

## EWU's 24th convocation held



### CITY DESK

The 24th convocation of East West University (EWU) was held at Aftabnagar Sports Ground in Dhaka on April 16, said a press release.

Education Adviser Prof Chowdhury Rafiqul Abrar conferred degrees on 2,885 students at the convocation.

Six students received gold medals.

Syed Nasim Manzur, managing director of Apex Footwear Limited, Bangladesh, was the convocation speaker. UGC Chairman Prof SMA Faiz attended the programme as the special guest.

Prof Mohammed Farashuddin, chairperson of the board of trustees of EWU, and Vice Chancellor Prof Shams Rahman also spoke on the occasion.

Dr Khalilur Rahman, the national security adviser; vice chancellors of different universities and cultural figures were present at the convocation.

## Bti-Star honour two

FROM PAGE 3  
for her representation of Bangladesh on the international stage. On the other hand, architect Afsana Luqman was also honoured in the "Architect (Residential & Commercial)" category for her innovative and impactful designs.

This season, several new award categories have been introduced, reflecting the initiative's commitment to expanding its recognition each year and ensuring deserving women from all sectors receive the spotlight they deserve but are often deprived of.

The Stellar Women

initiative is now halfway through, and it continues to gain momentum the further it goes.

Nominations are now open across multiple new categories, including "Art & Culture," "Engineering (Civil, Structural, Water Resources & MEP)," "Bank & Financial Institutions," "Healthcare," "Environment," and "Agriculture."

The event was attended by bti's Managing Director FR Khan, Head of Sales and Marketing at The Daily Star Imran Kadir, and bti's Executive Director of Brand & Communication Management Aysa Siddiqua.

## Open drains

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"Work is ongoing. At the site of the recent incident in Kapasgola, the city corporation has temporarily set up bamboo fencing as a safety measure," he added.

Pranab Kumar Sharma, deputy chief cleaning officer of the CCC, said, "The major drains and canals under the CCC are still open. Once the waterlogging project is complete, we plan to cover them with slabs."

When asked whether the CCC maintains data on how many people have died in such incidents over the past five years, he replied, "We don't have such data."

Chittogram urban planner Delwar Mazumder said, "We have urged the City Corporation before to build protective barriers around roadside drains, canals, and water bodies, and to initiate related projects. But no one listened. Such tragic incidents happen every year in Chittogram. It's heartbreaking."

"At the very least, if proper fencing is installed along roadsides, the number of such accidents will decrease," he said.

## Registration of bus

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car on Kamarkhola Rail Flyover of the expressway, before colliding with a covered van. The front of the bus was severely damaged. Noticing police and army vehicles behind, the driver reportedly panicked and drove recklessly. The bus later hit the expressway railing at Samashpur, causing its entire roof to be torn off. Despite the damage, the driver

## Govt plans 24 roadside

FROM PAGE 3  
livable, transforming the agriculture sector, and rehabilitating farmers affected by last year's floods.

One of these is a Tk 53 crore project funded by the Gates Foundation, aimed at transforming agriculture to reduce climate-related risks. It will target coastal, Barind, drought-prone, haor, and flash flood-prone areas by addressing gaps between policy and investment. The project will be implemented jointly by the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization.

Another project, costing around Tk 75 crore, seeks to make cities more inclusive and liveable by strengthening the capacity of climate-related institutions at both local and national levels.

A Tk 599 crore project will be carried out by the Water Development Board to support sustainable flood recovery and

enhance emergency preparedness. The project will be implemented in Feni, Cumilla, Noakhali, Laxmipur, and Brahmanbaria.

The fifth project, titled "agricultural system restoration", is estimated to cost Tk 260 crore. Of this, Tk 244 crore will be provided by the World Bank as a loan.

The Department of Agricultural Extension and the Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation will jointly implement the project, which includes training and the distribution of agricultural equipment among flood-affected farmers in the same five districts.

### PRAYER TIMING

APRIL 20

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4:25 12:45 4:45 6:27 8:00  
JAMAT 5:00 1:15 5:00 6:31 8:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## Battery-run rickshaw

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restrictions, battery-run rickshaws are prohibited on both main and inner roads of Gulshan-1 and Gulshan-2. Only registered pedal-powered rickshaws are now permitted to operate.

Locals said the vehicles began entering Gulshan after August 5 last year, claiming their speed and unregulated movement posed risks and contributed to traffic congestion.

To enforce the ban, 20 additional guards were deployed by the Gulshan Society at nine entry points to assist police.

Around noon, 80 to 100 drivers rallied from Gulshan-2 towards Gulshan-1.

While protesters alleged they were assaulted during the demonstration, locals claimed the drivers turned aggressive first.

Shahidul Islam, a driver, said he was beaten by a ride-sharing biker near Gulshan-2.

Abdul Jalil, president of the Gulshan Banani-Badda Autorickshaw, Easybike Drivers Association, said around 8,000 such rickshaws operate in the area.

He said the protest was called off after police assured them they could use alleyways but not main roads.

Ziaur Rahman, ADC (Traffic Gulshan), said the drive will continue.

## Polytechnic

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"We want to get our message across without disrupting public life. Our protests will continue until our demands are met," said Sabbir Ahmed, a central leader of the movement.

On Friday, students marched in Dhaka's Tejgaon area wearing white burial shrouds (kafon), symbolising their frustration. Similar protests took place in Jhenidah, Lakshmipur, Khulna, Barishal, Rangpur, and other districts.

The protests followed dissatisfaction over the outcome of a meeting with education ministry officials held at the Secretariat on Thursday. After the meeting, student representatives said they had not received any official documents or seen any concrete initiatives from the ministry, prompting them to announce fresh programmes.

Their six-point demand includes the removal of "controversial craft" instructors appointed after 2021, the conversion of the diploma engineering programme into a full four-year course with six-month-long semesters, and ensuring that only diploma holders can apply for the post of deputy assistant engineer (Grade 10) and equivalent positions.

Meanwhile, a case under

the Road Transport Act

has been filed on Friday

against the bus owner as it

did not have a valid fitness

certificate.

continued to drive the vehicle with 60 passengers on board. Eight passengers were injured in the incident.

The BRTA letter directed

the owner to appear in

person at its Dhaka office with the vehicle's necessary

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