

# DRAIN OF DEATH

## How many Saidul will die before Ctg drains are fixed?

SIFAYET ULLAH

Life throws its fair share of curveballs. Apart from death and taxes, there is not much one can consider as inevitable in this world.

But for residents of Chattogram, there's another grim reality -- the ever-present threat of disappearing into the city's open drains.

One such open drain of Chattogram claimed its latest victim on Saturday, a 7-year-old boy named Saidul Islam.

He vanished while playing near an uncovered drain right outside his own home in the Goshaildanga area of Agrabad. After a desperate search, his body was

their demise in a similar way -- children, university students, even the elderly -- all swallowed by the city's neglected infrastructure.

The Daily Star, on April 3th this year, published a report titled "Deaths in unprotected Ctg drains: Who is next?"

It seems yesterday, we received the answer. It was Saidul.

Nasima Akter, Saidul's speech-impaired mother, sat wailing in front of her house, surrounded by neighbours who tried in vain to console her.

Tears streamed down her face as she couldn't express her grief in words.



The body of Saidul Islam, 7, was recovered from a canal yesterday after he vanished while playing near an uncovered drain right outside his home on Saturday. Nasima Akter, his speech-impaired mother, sat wailing in front of her house, while neighbours tried in vain to console her. In the past four years alone, at least 11 people have met their demise by falling into the open drains and canals of Chattogram. The Daily Star, on April 3rd this year, published a report titled "Deaths in unprotected Ctg drains: Who is next?"

recovered yesterday from the Nasir Khal canal. Locals claimed he fell into the drain.

Saidul's death is just the latest in a string of such tragedies. In the past four years alone, at least 11 people have met

"Nasima's entire world revolved around her son," said Soheli Begum, a neighbour.

Saidul's sister, Akhi Akter Mim, said she and her brother live with their mother and grandmother.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## DU students protest quota reinstatement HC verdict to remain effective till July 4

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University students yesterday staged a protest against a High Court verdict to reinstate a 30 percent quota for the freedom fighters' children in recruitment for first and second class government jobs.

Several hundreds of students, including some alumni, brought out a procession from the university's central library around 11:00am and assembled at the base of the Raju Sculpture, demanding the cancellation of the quota system.

"We demand cancellation of all quotas in government jobs. If the government resumes the quota system, we will go for a tougher movement," Asaduzzaman, a master's student, told The Daily Star.

Moajjam Hossain, a job seeker, said, "The prime minister cancelled quotas in government jobs following our demands for reforming the quota system in 2018. If



SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## Private univs to be allowed to offer PhD

### UGC forms committee to draft policy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Following much debate and discussion, the University Grants Commission (UGC) is planning to allow private universities to introduce PhD programmes.

The university regulatory body has already formed a committee to draft a policy to facilitate the initiative, Prof Muhammed Alamgir, UGC's acting chairman, told The Daily Star.

"The plan is still in the primary stage. The committee has already been assigned to work on it. But to finalise the draft policy, we will discuss it with relevant stakeholders," he added.

According to UGC, currently, only the 56 approved public universities in the country offer PhD programmes, while none of the 114 private universities is permitted to offer the degree.

In recent years, some private universities in the country have shown their qualities in



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PROF MUHAMMED ALAMGIR  
Acting chairman, UGC

education and research through their placements in the QS World University Rankings.

According to the latest UGC report, private university authorities have been spending a lot in the research sector, as 84 of them allocated an average of Tk 1.53 crore of their budget only for research.

For instance, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh allocated Tk 96 crore, BRAC University allocated Tk 58.83 crore, Daffodil International University Tk 15 crore, United International University Tk 11 crore, American International University-Bangladesh Tk 10.57 crore, and North South University allocated Tk 8.85 crore on research.

On the other hand, Dhaka University had allocated the highest Tk 15 crore for research among public universities.

In this context, there has been a long-standing demand to introduce PhD programmes at capable private universities.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## Monitor gender budget: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A strong monitoring system is needed to evaluate the effectiveness of the gender budget across 44 ministries of the government, in order to eradicate gender inequality, speakers said at a discussion yesterday.

They also stressed that child marriage prevention and female student dropout rate received attention in this year's budget, but needs more investments moving forward.

The remarks were made at an event titled "Investing in Gender Equality: Proposed Budget

If the goals of the women's movement are not consistent with the goals of the gender budget, there will be no expected progress.

2024-25", organised by Bangladesh Mahila Parishad at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

Sharmin Naelormi, professor of Department of Economics at Jahangirnagar University, said the gender budget has acknowledged that girls are falling behind in secondary and higher education. It has identified child marriage, displacement, and poor school sanitation as key reasons. While some ministries have taken steps to address these issues, many challenges still exist.

