

## Hatirjheel OC, ASI closed over shutdown of showroom

STAR REPORT

The officer-in-charge (OC) of Hatirjheel Police Station and an assistant sub-inspector (ASI) have been withdrawn from their posts following the forced shutdown of a Nobin Fashion showroom in Dhaka's Moghbazar before Eid-ul-Fitr.

OC Golam Mortuza has been attached to the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) headquarters, while the ASI has been sent to Rajarbagh Police Lines, according to a DMP press release issued yesterday.

The move comes amid criticism over alleged police inaction during the incident and a court order directing authorities to reopen the outlet within 24 hours.

An "unexpected situation" arose on March 20 between traders and a showroom over a discounted panjabi sale at Bishal Centre market, said the release signed by Deputy Commissioner (Media) Muhammad Talebur Rahman.

A probe committee has been formed to determine whether any police personnel were involved, it added.

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Work on the Kalurghat-Chaktai road and dyke project in Chattogram is still underway, nearly nine years after it was launched in July 2017 with a completion target of three years. PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

## NOR'WESTERS, HAILSTORMS 3,500 homes, crops on 4,043 hectares of land damaged



MD QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT, Thakurgaon

At least 3,500 homes and crops on 4,043 hectares of land sustained significant damage in a spell of nor'westers and hailstorms over the past week across Thakurgaon Sadar upazila.

The most extensive damage occurred when a sudden hailstorm, coupled with a nor'wester, swept through the upazila on Tuesday night, lasting only four to five minutes but leaving a trail of destruction.

"Around 3,000 houses, mostly thatched and tin-roofed ones, were severely damaged in Jagannathpur, Gorea, Salondor and Awliapur unions," said Khairul Islam, Sadar upazila nirbahari officer.

Shahida Begum of Madarganj village in Sadar upazila said the hailstones punctured the tin roof of her house and caused considerable damage.

"We have no means to repair the damage without assistance," she added.

Md Sujam Islam of Kachubari village said many families

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## Kalurghat-Chaktai road project drags on for 9yrs

SIFAYET ULLAH, Ctg

The Kalurghat-Chaktai road and dyke project in Chattogram has remained unfinished for nine years despite four deadline extensions.

Stipulated to be completed within three years, the 8.5km road and dyke project from the Kalurghat Bridge intersection to the Chaktai Canal in Chattogram was initiated in July 2017.

However, a myriad of issues, including prolonged delays, cost overruns, and complications over land acquisition, have stalled the project time and again over the past nine years, raising questions about planning, coordination, and accountability in public infrastructure projects.

"Repeated extensions mean the project was not properly planned before its approval," said Delwar Majumder, an urban planner and former chairman of the Chattogram centre of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB).

"Such delays not only increase costs but also prevent the project from serving the public as intended," he added.

The Chattogram Development Authority (CDA), the implementing agency, took up the project to improve connectivity and mitigate waterlogging in the port city by building a four-lane alternative road and an embankment along the Karnaphuli riverbank.

According to project documents, the initial estimated cost was Tk 2,275.52 crore, with the deadline set for June 2020.

However, after two revisions and four deadline extensions, the

cost rose to Tk 2,779.39 crore, and the latest deadline has been set for June this year.

The authorities, however, said the project is unlikely to be completed by the latest deadline and would have to be extended further till December this year.

The project includes two major components: construction of the road and the dyke. Additional works include six bus bays, three pedestrian overpasses, 353-metre connecting roads, 9,165-metre New Jersey barriers, 15,057 square metres of walkways, seven pump houses, seven

Spectra Engineers Limited is carrying out the construction work.

"Our work is ongoing in full swing, but CDA failed to allocate land on time. This is causing the delay," said an engineer of the firm, requesting anonymity.

"It seems like a never-ending project," said Lokman Hossain, a resident of Kolpolok Residential Area.

However, despite the delays, the project is already attracting local visitors.

Several families were seen visiting the riverbank.

"It's a new place to spend time



electrical substations, 1,084 LED streetlights, and 12 sluice gates with water pumps.

Visiting the project sites recently, this correspondent observed that sluice gate construction and earth-filling work were underway at Kalurghat.

