



## Need joint research to explore marine resources

Says Prof Yunus

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday stressed the need for coordinated joint research with Japan, Indonesia and the Maldives to explore marine resources, mentioning that Bangladesh has a maritime area almost equal to its landmass.

"The problems need to be identified. Research must be coordinated with those who have expertise in this area. Through such efforts, new horizons of the economy will open," he said.

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The Dayaganj-Jurain Road has been in a neglected state for a long time after Bangladesh Railway built a boundary wall along the rail line, significantly narrowing the road. Due to reduced width and severe deterioration, the road has become a struggle for commuters.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## 'No shortage in LPG supply'

Says energy adviser

BSS, Dhaka

Power and Energy Adviser Fozul Kabir Khan yesterday ruled out any supply shortage behind the recent alleged disruption in liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinder availability.

"About 98 percent of the LPG business in Bangladesh is controlled by the private sector. Government involvement is limited to around two percent," he said after attending a meeting of the Advisers Council Committee on Government Purchase held at the Secretariat.

The adviser said the abnormal price hike and temporary scarcity were the result of "collusion and deliberate manoeuvring" by wholesalers and retailers, not a failure in imports or production.

The adviser assured consumers that the government would continue to monitor the situation closely and take all necessary steps to prevent further manipulation of the LPG market.

The adviser said LPG imports have increased compared to the previous month, making any genuine supply shortage unlikely.

"From the import side, there is no reason for a crisis," he said, noting that some operators withheld supply in anticipation of higher prices following

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## DAYAGANJ-JURAIN ROAD

# Once a vital route, now a corridor of chaos

HELEMUL ALAM

Once a bustling thoroughfare just four to five years ago, the road stretching from the Dayaganj crossing to Jurain Railgate has now turned into a neglected and damaged route after Bangladesh Railway built a boundary wall along the rail line, significantly narrowing the road.

The road was once used by vehicles from both directions and even had a divider to ensure smooth traffic flow. Although the divider still exists, the western portion of the road has remained abandoned for the last five years.

This vital link between Dayaganj and Jurain, used by vehicles heading toward the southern region through the Postogola Bridge, has now become a corridor of chaos due to reduced width and severe deterioration.

During a recent visit, large sections of the road were found heavily damaged. The narrowed western side, left unusable following the railway demarcation and wall construction, has turned into a dumping ground for garbage and an informal parking zone for trucks, human hauliers, and rickshaws.

Makeshift shanties have also sprung up along the roadside.

Mohammad Al Amin, a resident of Pipe Rasta in Mirhazirbagh, said, "This problem has been going on for a long time. Ever since they built the boundary wall along the railway line, half of this road has become unusable."

"Since then, there has been no development work here. Later, some work started on the other side, and because of that, this road got even worse. Now only a small portion is usable, and no repair work is being done there either," he added.

Abdul Al Amin, another resident, said the main stretch is riddled with potholes and becomes submerged during rain.

"This road -- from Jurain to Dayaganj -- is extremely important

traffic pressure on other routes," he added.

Residents said while the section near the station remains somewhat functional, the rest of the stretch is broken in places and riddled with potholes.

Mohammad Jony, a resident of Jurain, said, "It used to be a two-way road. Now it is narrow and risky. Auto-rickshaws frequently overturn here."

Contacted, Dhaka South City Corporation Chief Engineer



because thousands of people use it to travel to Gulistan and Tejaon for work. Now, because of its damaged condition, many vehicles, especially rickshaws, overturn frequently," he said.

"Before the elevated expressway was built on the other side, all the large buses from the southern districts used this Dayaganj road as their main route. If it is repaired and developed again, it could ease

Fakir said the area falls under the railway's jurisdiction, and only one side of the road is currently available for use.

"It is not possible to make it two-way. The existing part is being used as a two-way road. On the abandoned side, no vehicles run because its width varies. In some approach areas, it is only five to six feet wide," he said.

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## TOFAZZAL MURDER

# PBI charges 28 DU students

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Police Bureau of Investigation has charged 28 students of Dhaka University in connection with the killing of 35-year-old Tofazzal Hossain at its Fazul Haque Muslim Hall in September 2024.

Investigation officer Md Hannanul Islam, an additional SP of PBI, on December 17 last year submitted a supplementary charge sheet of the murder case before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka.

Of the 28 accused, Jalal Mia, Ahsan Ullah alias Bipul Sheikh, Al Hossain Sazzad, Mottakin Sakin Shah, Md Sumon Mia, and Wajibul Alam gave confessional statements after their arrest.

