

Mostafa Golam Quddus passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mostafa Golam Quddus, former president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, breathed his last at Evercare Hospital in Dhaka yesterday.

He was born on March 4, 1949, in Cumilla.

Quddus was the chairman of Dragon Group and Rupali Insurance Company Ltd and the founder of Sonali Life Insurance Company Limited.

His first namaz-e-janaza was held at Gulshan Grand Azad Mosque after the Zohr prayers yesterday.

The second janaza was held at his village home in Chouddagram, Cumilla the same day. Later, he was buried in his family graveyard.



Shahidul Islam Pannu's death anniv today

STAR REPORT

Today is the 16th death anniversary of Md Shahidul Islam Pannu, director of Sara Advertising Ltd, said a press release.

His family members have requested all to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.



Those

FROM PAGE 3 never glorified Ziaur Rahman through statues or posters, keeping his legacy within party politics. The BNP leader praised Ziaur Rahman's contributions to the Liberation War, nation-building, and state reforms, claiming few leaders in the world could compare.

He said BNP has implemented 90 percent of reforms in Bangladesh since its inception, and in 2017, Khaleda Zia presented Vision 2030, proposing reforms such as limiting the prime minister's tenure to two terms and introducing a bicameral parliament.

"These proposals were designed for the post-Hasina era, yet some are now using our ideas as their own," he added.

Khasru reiterated BNP's conditional support for the interim government to ensure a peaceful transfer of power through elections.

"This is the only purpose we're all supporting and cooperating with this interim government. Any agenda beyond this will lead to the withdrawal of support," he warned.

He emphasised the need for national unity to pull Bangladesh out of its current crisis. "We must unite to rescue the nation from the ditch it has fallen into," he urged.

