

10-yr-old madrasa student found dead, 2 detained

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinaipur

The body of a 10-year-old madrasa student was recovered in Rangpur city on Thursday night.

The deceased was identified as Siam Islam, who was a student of a local madrasa. His body was recovered from an under-construction building of the madrasa he was a student of.

Siam's body has been sent to Rangpur Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

Authorities have detained a madrasa teacher, Abdur Rahman Abdullah, and a student, for questioning in connection with the incident.

The deceased's father, Monowar Hossain Bhuttu, has filed a case in this connection with the Rangpur Metropolitan Kotwali Police Station, confirmed the police station's Officer-in-Charge Ataur Rahman.

"In the case, the complainant has alleged that the deceased was raped before the murder took place," said the OC.

"We have detained two suspects for questioning," he added.

Three more die of dengue, 354 get hospitalised

UNB, Dhaka

Three more deaths were reported from dengue in 24 hours till yesterday morning, raising the number of fatalities from the mosquito-borne disease in Bangladesh to 461 this year.

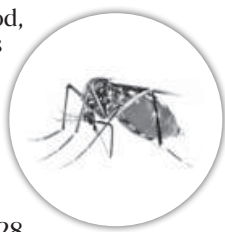
The recent fatalities occurred in the Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC).

During the period, 354 more patients were hospitalised with viral fever, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Some 3,028 patients are receiving treatment in different hospitals across the country. A total of 90,794 dengue cases have been reported since January 1, 2024.

Experts have attributed the surge in dengue fatalities this year to the nationwide lack of mosquito control measures by the relevant authorities. Besides, late hospitalisation, multiple infections, and false detection are also blamed for the rise.

According to entomologists, the two Dhaka city corporations did not take adequate measures to identify and destroy active clusters of Aedes mosquitoes and their larvae this year.



FAKIR CHAN BAKERY IN BARISHAL

A legacy of four generations

SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barishal

When you visit the Chawkbazar intersection in Barishal city, you will find a beautiful aroma wafting in the air. It will captivate your heart and soul, but even more importantly, your stomach.

As you walk towards the scent, you will find yourself standing before the Fakir Chan Bakery. Over 110 years old, the bakery is one of Barishal's oldest bakeries.

Originally just a small one-storey tin house, it has now become a two-storey building, all of it located on three decimals of land.

For over a century, this establishment has been making bread and biscuits, according to the head baker Shah Alam.

"My father, Hasan Ali Mistry, also worked here. I began working here when I was around eight years old. Apart from bread, we make 15 different types of biscuits in three categories – sweet, salty, and toast. Additionally, three types of cakes – Fruit, Maltova, and Plain – are made here, alongside chanchur and pastries. We make all these items in the morning and afternoon in our 22-foot-long oven," Shah Alam explained.

He shared that he learned most of his baking skills from his father, who used to make biscuits in this bakery.

"When Fakir Chan Bakery was established, there were no other bakeries in the area. At that time, it used to sell bread in large quantities. However, nowadays, the sale of biscuits

has increased a lot. Earlier, we sold 25kg of biscuits daily, but now that number is usually 60kg," said Shah Alam.

The founder of the bakery, Fakir Chan, was a perfume merchant. He came to Dhaka from Delhi in search of making his fortune. Currently, the bakery is looked after by Ahmadullah Rakib, the great-grandson of Fakir Chan. This bakery has been in his family for four generations now.

Rakib lives in Dhaka but travels to Barishal twice a month to supervise the business.



"Back in the day, Fakir Chan supplied bakery items to the British Army. Later, the British Army requested that he set up a bakery and supply these items. So, he set up his factory, which is now the bakery, on three decimals of land in Barishal," said Rakib.

"The British government originally leased this land to him. Between 1912 and 1915, this bakery was established in the South Chawkbazar area of Barishal city. Soon afterwards, its reputation spread everywhere," Rakib explained.

Rakib added that the main reason for

their long-standing reputation is their use of quality ingredients. For example, they use ghee when making biscuits, which makes them taste richer and smell even nicer.

Some of the top-selling items at the bakery include Ovaltine biscuits, Semai biscuits, Dhalai biscuits, Cosmos biscuits, Badami biscuits, Nonta biscuits, Chan toast, and Noli toast, among others.

While visiting the factory, it was seen that biscuits and cakes lay scattered around a large wooden bowl. One person is meticulously taking biscuits out of the oven, while another is cutting the biscuits into separate pieces. Then, a third person fills them into tin jars.

The beautiful aroma you smell once you approach Fakir Chan Bakery is even stronger here and almost demands that you try these wonderful treats.

Tota Mia, who has been the manager of this bakery for over 50 years, said 18 people, including factory and shop workers, work here.

At least 12 types of licenses are required for running the establishment, he said, adding that all these have caused their costs to rise.

"But we do not want to reduce the quality, as this quality is why all the bread is sold out within an hour of being baked," he said.

