

AL can't stage a comeback if BNP-Jamaat alliance holds Says Mirza Abbas

UNB, Dhaka BNP senior leader Mirza Abbas yesterday said the deposed Awami League would struggle to regain political influence if BNP and Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami maintain their alliance.

Speaking at a memorial organised by Dhaka South City Jamaat at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh, Abbas expressed BNP's commitment to "rebuilding the country" with Jamaat.

During the event, held in remembrance of Jamaat supporters killed in 2006, Abbas criticised former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, claiming she had "fled to India" while her associates remain active in Bangladesh.

"The nation cannot progress while Hasina's cohorts are in different positions, as they are devising various plots. However, if Jamaat and BNP work together, the Awami League will not be able to stage a comeback," he said.

"We now desire a Bangladesh without the Awami League... the Awami League and democracy cannot coexist," he added.

He also urged all other democratic parties to unite in order to thwart the nefarious efforts of Hasina's cohorts and the neighbouring country.



PHOTO: STAR

BARGUNA'S GAZIPUR CANAL Bridge work drags on for 5 years

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

The Local Government Engineering Department initiated construction of a bridge over Gazipur Canal in Barguna's Amtali upazila on January 1, 2019 at a cost of Tk 4.23 crore.

The 48-metre-long and 7.5-metre-wide bridge, once completed, is expected to enhance direct road communication between Amtali and Patuakhali's Galachipa upazilas.

Even though the construction work was supposed to be completed within 19 months on September 29, 2020, it is still incomplete.

Even after extension of deadline twice, with the bridge expected to be completed by June this year, the work is still incomplete, largely due to the contractor's negligence, said sources at LGED in Amtali upazila.

More than 200 students need to cross the canal daily to attend their classes at several educational

institutions located on the west side of the canal. Also, several thousand people from both sides of the canal commute on the route regularly.

"As the new bridge has yet to be constructed even in five years, we have to take a longer route for access to the other side," said Shammi Akhtar, an eighth-grader of Gazipur Fazil Madrasa.

Shahidul Islam, principal of the madrasa, said the number of students has come down due to inconvenience with commute.

According to sources, a contractor from Patuakhali named Abul Kalam Azad got the work order for the bridge's construction. He, however, later sold the work to Tanveer Ahmed Dipu, another contractor from Patuakhali.

A show cause notice was issued to the contractor on September 15 from the office of executive engineer of LGED in Barguna for abandoning

the work. The notice mentioned that the work order will be cancelled unless the contractor resumes the work within seven days.

Md Idris Ali, upazila engineer of LGED, said an application has been submitted to the executive engineer requesting to cancel the work order.

Abul Kalam Azad, the original contractor, said, "I sold the work order to another contractor. I don't know why he couldn't finish the job."

Tanvir Ahmed Dipu cited various reasons for the delayed work, including the pandemic as well as hike in price of construction materials. "I have talked to the LGED's executive engineer in this regard. Hopefully the work will be completed within 2-3 months."

Contacted, Mehdi Hasan Khan, executive engineer of LGED in Barguna, said process to cancel the contractor's work order is underway.

DURGA PUJA Fake news was spread to create instability: CID

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some fake news and false information were circulated on social media centring the recently held Durga Puja to embarrass the interim government and create an unstable situation in the country.

SN Md Nazrul Islam, deputy inspector general (DIG) of cyber police centre of the Criminal Investigation Department, said this while replying to a reporter's query at the CID headquarters yesterday.

"Although there were no direct rumours against the government, it was spread centring the Durga puja that ended recently. We have put out some counter-narratives after identifying the rumours," he said.

Nazrul further said, "In some cases, we had to write to Facebook to remove the content and posts. The Facebook authorities responded to it."

The CID organised a press briefing following the arrest of a private university student -- Fazle Hasan Anik, 24. In the last two years, Anik has blackmailed at least 15 females by hacking the Facebook IDs of more than 50 people.

Based on intel, the CPC team arrested Anik in Uttara on Sunday.

A case was filed with Mohammadpur Police Station.

Dengue claims 3 more lives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three more deaths due to dengue were reported in the 24 hours leading up to yesterday morning, raising the total fatalities from the mosquito-borne disease in Bangladesh to 280 this year.

Two deaths were reported in the Dhaka South City Corporation and one in Dhaka North City Corporation.

During this period, 1,197 patients were hospitalised, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Currently, 3,970 patients are receiving treatment in various hospitals across the country. Since January 1, 2024, a total of 58,108 dengue cases have been reported.

Last year was particularly severe, with 1,705 deaths recorded, making it the deadliest year on record. The DGHS recorded 321,179 dengue cases and 318,749 recoveries in 2023.

SC extends stay order on Sohel Rana's bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday extended its chamber judge's October 2 order that stayed a High Court order granting ad-interim bail to Rana Plaza owner Md Sohel Rana in a case filed over deaths during the collapse of the factory building in April 2013.

The apex court also asked the HC to dispose of in two months the rule that the High Court issued asking the state why Sohel Rana should not be granted permanent bail in the case.

The stay order on the HC's ad-interim bail for Rana will continue till disposal of the rule, and therefore, he cannot get released now, his lawyer Mohammad Shishir Manir told The Daily Star.

A three-member bench passed the order following a petition filed by the state challenging the HC's ad-interim bail to Sohel Rana.

Following a bail petition filed by Sohel, the HC on October 1 granted ad-interim bail to him for six months and also issued a rule asking the state to explain why he should not be granted regular bail in this case.

Office of the Dinajpur Pourashava Dinajpur. e-Tender Notice-03/2024-25 (APP ID-205616 & 204864). Includes a table with columns for Sl. No., Package Number, Name of Works, e-Tender ID No., Tender Last Closing (Date & Time), and Tender Closing (Date & Time). Lists various construction projects like RCC drain, road, and bridge work.

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. Includes contact info for A.K.M Tofazzal Hossain, Executive Engineer, Dinajpur Pourashava.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Department of Environment E-16, Agargaon, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207 www.doe.gov.bd Invitation for Tender 02 (2024-2025). Includes a table with columns for Ministry/Division, Agency, Procuring Entity Name, etc. Lists tender details for various construction projects.