

## Release all our activists before Eid: Rizvi

UNB, Dhaka

BNP senior joint secretary general Ruhul Kabir Rizvi yesterday demanded the unconditional release of the party's detained leaders and activists before Eid-ul-Fitr, the biggest religious festival of Muslims.

He made the call at a press conference at the BNP's Nayapalton central office.

Rizvi said showing respect to law the BNP men appeared before the court for bail when Sheikh Hasina's 'subservient court' sent them to jail.

"People are suffering due to oppression by BaKSAL 2 (The Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Awami League) government. Ruling Awami League is enjoying all facilities solely to hold meeting, rally in the country whereas other political parties have no right to do that," he claimed.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

## Forest official's killers will be punished: Saber

UNB, Dhaka

Environment Minister Saber Hossain Chowdhury yesterday said the ministry is working to ensure maximum punishment for those who were behind the death of a forest officer in Cox's Bazar.

"Criminals will not be spared. All those responsible will be brought to justice through a transparent process," he said while handing over a cheque to family members of the deceased forest official at Vitikandi village of Munshiganj.

Md Sazzaduzzaman, beat officer of Forest Department, was killed by a mini truck (dumper) of miscreants in Cox's Bazar.

A special message will be conveyed to prevent such incidents from happening in the future, he added.

Expressing condolences to the forest official's family members, the minister said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina also expressed sorrow over his demise.

The minister handed over a cheque for Tk 15 lakh on behalf of the ministry to the father of the deceased.

He also assured to give a job to the deceased's wife.



Two fishermen diligently mend their fishing nets in preparation for the end of the two-month ban on netting fish, aimed at preserving jatka (hilsa fry under 10 inches). The photo was taken from Madhya Charbaria area in Barishal Sadar upazila yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

### FOREST OFFICIAL KILLING

# Sand lifting continues unabated in Cox's Bazar

MOKAMMEL SHUVO, Cox's Bazar

Powerful syndicates are involved in lifting earth and sand illegally in Cox's Bazar, generating no less than Tk 5 crore daily from this business.

The activities are damaging the environmental biodiversity of the coastal region to an alarming extent.

The syndicates are comprised of mostly vehicles owners in every upazila. They are illegally extracting an estimated 30 lakh cubic feet of sand and earth daily. Officials concerned of law enforcement agencies, forest department, and BRTA get a cut of the revenues as bribes, said sources.

**It was a premeditated murder because Sazzad had become a headache for the syndicate. He seized six dump trucks carrying stolen earth in the past month and filed cases against those involved.**

GAZI SHAFIUL ALAM, forest officer

These syndicates are so influential that they resort to attacking anyone who opposes their illicit activities.

The matter came to light after Sazzaduzzaman, 30, a beat officer of Dochhari Forest Beat of Ukhiya range

under Cox's Bazar South Forest Division, was ran over and left dead on the spot by a dump truck carrying stolen earth from a reserve forest in Ukhiya of Cox's Bazar on March 31.

"It was a premeditated murder because Sazzad had become a headache for the syndicate. He seized six dump trucks carrying stolen earth in the past month and filed cases against those involved," alleged Gazi Shafiul Alam, a forest officer of Ukhiya range.

Meanwhile, police so far managed to arrest only one of the 10 accused in connection with Sazzad's murder, even as six days have passed since the incident.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

## Empowering communities to combat NCDs

### JICA's initiative making strides in Cox's Bazar

MOKAMMEL SHUVO, Cox's Bazar

Syed Akhbar, 60, a resident of Shikdarpara village under Cox's Bazar Sadar upazila, went to a nearby community health clinic a year ago after experiencing an unusual, recurring headache.

After getting his blood pressure checked at the clinic, he was advised to seek further evaluation at the Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) corner of Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital.

The following day, Akhbar consulted with a doctor at the hospital, who prescribed a single medication for his condition, provided free of charge at the NCD corner.

For the past year, Akhbar faithfully adhered to this treatment regimen and regularly got his blood pressure monitored at the Shikdarpara clinic.

He also attended many awareness meetings on non-communication diseases over the last year, which helped him make informed decisions.

"I now feel well. Thanks to everything I learned from awareness meetings in our community about diseases like hypertension and diabetes, I could quickly get help and prevent complications," he told this correspondent.

Near the clinic in Shikdarpara, several villagers gathered at one such awareness-building meeting on NCDs. One Ayesha Siddika, who had received training from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) on the subject matter, was facilitating the discussions.

"Often, people dismiss headaches by just taking paracetamol, but I encourage them to consult a doctor to have their blood pressure tested," Ayesha said.

"NCDs have become the cause of most deaths in Bangladesh in recent years. JICA is working on raising awareness among common people about NCDs through a campaign titled SHASTO2," said Dr Mahfuzur Rahman Bhuiyan, country lead and quality improvement consultant of the project.

