



Kids beat the heat by taking a dip in the Kirtonkhola River, using a trawler as their makeshift diving board. With temperatures soaring in Barishal, these youngsters found a refreshing escape from the scorching April sun. However, the use of anchored vessels as jumping platforms can pose a risk, highlighting the need for safe recreational spaces for children. This picture was taken from Barishal yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

## Easy bike driver killed in Tangail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Unidentified criminals killed a battery-run auto-rickshaw driver in Ghatail upazila of Tangail on Friday night.

The deceased was Iman Ali, 38, from Dori Chithatra village in the upazila.

Police and locals said the easy bike driver was returning home with the vehicle on Friday night.

On the way, a group of criminals stopped his vehicle on Porabari road in Khagrata area around 10:00pm and tried to snatch away the auto-rickshaw. As Iman tried to resist them, the criminals hit him in the throat with a sharp object, leaving him seriously injured.

Later, he was declared dead at Ghatail Upazila Health Complex after locals took him there following his screams, said OC Azharul Islam of Ghatail Police Station.

He said the victim's throat was slit. They have started investigation, he said.

## Culture, like rivers

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“Abul Mansur Ahmad did not write in very complex language and style like some scholarly works. But he was very careful about the methodology of his writings,” added Prof Azam.

Afroza Soma, a young poet, said, “Language, culture and politics stand at the centre point of this book.”

Addressing the programme, Adnan Arif Salim, assistant professor at Bangladesh Open University, “This book contains several important directions for contemporary researchers. And if we explain it in the light of different theoretical concepts, analyse it and try to understand it anew, I think the young researchers will find many

valuable directions.”

“The book does not define culture, rather it gives some dictation on how our culture should be. The articles in the book are like a thesis. Also they are very unique in terms of word choice,” said Prof Dibyadyuti Sarkar, dean of the social science and humanities faculty of Noakhali Science and Technology University (NSTU).

Following the brief discussion on the book, the prize-giving ceremony was held, where Mostafa Mushfiq Talukder won the first prize, and Faiza Binte Haq and Jobayer Ibn Kamal grabbed the second and third spot respectively.

The Daily Star's Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam was present during the prize giving ceremony.

# Construction materials dumped on OLD BRAHMAPUTRA BANK

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A section of vested quarters has been dumping concrete waste and keeping construction materials near the Old Brahmaputra River at Mymensingh city's Kachari Ferry Ghat area for months.

Neither Mymensingh City Corporation (MCC) nor the local Water Development Board (WDB) has taken any initiative against them yet, alleged locals.

Locals also alleged that these unscrupulous activities are mainly done at night. But it's a serious concern as no action has been taken yet.

The 283-kilometre Old Brahmaputra from Jamalpur's Dewanganj upazila to the Meghna in Bhairab of Kishoreganj is one of the longest rivers in the country. Many tributaries and small rivers depending on the Brahmaputra are also in crisis due to siltation, alleged environmental activists.

Not only this, contractors keep their materials for days on the river bed in the same area.



When this correspondent visited the area on Thursday, a huge pile of concrete waste, broken bricks and its mixture with sand was seen.

Shamsul Mia, a resident of the adjacent Char Gobindapur area said after the monsoon begins, the dry river bed goes under water within days. If the concrete rubbish and other construction materials aren't cleaned up immediately, it will mix with the river water.

Advocate Md Nazrul Islam Chunnu, convener

of Jonouddiyog, a civil society forum, alleged this menace wouldn't exist if there was proper monitoring.

Pointing fingers at the municipal authorities and WDB, he added that waste disposal into the Old Brahmaputra River at Kalibari Puran Gudaraghat continues.

Memorandums to the Mymensingh deputy commissioner and MCC mayor were submitted on various occasions urging the stopping of any kind of dumping into the river but no fruitful action has been taken yet, lamented the leaders.

Admitting to dumping concrete waste onto the river bed, Mohabbat Ali, conservation inspector of MCC, said no one can use the river land for keeping construction materials to dump waste. He also said they will look into the matter seriously to find out those involved in such an act.

Abid Hossain, sub-divisional engineer of Mymensingh WDB, said they will investigate the matter.



PHOTO: STAR

## Commuters' suffering

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through the old bridge with great risks, said transport workers.

Ashraf Ali, a truck driver travelling on the highway from Bogra to Dhaka, said, “This highway is full of potholes at several places. It's necessary to repair all those places immediately.”

Bus driver Shamsul Haque said if there is a minute's slowness on this highway, 40 to 50 vehicles get stuck behind. “Additional police should be deployed at various places on the highway to prevent this traffic jam,” he said.

