

No elections without trial of fascists, reforms

Jamaat ameer tells rally

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Lalmonirhat

Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Dr Shafiqur Rahman yesterday said no national election should be held without necessary reforms and the trial of fascists.

"We want to support the government in the reform process. But no election should take place without reforms. An electoral environment must also be ensured," he said while addressing a public meeting organised by Lalmonirhat district Jamaat on the Collectorate Ground in Lalmonirhat town.

He said fascism has collapsed, but fascists remain active. "A group is still involved in extortion. People want a Bangladesh free from extortion."

On relations with India, he said, "We seek friendly ties with India, but it is up to India to determine the nature of that relationship."

Man hacked to death in Habiganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Moulvibazar

A man was hacked to death allegedly by a group of miscreants in Chunarughat upazila of Habiganj yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Abdul Hai, 60, a resident of Jarulia village in the upazila, said Md Nur Alam, officer-in-charge of Chunarughat Police Station.

Abdul Hai was reportedly cutting bamboo by the roadside at around 1:00pm when a group of people attacked him with sharp weapons, leaving him dead on the spot, locals said.

He sustained multiple injuries, including severe wounds to the head.

On information, police went to the spot around 2:00pm, recovered the body, and sent it to Habiganj 250-bed District Sadar Hospital's morgue for autopsy, said OC Nur Alam.



PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Danger lurks in the open drains

14 die in five years; 6-month-old becomes the latest victim

MD NAZRUL ISLAM

Men, women, children... even infants.

In Chattogram, no one is safe from the deadly grip of open drains and canals. Every year, lives are lost as people fall into uncovered drainage systems scattered across the city. It has become a tragic and seemingly inevitable fate for its residents.

The latest victim is six-month-old Seherish, who went missing after falling into an open drain in the city's Kapasgola area on Friday night. Her tiny body was recovered 14 hours later.

According to the Chattogram City Corporation, the city has around 1,600 kilometres of drains, sewers, and canals.

Of these, about 300 kilometres fall under the jurisdiction of the Chattogram Development Authority, while the rest are maintained by the CCC.

On August 25, 2021, vegetable vendor Saleh Ahmed disappeared after falling into an open drain at Muradpur intersection during heavy rain. Despite extensive rescue operations, his body was never found.

Just a month later, on September 27, university student



Father of six-month-old Seherish holds his daughter one last time before burial. The infant's body was recovered 14 hours after she fell into an open drain at Kapasgola in Chattogram city on Friday night.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Seherin Mahbub Sadia died after falling into a drain while walking in the Agrabad area.

In 2022, a child named Kamal went missing after falling into a drain in Sholoshahar. His body was discovered three days later in Muradpur.

On August 28, 2023, one-and-a-half-year-old Yasin Arafat fell into a drain in Agrabad Rangipara.

His body was recovered 16 hours later by fire service personnel.

In June 2024, seven-year-old Saidul Islam fell into a drain in Gosaidanga. His lifeless body was found the next day in Nasir Canal.

Residents have long been complaining that most of the city's canals lack protective fencing, and many drains remain uncovered, effectively turning

them into open death traps.

Neither the CCC nor the CDA maintains accurate data on how many people have died after falling into these hazards. However, based on reports from various media outlets, at least 14 people have died in the past five years, while two remain missing.

The unofficial tally shows five deaths in 2021, one in 2022, three in 2023, and four in 2024 so far.

Kapasgola resident Zahid Hossain said, "Most of the city's drains and canals have now become death traps. Even after so many lives lost, there has been no effective action. Every time someone dies, there's a public outcry for a few days, and then it fades away."

Following the latest incident, CCC Mayor Dr Shahadat Hossain yesterday said the CDA is currently working on 36 canals under the city's waterlogging project, while the CCC is responsible for one canal. "The projects are progressing rapidly, and we hope to soon install safety barriers along the canals," he said.

He also mentioned that initiatives are underway to construct retaining walls around open drains.

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6-POINT DEMAND

Polytechnic students to hold nationwide rallies today



PHOTO: TITU DAS

Polytechnic students rally in Barishal yesterday amid presence of members of joint forces.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Polytechnic students across the country are set to hold rallies today to press home their six-point demand. The announcement was made yesterday during a human chain organised in front of Dhaka Polytechnic Institute.

Students, under the banner of Karigori Chhatra Andolon, said the demonstrations would take place simultaneously at polytechnic campuses nationwide. Their primary objective is to draw the attention of top government officials. They also urged fellow students to maintain order and avoid causing public inconvenience during the rallies.

As part of yesterday's "Rise in Red" campaign, students draped red cloth over campus gates and formed human chains, holding placards at strategic locations and along roadsides.

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316 rice mills lose registration

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinaipur

The registrations of 316 rice mills in Dinaipur have been revoked after they failed to reach an agreement with the government for supplying rice and paddy during the recently concluded Aman procurement season.

