

## Deep depression formed over Northwest Bay: BMD

UNB, Dhaka

The low-pressure system over the North Bay and nearby areas moved west-northwest and gradually intensified – first into a well-marked low, then into a depression – over the Northwest Bay and the coasts of West Bengal and Bangladesh (near 21.3°N, 89.6°E) at 6:00am yesterday, according to the Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD).

It was likely set to move west-northwestwards and cross the West Bengal-Bangladesh coast on Friday afternoon.

Due to the depression over Northwest Bay and adjoining West Bengal and Bangladesh coasts, all maritime ports have been advised to keep hoisted local cautionary Signal No 3.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 6

## Polls delay to invite more complications Says Gayeshwar Roy

UNB, Dhaka

The longer the election is delayed, the more complications and questions the interim government will face, given its lack of coordination and inexperience in governance, warned BNP Standing Committee member Gayeshwar Chandra Roy yesterday.

"Since the interim government is not an elected one, it can avoid taking responsibility for the country's various crises. But the more the election is delayed, the more pressure and questions the government will face, and different complications will arise," he said.

He made the remarks while visiting the family of Nusrat Jahan Anika, a third-grade student who was killed in the jet crash at Milestone School and College in Uttara.

Gayeshwar expressed sympathy to the grieving family on behalf of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and Acting Chairman Tarique Rahman.

The BNP leader said

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

# Locals suffer as bridge work stalls for 4 years

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

The construction of a bridge over Rangamatia canal on the Phulbaria-Trishal road in Mymensingh's Phulbaria upazila has remained incomplete for the last four years, causing immense suffering to residents of at least 15 villages.

The work order for the 60-metre bridge, with an estimated cost of Tk 3 crore, was issued to Messer's Islam Brothers, a Dhaka-based construction firm, in December 2020. Construction was inaugurated in 2021, but progress has since stalled.

Villagers from Polasholi, Raghunathpur, Andariapara, Chowder, Radhakanai, Gobindapur, Dhurdhuria, Chhalimpur and several other areas rely heavily on the road. The incomplete bridge has left them grappling with severe transport difficulties, especially during the rainy season, said locals.

Jannatul Ferdous, an honours student from Chowder village,

said, "The suffering intensifies during the monsoon. Hundreds of students and around 2,000 industrial workers face serious trouble due to the lack of a bridge."



A wooden bridge was recently constructed by locals to facilitate travel between Phulbaria and Trishal, but it is risky. "Several people have been injured in

recent months trying to cross it," said Kabir Uddin Harun, a local journalist.

Md Tofail Hossain, a retired agriculture officer from Naudhar village, said without a concrete

The surrounding villages are known for producing pineapples, turmeric, Lal Chini, and fish, but poor connectivity prevents farmers from fetching fair prices. "Middlemen pocket most of the profits as farmers often have to sell their goods from home," said Hazi Golam Mustafa of Chowder village.

Locals alleged that the construction firm abandoned the site years ago, citing negligence by officials.

Md Mahbub Hasan, sub-assistant engineer of the Local Government and Engineering Department (LGED) in Phulbaria, denied any negligence on their part. "We have repeatedly written to the firm, but they have not responded. They have been saying they'll resume work soon," he said.

Contacted, Md Ariful Islam, upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) of Phulbaria, said he was recently made aware of the issue and assured that immediate steps would be taken to alleviate the suffering of the locals.

bridge, villagers are forced to take longer alternative routes to reach the upazila headquarters, resulting in additional time, expense, and hardship.

## Global operator, foreign tech key to boosting Ctg Port efficiency: adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Shipping Adviser M Sakhawat Hussain yesterday stressed the need for appointing a global operator and bringing in foreign technological expertise to enhance operational efficiency at Chattogram Port.

He made the remarks while speaking to journalists during a visit to the New Mooring Container Terminal (NCT) at Chattogram Port.

Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) Chairman Rear Admiral SM Moniruzzaman, senior port officials, and officials from Chattogram Dry Dock Limited (CDDL) were also present during the visit.

Addressing the government's move to appoint a foreign operator for NCT, the adviser clarified, "It is only about operator. Don't forget that I am not talking about the management of the port. Operator is one thing, management is another. Management will be in our control."

"We want to proceed. We want to step into global arena. We don't want to be stuck within ourselves," he said.

