## Farida Anwar passes away

STAR REPORT

Farida Anwar (Baby), daughter of late Shah Muhammad Israil Huq and late Salema Khatun from Lashkerdia, Nagarkanda upazila in Faridpur, died on February 6 in Oxford, UK. She was 82, said a press release.

She was a retired officer of the British government and elected councillor of Oxford City Council. Farida Anwar is a descendant of Hazrat Shah Abdur Rahman Danishmand (R) of Faridpur.

Nearly 4,000 foam sheets, pillows, and blankets that are damaged and unfit for patient use being burnt in an open field near the Doctors' Hostel at Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital in Barishal. This act not only causes severe air pollution but also poses a risk of accidents if the fire spreads. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

## Mother, son among 3 killed in road crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Narayanganj*

Three people, including a woman and her son, were killed after a bus hit an auto-rickshaw at Sonargaon upazila in Narayanganj yesterday, police said.

The deceased were identified as Kakoli Akter, 35, wife of Ashraful Islam; their son Ariyan Ahmed Rafi, 5, residents of Sundarganj upazila of Gaibandha district; and auto-rickshaw driver Anisur Rahman, 23, of Sukanpur village of Rangpur's Pirgachha upazila.

The accident occurred on the Dhaka-Chattogram highway near Kanchpur Bridge.

Kazi Wahid Murshed, officer-in-charge of Kanchpur Highway Police Station, said, "An auto-rickshaw coming from Siddhirganj collided head-on with a Dhaka-bound bus, killing the three on the spot."

The bodies were recovered and taken to the Highway Police Station. Both the bus and the auto-rickshaw involved in the accident were seized, he added.

He said they were looking for the bus driver and filing of a case was underway.

## Govt bound to fail

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Mazhar said it is unfortunate that the Hindus of the country are being labelled as agents of Delhi just for demanding their fundamental rights. "Is this fair? The people have not yet freed themselves from this habit of labeling others," he said.

In the final segment, Nasiruddin Patwary, convener of Nagorik Committee, its member secretary Akhtar Hossain, spokesperson Samanta Shermeen, and chief organiser Sarjis Alam also spoke.

Responding to a question regarding proportional representation in elections, Patwary said they have proposed a hybrid electoral system.

"It can be implemented experimentally in a certain number of constituencies, perhaps 100 or slightly more. This can be tested in the next election through discussions with all parties," he said.

Sarjis said both the Nagorik Committee and the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement will hold councils at regular intervals, where representatives will be elected through direct voting by council members.

In response to a question as to why the party is not expanding, Sarjis said, "We already have committees covering half of Bangladesh's administrative regions. By February, we will reach every thana and upazila. A new party will officially be launched within this month."

Akhtar Hossain said they would finalise the party's name, symbol, and core principles through nationwide consultations by late February.

The session was moderated by the committee's joint convener Ariful Islam Adib.

## Once a lifeline

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while several sections of the Meghna have been dredged in recent years, the mouth of the Kakoria has been overlooked. They said targeted dredging at key locations could resolve the crisis.

Mohammad Didarul Alam, deputy commissioner of Brahmanbaria, said the issue was recently discussed at a district development coordination committee meeting.

Following the discussion, the Water Development Board conducted a field survey in Brahmanbaria and submitted a report proposing plans to dredge the river and designate the silted sections as sand extraction sites, he said.

Md Manzur Rahman, executive engineer of the BWDB in Brahmanbaria, said they had listed the Kakoria for dredging and would initiate the work once existing projects were completed.

## It contradicts the spirit

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"The literacy rate in the country has increased now," he added.

Countries such as the US, the UK, India, and Nepal do not require educational qualifications as a prerequisite to run for legislative positions.

However, media reports say that a master's degree or higher is required to run for Iran's Majlis -- officially the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majlis-e Shoura-ye Eslami).

In 2002, Pakistan introduced a provision requiring a bachelor's degree to contest for lawmaker positions. However, this requirement was repealed several years later.

In Indonesia, candidates for the House of Representatives (DPR) must have at least a high school diploma, while in Nigeria, candidates for both the House of Representatives and the Senate must hold at least a secondary school certificate or its equivalent.

The two reform commissions are likely to submit their full report to the chief adviser today.

**PRAYER TIMING**
**FEBRUARY 8**

| | Fazr | Zohr | Asr | Maghrib | Esha |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| AZAN | 5-30 | 12-45 | 4-15 | 5-52 | 7-15 |
| JAMAAT | 6-05 | 1-15 | 4-30 | 5-56 | 7-45 |

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## 26 noted citizens, TIB, BLAST slam vandalism

FROM PAGE 3

bulldozers, along with other structures that were destroyed and set on fire... As citizens of a civilised country, we are deeply saddened, shocked, and ashamed."