The cancellations were confirmed in an official order issued by Subir Nath Chowdhury, district food controller. According to the District Food Controller's Office, the Aman procurement drive began on November 17 last year. The procurement deadline was set for February 28 for boiled rice and paddy, and March 15 for non-parboiled (Atap) rice.

A total of 911 rice mills signed contracts to supply boiled rice, while 83 mills initially signed up to supply Atap rice. By the end of the season, the government managed to procure 48,724.40 tonnes of boiled rice (98 percent of the target) and 11,306.460 tonnes of Atap rice (96 percent).

However, paddy procurement remained low, with only 2,258 tonnes collected, just 13 percent of the target.

Owners of several mills, whose registrations were revoked, cited high market prices for paddy and increased production costs as reasons for not participating in the procurement.

Food Controller Subir Nath said Dinaipur has 1,210 rice mills eligible to supply boiled rice and 110 eligible for Atap rice. "Many millers did not sign the contracts during the recent procurement drive. Actions have been taken as per the directives."

SREEMANGAL HEALTH COMPLEX

Patients suffer due to shortage of doctors, nurses

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

Patients are being deprived of essential healthcare services at the 50-bed Sreemangal Upazila Health Complex in Moulvibazar due to an acute shortage of doctors, nurses, and technical staffers.

Although the hospital has 23 sanctioned doctor posts, only 10 doctors are currently in service. On average, the health complex receives around 90 emergency patients, 300 outdoor patients, and 40 admissions daily, according to sources.

The facility is functioning with just one junior consultant and one assistant surgeon against the sanctioned six and seven posts respectively. Several other key positions remain vacant, including those of senior staff nurses, pharmacists, medical technologists, statisticians, health assistants, and cleaners.

Medical equipment such as the X-ray machine, ultrasonogram, and ECG are lying non-functional due to the lack of technical support and staff members. As a result, many patients – even those with minor health issues – are compelled to travel to Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital for treatment.

Due to the ongoing manpower crisis, four deputy assistant community medical officers from Union Health and Family Welfare Centres have been reassigned to the hospital's emergency department,

disrupting primary healthcare services at the grassroots level.

A recent visit revealed overcrowded wards for women, children, and men, with no vacant beds available. Long queues were seen outside doctors' chambers, where the deputy assistant community medical officers were offering only basic treatment.

Many patients expressed their

poor sanitation, lack of lighting during power outages, and insufficient medicine supplies.

A senior nurse, said, "We have had no gynaecologist for nearly a month, so we had to suspend C-section surgeries."

A senior staff member of the emergency department added, "We are currently offering only primary care and referring all other patients



frustration. "I have been waiting with my child for two hours. He has an ear problem, but there is no ENT specialist here," said Solaiman Hossain, a local resident.

Husna Begum, a patient, said she had been waiting for more than an hour without being able to consult a doctor. "I'm already ill, and this prolonged wait is making it worse."

Patients also complained about

to Moulvibazar."

Dr Cynthia Tasmin, health and family planning officer of Sreemangal upazila, acknowledged the mounting pressure on the existing workforce. "We have only 10 doctors against 23 approved posts. I've written to the higher authorities requesting urgent recruitment. Once manpower is appointed, service quality will improve," she said.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

National board of Revenue

Bangladesh Regional Connectivity project 1: National Single Window Implementation and strengthening Customs Modernization IDEB Bhawan (10th floor), 160/A, Kakrail, Dhaka

Memo no. 1(192) Active items/ Hardware /NSW/2024/ 2690

Date: 17.04.2025

Subject: Addendum to bidding document for supply and Installation of Hardware and Infrastructure (network, communication, cabling etc.) and standard software for NSW solution; other network, communication equipment, structure, Hardware and cabling: Server & Storage and Network & Security components for NSW Server Room & DR. Bangladesh Regional Connectivity project 1: Request for Bids (RFB) No. NBR-GD2A.01.

Addendum No. 11

This is for the information of all Bidders concerned that the following amendments have been made for the procurement mentioned in the subject above;

Ref	Existing Entry	Amended entry
SI No. of 6, SPN ITP-23.1 & 26.1	The deadline for Bid Submission is: Date: April 21, 2025, Time: 14.00 hours. Date & Time for Bid Opening April 21, 2025, Time :14:30 hours	The deadline for Bid Submission is: Date: April 28, 2025, Time: 14.00 hours. Date & Time for Bid Opening April 28, 2025, Time :14:30 hours

All the terms and conditions of bidding Documents (RFB) NBR-GD2A.01 shall remain unchanged. **This Addendum No. 11** shall be considered an integral part of the Request for Proposals Document along with earlier addendums and shall be binding on all Bidders who have obtained the Request for Proposals Document from the Purchaser and intends to obtain in accordance with ITP 6.3.

(Pramila Sarker)
Deputy Project Director
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