The government recently handed over interim operational responsibilities of the NCT for six months to CDDL, a Bangladesh Navy-run entity, replacing previous operator Saif Powertec Limited. CDDL will continue running the terminal until a foreign operator is appointed.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

## Abul Mansur Ahmad's words still

FROM PAGE 3

at home and abroad, the connection between language and nationhood as seen during the founding of the United States, she added.

Prof Majumdar also discussed several of Abul Mansur Ahmad's notable works, including Ayna (Mirror), Food Conference, and Gulliver's Safarnama (Gulliver's Travels).

She said Ayna and Food Conference addressed issues such as superstition in the Muslim society, while Gulliver's Safarnama is a satire.

She also touched upon his writings related to language and history in the United States.

Among others, Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star and son of Abul Mansur Ahmad, attended the event.

In his concluding remarks, he expressed gratitude to the Presidency University for honouring the legacy of Abul Mansur Ahmad. He later handed over several of Abul Mansur Ahmad's books to the university authorities.

Abul Mansur Ahmad was a prominent figure in the subcontinent – an accomplished journalist, politician, lawyer, and writer.

Born on September 3, 1898, in Dhanikhola village of Trishal, Mymensingh, he graduated in law from Ripon College, Kolkata. He

began his political career with the Congress Party. He also did politics in close association with Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

He was also a pioneer of modern and progressive journalism. He worked for prominent newspapers such as Krishak, Nabajug, Sultan, and Mohammadi and was editor of the Kolkata-based Daily Ittehad from 1946 to 1948.

Abul Mansur Ahmad wrote about the language issue from the early 1940s and contributed to the Language Movement as the editor of the Ittehad.

A very successful politician, Abul Mansur Ahmad played a key role in the formation of the Awami Muslim League. He served as vice-president of the organisation from 1953 to 1958.

Abul Mansur Ahmad was the author of the famous Ekush Dafa (21-point programme) election manifesto of Jukta Front in the 1954 election through which the Muslim League was ousted from power.

The Ekush Dafa was the first comprehensive articulation of the political, economic and cultural demands of the Bengalees of the then eastern part of Pakistan.

He was elected a member of East Bengal Provincial Assembly in that election, and served as health

minister in the United Front cabinet under Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Huq. In 1955, he was elected a member of Pakistan Constituent Assembly.

He was the minister for education in the United Front government of East Pakistan in 1956 and the minister for commerce and trade in 1956-1957. After the promulgation of martial law by Ayub Khan in 1958, he was imprisoned and subsequently released in 1962.

He then retired from politics.

Abul Mansur Ahmad was known for his strong stand in favour of regional autonomy of East Pakistan. He also made remarkable contributions to industrialisation of the long neglected East Pakistan.

He always propagated secularism in a manner unparalleled in the forties, fifties and sixties.

Ahmad's publications include great satires like "Asmani Purdah", and "Food Conference". He also penned insightful works on social and political history of Bengal such as "Bangladesher Culture". He has two autobiographical writings – "Atma Katha" and "Amar Dekha Rajniti Panchash Bakha".

He received both the Independence Award and the Ekush Padak for his contributions.



EUCALYPTUS, AKASHMONI

## Govt begins destroying 10m banned saplings

MD NAZRUL ISLAM, Ctg

The government has begun destroying nearly 10 million eucalyptus and akashmoni saplings across 49 districts, following a nationwide ban on the production, planting, and sale of the two species.

The Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) launched the operation last month, aiming to eliminate ecologically harmful saplings from public, private, and individual nurseries.

More than five million saplings have already been destroyed, with nursery owners receiving Tk 4 per sapling in compensation.

Citing biodiversity loss and environmental imbalance, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change issued a gazette on May 15 banning the cultivation and marketing of eucalyptus and akashmoni.

Environmentalists have long campaigned against these fast-growing species, known for depleting groundwater and offering limited ecological value.

Surveys were conducted in 49 districts, and on June 17, a directive ordered the destruction of

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

## Frugal Innovation Forum 2025 begins



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over 200 national and international experts, entrepreneurs, researchers, and development practitioners gathered for the two-day eighth Frugal Innovation Forum (FIF), which began yesterday at BRAC's Centre for Development Management in Savar.

