

Md Shahidul  
Islam Pannu's  
death anniv

CITY DESK

Today is the 17th death anniversary of Md Shahidul Islam Pannu, director of Sara Advertising Ltd, said a press release.

His family members have requested all to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Cumilla-10  
BNP aspirant  
gets back  
candidacy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the Election Commission to accept the nomination paper of BNP candidate Md Mobasher Alam Bhuiyan and to allow him to contest the national election for Cumilla 10 constituency.

The HC bench of Justice Razib-Al-Jalil and Justice Md Anowarul Islam issued the order following a petition filed by Mobasher.

According to Mobasher's lawyer Syed Mamun Mahbub, the EC rejected the nomination of his client earlier this month on charges of being a loan defaulter even though he had paid his loans sometime ago.

The HC has also ordered the EC to allocate sheaf of paddy as election symbol to Mobasher, he added.

Mahbub also said another BNP aspirant for Cumilla-10 constituency, Md Abdul Gafur Bhuiyan, has been disqualified over dual citizenship.



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

A police officer confiscates battery-run rickshaws and a pedal rickshaw for illegally operating on a main road in Dhaka's Shahbagh area yesterday. Such three-wheelers often ply main roads despite being prohibited.

Riding one of the seized vehicles, the officer was taking them to the dump yard near Shahbagh Police Station.

## Ensure water justice in coastal region

Speakers tell Khulna convention

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Speakers at an event in Khulna on Saturday stressed the urgent need for an integrated water management approach to address the myriad water related crises affecting the coastal belt in Bangladesh's south-western region.

They said ensuring water justice as a fundamental human right must be a state responsibility.

Amid rising salinity levels, communities across the coastal region are facing numerous water-related challenges, including an acute shortage of safe drinking water. In the absence of alternatives,

### SUGGESTIONS

Integrated water management

#### Water justice a state responsibility

#### Coordination among govt, NGOs

#### Repair embankments right away

#### Immediate action against salinity crisis

people are forced to consume saline water, leading to various physical and mental health complications, the speakers said.

The speakers made the remarks on the second day of the 3rd Coastal Water Convention, held at Ava Centre in Khulna city.

Shamim Arfeen, member secretary of the convention and executive director of An Organization for Socio-Economic Development (AOSED), delivered the welcome speech.

Professor Emeritus Dr Ainun Nishat of BRAC University, who presented the keynote paper, warned that within the next 50 years, water in Khulna city would become as saline as seawater.

Significant changes in

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roles and prioritise job creation, good governance, and public safety. He also promised infrastructure projects to address traffic, waste management, healthcare, and education.

Quayum, meanwhile, is organising street rallies and exchanging meetings while distributing his manifesto.

Although the two rivals have not faced each other directly on the campaign trail, they have both been long known as local figures.

Dhaka-II reflects mixed demographics. Areas such as Badda, Aftabnagar, Shahzadpur, and Rampura are home to educated middle and upper-middle-class professionals and businesspeople.

In contrast, North Badda, Sarker, and Beraid are largely populated by lower-middle-class residents and small traders, alongside a sizable labour community.

Road development work has recently begun from Sarker Bridge to Badda. However, the poor condition of this key route to central Dhaka has caused widespread suffering.

Traffic congestion, drug abuse, law-and-order issues, and waterlogging also remain major concerns.

In Bhatara's Hindu Para, home to around 400 families, gas and water shortages top the list of grievances.

Amrit Chandra Das, 40, who left a corporate job to start a business eight years ago, stressed the importance of peaceful coexistence.

Nahid told The Daily Star, "The response has been phenomenal, especially from youth and women."

"People couldn't vote for 16 years. Now the political equation has changed, and people are approaching us with their expectations. The election seems to have rekindled hope."

Representing the NCP under the Jamaat-e-Islami-led 11-party alliance, Nahid said the organisational experience of Jamaat has been helpful. "We are campaigning in a coordinated way," he added.

If elected, he plans to bring youth into leadership

Another held over  
Dipu killing  
OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Mymensingh

Detectives on Saturday arrested a person from Nagar Hatua area in Gazipur over his alleged involvement in the killing of garment worker Dipu Chandra Das in Mymensingh.

The arrestee, Md Razib, 22, of Kashor Purbapara area in Mymensingh's Bhaluka upazila, had incited the crowd by raising provocative slogans during the incident, said Abdullah Al Mamun, additional superintendent of police (Administration) in Mymensingh.

"Razib's involvement was confirmed through investigation, eyewitness accounts, and statements of other arrested suspects," he added.

Razib was produced before the Senior Judicial Magistrate's court in Mymensingh with a seven day remand prayer yesterday afternoon.

No hearing on the remand prayer was held. Judge Md Shahadat Hossain sent him to jail, said court inspector PSM Mustasinur Rahman.

Dipu, 27, was beaten to death and set on fire by a mob in Bhaluka on December 18 last year over allegations of "hurting religious sentiments".

## Bangladesh among worst-hit by lead pollution: experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh is among the countries worst affected by lead pollution, with millions of children exposed to hazardous levels, experts said at a workshop in a Dhaka hotel yesterday.

They said tests showed children living near such sites had blood lead levels as high as 47 micrograms per deciliter of blood, while the WHO recognises no safe level of lead in the blood.

They said lead levels in soil near disposal sites were as high as 70,000 ppm (parts per million), compared to the US EPA reference value of 200 ppm.

The remarks were made at a validation workshop on the Toxic Site Investigation Program (TSIP) Guideline and the Remediation and Risk Reduction Guideline for Lead Contaminated Sites. The Department of Environment (DoE) organised the programme in collaboration with Pure Earth.

Mitali Das, country director of Pure Earth Bangladesh, emphasised prevention of improper disposal of used batteries.

Lara Crampé, programme director for Asia at Pure Earth USA, said Bangladesh has shown leadership in addressing lead pollution through high-level commitment.

Dr Fahmida Khanom, additional secretary of the environment ministry, and Dr Md Kamruzzaman, ndc, director general of the Department of Environment, also spoke.

## ICT verdict

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The prosecution alleges that during the uprising, the eight accused committed crimes against humanity by murdering six unarmed civilian protesters as part of a widespread and systematic attack.

Former DMP commissioner Habibur, joint commissioner Sudip, additional deputy commissioner Akhtarul, assistant commissioner Imrul and inspector Arshad are accused of issuing, supervising or enforcing orders to open fire.

Acting on those orders, constables Sujon, Imaz and Nasirul allegedly used lethal Chinese rifles at Chankharpul on August 5, 2024, to kill six protesters heading to the "March to Dhaka" programme.



(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

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স্মারক নং- ২১.২১.০০০০.৬৮৪.০৭.০০১.২৬.৬৫

তারিখঃ ২১/০১/২০২৪ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ

### e-Tender বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পাওয়ার গ্রিডের জিএমডি, চট্টগ্রাম (সেক্টার) দণ্ডনের আওতাধীন নিয়ন্ত্রিত দরপত্র e-GP পোর্টেলে প্রকাশিত হয়েছে।

ID	Reference	Title of Works	Closing Date and Time
1217099	27.21.0000.684.07 .001.26.54; Date: 20/01/2026	Tower Painting work at 132kV Halishahar - Khulshi single Circuit Transmission Line under GMD Chattogram-Central, Power Grid.	12 Feb 2026 at 14:00

আগুনী টিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানকে www.eprocure.gov.bd সাইটের মাধ্যমে দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণের জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

মোঃ মাহমুদুর রহমান

নির্বাচী প্রক্রিয়ালয়, জিএমডি, চট্টগ্রাম (সেক্টার)

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