

# Speeding tractor kills 4-year-old in Kurigram



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

It was around 1:00pm yesterday. Four-year-old Meraj Hossain was playing outside his home in Kashiabari area in Kurigram's Phulbari upazila.

His father was at work and mother busy with household chores. Since he was with other children, his mother did not worry much.

Amid laughter and playing, the children did not notice a sand-laden tractor coming from the opposite direction.

The tractor ran over Meraj, fatally injuring him. When locals rushed him to Phulbari Upazila Health Complex, the on-duty doctor declared him dead.

The community is devastated by the loss of little Meraj, who was taken away from his loved ones far too soon, said neighbours.

Hafizur Rahman, father of Meraj,

expressed his anguish and frustration over the incident, stating that tractors frequently moved on the road at high speed.

"My son was only four... he was just playing outside with his friends..." Hafizur was too grief-stricken to finish the sentence.

He demanded the punishment for the tractor owner and driver, citing a similar incident that happened a few months ago, resulting in the loss of another child's life.

Contacted, Phulbari Police Station Officer-in-Charge Fazlur Rahman said the tractor driver fled the scene. Police seized the tractor.

"If we receive a complaint, we will take legal action against the tractor owner and driver," he added.

The OC also assured that measures would be taken to prevent tractors from moving at such high speed on the road to prevent future tragedies.

# TANGAIL GENERAL HOSPITAL Staff shortage hampers healthcare

MIRZA SHAKIL

Patients at Tangail's 250-bed General Hospital have been struggling to receive adequate healthcare services due to an overwhelming number of patients and a shortage of staff, including doctors.

The hospital has been unable to provide necessary care to patients, particularly the poor who come from rural areas, forcing them to seek treatment at private clinics and hospitals, spending a lot more than their budget.

Despite hospital authorities sending letters to the health department, requesting additional staff, the problem still persists.

A total of 14 doctor positions and 73 other posts have remained vacant for a long period, according to the office of the hospital's superintendent.

The lack of adequate staffers has overwhelmed the existing workforce, making it difficult to provide timely care to patients.

The hospital's indoor facilities are housing twice the number of patients it can handle. This has left them without necessary beds and proper care. Patients have alleged that nurses and staff are slow to respond to their needs, causing additional distress and pain.

Those who can afford to are left with no other choice but to avail services at private clinics and hospitals, but the worst sufferers are the poor patients referred from upazila hospitals for more serious conditions.

Hospital authorities have expressed their



With an overwhelming number of patients to serve, Tangail General Hospital is struggling to provide proper care, amid its shortage of staffers, including doctors. A total of 14 doctor positions and 73 other posts have remained vacant for a long period. This photo was taken yesterday from the establishment's outdoor department.

PHOTO: STAR

concerns about the situation, with the resident medical officer Dr Mohammad Lutfar Rahman Azad stating that the establishment is facing the shortage in many departments.

Dr Khandakar Sadequr Rahman, superintendent of the hospital, has confirmed that the hospital is struggling to provide proper

services to patients with the existing staff, while 3,000 to 4,000 patients seek treatment at the hospital's outdoor facilities every day.

The hospital has requested the appointment of necessary staffers, including doctors, to fill the vacant positions and alleviate the strain on existing staff.

## DNCC starts anti-mosquito drive

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka North City Corporation started a week-long drive against mosquitoes in its areas yesterday.

DNCC Chief Health Officer Brig Gen Md Zobaidur Rahman inaugurated the drive in Baishteki area.

For the drive, authorities will divide a ward into six parts and spray insecticide every day, said a DNCC official.

He said they will also destroy hotspots identified earlier by spraying larvicide.

Zobaidur said they are conducting their routine anti-mosquito drive regularly.

Urging citizens to be aware about Aedes mosquitoes, the official said people will have to keep their houses and surroundings clean.

It is possible to control mosquitoes if people become aware and do their

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**PRAYER TIMING**  
MARCH 20

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 5:00	12:45	4:30	6:14	7:45
JAMAAT 5:35	1:15	4:45	6:18	8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

# Visitors scaring the vultures away

Influx of people forces the birds to leave Pabna village

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU

A flock of 15 white-rumped vultures, which are now endangered, has made its home in different trees of Mollapara village of Pabna's Bera upazila. As news of the birds spread through various news outlets and social media, the area has seen a surge in visitors coming from far and wide to witness the rare sight.

But the sudden influx of visitors has caused disturbance and disruption for the flock, resulting in some of the birds disappearing from the area, claimed locals.

Vultures are known to be sensitive to human presence and are easily frightened, especially during breeding and nesting periods, according to experts. The increase in human activity around the colony has reportedly disrupted the birds' natural behaviour, causing few of them to abandon their nests and leave the area.