This year's forum is themed "Climate Adaptation in Agriculture, Food Security, and Livelihoods", with a focus on practical, locally driven solutions to climate risks across the Global South.

The event began with a minute of silence in remembrance of the Milestone School and College tragedy.

In his opening address, BRAC Executive Director Asif Saleh noted that while "the world is on fire", it is also at a breaking point.

He emphasised that climate-related economic losses now total \$2.3 trillion annually,

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

## মোহাম্মদপুরে আর্জেন্ট লান্সারিয়াস স্ল্যাট বিক্রয়

মোহাম্মদপুর জমির হোসেন রোড, ই-ব্লক, লালমাটিয়া মহিলা কলেজের সন্নিহিত সাদানির্মিত পতলা বিজি এর এম তলায়, ওবেক, ওবাথ (এটাডভ) ও ওবেলবুদীর আকর্ষণীয় ইন্টেরিয়রকৃত ৩,৮০০/- (আটত্রিশ হাজার) টাকা খর ভাড়া সমান, কারপার্কিংসহ ১৪০০ বর্গফুট আর্জেন্ট স্ল্যাট বিক্রয়। (নে-সিডিয়া), মোবাইল: ০১৮৯-০৫৮৩২৭ ও হোয়াটসঅ্যাপ যোগাযোগ: +৯৬৬ ৫৩ ১০৭ ৭৩৬২

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH  
HIGH COURT DIVISION  
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)  
Company Matter No. 1276 of 2025

IN THE MATTER OF: An application under section 81(2) read with Section 85(3) and Section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994, AND IN THE MATTER OF: Mohammad Nawaz Managing Director of NY Trading Ltd., of Ahmed Tower, 28 & 29 Karnal Atank Avenue (4th Floor), Banani, Dhaka-1213 Bangladesh. -----Petitioner.

-VERSUS-  
The Registrar, Joint Stock Companies and Firms (RJSC), TCB Bhaban (6th Floor), 1, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215. -----Respondent

Take notice that an application under section 81(2) read with Section 85(3) and Section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994 was filed before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh on behalf of the above-named Petitioner for condonation of the delay in holding the Annual General Meeting of NY Trading Ltd. for the year ended 30 June 2024 to give necessary direction for holding the said Annual General Meeting. Upon hearing the application on 23.07.2025, the Hon'ble Company Judge Mr. Justice Ahmed Sohel was pleased to admit the application. If anyone is interested in opposing the said application, you may appear before the Hon'ble Court either in person or through an advocate on or before the date fixed for hearing of the matter. Copy of the application may be obtained on payment of necessary cost.

Mahbub Uzzaman, Advocate,  
Room No. 145 (Main Building), Supreme Court Bar Association,  
Shabbag, Dhaka. Mobile No. 01715815107

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH  
High Court Division,  
(Statutory Original Jurisdiction)  
Matter No. 1187/2025,  
IN THE MATTER OF  
An Application under Section 12 Read with Section 13 of the Companies Act, 1994.

MR. MOHAMMED MASUM, Managing Director, SUPREME AGRO-INDUSTRIES LTD. House-8, Road-14, Sector No. 7, Uttara, Dhaka -----Petitioner.

-Versus-  
1. The Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and firms having office at 1,TCB Bhaban, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.---Respondents

Dear Sir, Notice is hereby given that upon application filed by the petitioner Section 12 Read with Section 13 of the Companies Act, 1994 for condonation of delay in holding Annual General Meeting (AGM) and for exoneration from penalty, if any and the Company Bench of the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh presided over by Mr. Justice Ahmed Sohel was pleased to admit the same on 10.07.2025 If you are interested to oppose the said application you may do so by an advocate or in person on the date so fixed. Md. Nurul Huda, Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh.64/4 Naya Paltan, Dhaka-1000. Mob.-01911357642

## Rajuk services

FROM PAGE 3

been no confirmation that affected clients got their documents back.

Regarding the current situation, Kamrul Islam, director (Development Control-II) of Rajuk, told The Daily Star, "We have requested the Bangladesh Computer Council to provide a permanent solution. Necessary actions will be taken based on their recommendations. But they are delaying in giving their opinion."

On the suspension of services, he added, "We are working intensively. We are trying to get the server back online as soon as possible. If necessary, we will start processing building and design approvals manually."

