

Five girls go missing from Joypurhat madrasa

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinaipur

Five students from the residential section of Chaklamua Sahih Sunnah Girls' Madrasa in Joypurhat's Kalai upazila went missing since yesterday morning. The madrasa's superintendent Feroz Alam filed a complaint with Kalai Police Station in this connection in the afternoon. The madrasa has around 100 students, with 55 of them residing in its dormitory. According to a written complaint, the students had dinner and went to bed as usual on Thursday night. At dawn, when the dormitory supervisor, Manjuara Bibi, unlocked the doors for the students to perform Fajr prayers, five of the students went outside, but did not return. All of them are aged between 10 and 12 years. Of those missing, one is daughter of the madrasa's superintendent. Families of the four other missing students have been reached out, but they said the girls did not go home till yesterday evening. Three of the girls who went missing left behind notes in their trunks, said Feroz Hossain. The complaint lodged with Kalai Police Station, has been registered as a general diary. Anwar Hossain, inspector (investigation) of the police station, said police are investigating the incident.

INTERNATIONAL VULTURE AWARENESS DAY

The silent decline of 'nature's cleaners'



PHOTO: MD REZAUL KARIM CHOWDHURY

MINTU DESHWARA

Around three decades back, flocks of vultures were a common sight across the country. These vultures, known as nature's "cleaners", would gather around dead cattle left in open fields, swiftly removing the bodies and sanitising the area. However, the environment that once supported such gatherings has disappeared. Over the past three decades, vulture populations have declined sharply. Deforestation has removed their habitat, and there is a significant food shortage. Additionally, painkillers like diclofenac and titoftenac, used to treat sick domestic animals, leave harmful residues in the carcasses, leading to vulture deaths when they consume these contaminated bodies. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has listed vultures as critically endangered. Today is International Vulture Awareness Day. It is observed on the first Saturday of September each year to highlight the plight of these birds. The Forest Department data shows the vulture population was 1,972 in 2008. By the 2015 census, the number had plummeted to 260. Of these, around 100 vultures are found in the greater Sylhet region, and 70 to 80 are in Rema-Kalenga National Park in Habiganj. According to the Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation Division, vultures are unique in their ability to consume and digest dead animals, including those that are still fresh. Their feeding process helps quickly deodorise the environment and they possess the ability to digest various pathogens, including anthrax. In Atgaon, adjacent to Dighirpar Bazar in Amtoil Union in Moulvibazar Sadar Upazila, vultures are frequently seen in a fallow area. When dead cows and goats are discarded there, flocks of vultures gather to feed. On July 23, a group of 40 vultures was observed in this area, said Nazrul islam, a resident of Atgaon village. Mirza Mehdi Sarwar, wildlife and biodiversity conservation officer of the Forest Department, confirmed that vultures only visit Atgaon when dead cows are disposed of in the area. Shibli Sadik, an ornithologist at the forest department's wildlife rehabilitation facility, said, in 2015 the vulture population was 260, but it has now decreased to 245. This decline is primarily due to the death of 26 vultures in Moulvibazar, compounded by the continued use of harmful painkillers like diclofenac and titoftenac, he said. The vulture population in Rema-Kalenga Forest has also declined. In 2023, it was reported that 14 vultures died in Moulvibazar, but in reality, 26 vultures perished. Vultures from Rema-Kalenga Forest used to travel to Moulvibazar to feed, and a satellite-tagged vulture from Rema-Kalenga confirmed this migration pattern. The number of vulture nests in Rema-Kalenga Forest last year was lower than in 2014-15. The main factor contributing to the decline in vulture numbers is the lack of safe food sources. Funding for vulture conservation by IUCN is very limited and misallocated. There has been no funding for vulture conservation since 2023, and the funds available in 2022-23 were insufficient. The vulture known as Bangla vulture, associated with the Bengali name, has not received ongoing support. Continuous funding is essential for the conservation of this critically endangered species, but no significant conservation efforts have been undertaken since 2015, and the situation remains unchanged, Sadik added.

4 killed as bus hits microbus in Cumilla

STAR REPORT

Four people were killed when a bus hit a microbus from behind on the Dhaka-Chattogram highway in Cumilla's Chaudagram upazila early yesterday. The identities of the deceased could not be known immediately. The incident happened around 6:00am in the Batisha Nankora area when a Dhaka-bound bus hit the microbus, said Lokman Hossain, in-charge of the Miabazar Highway Police Outpost. Both the bus and the microbus involved in the accident have been seized, he added. In Dinaipur, helper of a truck driver was killed after the vehicle hit another parked truck in Ghoraghat upazila of Dinaipur yesterday, said police. The deceased is Shree Sourab Pahan, 22, of Joypurhat. In Gaibandha, a man and his son-in-law died in a road accident on Bogura-Rangpur Highway in Gobindaganj upazila on Thursday night, reports UNB. The deceased are Jahidul Islam, 40, and Shamim Mandal, 25, said Gobindaganj Police Station Officer-in-Charge Shariful Islam. Witnesses said the accident occurred around

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Ensure safety of RMG workers, pay their dues: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Garment Workers' Solidarity, a labour rights organisation, yesterday demanded justice for the garment workers, students and others killed in labour-prone areas including Ashulia during the anti-discrimination student movement. They also demanded that the garment owners pay the workers' dues and meet their fair demands. The organisation made the call at a rally, organised by its Ashulia unit, in front of Ashulia Press Club. Even though a month has passed since the horrors of violence during the student protests, most of the perpetrators are not even identified yet, speakers said. At least 75 were killed in violence during the movement between July 18 and August 4, and 15 more on August 5 in police firing in Ashulia, while

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More than just NUMBERS

A 27-year-old driver shot in Uttara. A 30-year-old student gunned down by police in Savar. An RMG worker, fatally shot in Jatrabari. Over 550 lives (the actual number could be much higher) were lost when law enforcers opened fire on protesters during the recent unrest. But these victims are not just statistics; they are children, parents, and friends. In this report, we try to know the stories of three such names among these tragic numbers.