To address this issue, local authorities and conservation organisations are taking steps to regulate human activity around the vulture colony.

The Forest Department held a meeting in Bera upazila parishad on Monday, to make locals aware about the necessity of vultures in the natural environment and the need to preserve these endangered species. Visitors are being advised



to maintain a safe distance from the birds and not to disturb their natural habitat.

"In Bangladesh, there are only two vulture colonies -- one in Sundarban and another in Rema-Kalenga of Habiganj. The Mollapara village is an exceptional case, as this is the first time a vulture colony has been spotted in the locality," Kashop Bikash Chandra, divisional forest officer of Pabna, told The Daily Star.

"We are trying to spread awareness among locals to save this endangered species," he added.

Pabna Divisional Livestock Officer Kashyap Vikas Chandra said, "As many people live in the

village, local cooperation is needed to build a safe vulture colony here."

"Vultures, which are important for the environment, have been disappearing since the 1980s due to food shortages and use of harmful substances in the environment," he said.

"Plans are being taken to ensure safe habitat and food security for vultures in Mollapara village," he added.

**THE VILLAGE THEY CALL HOME**  
The sighting of these vultures has been met with excitement and optimism, as it is a promising sign for conservation efforts. Although conservationists, barring those

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## 'Dedicated roads for bus instead of metro rail'

Demand Ctg citizen's group

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Forum for Planned Chattogram, a non-political voluntary citizen's group, has opposed the metro-rail project for the port city. They instead demand dedicated roadways for buses to reduce traffic.

Four master plans have already been drawn up for the port city, and they recommended dedicated roadways for buses instead of constructing an expensive metro rail. But the supervisory body has not implemented these suggestions, said Subhas Barua, a traffic specialist and vice president of the forum, during a press conference at Chattogram Press Club yesterday.

"We have surveyed and seen that it is possible to reduce traffic congestion if dedicated bus lines are built. The people will get immediate benefits..." he claimed.

"We are not against metro rail, but we are in favour of practicality... Chattogram does not need metro rail till 2030," Subhas said.

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## Improve flood forecasting to protect Dhaka

Speakers tell workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a workshop yesterday emphasised on improving the flood-forecasting models for Dhaka city to better prepare for such incidents.

They said a better urban-flood forecasting system will lessen the suffering of city dwellers, prevent damage to private and public property, and lower the cost of maintaining service infrastructure.

The dissemination workshop titled "Capacity Development for Enhanced Flood Forecasting and Warning Service of Bangladesh" was organised by Institute of Water Modelling (IWM), in association with Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), at the capital's Brac Centre Inn.

Speakers highlighted that BWDB's current flood-forecasting system only offers forecasting and warning at a number of stations around Dhaka city.

With an improved forecasting model, the city's drainage-management authorities (city corporations, BWDB) could take necessary initiatives to manage drainage systems in advance of an extreme storm.

With a goal to improve the capacity of flood

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Chattogram District Administration demolished 15 establishments -- including two restaurants -- in the city's Outer Stadium area yesterday to recover the playground.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

## OUTER STADIUM 15 structures demolished to recover playground

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A mobile court of Chattogram District Administration yesterday demolished 15 "illegal" establishments -- including two restaurants -- in the city's Outer Stadium area to recover the playground.

Senior Assistant Commissioner and Executive Magistrate (Revenue Section) N-Uamog Marma Mong led the drive with the help of police and Chattogram Zilla Krira Sangstha (CJKS) officials.

However, the owners alleged that their structures were destroyed violating a court injunction order.

MA Hossain Badal, managing director of Fusion Design and Engineering Ltd, told The Daily Star, "I leased Kazir Dewri outer stadium footpath area from Chattogram City Corporation through a

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**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Local Government Engineering Department  
Office of the Upazila Engineer  
Upazila: Narail Sadar, District: Narail  
[www.lged.gov.bd](http://www.lged.gov.bd)

Memo No. 46.02.6576.000.99.007.17-240 Date: 19.03.2023

**e-Tender Notice: 08/2022-2023 (LTM)**

This is to notify for all concern that e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of works tender ID below table:

Sl. No.	e-GP Tender ID No.	Tender last selling (date & time)	Tender closing (date & time)
01	804324, 804325, 804328, 804331, 804332, 804333, 804334, 804335, 804336, 804337, 804338, 804339, 804340	05-April-2023 15:30pm	06-April-2023 13:00pm

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to 05-April-2023, time 15:30pm. 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)). For any queries interested tenderer are requested to communicate with the undersigned during office hours.

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GD-507