



Hard at work, boat-makers are building the base of a fishing boat at Jelepara in Khulna's Dumuria upazila. After a month's work, the pieces of wood will become a 60-foot long and 12-foot wide vessel. Each one of these boats is traditionally made out of mahogany at a cost of Tk 6 lakh. This photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

## Man held after bodies of wife, daughter found in hotel

UNB, Cox's Bazar

Tourist police early yesterday arrested a man from Chattogram city after the bodies of his wife and daughter were found in a Cox's Bazar hotel room on Friday noon.

The arrestee is Dulal Biswas from Banshkhali upazila of Chattogram.

Shaheen, an additional SP of Cox's Bazar Tourist Police, said Dulal went into hiding soon after the bodies of his wife and daughter were found, and police arrested him from Chattogram city around 12:00am yesterday.

Dulal is being interrogated, he said, adding that legal actions will be taken in this regard later. Earlier on Friday afternoon, police recovered the bodies of 35-year-old Suma Dey and her two-year-old daughter from Hotel Sea Alif in Cox's Bazar.

Police said the couple booked a room at the hotel on February 14 with their two sons and a daughter.

A hotel employee saw the door of the room open and found the bodies of the mother and daughter on the floor. Later, police recovered the bodies from the room after getting a call from the hotel.

Whereabouts of his two sons are not known yet, said police.

## Mango trees in full bloom



PHOTO: STAR

Mango flowers are in full bloom in the country's largest mango producing district -- Chapainawabganj -- sowing hope in the hearts of farmers and workers involved in its production.

RABIUL HASAN, Chapainawabganj

Mango flowers have been spreading a sweet aroma in every corner of Chapainawabganj, and the trees are covered with yellowish blossoms as far as the eye can see.

Chapainawabganj, also known as the "mango capital" of Bangladesh, is the largest producer of the delectable fruit.

According to experts and producers, favourable climatic circumstances are anticipated to contribute to a higher yield of mango this season in Chapainawabganj.

Palash Sarkar, deputy director of Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), said over 80 percent of mango trees in the orchards and homesteads have already bloomed in the district.

He informed that there are 28,26,000 mango trees

on 37,588 hectares of land in Chapainawabganj. The climatic conditions are still favourable.

If this continues, around 4 lakh tonnes of mango will be produced this season, he added.

The area of the mango orchards and the number of trees has increased in the district. Last year, 3.13 lakh tonnes of mango were produced on 37,165 hectares.

Habib Al-Sadi, an orchard owner of Chhatrajitpur in Shibganj upazila, said he has around 220 mango trees in his orchards and the condition of the orchards is better this year.

Over 80 percent of mango trees are in full bloom in the current season. One can hardly find any mango tree having no flowers in the groves here, he said.

Munjer Alam, a leaseholder of orchards at Dakshin Sahar in Sadar upazila, said, "I bought 2,800 mango trees for this season

with Tk 10 lakh. Over 90 percent of mango trees are in full bloom in my orchards."

Mango growers and agriculture officials said mangoes are the most important cash crop in the region and the income, and livelihood of people is heavily dependent on the fruit.

A large number of people are engaged in different jobs, from nursing to harvesting and packaging during the mango season every year.

The region has a long tradition of producing different varieties of mango, they said.

Chapainawabganj mangoes are key to the country's agricultural growth, largely benefiting the economy of the district's rural areas.

Mango growers and traders, every year, export thousands of tonnes of the fruit to the capital, Chattogram, Sylhet, Khulna and other districts.

## Keep train speed under 20km in Lawachara

### Railways ministry asks BR director general

STAR REPORT

The Ministry of Railways has recently asked the director general of Bangladesh Railway to take measures for limiting train speed to 20 kilometres per hour while moving through Lawachara National Park in Moulvibazar.

The initiative has been taken to prevent accidental death of wildlife and ensure free movement of animals inside the park, which is also a reserve forest.