'His sacrifice was for a greater cause'

Says grief-stricken father of Rouf, 27, who was shot in Uttara

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinaipur

Abdur Rouf from Nilphamari Sadar upazila had moved to Dhaka with the hope of securing a better future for himself and his family.

He started working as a driver in Uttara.

The eldest of three siblings, Rouf, 27, had been sending Tk 20,000 each month to support his family's needs and cover his younger brother Sakib Hasan's educational expenses.

However, everything changed on the evening of July 18. During the students' protests in Uttara, Rouf was fatally wounded by gunfire.

He died on the way to Kuwait Bangladesh Friendship Hospital, and his body was returned to their village in Majhpara the following day for burial.

Since his passing, his family has been grappling with the emotional and financial challenges of losing their sole provider.

"My education is now in jeopardy," said Sakib. He said just a day before his death, Rouf had

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'I have nothing left to live for'

Says mother of Ahnaf, 30, who was fatally shot in Savar

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

Ahnaf Abir Ashrafullah had a promising future. He passed his SSC from Government Syed Abdul Jabbar Boys High School in 2011 and earned a diploma in Electrical Engineering from Munshiganj Polytechnic Institute in 2016.

He was a third-year student of Electrical and Electronics Engineering at Manarat International University.

However, his poor family's hopes and dreams centring him ended in tragedy when he was



killed in a police firing at Baipile in Savar on August 5.

Ahnaf, 30, was the third child of Harun Or Rashid and Asia Khatun from Barpakhia village in Delduar upazila, Tangail.

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Sadi still waits for his father to come home RMG worker Mamun fatally shot in Jatrabari



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Five-year-old Sheikh Sadi still doesn't understand that his father, Abdullah Al Mamun, will never return. He waits patiently,

expecting his father to come home with chocolates, unaware that his father is gone forever.

"Every time Sadi asks when his father will come home, it breaks our hearts and casts a shadow of grief over the entire household," said Mamun's mother, Johura Khatun.

Mamun, who had only studied up to class eight, was forced to leave school due to extreme poverty. He moved to Dhaka in search of work to support his five-member family. Originally from Bottola

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Eight held with arms, ammunition in Cox's Bazar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least eight people were arrested with arms and ammunition during the joint forces' drive in Sadar upazila of Cox's Bazar early yesterday.

The arrestees are Kalim Ullah, 34, Md Khorshed Alam, 37, Md Hasan Sharif Laden, 20, Md Shaheen, 23, Md Mizan, 20, Abdul Malek, 48, Abdul Hai, 24 and Abdul Aziz, 25.

They were arrested from PM Khali union of the upazila around 3:00am, said Rab-15 Senior Assistant Director (Law & Media) Abul Kalam Chowdhury.

Tipped off, a team of joint forces raided two houses in the area and arrested them, said the Rab official.

A large amount of local and foreign arms and ammunition were recovered in the drive that lasted for five hours, he said.

Legal action is being taken against the arrestees, he added.

Two children die from snakebites

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

In separate incidents, two children died from snakebites in Yakubpur and Syedpur villages under Thakurgaon Sadar upazila early yesterday.

The victims are Aditya, 7, a second-grader from Yakubpur village, and Jannat, 12, a seventh-grader from Syedpur village.

Both Aditya and Jannat were sleeping when they were bitten by snakes, according to family sources.

Aditya was rushed to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital, from where he was referred to Dinaipur M Abdur Rahim Medical College and Hospital. He passed away on the way. Jannat died on the way to be taken to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital.

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e-GP Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the national e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of goods details belows in the table.

Sl. No.	Tender Ref.	Tender ID No. (From e-GP Portal)	Tender Description	Publication Date and Time	Opening Date and Time
01.	57.03.0000.070.007.203.24 -736 Date: 02.08.2024	1010368	Chemistry Lab 03-Supply & installation of Equipment for Chemistry Lab For 17 TSC	08-Sep-2024 09:00	07-Oct-2024 12:00
02.	57.03.0000.070.007.203.24 -737 Date: 02.08.2024	1010367	Physics Lab 03-Supply & installation of Equipment for Physics Lab for 17 TSC	08-Sep-2024 09:00	07-Oct-2024 12:00
03.	57.03.0000.070.007.203.24 -738 Date: 02.09.2024	1010366	Basic Lab-3, Supply & installation of Equipment for Basic Lab for 17 TSC	08-Sep-2024 09:00	07-Oct-2024 12:30
04.	57.03.0000.070.007.203.24 -739 Date: 02.09.2024	1010365	Office-3, Supply & installation of Equipment for Office For 17 TSC	08-Sep-2024 09:00	07-Oct-2024 12:30


This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline hard copies will be accepted.

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The fees for downloading the e-GP tender documents from the national e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches up to specified date & time mentioned in the e-GP system.

Further information and guidelines are available in the national e-GP system portal and from e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders.


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