Enhancing skills of healthcare workers, aiding in creating national protocols and guidelines, establishing NDC corners in hospitals, and supplying medical equipment are some of the main aims of this campaign.

Once trained, the community health workers are informing villagers about the prevention and management of NCDs, Dr Mahfuzur added.

"JICA is currently working in three upazilas at Cox's Bazar, Cumilla, and Narshingdi as part of the SHASTO2 campaign," said Rie Ozaki, chief advisor of the project.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



Two children joyfully play amidst rain in Khulna city's Bastuhara area yesterday. After enduring several days of sweltering heat, this rainfall offers a much-needed reprieve to the residents.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

## Film director's daughter found dead in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The daughter of film director Sohanur Rahman Sohan was found dead in a hotel in Jatrabari, Dhaka, last night.

Police recovered the body of Samia Rahman, 34, from Room No. 210 of Rangdhanu Residential Hotel around 7:30pm, said Sabir Hossain, a sub-inspector of Jatrabari Police Station.

The SI said that they responded to information provided by the hotel authorities.

Samia was found hanging from the window grille with a veil wrapped around her neck.

Sabir said the deceased used to reside with her husband in the Uttara area. She checked into the hotel alone yesterday.

During iftar time, hotel staff knocked on the door. Receiving no response, they notified the police station. Subsequently, the police broke open the door and recovered the body.

The body was sent to the Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy, said the SI.

## Beef at Tk 390 per kg!

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Khandkar Jahangir, 69, a resident of Kharkhi area of Jashore, could not buy beef for almost six months for his family.

With beef being sold at Tk 750 per kilogramme in the district town's markets, it is well beyond his, alongside many other's affordability.

On Saturday, however, he was elated as he managed to buy one kg of beef, that too at only Tk 390.

"My son bought 500 grammes of beef six months ago. That was the last time I had it. Today [Saturday] I bought one kg at half the market price," said Jahangir.

"My neighbour has a fridge. I will leave the meat there and later enjoy it with my family on Eid day," he added.

Like Jahangir, people from around 500 low-income families got the scope to buy beef at Tk 390 as part of an initiative titled "Modhyobitter Eid Bazaar" by Idea Samaj Kalyan Sanstha, a voluntary organisation.

With Eid-ul-Fitr just around

the corner, the initiative brought smiles to many, as they will be able to have beef on the occasion, some after many months.

The organisation sold beef at its premises in Kharkhi area in an effort to stand by the middle and low-income people ahead of Eid.

The organisers said with this initiative they want to call upon the government for steps to bring the prices of daily essentials within the reach of the poor.

Harun or Rashid, coordinator of the student-run social welfare organisation, said students or different colleges jointly arranged to buy the beef at market price to sell it at Tk 390 to the people so that they can enjoy it during Eid.

Since its inception in 2013, the organisation has been distributing food among poor people every Friday, he also said, adding that they distribute food and clothes among underprivileged children before every Eid.

# Wanted

## Gym & Wellness Trainers

Athletika, which is a part of a reputed organisation, dedicated to transforming Bangladesh's fitness landscape is looking for passionate and dedicated Gym & Wellness Trainers to inspire our members and help them achieve their fitness goals.

### SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITIES

- Developing personalized fitness programs based on individual goals and abilities.
- Conducting one-on-one training sessions assessing clients' fitness levels, goals, and any specific needs.
- Guiding proper form, technique, and safety.
- Conducting group exercise classes ensuring a safe and engaging environment.
- Motivating and encouraging clients to reach their fitness objectives.
- Monitoring progress and adjusting training plans as needed.
- Building awareness of proper nutrition and lifestyle choices.

### REQUIREMENTS

- Certification in Personal, Group Exercise & Wellness Training.
- Proven experience as a Personal, Group Exercise or Wellness Trainer.
- Strong knowledge of fitness principles, exercise techniques, and nutrition.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills.
- Ability to motivate and inspire clients of all fitness levels.
- Genuine passion for helping individuals achieve their fitness goals.
- Flexibility to work weekdays, weekends, and evenings as needed.
- Must hold any of the following valid Certifications:
  - American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM)
  - National Academy of Sports Medicine (NASM)
  - American Council of Exercise (ACE)
  - International Sports Sciences Association (ISSA)
  - Diploma in Personal Training (K11)
  - GOLD Gym Certification

Attractive & commensurate remuneration & other benefits are offered to deserving candidates based on experience and certifications achieved.

Job Location: Gulshan, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Please send your updated resume along with copies of your certification by e-mail within April 27, 2024 to [careers@asset.com.bd](mailto:careers@asset.com.bd)

Athletika