

MANGALAYA IN FARASHGANJ

# Another century-old building faces demolition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mangalaya, a century-old heritage building situated in Old Dhaka's Farashganj area, is currently facing the imminent threat of demolition.

The new owner of the property has already started the destruction of a significant portion of the building, including its unique ornaments and features, known as Putul Bari on BK Das Road.

While the site is not officially recognised as a protected heritage by the Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) and the Department of Archaeology, it holds significant historical values, being included in the Urban Study Group's list of 2,200 British-era buildings marked as heritage sites in Old Dhaka, as mandated by a 2018 High Court directive.

Following a complaint filed by the USG, local residents, and citizens, Sutrapur Police Station yesterday intervened and halted the ongoing demolition activities, confirmed the station's Officer-in-Charge Mainul Islam.

But activists remain skeptical, citing past instances where demolition has resumed once the issue fades from public attention.



In the first image at the top, the iconic “Mangalaya” building in Dhaka's Farashganj stands proudly, showcasing its architectural grandeur. However, in the two pictures below, a scene of devastation unfolds as workers dismantle the unique features on the second floor (Right), and the current state of the building (Left). However, the local police station yesterday intervened and halted the ongoing demolition activities, but the threats to this century-old heritage site still remain.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

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DHAKA WEDNESDAY JUNE 28, 2023  
ASHAR 14, 1430 BS  
The Daily Star

## President, PM greet people on Eid

BSS, Dhaka

President Mohammed Shahabuddin and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday greeted countrymen as well as the Muslims around the world on the occasion of the Eid-ul-Azha to be observed on June 29. On the eve of the day, the president and prime minister issued separate messages wishing the people of the country a prosperous Eid.



In his message, the president said the global inflation is on the rise due to the impact of the pandemic and war-conflicts in different parts of the world.

In this context, low income people around the world are facing various obstacles, he added.

He urged the affluent people of the country to stand by those affected by these hardships so that they can enjoy the Eid this year.

The president also called upon the citizens to sacrifice their animals in government designated places.

In her message, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said, “On the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha, I am extending my greetings to all the Muslims across the globe, including Bangladesh.”

“I want to say ‘Eid Mubarak’ [to all].”

She hoped that like every year, this Eid will bring happiness and joy to all.

Hasina prayed to Allah for continued peace, progress and prosperity of the country and Muslim ummah on the holy day.

## 3 including 2 children die in road accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

Three persons including two children were killed in a head-on collision between a CNG-run auto-rickshaw and a human haulier – locally known as (Bhotbhoti) – in Bogura yesterday morning.

The deceased were identified as Ashamoni, 6, her sister Khadiza, 3, and the auto-rickshaw driver Aminul Islam, 54, said Imtiaz Ahmed, sub-inspector of Bagura Sadar Police Station.

The parents of the two sisters were seriously injured, he said. “The accident took place at 8:30am in Erulia area under Bogura Sadar upazila when a Bogura-bound CNG-run auto-rickshaw collided head-on with a Bhotbhoti coming from the opposite direction,” the SI said.

Ashamaoni and Khadija's parents Rashed Sheikh and Josna are now undergoing treatment at a Hospital.

## 50,000 people travelled through Benapole in 12 days

STAR REPORT

The number of passengers crossing through Benapole International Check-post has increased significantly ahead of Eid-ul-Azha.

In 12 days (June 16 to June 25), at least 52,739 passengers have travelled between Bangladesh and India through the Benapole check-post.

Among the travellers, 22,673 have gone to India and 30,066 returned from India.

Benapole Check-post Immigration Officer-in-Charge Ahsan Habib said that due to the long Eid holidays, the number of passengers travelling through Benapole has increased significantly from last Friday.

“The immigration authorities are fully prepared to handle this pressure,” the OC said, adding that all formalities of passengers were being completed at Benapole part as quickly as possible.

In the morning, there was half a kilometre long line outside the immigration check-post.

Abul Kalam told The Daily Star said that they will spend Eid holiday in India as the Indian visa is easily available to Bangladeshis.

## CYBER THREAT

## Caution issued for govt, other entities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Government's Computer Incident Response Team (BGD e-GOV CIRT) has issued a notice urging government, military, and financial institutions to remain vigilant and take necessary security measures against potential cyber-attacks ahead of Eid.

The notice issued yesterday and signed by Mohmmad Saiful Alam Khan, project director of BGD e-GOV CIRT, mentioned that various sectors including government and military entities, critical information infrastructures (CII), law enforcement agencies, banks and NBFI, pharmaceuticals, retail and industrial organisations, and energy and education sectors could be targeted.

The potential adversaries mentioned in the notice include Ransomware Threat Actors, Nation-state Threat Actors, script kiddies with credential harvesting expertise, as well as Ransomware and APT Threat Actors such as “Money Message” and “Akira”.

The cyber-attacks may involve credential theft, DDoS attacks, brute force attacks, web attacks,

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## DEATH BY DROWNING

## Tripled in last 3 years

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

On June 5, Mahinur, a homemaker, found his son Tamim, 10, floating in a nearby canal upon returning from a nearby meadow in Londa village of Patuakhali's Galachipa upazila.