Abul Kalam, another bus driver, said the administration should play a role in ensuring that drivers drive properly and follow the traffic rules during Eid.

Ekhlash Uddin, project manager of contractor HEGO-Mir Akhtar (JV), said, “Renovation work is going on. Hopefully, it will be completed within the

20th of Ramadan (April 10). We expect there will be no more congestion on this road after that.”

“Five bridges on this road will be opened before Eid to prevent traffic jams. As a result, people will be able to return home without hassle,” he hoped.

Arifur Rahman Mondal, superintendent of police in Sirajganj, said, “To reduce the suffering of passengers during Eid journey, they have discussed with the officers of the SASEC-2 project and the engineers of the contracting company and urged them to renovate the risky places on the highway.”

“Some 20 places in 14 sections have been detected. The highway's renovation in these areas will reduce the possibility of traffic jams.”

Like every Eid, district police members, along with the traffic and highway police, will work to keep the highway free from traffic jams, he added.

## Main accused still at large

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Chandanaish Press Club's President Delwar Hossain alleged that the police were “not cordial” in arresting the criminals. “They arrested a person who was not involved in the attack. It's just an eyewitness. There is CCTV footage which clearly shows who were involved in the attack,” he said.

Anwar Hossain, officer-in-charge (OC) of Chandanaish Police Station, denied the allegation and said the police were conducting drives to arrest the accused individuals.

Chatto gram's Superintendent of Police (SP) SM Shafiullah said he had strictly directed the

local police station to arrest the accused immediately. He also suggested the victim's family members file a general diary (GD) with the police if they feel insecure.

The doctors treating Ayub declined to comment on his physical condition but an anonymous source claimed his condition was stable.

## Implement CHT accord for peace

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(PCJSS) in 1997, said Prof MM Akash of Dhaka University's Department of Economics.

Democratic election in CHT, establishing of democratic administration with the participation of indigenous and permanent Bangalee residents, balanced development, enactment of an effective policy over the ownership and uses of land in CHT, rehabilitation of the indigenous people engaged in the conflict before 1997,

are the key areas to address to bring peace in CHT, he said.

“The consequences will be dire for the country if we make further delays in implementing the accord. The situation in CHT is worsening,” said Prof Mejbah Kamal of Dhaka University's history department.

Settlers had been given land, that belonged to the indigenous people with an ill motive to make them the majority, Justice Md Nizamul Haque Nasim,

chairman of the Press Council said.

He also questioned the intention of the CHT land commission in resolving the land dispute.

Executive director of ALRD Shamsul Huda, Journalist and poet Sohrab Hossain, Joint Coordinators of the Parbatya Chattogram Agreement Implementation Movement Zakir Hossain and Dr Khairul Islam Chowdhury, also spoke at the event.

## Traders resort

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He sold a Panjabi, originally worth Tk 600, for Tk 400 only to a customer yesterday. The burnt smell from these clothes has caused them to be sold at a lower price.

Aslam Hossain, a wholesale trader, said, “Three of my shops in Bangabazar have been destroyed. I had an investment of Tk 45 lakh in those shops.”

“During Eid season, we

usually make most of our sales, but now everything has turned into ashes,” he said.

“We are sitting on the roadside with goods worth Tk 70-80 thousand left to sell,” added Aslam.

Another shopkeeper, Kausar Hossain, has expressed his concern about the difficulty of doing business on the road due to the heavy traffic, leading to low sales.

## A crucial milestone

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It also mentioned that currently, this work is not included in the System of National Accounts (SNA), as it is not a part of the market economy and lacks monetary value, even though accounting for this work is important as it plays a significant role in national growth.

According to different studies conducted by MJF, household chores have been a significant obstacle

to women's economic participation. Since 2012, the organisation has been actively identifying the gaps in the policy framework of the country.

MJF has also been working towards changing people's attitudes and mindset regarding domestic work, advocating for recognition and redistribution of workload, and identifying ways to reduce the burden of household chores.

## Scouts Day

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people from childhood. The Scouts' activities keep the youth away from social ill.

She called upon the scouts to become smart citizens to create a smart Bangladesh.

## Barishal Plaza

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Earlier on April 4, a massive fire broke out at the Bangabazar market, spreading to six nearby markets. The fire was doused yesterday at 9:30am – more than 75 hours after it broke out early Tuesday.

## Three poachers

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forests (ACF) of Chandpai Range of East Sundarban Forest Division.

The forest guards seized illegal fishing nets, deer hunting traps, drums, four pieces of Sundari wood and an engine-driven trawler from them, he added.