

United Healthcare launches ethical review board



PHOTO: COURTESY

CITY DESK

United Healthcare Services Limited launched its first ever Institutional Ethical Review Board (IERB) on May 5, said a press release.

The initiative aims to strengthen research activities among physicians, clinicians, and healthcare professionals at United Medical College Hospital, the flagship hospital of United Healthcare.

The programme was inaugurated by Moinuddin Hasan Rashid, chairman and MD of United Group. Special guests included Nizamuddin Hasan Rashid, MD of United Healthcare, and Prof AQM Mohsen, chairman of United Medical College Hospital. The vote of thanks was delivered by United Healthcare CEO Md Faizur Rahman. Dr Azharul Islam Khan, director of Medical Services at United Healthcare, has been appointed as chief adviser of the committee. Prof Khandaker Abu Talha chairman, and Prof Mahbubur Rahman member-secretary.

KALAPARA IN PATUAKHALI

A bridge that leads nowhere

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

A bridge built at a cost of nearly Tk 3 crore in Latachaplai union of Patuakhali's Kalapara upazila has remained unusable for nearly a year due to the absence of approach roads, causing sufferings to locals.

According to sources at the Local Government Engineering Department, the 35-metre-long and 7.32-metre-wide bridge was built over the Khajura canal under the Disaster Risk Management Enhancement Project.

Construction began in February 2022, with an initial deadline of May 2023. However, the project saw prolonged delays, with the deadline extended several times, most recently until May 31 this year.

A recent visit found that although the bridge construction was completed around a year ago, work on around 200 metres of approach road on one end and 50 metres on the other has yet to begin.

As a result, residents of Khajura, Bahamkanda, Fashipara and Kolaipara villages have been suffering while travelling to the union parishad, highways, Kuakata bus terminal, and district and upazila headquarters, said



Md Jahangir Hossain, president of the Ashrayan Cooperative Society.

Ayesha Begum, 55, of Fashipara village, said her granddaughter, a sixth grader, has to use a bamboo footbridge every day to go to school.

"Now the water level is low, so crossing is manageable. But during monsoon, both sides become submerged, making it risky to cross the canal. Often, she cannot go to school," she said.

Local resident Swapan Hawlader said soil was excavated from a site

near their home for construction of the roads, causing waterlogging and inconvenience.

Sources at the LGED said contractor Gias Uddin of Patuakhali received the work order, but later allegedly handed it over to another party.

Monir Hossain, upazila engineer in Kalapara, said road construction began recently. "We hope it will be completed within May," he added.

Gias could not be contacted for comments.

Police push for reforms

FROM PAGE 3 facilities for police personnel. Police have further proposed constructing a dedicated sports complex.

AHM Shahadat Hossain, assistant inspector general (media) at Police Headquarters, said, "Like every year, this year's event will review the activities, achievements, failures, and various challenges faced by the police over the past year."

The first day will feature the annual parade.

On the second day, Prime Minister Tarique Rahman is scheduled to address

senior police officials. The day will also feature annual sports competitions, the Police Women Welfare Association (PUNAK) annual gathering, and a conference between senior police officials and the home minister.

On the third day, police officials will hold meetings with ministers alongside the annual shield parade competition among police units. The day will also feature an administrative conference between the inspector general of police and senior officials, along with the presentation of IGP badges.

On the final day, the IGP will hold a conference with senior officials.

Meanwhile, the awarding of Bangladesh Police Medals and President Police Medals to 107 police officers and personnel has been postponed.

The medals were scheduled to be conferred today at the opening of the Police Week 2026.

Additional IGP (Crime) Rafiqul Islam told The Daily Star that the programme was postponed as the president, whose signature is required for the awards, left for the UK yesterday for medical check-up.

141 Dhaka spots

FROM PAGE 3 Alongside regular cleaners, contractors have also been engaged for drain cleaning operations, he added.

Safiullah said waterlogging around New Market and Mirpur Road worsened after an outlet through the BDR area was closed, slowing drainage in surrounding areas.

To address the problem, DSCC has proposed a Tk 250-300 crore project aimed at improving drainage connectivity in Dhanmondi, New Market and Bakshibazar areas.

"The proposal has already been submitted for budget allocation. If approved, it could provide a permanent solution," he said.

The project plans include extending drainage outlets towards the river and creating multiple discharge routes through areas such as Sadarghat and Chawkbazar.

DSCC is also working on canal restoration projects in Jirani, Kalunagar, Hazaribagh and Shyampur areas.

Meanwhile, DNCC Chief Engineer Brig Gen Syed Raquibul Hasan said the corporation currently oversees 29 canals but has prioritised five canals and the Mirpur area for immediate intervention during this monsoon.