At Chaktai, while road and dyke construction were completed, pump installation work was still in progress.

Data from the project show that about 85 percent of the total work has been completed.

with family near the river in a natural environment," said Tanvir Chowdhury, a government employee who came with his wife and son.

"Around 90 percent of the work for dyke construction has been completed. We faced land acquisition issues from the beginning, which stalled the project work. Several land acquisition cases are still pending. We hope to complete the project by this December," said Razib Das, project director and executive engineer of CDA.

## Rice aid shortage leaves fishers in Bhola struggling Many forced to borrow, some turn to illegal fishing

SUSHANTA GHOSH, from Bhola

Nearly half of the fishermen in Bhola are being deprived of the government's rice assistance amid the ongoing ban on fishing.

Officials concerned said a shortage of rice has prompted the situation.

Faced with uncertainty looming over their livelihood while not being provided assistance, many fishermen are forced to catch fish illegally, defying the ban, while others are largely relying on borrowed money to meet daily expenses.

Visiting the fishers' community in Shibpur union of Bhola Sadar upazila, this correspondent witnessed a grim situation.

Fishermen alleged that around 1,700 out of nearly 3,000 of them living in the area have not received government rice support during the ongoing fishing ban. As a result, many families are struggling to remain afloat.



"The two-month ban has been in place since March, but many of us have not received the government's rice support yet. We passed a very difficult Eid," said fisherman Md Yousuf.

Most fishermen had to borrow from NGOs and local moneylenders to survive, said Hadis Mia, another fisherman.

Residents of the fishing village said they are uncertain when the rice assistance will arrive.

Due to the financial hardship, some fishermen are continuing to catch fish illegally in the Meghna river, defying the ban, reportedly by managing local authorities, alleged locals.

Ranu Begum, a union parishad member, confirmed that around 1,700 local fishers did not receive rice assistance despite having official fishing cards.

According to sources at the Department of Fisheries in Bhola, although there are around 1,68,000 fishermen in the district, only 90,200 are currently receiving assistance.

Due to a shortage of rice in government warehouses, distribution has not been possible in Sadar, Charfesson, and Lal Mohan upazilas yet, leaving more than half of the district's fishermen without support, said the sources.

Md Iqbal Hasan, district fisheries officer in Bhola, said, "A shipment of rice has arrived at the port, and we are trying to ensure distribution among fishermen as soon as possible."

## Students suffer

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as they have to travel long distances to attend classes regularly under the present circumstances.

"We went to the principal and repeatedly requested to reopen the halls, to no avail," he added.

Echoing him, Titash Chakrabarty, another student, urged the authorities to allocate dormitory seats to students based on merit, distance, and economic hardship once the halls are reopened.

According to the college authorities, the halls were already suffering from severe mismanagement and political dominance. Then the chaos following the political changeover led to further disorder and widespread vandalism, forcing the halls to shut down.

## Zubaida stresses

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Morshed Hasan Khan, orthopaedic surgeon Shah Muhammad Aman Ullah, and Barrister Mehnaz Mannan.

Earlier, Melania Trump inaugurated the summit at the US State Department. In the opening session, Zubaida underscored the need to ensure a safe and nurturing environment for children, highlighting Bangladesh's initiatives such as the family card and farmers' card programmes, alongside progress in education and healthcare.

She held courtesy meetings with Melania and other first ladies, exchanging views on strengthening global cooperation for child welfare. An exhibition featuring 11 leading US technology firms showcased innovations in children's education, which

she also visited. In her closing remarks, Zubaida thanked the US First Lady for hosting the summit and reaffirmed Bangladesh's commitment to collaboration, saying the country is keen to learn from global experiences and work in partnership "to ensure a brighter future for all children."

According to the prime minister's Additional Press Secretary Atiqul Rahman Rumon, Zubaida and Melania also agreed to cooperate on initiatives for children's welfare.