"We demand a thorough investigation and justice; but to whom should we voice our demands? The institutions responsible for maintaining law and order have either acted as silent spectators or have been completely inactive."

The statement added, "Any form of public incitement to violence will only encourage the sabotage efforts of the supporters of fascism and their international sponsors... All incidents that have already occurred should be brought under the law and investigated properly for accountability."

They said the demolition of Dhanmondi 32 has nothing to do with the current movement against fascism. It would be perceived by people as an incitement to violence. This undermines the spirit of the movement against fascism or dictatorship.

It is a matter of deep concern that a section of the youth, whom we believe to be the main force in rebuilding our future, may be manipulated by domestic or foreign evil forces. It is essential to investigate this aspect in light of the recent events, the statement added.

The signatories are Sultana Kamal, Rasheda K Chowdhury, Anu Muhammad, Khushi Kabir, Parveen Hasan, Iftekharuzzaman, Shamsul Huda, Sara Hossain, Syed Abu Naser Bakhtiar Ahmed, Subrata Chowdhury, Nur Khan, Shahnaz Huda, Nova Ahmed, Jobeda Nasrin, Mohammad Selim Hossain, Shah-e-Mobin Jinnah, Zakir Hossain, Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, Monindra Kumar Nath, Saeed Ahmed, Minhajul Haque Chowdhury, Ashraf Ali, Shahadat Alam, Rezaul Haque, Hana Shams Ahmed, and Mukta Shree Chakma.

Meanwhile in a statement, TIB described the acts of violence as "unusual" and criticised the government for not preventing such incidents.

The anti-corruption watchdog warned that the emerging situation poses risks to democratic transition, good governance, and state stability. They urged the government to play an active role in controlling and preventing further unrest rather than merely issuing statements.

TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman said, "There is no way to deny that dictator Sheikh Hasina, accused of committing mass killing, and her aides did the most irreplaceable damage to Bangabandhu, the Liberation War, and the spirit of the Liberation War during authoritarian rule driven by endless lust for partisanship and dynasticism.

"The anger among the country's masses, who have suffered from widespread rights violations, has risen significantly due to the shameless and conspiratorial propaganda spread by exiled Sheikh Hasina and her local and foreign allies. Yet, the countrywide revengeful vandalism and violence, shunning the path of lawful reaction, cannot be acceptable at all."

He added, "Although there was pre-announcement of a violent programme, law enforcement agencies, along with the army as a supportive force, or the government have shown alarming nonchalance in controlling the situation or taking preventive measures. Trying to avoid responsibility later by issuing a statement describing the incident as 'unexpected and unintended' is also noticeable."

Meanwhile, the BLAST statement read, "It is important to note that the killings of July-August 2024 are currently under trial, while those injured are still awaiting necessary treatment and rehabilitation. Meanwhile, former prime minister Sheikh Hasina has yet to take responsibility for her government's autocratic actions, rights violations, and the mass killings."

BLAST called for a prompt investigation and trial of the July-August killings, as well as adequate treatment and rehabilitation for the injured.

On the incidents of vandalism and arson, it said, "The failure to maintain law and order has led to widespread chaos and violence across the country. The police have failed to take timely preventive measures, and these organised attacks are deeply concerning.

BLAST urged the interim government to direct law enforcement agencies to take effective measures to prevent such destructive activities, violence, and chaos, the statement added.

## People suffer

FROM PAGE 5

responsible for the project had abandoned it and fled.

"We have to endure the stench from the polluted river water while being stuck in traffic for hours at either end of the bridge. An immediate solution is needed," he said.

A senior RHD official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said complications had arisen regarding the bridge's steel structure.

"The required materials need to be imported, which has led to delays. The deadline has already been extended once," he said.

So far, only 27.70 per cent of the work has been completed, with just four months remaining before the deadline expires.

Dewan Md Abdul Kader, executive engineer of RHD in Khulna, said once the steel components arrive and are installed, the remaining construction would not take long.

## Five years on, probe still

FROM PAGE 3

"To arrest a government official in such cases, police need approval from the home ministry, which often takes time due to legal complexities. However, the ACC has the authority to arrest any government official if evidence of abuse of power is found," he added.

The probe found that some employees of the EC's Chattogram office, including data entry operators and office assistants, ran the syndicate in exchange for large sums of money from Rohingyas. They even appointed brokers in Cox's Bazar and Bandarban to locate wealthy Rohingyas, said police.

The CT division identified the racket and arrested several data entry operators and technical experts from Dhaka and Chattogram, including Shah Nur, a technical expert at the EC Secretariat who had direct access to all NID servers.