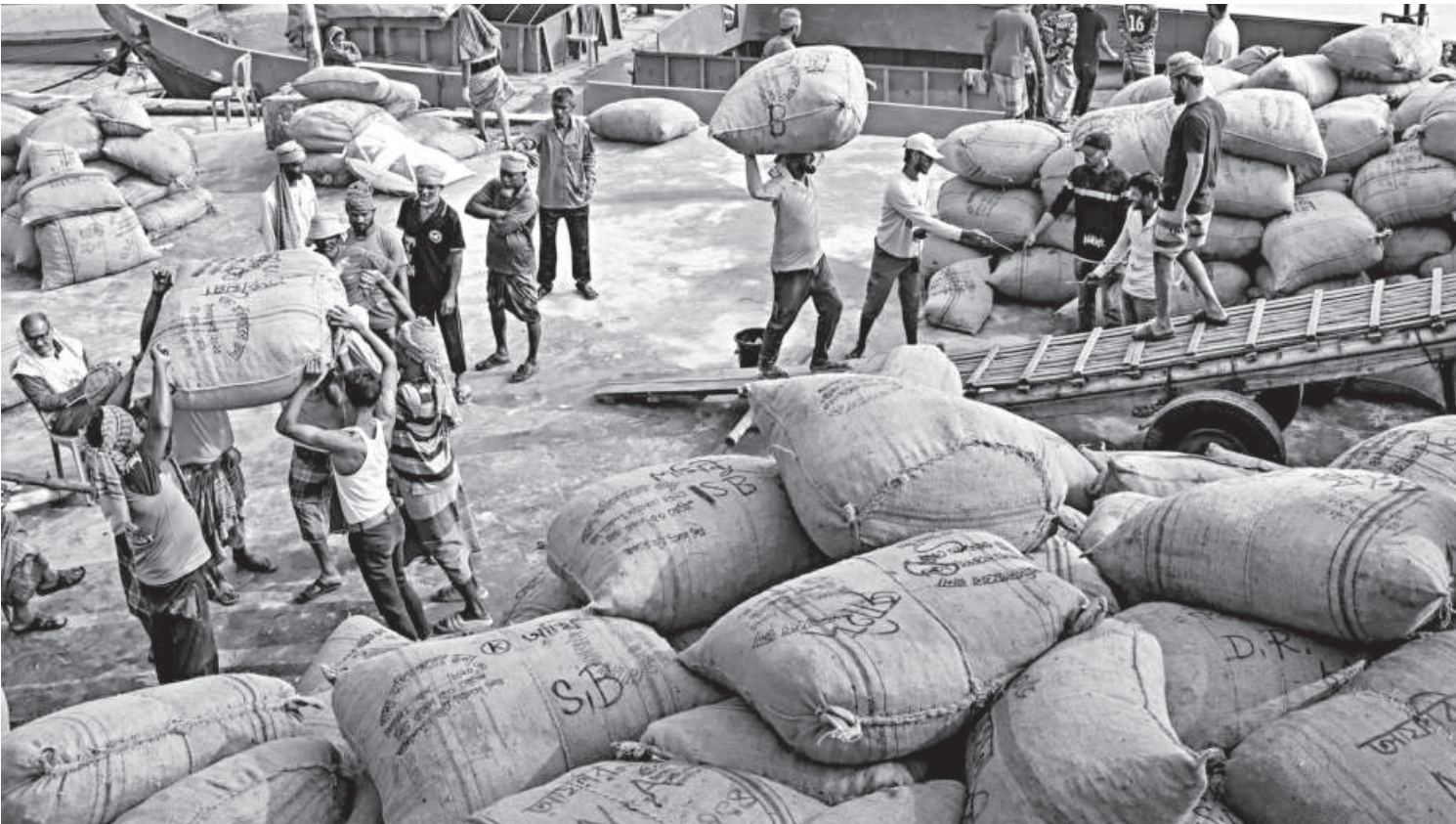


PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Workers unloading sacks of dried fish from small cargo ships and loading them onto trucks. These dried fish are supplied to wholesalers across the country -- including Rajshahi, Rangpur, and Dhaka -- from Dublar Char in the Sundarbans. Depending on the quality, dried fish sells for Tk 200-4,000 per kg in different markets. This photo was taken at Ghat-5 on the Bhairab river in Khulna yesterday.

NARSINGDI DC OFFICE

Recruitment delays create frustration, service disruption

JAHIDUL ISLAM, Narsingdi

Despite five job advertisements over the past two years for a total of 123 vacant positions, the recruitment process at the Narsingdi Deputy Commissioner's Office remains incomplete.

Although written and practical tests were conducted, the final appointments have been delayed due to recent changes in quota systems and age limits, leaving job seekers disheartened and impacting public service delivery.

A recent recruitment circular initially set the age limit at 30, with a 56 percent quota for applicants.

However, following policy revisions, the age limit was extended to 32 and the quota reduced to 7 percent.

Rakibul Islam, 29, who applied for an office assistant position in 2019, said, "The written test was delayed four times before it was eventually held, but the final appointment has yet to be made after more than four years."

Shahadat Islam, 31, who applied for a computer operator position, added, "I passed the written test, and the viva was supposed to take place within four days.

But it was postponed. Now, eight months later, no new date has been set. This waiting is endless and disheartening."

The delays have also affected the office's operations, with services becoming sluggish due to staff shortages at 25 branches and approximately 300 sub-branches.

Rabiul Islam, chief assistant and accountant of the revenue branch, said, "We were supposed to have five office assistants, but only three are currently working. As a result, we have to put in long hours to keep services running."

The impact on public service has been felt by local residents.

Ahmed Islam, a resident of Alokballi union, said, "It took six months to process a simple file. I also tried to get services for an orphanage, but couldn't."

Contacted, Narsingdi DC Mohammad Rashed Hossain Chowdhury attributed the crisis to the quota system and age limit changes.

"We've sent a letter to higher authorities regarding this issue. Once we receive formal instructions, we will take immediate steps to complete the recruitment process," he said.

Woman beaten to death in Bangshal

UNB, Dhaka

A woman was beaten to death with a hammer allegedly by her husband in Dhaka's Bangshal area on Friday evening. The victim is Maksuda Khanam, 30.

Sub-inspector Md Ferdous Alam of Bangshal Police Station said the victim's husband Ibrahim Khan, 37, informed the police about the incident.

He has been detained for questioning, he added.

According to the victim's uncle, Abdul Latif, Maksuda and Ibrahim got married two years ago and the couple has a one-year-old daughter.

Family members alleged that Ibrahim used to quarrel with Maksuda over minor issues.

Maksuda's younger brother Mostafizur Rahman filed a murder case with Bangshal Police Station.

Garment worker stabbed to death

UNB, Dhaka

A 23-year-old garment worker was stabbed to death allegedly by some youths at a slum at Diabari in the capital's Mirpur on Friday night.

The deceased is Mizanur Rahman Milton, 23.

Quoting family members, Inspector Faruk, in-charge of Dhaka Medical College Hospital police camp, said Milton used to live at the slum at Chhoto Diabari-1. On Friday night, some youths snatched the mobile phone of one Biplal, 12, at the slum.

When Milton protested, they beat Milton and stabbed him, leaving him injured. Later, he was taken to DMCH where doctors declared him dead around 12:00am.

Weaving heritage

FROM PAGE 5 poverty. The income from weaving could no longer sustain them.

Fazlul Ali, president of the Lalmonirhat Weavers' Association, said the district once boasted around 1,500 handlooms. Now, just 60-70 remain, confined to Mahishamuri and Kakina villages, with only a fraction still operational.

He said, "Maximum weavers sold their handlooms while few others stored them away and are now earning money by joining various professions."