The targeted canals include Sangbadik Canal, Baunia Canal, 22-foot Canal, Ramchandrapur Canal, Tolarbag Canal and Kalyanpur Canal.

"Our target is to bring Mirpur under zero flooding conditions as far as possible," Raquibul said.

He said DNCC aims to ensure that standing water in targeted areas drains within one to two hours after heavy rainfall.

According to the chief engineer, cleanup and excavation work are ongoing in Kalyanpur and Tolarbag areas, while workers have been deployed continuously to prevent sludge and garbage accumulation.

He acknowledged that cleaning box culverts remains difficult and dangerous, prompting DNCC to consider robotic or mechanised cleaning equipment in the future.

However, he said several areas, including Ashkona, Dakshinkhan and Uttarkhan, continue to face severe drainage problems due to encroached canals, wetlands and the absence of proper outlets.

"There is simply no path for water to pass in many of these places," he said.

Raquibul said full-scale projects are required for long-term solutions, including restoring canals according to proper designs and layouts.

"We cannot continue with temporary approaches forever. Permanent restoration of the canal network is necessary," he said.

Foreign policy to prioritise

FROM PAGE 3 energy security, trade connectivity, migrant workers, students abroad and the diaspora.

Bangladesh's past foreign policy often appeared reactive, country-specific and lacking in balance, he said.

With the global order changing fast, strategic competition intensifying, technology shaping geopolitics, and climate change redefining priorities, foreign policy must be professional, institutional, flexible, and, above all, driven by national interest, he stressed.

"A government that is fragmented, that has no security structure or any kind of architecture or system, is not respected at home or abroad and is

open to exploitation," he said.

He said national security would remain central to foreign policy, with a focus on counter-terrorism cooperation, intelligence sharing and regional security dialogue.

Regarding balancing ties with China and India, Kabir said Bangladesh would not allow itself to become "a football" between the two powers, and could instead act as a neutral friend to both to ensure "fair play" between them.

Kabir also said Bangladesh would not need to "hedge" between countries in its foreign policy approach. Citing the Rohingya crisis as a top national security priority, he said the previous government had failed

to negotiate effectively because it was "hedging between China and India policies".

BIPSS President Maj Gen (ret'd) ANM Muniruzzaman said economic diplomacy should get top priority as Bangladesh graduates from LDC status.

Shanchita Haque, director general of international trade, investment and technology, and former ambassadors Shameem Ahmed, Kamrul Ahsan and Shahed Akhter also spoke.

British High Commissioner Sarah Cooke, Turkish Ambassador Ramis Sen, Singapore Chargé d'Affaires Mitchell Lee and Joharat Adib Chowdhury were also present.



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PRAYER TIMING

MAY 10

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-10	12-45	5-00	6-36	8-00
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গ্রুপ-এ	গ্রুপ-বি	গ্রুপ-সি	গ্রুপ-ডি	গ্রুপ-ই	গ্রুপ-এফ	গ্রুপ-জি	গ্রুপ-ইচ	গ্রুপ-আই	গ্রুপ-জে	গ্রুপ-কে	গ্রুপ-এল	গ্রুপ-এম	গ্রুপ-এন	গ্রুপ-ও	গ্রুপ-পি	গ্রুপ-কিউ	গ্রুপ-আর	গ্রুপ-এস	গ্রুপ-টি	গ্রুপ-ইউ	গ্রুপ-ভি	গ্রুপ-ডব্লিউ	গ্রুপ-এক্স	
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নিরাপত্তা জামানত: তালিকাভুক্তির জন্য চূড়ান্তভাবে নির্বাচিত প্রতিষ্ঠানকে সিডিউলে উল্লেখিত গ্রুপ ভিত্তিক নিরাপত্তা জামানত পে-অর্ডারের মাধ্যমে ব্র্যাক ইউনিভার্সিটি-র অনুকূলে জমা দিতে হবে যা তালিকাভুক্তির মেয়াদ শেষ হলে আবেদনের প্রেক্ষিতে ফেরত প্রদান করা হবে।

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IUBAT—International University of Business Agriculture and Technology

Founded 1991 by Md. Alimullah Miyan



Observance of 9th Death Anniversary of IUBAT Founder

Professor Dr M Alimullah Miyan
(February 15, 1942 — May 10, 2017)
Founder and First Vice Chancellor of IUBAT

Remembering The Pioneer of Non-Government University in Bangladesh

Discussions session on the Life and Contribution of Professor Dr M Alimullah Miyan will be held at 11:30 AM on Sunday, May 10, 2026 in IUBAT Conference Room #227

Family members, relations, friends, colleagues, students and admirers of Prof Dr M Alimullah Miyan are cordially invited.

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