In his statement under Section 164, Shah Nur disclosed the name of a director at the EC Secretariat who was allegedly involved in the racket, said sources.

So far, 15 people, including six EC staffers, have been arrested. Among them, six have given confessional statements.

However, CID has made little progress since, failing to arrest any suspected high officials despite having their names.

Several police officers, wishing anonymity, said Rohingyas are once again attempting to enter Bangladesh by crossing the border.

Meanwhile, as the EC works to register new voters, there is concern that Rohingyas may try to exploit the same syndicate to obtain NID cards.

Notably, some suspects arrested in 2019 have returned to their offices in Chattogram after securing bail.

"We suspect that the racket could become active again. This is a matter of national interest, and the investigation must be concluded soon," said a high-ranking CMP official.

## Police use water

FROM PAGE 3

be overturned, and our joining date announced," said Nitu, another protester.

Masud Alam, deputy commissioner of Ramna Division Police, said water cannons were used to disperse the protesters after they broke through three barricades near the chief adviser's residence.

However, he denied that police used batons.

On Thursday, the HC scrapped the government's decision to issue appointment letters to 6,531 candidates selected as assistant teachers in government primary schools.

The court ruled that their recruitment was based on an 84 percent quota system, which the Supreme Court had abolished in July last year.

It directed authorities to appoint candidates following the SC verdict, which mandates that 93 percent of civil service jobs be merit-based, with the remaining 7 percent reserved under the quota system.

World Health Organization
Bangladesh

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)**

**The World Health Organization** in Bangladesh invites proposals/bids from the interested Companies in Bangladesh for the following service:

1. **RFP/BAN/2025/003:** Evaluation of WHO support on introducing risk management approach to drinking water safety and scaling up the climate resilient water safety plan in two municipalities in Bangladesh.

Deadline for the submission of RFP: **14:00hrs, 23 February 2025 (Dhaka time).**

Interested Companies can view and download the relevant RFP documents from: **https://www.who.int/bangladesh/about-us/procurement-notice.**

Interested bidders are requested to submit their financial and technical proposals in two separate sealed envelopes as per the instructions provided in the RFP documents at the Reception of WHO Bangladesh, House-SW(I)1/A, Road-8, Gulshan-1, Dhaka.

World Health Organization
Bangladesh

**VACANCY NOTICE**

**World Health Organization (WHO)** invites applications from the interested and eligible candidates for the following position under following contractual modality:

- **Program Officer, Measles Elimination / SSA**

For further details on submission of applications including detailed post description please visit our websites:

**https://www.who.int/bangladesh/about-us/employment**
**https://careers.who.int/careersection/ex/jobsearch.ftl**

Qualified ***female candidates*** are highly encouraged to apply.

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**ঃ নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি ঃ**

জেলা প্রশাসন, সিরাজগঞ্জ কর্তৃক পরিচালিত সিরাজগঞ্জ কালেক্টরেট স্কুল এন্ড কলেজ, সিরাজগঞ্জ (ইংরেজি ভার্সন ও বাংলা মাধ্যম) এর জন্য নিম্নবর্ণিত পদে শোক নিয়োগ/ প্যানেল তৈরির নিমিত্ত যোগ্যপ্রার্থীদের নিকট দরখাস্ত আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।

| ক্রমিক নং | পদের নাম | পদের সংখ্যা | শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা |
|---|---|---|---|
| ০১ | প্রভাষক, বাংলা (ইংরেজি ভার্সন) | ০১ | আগ্রহী প্রার্থীদের যে কোন স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ে ৪ বছর মেয়াদী স্নাতক (সম্মান) সহ স্নাতকোত্তর অথবা তিন বছর মেয়াদী স্নাতক সহ স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রীধারী হতে হবে। |
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| ০৪ | প্রভাষক, পদার্থবিজ্ঞান (বাংলা মাধ্যম) | ০১ | |
| ০৫ | প্রভাষক, ইংরেজি (বাংলা মাধ্যম) | ০১ | |

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অধ্যক্ষ
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|---|---|
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| 1069174 | Main Gate, Water Reservoir, ATR-3 Area Repair & Slope Protection At Barishal(N) 230/132 kV Grid Substation Under GMD, Power Grid, Barishal. |

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| 1 | 1071864 | DO/Farid/2024-2025/01 | Supply, Installation and Commissioning of 03 Nos 2.0 KVA & 06 Nos 5.0 KVA Generator for the several branches/ offices of Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Faridpur Division | 06-Feb-2025 11:00 | 27-Feb-2025 11:30 |

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General Manager

GD-382