Aftar Ali, 60, a weaver from Kakina, recounted how the blankets and sheets made in the village were once in high demand. Now,

he struggles to turn a profit due to soaring yarn prices.

"Some of us are still keeping alive our ancestral job," he said.

Mansur Ali, 45, another weaver from Mahishamuri, remains hopeful despite the dire situation. "We make shirt fabrics, pant fabrics, bedsheets, towels, lungis, saris, and other items with our handloom. Our fabrics are still sold satisfactorily to low-income people because they are relatively affordable. If we get the capital and market advantage, we will be able to rise as before," he said. For now, however, the vibrant weaving heritage of Kakina and Mahishamuri hangs by a thread.

Underfunding a key factor

FROM PAGE 3 Station said these constraints leave police financially vulnerable. "There are instances when I've spent Tk 40,000 from my own pocket just to apprehend a suspect," he said.

At a recent Dhaka Metropolitan Police crime conference, this issue was raised, with officers highlighting the strain it places on their ability to perform their duties effectively.

In response, DMP Commissioner SM Sazzat Ali directed that SIs could access vehicles through the motor transport wing. However, many officers argue this measure offers little relief due to procedural delays, particularly during nighttime when offices are closed.

"By the time we get the vehicle, the suspect may already have fled," said another SI.

HIDDEN COSTS OF POLICING

OCs also pointed out the absence of funds for basic operational needs at police stations.

"There is no budget for cooks, cleaners, or electricians, all of whom are essential for running a station," said an officer who served as OC in three smaller stations.

He said that monthly out-of-pocket expenses for maintaining a station can range between Tk 80,000 and Tk 100,000, while source funds allocated to OCs amount to just Tk 20,000 in smaller stations and Tk 40,000 in larger

ones.

"I had to hire a cook for Tk 15,000 per month, a cleaner for Tk 10,000, and an electrician or mechanic costs around Tk 1,200 per visit," he said.

FUEL AND DETAINEE ALLOCATIONS: ANOTHER SHORTFALL

Fuel allowance is another contentious issue. Some officers using official motorcycles receive 30 litres of fuel per month, while those using personal vehicles get just 20 litres.

These amounts, officers argue, are woefully inadequate given the distances they must travel for investigations.

Meanwhile, detainee meal allocations remain dismal, at just Tk 75 per meal. Often, officers cover the costs themselves to avoid bureaucratic delays, particularly when detainees' families are unable to provide food.

"Submitting these expenses involves so much hassle that most officers simply avoid it," said a district superintendent of police.

CORRUPTION FUELED BY FINANCIAL GAPS

These financial gaps, coupled with an absence of oversight, create fertile ground for systemic corruption.

When officers are left to fund operations out of pocket, they are incentivised to find alternative revenue streams, including bribes.

For instance, complainants are sometimes asked to bear investigation costs, or

innocent individuals are detained and released in exchange for payments.

"Until these gaps are addressed and the police change their behaviour, true reform will remain elusive," said an OC who served in city police stations for over a decade.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REFORM

The Police Reform Commission has recommended several measures to address these challenges.

Among them are increasing operational allowances, establishing an audit and inspection wing to oversee procurement at police stations, and allocating funds directly to superintendents of police (SPs) to streamline expenses and reduce bureaucratic hurdles.

The proposals also include increasing investigation funds per case, providing special allocations for those working in the general diary section and verification-related departments, allocating funds for purchasing and repairing essential furniture in police stations, and increasing budgets for vehicles and fuel costs.

Without these reforms, the disconnect between police funding and operational needs will likely continue to hinder law enforcement, erode public trust, and perpetuate a system where corruption becomes a survival mechanism, said the cops involved.

Promote ACC hotline

FROM PAGE 3 corruption awareness into the national curriculum at all levels, from primary to higher secondary education. It also proposed governance and anti-corruption courses, as well as training programmes, internships, and fellowships for undergraduate and postgraduate students.

Promoting the ACC's hotline number (106) through textbooks, traditional media, and social media platforms like Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), and Instagram was another key recommendation. Targeted anti-corruption campaigns and advocacy through these platforms were also suggested.

The commission highlighted the need to raise public awareness about citizen empowerment laws, such as the Right to Information Act, 2009, and the Public Interest Information Disclosure (Protection) Act, 2011, through extensive promotions and training.

It also emphasised fostering ethical practices rooted in human qualities and religious values, urging the engagement of youth in anti-corruption awareness campaigns at both local and national levels.

The commission recommended strengthening collaboration between the ACC's anti-corruption committees and non-governmental organisations, while also aligning the state's legal framework with Article 13 of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC).

This alignment aims to enhance media and citizen participation in anti-corruption efforts.

The report suggested observing International Anti-Corruption Day at a national level and promoting anti-corruption

messages during significant cultural, religious, and political events.

