
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION				

## Titu, Suchona win big

FROM PAGE 1

Polling started at 8:00am and around two hours later, three mayoral candidates alleged that Suchona and her supporters were driving their polling agents out of polling centres.

Suchona said the allegations were false.

Mayor candidate Nizam said around 10:00am, his supporters Zahirul Ahmed and Tuhin were shot outside the polling centre at Munshi M Ali High School.

Talking to reporters at Comilla Medical College Hospital, Zahirul said he was standing next to the polling centre when one of Suchona's supporters shot him and Tuhin in front of the police.

Police detained Abu Sufian Antu, 27, a member of Cumilla City Chhatra Dal, in connection with the incident.

His family members said Antu was at home when the shooting took place.

In Mymensingh, Titu, the president of Mymensingh city AL, won the election with 1.39 lakh votes while his nearest rival Sadequl Hoque Khan Milky Tazu got 35,763.

Voters in different

neighbourhoods complained that the Electronic Voting Machines were slow to read their fingerprints and caused long queues at polling centres.

Even after polling officially ended at 4:00pm, people were casting votes and there were queues at some centres.

Rita Rani, a voter, said, "I have been standing here in the queue for one and a half hours to cast my vote. I heard the machine is not working."

The Daily Star talked to at least 20 polling agents who alleged that many people had to return without casting their vote because the machines could not process their fingerprints.

Dipak Chandra Das, known as the oldest person of the city, had to cast his vote using the presiding officer's fingerprint as the machine at Nasirabad Girls High School centre could not read his fingerprint.

[Ashik Abdullah Apu, Khalid Bin Nazrul from Cumilla and Asifur Rahman, Aminul Islam, from Mymensingh contributed to the report]

## Sammilito Parishad

FROM PAGE 1

Voting started at 10:00am and continued till 5:00pm peacefully, said Jahangir Alamin, chairman of the election board.

Under the election process, the general voters elect 35 directors and then the elected directors nominate the president and vice presidents.

Two panels - Sammilito Parishad and Forum - contested in the elections. Faisal Samad is the panel leader of the Forum.

The tenure of the current board, which took charge in April 2021, expires this March.

Its term was extended for a total of one year in two phases, citing the critical phase the garment sector has been going through due to the severe fallout of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Russia-Ukraine war, the dollar crisis and the energy shortage.

The extension in the last six months was allowed because many lawmakers, who are also garment manufacturers and exporters, were not interested in participating in the BGMEA election before the national polls on January 7.

**MEGHNA PETROLEUM LIMITED**  
(A Subsidiary of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation)

58-59, Agrabad Commercial Area, Chattogram

**CORRIGENDUM OF TENDER NOTICE**

This is for kind information to all concerned that due to unavoidable circumstances the tender "REPAIR/PROTECTIVE WORK ALONG THE BANK OF RIVER SIDE AND CONSTRUCTION OF SURFACE DRAIN AT MONGLA OIL INSTALLATION, BAGHERHAT", Tender Invitation Ref. No.: Pur-112; Date-29.02.2024 has been made the following amendments:

Sl. No.	Amendment Subject	Present	Amended as
Tender Notice Sl. No. 13	Tender Publication Date	06.02.2024	06.03.2024

This Corrigendum Notice will be as integral part of the Tender Document. All other terms and conditions of the Tender will remain unchanged.

**Md. Mafizur Rahman**  
General Manager (Operations)  
Phone No. 02333311899

GD- 397

**Pabna University of Science and Technology**  
Planning and Development Office  
Rajapur, Pabna-6600.


Memo No: PUST/PDW/e-GP/OTM/Office Equipment, Part-1/469/2143; Date: 04/03/2024

**e-Tender Notice (FY/2023-24)**

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of following goods under "Pabna University of Science and Technology Revenue Budget", PUST, Pabna.

S.L No	e-Tender ID	APP ID	Package No & Invitation Ref. No	Name of Works	Tender Publication Date & Time	Tender Closing Date & Time	Method
01.	953884	200537	Memo No: PUST/PDW/e-GP/OTM/Office Equipment, Part-1/469/2143; Date: 04/03/2024	Supply, Installation and Testing of Office Equipment for Pabna University of Science and Technology, Pabna.	06 Mar, 2024 12:00 PM	25 Mar, 2024 12:00 PM	OTM

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

  
**(Md. Rafiqul Islam)**  
Deputy Director  
Planning, Development and Works Office  
Pabna University of Science and Technology  
Pabna-6600.  
Phone No. 02 5888 444 51

GD-396

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Office of the Principal  
Rangpur Govt. Technical School and College, Rangpur.  
email: [tscrangpur16031@gmail.com](mailto:tscrangpur16031@gmail.com)

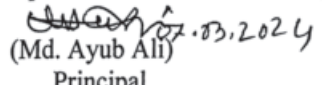
Memo no. 57.03.5585.031.00.00.24-209      Date: 07/03/2024

**Invitation of e-GP Tender**

Tender is invited in the national e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of Goods and related Services under following Tender ID:

Tender ID	Package no.	Package description	Last selling date and time	Closing date and time	Opening date and time
951135	tsc/rang/0802/007	Supply of Engineering and other equipment's under financial code 4112304	24/03/2024 12:00	25/03/2024 12:00	25/03/2024 12:00

These are online Tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender please register on e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). Further information and guidelines are available in the national e-GP system portal and from e-GP (helpdesk @eprocure.gov.bd).

  
**(Md. Ayub Ali)**  
Principal  
Rangpur Govt. Technical School and College  
Rangpur.

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