



The Jamuna has devoured at least 12 houses of this Ashrayan project at Biramer Panchgachhi Char of Bogura's Shariakandi upazila. Erosion began about a month ago, rendering many families homeless. The residents of 23 houses are preparing to relocate. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: MOSTAFA SHABUJ

## HOUSES FOR HOMELESS A project destined to fall into ruin

MOSTAFA SHABUJ, Bogura

At least a dozen homes built for the homeless and landless on a river island in Bogura's Shariakandi upazila have been devoured by the Jamuna while dozens of others are under threat of being lost.

The residents blame the authorities for their poor choice of place, saying that the local administration and public representatives selected the location despite knowing that no river island, called char in Bangla, lasts more than a few years in the region.

The 69 semi-pucca cluster homes on Biramer Panchgachhi Char were built along with more than 300 others in the upazila under the Ashrayan-2 project for the homeless and landless in fiscal 2021-22.

The project was part of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's birth centenary celebrations. The aim was to rehabilitate the landless and homeless people also by providing them with solar panels, water pumps, schools, and other modern facilities.

Upazila Project Implementation Officer Tariful Islam told The Daily Star that 65 houses were constructed on the char in the first phase of the project, with the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

### PRICE HIKE OF ESSENTIALS

## Poor, middle class in a tight corner

MD ABBAS and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Harunur Rashid, a retired government employee, was taken aback by the steep price rise of okra at the capital's Karwan Bazar yesterday.

A trader was asking for Tk 110 a kg, a substantial increase from the Tk 70 per kg he paid just a week ago. A month earlier, the price ranged from Tk 40 to Tk 60 per kg.

"I never thought okra would be this expensive. How will people like us manage if vegetable prices keep soaring?" he questioned.

Like okra, the prices of all vegetables have been rising over the last three weeks, causing significant hardship to low- and fixed-income families.

The Daily Star yesterday visited the kitchen markets in the capital's Kazipara, Shewrapara, Kochukhet, Ibrahimpur, Farmgate, and Karwan Bazar and found that vegetable prices have surged.

Pumpkin was being sold for Tk 70-80 per kg, an increase from Tk 50-60 a week ago, and Tk 35-40 a month back.

Pointed gourd was priced at Tk 100-120 per kg, up from Tk 60-70 a week ago, and Tk 50-60 a month earlier.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

ITEMS (PER KG)	PRICE YESTERDAY	PRICE ONE WEEK AGO	PRICE ONE MONTH AGO
	TK 100-120	TK 60-70	TK 50-60
	TK 100-120	TK 80-100	TK 70-80
	TK 180-200	TK 160-180	TK 100-140
	TK 100-120	TK 60-80	TK 40-60
	TK 360-440	TK 320-400	TK 240-320
	TK 200-220	TK 180-200	TK 170-180
	TK 160-180 A DOZEN	TK 160-180 A DOZEN	TK 150-160 A DOZEN

## 6 police units now running without chiefs Anti-crime operations sluggish

SHARIFUL ISLAM

The CID, PBI and four other major police units have been functioning without chiefs for several months, leading to lacklustre performance in operations.

Insiders say some top officers are reluctant to take on leadership roles in the Police Bureau of Investigation and the Criminal Investigation Department that are investigating the murder and corruption cases against key figures of the Awami League government.

The other units without chiefs are the Industrial Police, the Tourist Police, the Highway Police, and the Special Branch.

The sluggishness in the units is resulting from the officers' concerns over getting sudden transfer orders and a lack of experience among officers who have joined the units during the recent reshuffle in the police force.

Senior officers of the units are looking after routine activities now, insiders said.

The PBI has been without a chief since July 19 when Banaj Kumar Majumder retired as the head of the unit.

On August 13, Tawfique Mahub Chowdhury, an additional inspector general, was transferred from the Police Headquarters to lead the bureau. He has yet to formally take up the role.

The PBI is investigating murder cases against former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and many top leaders of the Awami League.

"A senior officer discharging the duties of the chief is holding meetings with officers who have just joined the PBI. That is why our work has lost its pace," said an officer, requesting anonymity.

Mohammad Ali Mia was forced to retire as the head of CID on August 22. A deputy inspector general is looking after the department now.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## Japanese anti-nuke group wins Nobel Peace Prize



Nihon Hidankyo

REUTERS, Oslo

Japanese organisation Nihon Hidankyo, a grassroots movement of atomic bomb survivors from Hiroshima and Nagasaki, won the Nobel Peace Prize yesterday, in a warning to countries that have nuclear weapons not to use them.

Many survivors of the only two nuclear bombs ever to be used in conflict, who are known in Japanese as "hibakusha", have dedicated their lives to the struggle for a nuclear-free world.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee said in its citation the group was receiving the Peace Prize for "its efforts to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons and for demonstrating through witness testimony that nuclear weapons must never be used again".

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

## CTG PUJA MANDAP 2 held over song calling for Islamic revolution

Case filed against 7, cops launch probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police yesterday arrested two people on charges of singing a song calling for Islamic revolution at JM Sen Hall puja mandap in Chattogram city.

Chattogram Metropolitan Police (CMP) said they were investigating whether there was any ill intention behind performing such a song during a cultural programme at the puja mandap stage.

Six members of Chattogram Cultural Academy, reportedly a pro-Jamaat-e-Islami organisation, sang a Baul song and another calling for Islamic revolution around 7:00pm on Thursday that caused widespread outrage after video clips of the incident went viral.

Many alleged that the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



Despite the barriers being lowered, a rickshaw van and several rickshaws cross the Shahjahanpur rail gate in the capital through an open lane, putting both road users and train passengers at risk. Inset, vehicles going against traffic wait at the level crossing as a train passes by. The photos were taken yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## OBITUARY



1937-2024

Mrs. Vajiha Mufti Sattar

Widow of late Mr. Aziz H.A.Sattar, mother of Abdus Sattar Nini, Shahab Sattar, Saleem Sattar, Shaheen Sattar-Parekh and Shaista Sattar breathed her last in Lugano, Switzerland on 5th October 2024. (Inna lillahi wa inna layhi raji'un).

We request prayers for her maghfirat & ask you to please attend her Namaze Janaza at Gulshan Azad Masjid baad Zohr (1:20pm) on Sunday 13th October 2024.

On behalf of all family members and all employees of the

GMG Group

Allah humma maghfir laha.

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لَهَا