The remaining 22 accused are Firoz Kabir, Abdus Samad, Sakib Raihan, Yeasin Ali Gain, Yamuzzaman Yam, Fazle Rabbi, Shahriar Kabir Shovon, Mehedi Hasan Imran, Ratul Hasan, Sultan Mia, Nasir Uddin, Mobasser Billah, Shishir Ahmed, Mohosin Uddin Shafi, Abdullahil Kafi, Sheikh Ramzan Ali Raky, Rashed Kamal Anik, Moniruzzaman Sohag, Abu Raihan, Redwanur Rahman Parvez, Rabbikul Riad and Ashraf Ali Munshi. All of them are absconding.

Among the arrested

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PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## JUSTICE FOR HADI

# Inqilab Moncho holds truck-mounted protest

DU CORRESPONDENT

Inqilab Moncho yesterday held a truck-mounted protest march at several locations in Dhaka to build public support for its demand for justice over the killing of its spokesperson Sharif Osman Bin Hadi.

The platform has been campaigning since Saturday after announcing a four-point demand.

Yesterday, it organised rallies at least nine key points in the capital using 10 truck vans.

The march began around 11:30am from Shahbagh and passed through Science Lab, City College, Mohammadpur, Mirpur-10, Uttara, Bashundhara, Badda, Rampura and Jatrabari, before concluding in front of the National Museum in the evening.

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## STUDENT UNION POLLS

# JnU voting ends amid allegations of irregularities

## Election sees 65% turnout

RAKIB MADBER

Voter turnout in the Jagannath University Central Students' Union (JnUCSU) election stood at around 65 percent, while turnout in the hall union elections was 77 percent.

Election Commissioner Prof Zulfiker Mahmud disclosed the figures around 6:00pm yesterday and announced the start of vote counting.

He said ballot papers would first be verified manually, and any ballot bearing a mark other than a cross would be considered invalid for the respective post.

Held for the first time since the university's establishment 21 years ago, the election had 16,649 registered voters for the central union. A total of 190 candidates contested 21 central posts, while 33 candidates vied for 13 hall union posts.

Voting was scheduled to end at 3:00pm but was extended to 3:30pm. However, voters already in line were ultimately allowed to cast ballots until 4:00pm.

Voting took place at 178 booths across 39 centres, covering 38 academic departments and

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<b>VOTER TURNOUT</b>
Central Union 65%
Hall Unions 77%
<b>TOTAL VOTERS</b>
16,649
<b>TOTAL CANDIDATES</b>
Central Posts 190
candidates for 21 posts
Hall Union Posts 33
candidates for 13 posts
<b>VOTING LOCATIONS</b>
178 booths, 39 centres
(38 departments, 1 hall)

# North suffers as cold wave intensifies

## Rajshahi records season's lowest 7°C; hospitals overwhelmed with child patients

STAR REPORT

The cold wave sweeping across northern Bangladesh has intensified, causing severe hardship for the poor and disadvantaged communities and disrupting daily life and livelihoods.

Rajshahi recorded the season's lowest temperature at 7°C yesterday, according to Jitendranath Ray, acting officer of Tetulia Weather Observatory.

Elsewhere in the region, minimum temperatures recorded yesterday were 8.6°C in Tetulia, 9°C in Dinajpur, 10°C in Saidpur, 11.9°C in Rangpur, and 10.5°C in Kurigram's Rajarhat.

Mostafizur Rahman, meteorologist and in charge of Rangpur Meteorological Office, said, "The sun was not visible for most of the day. Cold winds and fog intensified the severity of the cold spell. Similar weather conditions may persist for several days, with temperatures likely to drop further."

The severity of the cold has forced people indoors, disrupting business and official activities, while also contributing to a decline in attendance at educational institutions across the region.

Rahena Begum, 60, from Sahapara village in Panchagarh's Boda upazila,

said, "The cold has become unbearable, especially from evening until morning. Even after covering myself with two or three blankets, it does not feel warm at night."

Meherun Nesa, 56, a house-help from Badupara village in Thakurgaon Sadar upazila, said braving the bone-chilling cold to go out for work in the morning has become extremely difficult.

Many others from various professions echoed similar struggles.

Meanwhile, the number of patients suffering from cold-related illnesses, particularly children and the elderly, has surged in hospitals across the region and the country.

Cases of pneumonia, breathing difficulties, cold, cough, fever, diarrhoea, and bronchiolitis are rising alarmingly among children.

Over the past three days, approximately 1,250 children suffering from cold-related ailments have been admitted to upazila and district-level hospitals across Rangpur division's eight districts, according to Rangpur Divisional Health Director Gausul Azim Chowdhury.

"Doctors have been instructed to ensure proper medical treatment for children

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Patients and their attendants crowd a hospital corridor as admissions rise amid a severe cold wave sweeping the northern region. A cyclist rides through dense fog, inset. Freezing temperatures continue to disrupt daily life and livelihoods across the country.

PHOTO: STAR