Rakib said, "We have no intention to expand the business, despite profits getting thinner, as it'll be difficult to ensure quality. I just want to maintain the reputation of our ancestors."



'16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM' Inner Wheel brings out procession

CITY DESK

The District 328 of Inner Wheel, one of the world's largest international voluntary women's organisations, on Thursday brought out a procession in the capital to observe the "16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence."

Inner Wheel works to empower women and support disadvantaged communities.

The procession was held under the initiative of Dhaka Cosmopolitan Club, which belongs to Inner Wheel District 328.

It started from Dr Fazle Rabbi Park in Gulshan and marched through the Gulshan Avenue area. The members participated in the procession in orange dresses, holding various banners and placards to raise awareness about violence against women.

In her speech, District Chairman Shahana Alam Nirjhar said Inner Wheel will keep contributing towards creating a world free from violence and discrimination.

ATTACK ON PROTESTS

Five Mohila AL leaders arrested in capital

UNB, Dhaka

Five Mohila Awami League leaders were arrested on Thursday in connection with an attack on anti-discrimination student protests in Dhaka's Pallabi.

Talebur Rahman, deputy commissioner (media) of DMP, confirmed the information.

The arrestees are Babli Begum, 43, a leader of the Pallabi Thana Ward 6 unit of Mohila Awami League; Sabina Yasmin Juthi, 38, general secretary of the same unit; Rita Akhter, 40, organizational secretary; Nazma Akhter Sathi, 30, vice president; and Khadija Begum, 34, assistant organisational secretary.

According to Pallabi police, the incident occurred on August 4, 2024, near Mirpur-10's Popular-2 Diagnostic Center.

Victim Md Abid, joining a protest demanding the government's resignation, was severely injured when Awami League activists attacked the demonstrators using firearms and other weapons.

Abid was shot in his right eye and later treated at the National Institute of Ophthalmology and Hospital.

Following a complaint by Abid's brother, Zinnat Sayeedi, a case was filed on November 12.

Police used CCTV footage to identify and arrest the suspects, and sent them to court.

19 months on

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However, the bench's jurisdiction was reconstituted under routine administrative reshuffling by then Chief Justice Obaidul Hassan, leaving the matter in limbo. Subsequent attempts to bring the case before other HC benches were met with refusals, as both benches cited seniority concerns.

"After the High Court bench led by Justice Farah Mahbub was reconstituted, I presented the rule before

two other High Court benches, led by Justice Md Khasruzzaman and Justice Md Jahangir Hossain. However, they declined to hear the rule, saying that they are junior to Justice Farah Mahbub," said Manoj.

After the fall of the Awami League regime, jurisdiction has been restored to Justice Farah Mahbub's bench, said Barrister Manoj Kumar Bhownick, the writ petitioner.

"I have already mentioned the matter before the bench for hearing and disposal of the rule. I hope a date will be fixed soon," he told The Daily Star.

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Invitation for Tender (IFT) for the Cash Vault.	
Project Name	BRAC Finance & Accounts.
Tender Name	Supply 248 Nos. Cash Vault.
Invitation for Tender No. & Date	BPD/2024/IFT-2966, Date: 19-11-2024
Tender Package No.	BPD/2024/IFT-2966
Source of Fund	BRAC Own Fund
Time of Delivery	As Per Tender Schedule.
Price of Tender Schedule	BDT:1,000 (Non-Refundable)
Tender schedule fee to be paid through Bank Account Number: 1501100901911001, BRAC Bank, Gulshan Branch. (Also, send a picture of the deposit Slip to the following email address & what's up no. rubela@brac.net & 01719262589	
Tender Security	As Per Tender Schedule
Pre-Bid Meeting Date, Time & Meeting Link	Date:08/12/2024 at 11.00 AM, meet.google.com/uqn-uaty-moy
Tender Documents Availability on e-tender platform & Tender Dropping (Online), Date & Time	https://tender.brac.net/ (Go to live tender from the dashboard after entering the above URL and search for the Tender Ref. No. BPD/2024/IFT-2966)
Tender Opening Place, Date & Time (Online Opening)	BPD/2024/IFT-2966 22-12-2024, 3:00 PM through Google meet, link: meet.google.com/dxd-hggq-ntu
BRAC Tower, 65, Mohakhali, Dhaka- 1212 Phone: 0222281265-72, Ext No.5498 or Mob: 01708498574	

Roads grow deadlier

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approximately 200,000 professional heavy vehicle drivers, falling short of the 300,000 registered buses, trucks, covered vans, and lorries. This shortage often forces operators to assign untrained and unlicensed drivers.

Government guidelines limit driving to five consecutive hours and eight hours daily, yet enforcement remains weak. Drivers, motivated by financial pressure, frequently exceed these limits.

"In most cases, we push ourselves to take extra trips to earn a bit more, but it comes at a cost. Fatigue sets in, and accidents become a real possibility," said Rafiq Ahmed, a truck driver.