His father Helal Matubbor, a farmer, was still in the field when he was informed of the incident.

Tamim was rushed to the upazila health complex where the doctors declared him dead.

“I had just stepped out to feed the cows. I wish I had taken him with me...,” said Mahinur.

Another four-year-old boy drowned in the same upazila that day.

Zobayer, 4, son of Jalil Mridha of Haridebpur village, fell into a pond near his home while playing with other children. He was taken to the same hospital only to be declared dead by the doctors.

A total of six children drowned in Patuakhali that day, two more in Galachipa and one each in Kalapara and Mirzaganj upazilas.

On May 12, three children of the same family – Soheli Fakir's children Sharmin, 5, and Ruman, 7; and Marium, 8, daughter of Rubel Fakir – drowned while they were bathing in a nearby pond in Kalapara's Itharia village.

According to the Patuakhali Civil Surgeon Office, 106 children drowned in the district in 2022. The numbers were 56 in 2021 and 29 in 2020. A total of 44 children drowned in the district between January 1 and June 7 this year.

“The rate of drowning children is slightly higher in this district as it is situated near the Bay of Bengal and is home to a lot of canals and waterbodies. The incidents mainly occur between 8:00am and 2:00pm as the kids remain unattended at home with their parents being busy with work and household chores. However, these incidents can be prevented if the children are taught swimming at an early age and fences are built around waterbodies,” said Dr SM Kabir Hasan, the district's civil surgeon.

Noting the issue, the government has approved “Integrated Community Based Center for Child Care, Protection and Swim Safe Facilities”, a project jointly

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## A leading cause of child death

Registering incidents key for policy intervention, say experts

NILIMA JAHAN

In Bangladesh, media reports indicate a threefold increase in child deaths due to drowning, which is recognised as a leading cause of mortality among children under five in rural areas.

However, the lack of comprehensive national-level data poses a significant challenge in effectively addressing this issue.

Experts highlighted that when it comes to citing drowning-related death data, they rely solely on the 2016 Bangladesh Health and Injury Survey, which revealed a shocking statistic of 30 children under five dying from drowning every day.

Regrettably, due to a lack of awareness, preventable drowning deaths in rural areas are often categorised as natural deaths and not properly recorded in vital statistics.

Despite the presence of a vital registration system in all union parishads, deaths resulting from drowning are largely unreported, hindering the development of appropriate policy responses.

Experts emphasised that if these deaths were accurately registered, the government would gain insights into specific trends in different areas and implement effective interventions to prevent these avoidable fatalities.

Sadrul Hasan Mazumder, convener of National Alliance for Drowning Prevention, highlighted the societal factors that hinder the registration of child drowning deaths.

“After visiting many union parishads and talking to UP chairmen and secretaries, I noticed

some disturbing discoveries. Parents are less motivated to report child deaths under 5 because there are no property-related concerns,” he said.

“Parents also avoid post-mortem investigations for unnatural deaths like drowning due to police involvement, which they find burdensome. Families and society often view such deaths as natural events, discouraging death registration,” he noted.

“Additionally, in cases where a child under 5 dies from drowning,

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- National strategy
- Awareness campaign
- Govt, NGO intervention
- Developing rescue skills
- Adult supervision for children
- Teaching children swimming

there are usually no opposing parties involved (although mothers often bear the blame for negligence despite the absence of any opponents), which also contribute to the underreporting of such deaths and discourage parents from registering,” he added.

Sadrul noted that union parishads have standing committees for vaccination, child marriage prevention, and violence prevention, but not for drowning prevention or registration.

He stressed that policymakers and parents have failed to recognise

and adequately address drowning tragedies.

Dr Aminur Rahman, deputy executive director of the Centre for Injury Prevention and Research Bangladesh and director of CIPRB's International Drowning Research-Bangladesh, expressed a similar concern.

He stressed that a yearly thorough record of deaths in a specific location would help determine whether drowning deaths are rising or falling following an intervention.

He also underlined the significance of having a regular reporting system to accurately track the trend, as annual surveys after an intervention are neither practicable nor cost-effective.

SoMaSHTE, an agency that investigates drowning deaths from national and local media reports, also finds it difficult to get the full story from media reporting.

This is due to the fact that the media may be unaware of what is occurring in remote areas, where

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Local traders fish out shrimps from netted enclosures on the bank of Kirtankhola river in Barishal during low-tides. They said they make around Tk 1,000 selling a kilo of the catch. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

## Dengue claims two more lives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two more dengue patients died and 145 others were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till yesterday morning.

With this, the total number of deaths in dengue rose to 47 this year, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

With the new cases, the total number of dengue this year rose to 7,754,

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PRAYER TIMING	
JUNE 28	
Fazr	Zohr
Asr	Maghrib
Esha	
AZAN 4-05 12-45 5-00 6-54 8-17	
JAMAA 4-40 1-15 5-15 6-57 8-45	
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION	