

# MAYABAN A NEW PARADISE




Hidden deep inside Gowanighat upazila of Sylhet there is a place which is both enthralling and mesmerising. The sun constantly plays hide and seek there amid the curtain of various trees, which are home to many species of wildlife; and birds continue to chirp welcoming all amid the sound of surf breaking through the trees. Situated in Jugirakandi haor, this enchanting forest is aptly called Mayaban by the locals, which is spread across around 1,000 acres of land. The journey to this green haven starts by travelling on Sylhet-Tamabil highway for about 37km, then 8km on Sari-Gowainghat road where one will come across Bekhra bridge. Make sure to rest a while there, since the voyage now commences on small boats available near the bridge. The ride over the unperturbed water, mirroring the sky and trees, will take you to this aquatic wonderland in no time.

PHOTOS: SHEIKH NASTIR


## Complaint menu included in police web

**BSS, Dhaka**  
Aiming to learn the opinions and complaints of the citizens about the service provided by the law enforcers in line with the national integrity strategy, Bangladesh Police has included a new menu titled "Opinion or Complaint" on its website. Inspector General of Police AKM Shahidul Hoque addressed a ceremony marking the inclusion of new menu on the website, at the police headquarters recently, said a police press release.

## Appeal for help

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh**  
  
Kawsar Hossain Harun, 52, a contractor, who has been suffering from liver cirrhosis for one and a half years. Doctors suggest sending him abroad as soon as possible for liver transplantation which will require around Tk 60 lakh. Kawsar, father of two children, said he has already spent all his savings and took loans to continue his treatment. Son of late Abdul Khaleque of Ram Krishna Road in Mymensingh town, he is now undergoing tremendous hardship to bear his treatment cost as his business is totally stopped since he was diagnosed with the disease. Kawsar and his family members have appealed to generous people to extend their helping hands to save his life. Aid can be sent to AC no: 1561015435, Dutch Bangla Bank Ltd, Mymensingh Branch. Mobile: 01711386486

## Death anniversary

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
  
Today is the 45th death anniversary of martyred freedom fighter Nazrul Islam, said a press release. An engineer by profession, he conducted an operation to blow up five power stations in Dhaka during the 1971 Liberation War. On the occasion, a qurankhwani and a milad mahfil have been arranged before the Maghrib prayers at 204/A Gulshan Tejgaon Link Road, Dhaka. Friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the ceremony.

# Road crashes claim 17 lives

## Countrywide death toll rises to 64 during Eid vacation

STAR REPORT

Reckless driving continued as 17 persons were killed in road accidents in the country yesterday, raising the death toll to 64 since the start of Eid-ul-Azha vacation. In Tangail, a bus collided head-on with a truck on Dhaka-Tangail highway at Ichail of Mirzapur around 7:15am, leaving five people, including two women and two children, dead and 15 others injured. Police said all the dead and injured were passengers of the bus. The dead are Rahima Begum, 30, her son Bayozid, 7, Sumon Mohonto, 35, his wife Minitra Mohonto, 30, and Minitra's nephew Titas Roy, 9. Khalilur Rahman Patwari, officer-in-charge of Gorai Highway Police Station, said a Dhaka-bound passenger-laden bus from Kurigram collided with the brick-laden truck. The OC said the accident might have occurred due to reckless driving of the trucker. The injured were rushed to Tangail Kumudini Hospital.

In another incident, two motorcyclists were killed as a private car rammed into it in Kalihati around 9:30am, said police. They were Mohammad Touhid and Mokhesur Rahman of Gaibandha. Yet in another incident, four people were killed and 25 others injured in a head-on collision between a bus and a truck in Ashura area of Madhupur upazila. Liton Miah, 30, of Poddarbari in Madhupur, was one of the deceased. Police said the injured people were rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital, Combined Military Hospital of Shaheed Salahuddin Cantonment in Ghatail and Madhupur Upazila Health Complex. Meanwhile, two motorcycle riders were killed as a private car rammed into their bike in Analiabari area of Kalihati upazila around 9:30am. In Sylhet, a bus plunged into a ditch beside Sylhet-Jakiganj road at Kayasthagram in the upazila, killing

two siblings and injuring their father, said police. The deceased were Shuva, 10, and her sister Tanima, 6. Their father Koyes Miah of Golapganj upazila was undergoing treatment at Sylhet Osmani Medical College Hospital. In Munshiganj, a speeding bus ran over 70-year-old Shukkur Ali of Srinagar upazila on Dhaka-Mawa highway around 11:30am, killing him instantly. Locals said Shukkur was waiting in Umpara Bottola area of Srinagar Sadar upazila to go to a nearby market when the bus ran him over. Witnesses said following the incident agitating locals blocked the highway for about 15 to 20 minutes and vandalised at least five vehicles, creating long tailbacks on the both sides of the road. Although police seized the bus, its driver fled. In Benapole of Jessore, a boy was killed and at least six people were injured when a human hauler overturned as its driver lost control over

the steering around 4:00am at Marua village in Chougacha upazila, said police. The deceased was Shohan Ali, 13, an eighth-grader of Shalikka High School in Magura. Son of Jonab Ali of Shalikka upazila, Shohan along with a group of people was returning from a local fair in Chowgachha. The injured were sent to Chowgachha Upazila Health Complex. In Jhalakathi, a motorbike was hit by an oncoming bus, killing two of its riders and injuring another at Pingri of Rajapur on Barisal-Khulna highway, said Sheikh Munirul Gias, officer-in-charge of Rajapur Police Station. The deceased were Sajib, 18, and Khalilur Rahman, 33. Earlier, at least 31 persons were killed in the three-day Eid vacation while 16 more people were killed in three incidents on Friday. [Our Tangail, Sylhet, Benapole, Munshiganj and Jhalakathi correspondents contributed to this report]



The mangled remains of a passenger bus and truck after they collided head-on on the Dhaka-Tangail highway at Ichail of Mirzapur yesterday morning, killing five people and injuring 15 others.

PHOTO: STAR

## Journey almost

**FROM PAGE 3**  
without any major hassle. There was no tailback on the Dhaka-Tangail highway, except during the time of a road accident there, reports our Tangail correspondent. During a visit to Mohakhali bus terminal yesterday, people were seen returning to Dhaka with smiling faces reflecting the joyous moments they had spent with their family members. On Dhaka-Chittagong and Dhaka-Sylhet highways, passengers traveled smoothly almost all the way. In Kamalapur Railway Station, all the trains were seen jam-packed with passengers. Anowar Ali, a Dhaka University student hailing from Rajshahi, said, "Though I could not find any seat, I prefer travelling on trains because buses may face gridlock on the roads." As many as 55 trains from different districts came to Kamalapur yesterday. Of them, nine were delayed by one to three hours, a railway official at the station said. A similar scenario was seen at Sadarghat. All the launches that came to the terminal were overcrowded. The returning passengers, however, faced transport crisis in the capital after arriving at the bus, launch and railway terminals.

## Dhaka lost city character

**FROM PAGE 3**  
Dhaka Structure Plan for 2016-2035 to resolve the unplanned urbanisation problems and regulate unauthorised shops and other institutions. Urban expert Iqbal Habib said, "As there's no plan, monitoring, control and enforcement of law, shops and markets are being set up at the places where there should be houses, while houses at the places where there should be markets or shops." He said many people are constructing residential buildings keeping aside their first floors for shops, while some others are setting up shops on footpaths, lanes, alongside rail tracks and other open spaces as no effective body is there to control them. "Though laws and plans are in place to control those, these are not enforced. There are specific guidelines in the DAP about the type and number of establishments to be set up in every city area. But, Rajuk could not implement those over the last 20 years." Habib, joint secretary of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon, said the government should entrust the two city corporations with the responsibility for implementing the DAP instead of Rajuk for its timely and proper execution. Contacted, Rajuk Chairman M Bazlul Karim Chowdhury said their organisation only approves building plan, it has no authority to control haphazard and illegal shops and markets. "We approve plans for residential buildings and other establishments. Rajuk does not decide which building will be used for commercial or other purposes, unless it is under a Rajuk planned area. The city corporations and other organisations deal with that." Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Sayeed Khokon, however, said they have the authority only to control establishments or shops beside roads or footpaths. "We often carry out eviction drives to clear those. We also control 86 markets and nearly 21,000 shops of the city corporation while Rajuk is responsible for other areas."

## NEWS IN brief

### Kid drowns in N'ganj pond

**A CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj**  
A one-and-a-half-year-old kid drowned in a pond in Hoglekandi village of Arahazar in Narayanganj yesterday. The deceased was Alvi, daughter of Md Khokon of the area. Family members said Alvi was playing near her house. As she remained traceless for half an hour, they searched for her and found her body floating in the pond. Later, she was declared dead at Upazilla Shastho Complex.

### Old Dhaka building catches fire

**UNB, Dhaka**  
A fire broke out at a building in Bangshal area of Old Dhaka yesterday afternoon. Fire Service control room sources said the fire broke out on the 3rd floor of the six-storey building around 1:08pm. However, the fire could not spread to the other floors of the building as five fire-fighting units rushed to the spot and doused the flame around 2:15pm. The reason behind the fire could not be known yet.

### Two 'commit suicide' in Rangpur

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur**  
Two people allegedly committed suicide by hanging themselves in separate incidents in Rangpur city yesterday. Police recovered the body of Rakibul Islam Roki, 27, breaking open the door of his room, which was locked from inside, in Bahar-Kamalkasna. Police said Roki's family members informed them he was not opening the door despite repeated knocking. In another incident, police recovered the body of Jesmin Akter, 37, from her house in Mahindra area following information from her family. Officer-in-Charge of Rangpur Sadar Police Station ABM Zahidul Islam said both the deceased might have committed suicide anytime early yesterday. The bodies were sent to Rangpur Medical College Hospital for autopsies, the OC said.

### DU VC condoles death of Abdul Ali

**BSS, Dhaka**  
Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique yesterday expressed profound shock at the death of country's noted columnist AZM Abdul Ali, said a press release. Abdul Ali served the country for a long-time as Comptroller of Accounts and Chief Financial Officer. He died at his Uttara residence in the capital on Friday due to old-age complications at the age of 82.

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