Meanwhile, real estate companies are also in trouble as Rajuk's server remains closed. They cannot approve their apartment plans.

Liakat Ali Bhuiyan, senior vice president of the Real Estate and Housing Association of Bangladesh (REHAB), said business activities have come to a standstill as REHAB members could not apply for land use clearance, Rajuk design and occupancy certificates due to the prolonged closure of the ECPS software.

## Take action against illegal structures near Dhaka

FROM PAGE 3

Tamjidul pointed to the absence of land use restrictions defining what types of institutions or structures are permissible in such sensitive zones.

He said neither the Dhaka Metropolitan Development Plan (DMDP) nor the Detailed Area Plan (DAP) includes policies to restrict land use near the airport's OLS zones, which are essential for ensuring public safety and health.

Globally, land uses that attract large gatherings – such as residential areas, schools, hospitals, community centres, and commercial buildings – are discouraged within inner runway approach zones. Unfortunately, such global best practices are rarely implemented in Bangladesh, he said.

Planner Sheikh Muhammad Mehedi Ahsan, general secretary of BIP, said the 1995 DMDP had designated the area as a protected wetland or natural space. Satellite images also indicate that the site previously contained a water body, which was later filled in to make way for development.

He emphasised that such development would have required Rajuk's approval and asserted that the agency cannot escape responsibility for permitting construction in this area.

Mehedi also said Rajuk is not authorised to approve any project in aviation zones without a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from CAAB. The fact that Milestone School is situated directly in the runway's takeoff and landing path exposes a serious lack of coordination between Rajuk and CAAB.

He argued that CAAB must base NOC decisions on thorough planning analysis, yet urban planners are currently excluded from this critical process. To prevent such tragedies in the future, planners must be involved in all planning-related evaluations, he urged.

BIP President Professor Dr Adil Mohammed Khan said training flights must not operate over densely populated areas.

He emphasised that aviation pathways must remain clear in urban planning, which is why major international airports are typically located outside city centres with designated buffer zones.

Although Dhaka airport was originally situated away from the city, unchecked urban expansion has brought high-density development dangerously close to its boundaries. Urban growth should have been managed to avoid encroaching upon the flight approach zones, he said.

He highlighted that

the DMDP had classified the current location of Milestone School as a wetland, which also served as a safety buffer for the airport.

Why did Rajuk approve development here in violation of the DMDP? Whose interests were served? he asked.

He also expressed concern over the safety conditions of the damaged building, noting that its grilled balconies and single access/exit point hampered rescue operations and

contributed to the tragic death of students. Dr Adil stressed the need for urgent urban safety measures, not just within aviation zones but throughout Dhaka, to ensure secure housing and infrastructure for all. Institutional accountability is just as important as personal responsibility.

"We must confront land grabbing, corruption, and planning violations at both levels," he said.

He said, "All institutions attracting public gatherings

subsequently transferred to the Jatrabari branch. During his time at Jatrabari, a remittance of Tk 16.16 lakh was transferred to the Motijheel branch. The receiving branch officer acknowledged the full amount in writing, complete with their seal and signature. However, a few days later in 1985, an internal bank investigation revealed that the funds were missing. In late 1985, Sonali Bank initiated departmental proceedings and filed three cases against nine individuals, including Harendranath, accusing them of embezzling the missing funds. The ordeal has taken a severetoll on Harendranath's life.

schools, hospitals, mosques, Eidgahs, and others – must be gradually relocated from airport approach zones to prevent future disasters."

Responding to questions from journalists, BIP Vice President Shahriar Amin underscored the need to address all irregularities linked to the incident.

Ensuring transparency and accountability across all sectors of governance is essential, and planners must play an active role in that process, he said.

While talking to The Daily Star, Harendranath said, "I was forced to sell my home and land to fund my legal defence. To support my family, I worked as a ticket seller at a bus stand for nearly 15 years. Now, at the age of 80, I am homeless and destitute."

Seeking payment of all due salaries and benefits from Sonali Bank, Harendranath has also filed a writ petition with the High Court, which is now pending. When contacted, Sonali Bank's lawyer Barrister Shamim Khaled told The Daily Star that his client must give Tk 20 lakh as litigation expenses to Harendranath in compliance with the Appellate Division order.

Justice after 40 years

Justice after 40 years