Dr Maleka Banu, general secretary of Mahila

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## Bangladesh second in freshwater fish production

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has risen from third to second place in the world for freshwater fish production, surpassing China, which has now dropped to third. India remains at the top of the list.

This information comes from the "The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture" report published on Saturday by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

The country held the fifth position consecutively for five times before 2020.

The report, which is released every two years, used data from 2022.

The ranking is based on fish harvested from open waterbodies such as rivers, lakes, and wetlands. However, Bangladesh has dropped from third to fifth place in terms of fish harvested from ponds and other enclosed waterbodies.

In 2023, Bangladesh

produced a total of 48 lakh tonnes of fish, including 32 lakh tonnes from fish farming and 13 lakh tonnes from open water bodies. Half of the fish from open water bodies were hilsa,

country's efforts to conserve open waterbodies and ban fishing during the hilsa breeding season have led to increased fish production. BFRI scientists have

These methods are helping increase fish production in ponds, lakes, and rivers.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh is 14th in marine fish production and ninth in crab farming.

Around two crore people in the country are involved in fish farming and related businesses. The per capita fish consumption has risen from 7.5kg in 1990 to 30kg now.

FAO's report shows that Bangladesh produces 13.22 lakh tonnes of freshwater fish, accounting for 11.7 percent of the global total, up from 11 percent in the previous report.

India leads with 18.9 lakh tonnes while China comes after Bangladesh with 11.66 lakh tonnes.

Myanmar, Indonesia, and Uganda are next on the list.

The 2022 report notes that global fish production hit a record 223.2 million tonnes, valued at \$313 billion, a 4.4 percent increase from 2020.



with a total production of 6.5 lakh tonnes of hilsa in 2023.

Dr Md Zulfikar Ali, director general of Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute, said the

developed artificial breeding and advanced farming techniques for 40 out of the 261 fish species found in Bangladesh's open waterbodies.



- Bangladesh surpasses China to take the second spot
- India tops the list
- Bangladesh held 5th place five times in a row before 2020
- The report based on data from 2022
- Bangladesh produced 48 lakh tonnes of fish in 2023

**লেজার পাইলস, ফিস্টুলা অপারেশন, কোষ্ঠকাঠিন্য, পলিপ, কোলোনস্কপি, কোলন, রেকটাম ক্যান্সার ও ল্যাপারোস্কপি**

পেটের খাদ্যনালী ও মলদ্বারের (Colon, Rectum and Anus) বিভিন্ন সমস্যা যেমন- মলত্যাগের পর রক্ত যাওয়া, ফিস্টুলা, এনালফিশার, রক্ত আমাশয় (Ulcerative Colitis), লেজার পাইলস অপারেশন, সর্বাধুনিক ল্যাপারোস্কপিক পদ্ধতিতে পাইলস অপারেশন, মলদ্বারের বাতের বাতের হওয়ার কারণ, বাধামুক্ত মল ত্যাগের জন্য (Obstructed Defecation) STARR অপারেশন, পেটের ভেতর খাদ্যনালীর ক্যান্সার (Colon Cancer), Colonoscopy, পায়ুপথ ক্যান্সার (Rectum Cancer) মলদ্বার না কেটে অত্যধুনিক স্ট্যাপলিং পদ্ধতিতে পেটে ব্যাগ না লাগিয়ে অপারেশন, ল্যাপারোস্কপিক পদ্ধতিতে পেট না কেটে কোলন ক্যান্সার অপারেশন, শিশুদের পায়খানার সাথে রক্ত যাওয়া ইত্যাদির অত্যধুনিক ও বিশ্বমানের চিকিৎসা সম্পর্কে জানতে হলে বইটি পড়ুন।

**বইটি লিখেছেন বাংলাদেশ এবং উপমহাদেশের পাইওনিয়ার কলোরেক্টাল সার্জন**

**ফরোজ হারুন মিল্লাহ ডি.এম.এস. ফজলুল হক**

**সম্পাদনা: ডঃ আতিক আলমাস হক**

এমবিবিএস, এফসিপিএস, এফআইসিএস  
ইন্টারন্যাশনাল স্কলার (ইউরট্র), মেড, কলোরেক্টাল সার্জি (সিগাণ্ডো)  
প্রতিষ্ঠাতা চেয়ারম্যান (অবঃ), কলোরেক্টাল সার্জারী বিভাগ,  
এফআইসিএস (ইংল্যান্ড), এফএসপিএস (যুক্তরাষ্ট্র)  
এফএসসিআরএস (যুক্তরাষ্ট্র)  
বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিব মেডিকেল ইউনিভার্সিটি। কলকাতা টি ল্যাপারোস্কপি, লেজার ও কলোরেক্টাল সার্জন

**ডঃ ফজলুল হক কলোরেক্টাল হসপিটাল লিঃ**

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