The Daily Star got a copy of the directive that was issued on January 29. But it came to light yesterday after forest officials received copies of it.

For the last couple of years, environmentalists and forest officials have been demanding limiting the speed to 20 km per hour inside the forest, as many wild animals have been killed and injured after being hit by trains.

At least 35 wild animals were killed in train accidents and many were injured in the last five years in Lawachara National Park, according to a document of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

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## A municipality or garbage dump?

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

The entrance to Patuakhali municipal area, the gateway to Kuakata, has now transformed into a dumping ground as the authorities are yet to set up a designated spot for garbage dumping.

According to sources at the municipality office, around 30-32 tonnes of household waste are being dumped regularly on the sides of the Patuakhali-Kuakata highway near the municipality's entrance.

While the unplanned dumping of garbage causes inconvenience to tourists and locals, the strong stench coming from the space has made the area unsuitable for living.

Protesting against the issue, a few conscious citizens have submitted a petition to the Patuakhali municipality mayor, demanding the removal of waste from the spot.



The petition was submitted to the municipality office following a press conference, which was organised at Patuakhali Press Club on January 18.

As per the petition, household wastes from the area are dumped on the road on the northern side of the Patuakhali Bridge toll plaza, which is next to the Patuakhali-Kuakata highway.

This area is home to about 10,000 people.

Earlier, the waste used to be dumped on the Laukathi river banks, near BSCIC industrial area, which was causing serious harm to the waterbody and its marine life.

On September 4, Manjur Ahmed Chowdhury, chairman of National River Conservation Commission, visited the area and instructed the authorities concerned to clear the river banks,

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## Five more hospitalised with dengue

UNB, Dhaka

Five more people were hospitalised with dengue in 24 hours till yesterday morning.

Of the new patients, three were admitted to hospitals in Dhaka and the rest outside it, according to the Directorate General of Health Services. Thirty-eight dengue patients, including 16 in the capital, are now receiving treatment at hospitals across the country.

So far, the DGHS has recorded 691 dengue cases, 645 recoveries, and eight deaths this year.



PRAYER TIMING  
FEBRUARY 19

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 5:20	12:45	4:30	6:03	7:30
JAMAAAT 5:55	1:15	4:45	6:07	8:00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## Shibchaturdashi Fair begins in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Like every year, thousands of Hindu pilgrims from different districts of the country as well as from abroad, gathered at Chandranath Dham in Sitakunda upazila of Chattogram on the occasion of Shibchaturdashi Fair.

The three-day fair started from Friday. Sitakunda Shibchaturdashi Fair Committee organises the fair every year on the 14th of the dark fortnight [of lunar month] of Bangla month Falgun at the Chandranath Dham on the occasion of Shib Puja (worship of Lord Shiva).

The devotees observe the day with vrat (religious rituals), special prayers and pujas. Some devotees also keep vigil all night in Mahashivratri.

Babul Kanti Sharma, general secretary of Sitakunda Fair Committee, said around 20 lakh people are expected to gather in the fair.

Meanwhile, the security has been tightened in the area on the occasion.

Contacted, Tofail Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Sitakunda Police Station, said a three-tier security has been ensured for the fair premises as well as its outskirts.

Babul Kanti Sharma, general secretary of fair committee, said besides law enforcers, a total of 350 volunteers are also performing duties.

The entire area is under CCTV, he said, adding, primary treatment camps have also been set up.

Contacted, Sitakunda UNO Shahadat Hossain, also the president of fair committee, said the schedule of religious rituals is between February 17 and February 19, but the fair usually extends for a few more days.



The selection round of The Daily Star Newspaper Olympiad Season-3 was held at the Nursing College auditorium in Manikganj yesterday. Over 50 students from various educational institutions in Tangail, Rajbari and Manikganj districts participated in the Olympiad. After the selection round in 18 regions, the national phase will be held in Dhaka on March 20.

PHOTO: STAR