**PRAYER TIMING**  
MARCH 27

Fajr	Juma	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
4:45	12:30	4:45	6:20	7:45	
JAMAAT	5:20	1:15	5:00	6:25	8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

**Groom Wanted**  
Tall, beautiful (31) for senior officer of multinational company. Tall (5'9"-6") age (31-35), handsome, engineer, University Prof. Senior officer of multinational company. No media, direct parents. akazad196201715@gmail.com

Office of the **Gouripur Pourashava**  
Dist: Mymensingh

Memo No. 45.33.6123.002.14.001.26/11 Date: 08.03.2026

**Invitation for e-Tender OTM/NCT**  
No. 01/2025-2026 (LGCRRP)

e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal ([www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd)) for the procurement of following works:

Sl No.	Tender ID & Pkg No.	Name of works	Tender security	Tender document selling last date & time	Tender closing & opening date & time
01	1235066 LGCRRP/Gouripur/2025-26/W-07	Upgrading of Uni-block road 1. Shahid Harun Park Sarok starting from bazaar main road to Bijoy 71 Sriti Shoudho West site) ch-0.00m to 108.0m. 2. In front of Bijoy 71 Sriti Shoudho starting from Press club Mur to Gobindobari (North site) ch-0.0m to 60.0m. 3. Mohila College Road starting from Bijoy 71 Mur to Mohila College (West Site) ch-0.00m to ch-90.0m under Gouripur Pourashava, Dist:Mymensingh.	1,00,000, 00	30.03.2026 16.00	31.03.2026 14.00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP System Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tenders, registration required in the National e-GP System Portal ([www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd))  
The tender security and the fee of downloading e-Tender document to be deposited online through any registered bank to CPTU. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd))  
Payment to be made subject to availability of Fund.

Md. Aminul Islam  
Executive Engineer (In-charge)  
Gouripur Pourashava  
Dist: Mymensingh

GD-652

## A piece of my heart

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deep sorrow at his passing. Students of the Economics department voiced anger and grief, questioning the systemic failures behind such recurring tragedies.

Mir Jaber Soyad, a third-year student of the department, recalled a simple moment that now carries unbearable weight. "Come, let's take a picture -- two brothers. We'll upload it after 20 years," he remembered Rayan as saying.

"But brother, 20 years didn't pass, just one year did. This is not right. Not for you. Not for us. May Allah grant you Jannah. Your smile will stay in my heart forever," he wrote. Rayan's presence was woven into many corners of campus life. "There are memories everywhere," wrote Al-Beruni Rajan, a student of Anthropology department. "I don't know how to face any of it now."

The accident occurred around 5:15pm on Wednesday, when a Dhaka-bound passenger bus, waiting to cross the Padma, lost control and plunged off a pontoon into the river at Daulatdia ferry ghat. Till yesterday, 26 bodies had

been recovered, including Rayan's.

Calling the incident a "structural killing", former JU professor Anu Muhammad argued that such tragedies are not mere accidents.

"The reasons behind these repeated losses are known and solvable. Yet we have not had a responsible government willing to address them structurally," he wrote on Facebook.

JU Vice-Chancellor Prof Muhammad Kamrul Ahsan also expressed deep sorrow over Rayan's death.

## Liberation War

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monument will also begin soon."

Moksedul Momin, a student of Bangla department at BRUR, echoed him.

Contacted, BRUR VC Prof Md Shawkat Ali said, "We have received Tk 77 crore in budget allocation. With this fund, work on the female dormitory and the research institute will be carried out. Some funds are also with the contractor. The remaining work of the Swadhinata Smarak will be completed in phases."

## Dhaka urges

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The foreign minister paid solemn tribute to the millions of victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade and honoured the courageous resilience of those who resisted it.

Describing the transatlantic slave trade as a permanent scar on humanity, Dr Rahman reaffirmed Bangladesh's firm stance against slavery, apartheid, genocide and all forms of oppression.

He said the Constitution of Bangladesh rejects imperialism, colonialism, racism and discrimination, reiterating the country's solidarity with oppressed peoples worldwide.

Recalling the centenary of the 1926 Slavery Convention and nearly 80 years since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, he noted that although slavery has been abolished, its legacy persists in modern society, economy and politics, with various forms still existing worldwide.

The foreign minister stressed that action must go beyond remembrance, calling for renewed efforts to combat human trafficking, coordinated measures in digital forensics and greater investment in education and dialogue on the human and civilisational costs of slavery.