Additionally, the commission called for effective grassroots implementation of the Right to Information Act, in collaboration with the Information Commission and civil society organisations, ensuring equal access to information for all citizens.

"Corruption is not just a punishable offence but an abhorrent, discriminatory, and destructive practice, unacceptable under social, cultural, and religious norms," the report said.

It urged the ACC to employ innovative and sustainable methods to instill a mindset against corruption and implement long-term preventive measures.

Govt signs

FROM PAGE 3 project in Port Fourchon is completed, its cargoes could be sold to Petrobangla, Reuters said quoting the agreement.

The ministry of power, energy and mineral resources and Petrobangla, which are supposed to make the final call on LNG procurement, are yet to know of the issue.

Argent LNG is still in the exploration stage in Louisiana, said Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan, the adviser to the energy ministry. "Such a deal will be further discussed with the designated government bodies before finalisation -- it's still in a very preliminary stage," Khan told The Daily Star.

Currently, Petrobangla imports around 5 million tonnes of LNG annually from two long-term contracts with Qatar Gas and Oman's OQ Trading, and 15-20 shipments from the international spot market.

Leprosy cases keep

FROM PAGE 5 among tea workers. Meanwhile, diagnosis and treatment facilities for leprosy remains inadequate in the district.

Although upazila health complexes and district hospitals across the country provide treatment and free medicines for leprosy, the facilities are largely insufficient.

Moreover, the Sylhet Leprosy Hospital, one of the only three government-run leprosy treatment centres in the country, is facing numerous operational challenges to cater to the needs of the patients in the district.

The hospital, established in 1890, is now in a shabby state and in urgent need of renovation. Intended to accommodate a total 80 patients, the hospital currently have only 48 functioning beds for patients. The diagnostic facilities are currently suspended due to shortage of staff, while the equipment remain unused.

On a typical day, some 10-13 patients receive treatment at the hospital's outpatient department. Due to shortage of manpower, patients admitted in the hospital are largely deprived of essential services.

A patient at the hospital, wishing anonymity, said they are not receiving the necessary medical attention due to acute shortage of doctors and nurses at the hospital.

Vidyut Kumar Deb, a senior nurse at the hospital, said the hospital is now running with only 28 staff members against 49 available posts.

"All nine posts of cleaners are vacant at present. The hospital is also in a dilapidated condition. The century-old building is crumbling, with the roof leaking water during monsoon," he also said.

"The hospital once handled a wide range of services, but now no major surgeries are performed here. Higher authorities

have been informed with request for addressing these issues," he added.

Leprosy Bangladesh, an organisation actively involved in helping leprosy patients and raising public awareness about the disease, currently has 29 field-level initiatives, including financial assistances to patients and other support, said its representative Shyamal Kumar Chowdhury.

Janmejoy Dutta, deputy civil surgeon in Sylhet, said while leprosy is not highly contagious, it can spread mildly through respiratory droplets during sneezing and coughing.

Early signs include pale brown or reddish spots on skin without any sensation or hair growth. Immediate medical attention should be sought if any painless swelling appears anywhere on the body, or if there is loss of sensation in limbs or eyes, he added.

Journos

FROM PAGE 3 He and the owners assured us that we would receive everything we are entitled to, but now they have stopped communicating with us."

Describing the closure as unacceptable, he added, "The organisation has been shut down due to the corruption of the head of the financial department and administration."

The protesters called for the immediate reopening of the newspaper or clearing their dues as per the 8th Wage Board.

A notice regarding the closure of the daily, launched on February 15, 1992, was put up on its Malibagh office main gate on January 20.

PRAYER
TIMING

JANUARY 26

Fazr

Zohr

Asr

Maghrib

Esha

AZAN 5:35

12:45

4:15

5:46

7:15

JAMAAT 6:10

1:15

4:30

5:50

7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer

PWD Division, Rangpur

Tel: 02589962357

E-mail: ee_rmgpr@pwd.gov.bd

Memo No. 25.36.8500.110.00.000.00.25.5178

Date: ২৩/০১/২০২৫ইং

Invitation for e-GP Tender

SL No.	e-GP Tender ID & Reference No.	Name of work	Tender proposal closing date and time
1	1063001, PWD/RNGPR/24-25/Dev/ACC/Purta-02	Construction of ACC Divisional Office (6-storied building with 6-storied foundation) at Rangpur including Civil, Internal Sanitary & Electrification, External Sanitary & Water supply, Internal RCC Road, Surface Drain, Boundary wall & External Electrification works etc. (FY 2024-2025)	20-Feb-2025 12:02

This is an online tender where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline and hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender please register on in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

মোঃ সাকিউল আলম

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী

গণপুত্র বিভাগ, রংপুর

ee_rmgpr@pwd.gov.bd

GD-265