In June 2018, the government proposed building rest facilities for drivers and enforcing their work-hour limits.

However, these measures remain largely unimplemented, exacerbating risks.

POLITICAL INFLUENCE AND ENFORCEMENT BARRIERS
Reforms to improve road safety, such as limiting commercial vehicle lifespans to 20 years for buses and 25 years for trucks, have faced resistance from transport associations.

An official from the transport ministry explained how political influence complicates the enforcement.

"Local leaders involved with the party in power manage

transport, while central leaders dominate buses and trucks," the official said, seeking anonymity.

Mozammel Haque Chowdhury, secretary general of Bangladesh Jatri Kalyan Samity, criticised the previous government for failing to improve the transport sector.

He warned that the current administration must act decisively to address rising crashes or face public backlash.

He urged the formation of a Transport Sector Reform Commission, involving all stakeholders, to address the crisis. **TECHNOLOGY AND REFORM**
Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), in collaboration with Japan International Cooperation Agency, recently launched the Database and Analysis of Road Crash app under the Dhaka Road Traffic Safety Project.

"The app provides real-time crash analysis and helps identify high-risk areas, enabling us to address root causes," said Additional Police Commissioner (Traffic) Khondoker Nazmul Hasan.

He stressed the need for joint efforts by vehicle owners, drivers, and government agencies to improve safety.

Transport expert Prof Shamsul Hoque said past investments in the sector failed to enhance safety.

"The sector is controlled by a vicious circle of transport leaders, police, and politicians," he said.

However, he pointed out that the interim government has the opportunity to restore order.

"With influential transport leaders on the run and major changes in the police administration, there is a unique opportunity to impose discipline," he added.

Electoral

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"The role of the media in elections is important. But in the last three elections, some media deliberately did not tell the truth, while some others were even forced not to tell the truth," he said.

The reform commission chief said ensuring the participation of women voters and expatriate voters could be a challenge for the Election Commission.

Citing that the election system reform is important, Dr Majumdar said but time must be given for reform (in the electoral system).

Fertiliser

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government rate of Tk 1,300.

The same court also fined Nurnabi Majumder Traders Tk 2 lakh on charge of black marketing the agro products through brokers instead of selling the items directly to the growers, the UNO said.

After conducting the drive, the court handed over the convicted trader to police.

DU students march

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streets of the campus, holding flags of Palestine and chanting slogans in support of an independent Palestinian state.

The demonstrators showcased banners, placards and festoons bearing messages such as – "You don't need to be a Muslim to stand up for Palestine, you just need to be human," "Freedom for Palestine", "Stop the genocide in Gaza" and "Stop war crimes against children".

Speaking to this correspondent, students said the people of Bangladesh have consistently shown their unwavering solidarity with the people of Palestine, standing in support of their struggle since the beginning of the brutal and inhumane attacks carried out by Israel. From the onset of the violence, Bangladeshis have rallied together, raising their voices in condemnation of the aggression and offering moral and humanitarian support to

the Palestinian cause. This deep sense of empathy and unity stems not only from shared experiences of suffering but also from a historical bond.

"During Bangladesh's own struggle for freedom from the former autocratic government, especially during the July Uprising, the people of Palestine served as a symbol of resilience and strength. Their courage in the face of oppression inspired many Bangladeshis, who drew boldness and hope from their unyielding fight for freedom," said Abu Baker Majumder, a leader of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement.

"Today, this solidarity continues, as Bangladesh stands beside Palestine, both as a moral supporter and a compassionate ally in the ongoing fight for justice and peace," he added.

They also organised a cultural evening at the Teacher-Student Centre in the evening.

64pc think minorities

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The survey revealed a divide in perceptions of safety between Muslims and minorities. Among Muslim respondents, only 13.9 percent felt the situation had worsened under the caretaker government. However, 33.9 percent of minority respondents believed their security had declined.

The VOA survey found that while 66.1 percent of Muslim respondents believe that the interim government is providing more security to minorities than the Awami League government, 39.5 percent of respondents from religious minorities agree with this notion as well.

Tk 19 lakh fine

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"Public awareness is growing, and we are witnessing gradual improvements," he said.

"Awareness campaigns, providing alternatives, and strict enforcement are advancing simultaneously," added Tapan.

During the monitoring activity, market committee members acknowledged the harmful effects of polythene usage and pledged to adopt eco-friendly alternatives.

Officials from the environment ministry, law enforcement agencies, and representatives from the media participated in the operation.

Arrange

FROM PAGE 3

any way," he added.

BLAST's legal experts Ayesha Akhtar, Tajul Islam, Khandaker Shahrir Shakir, Aminul Haque, Shihab Ahmed Sirajee, Rabiul Islam Rabi, Nafiul Alam Supta, SM Rezaul Karim, Abid Hossain Ansari, Barkat Ali, Md Mashur Rahman and Namita Rani Biswas and its research officer Fahad Bin Siddiquee and Advocacy and Communication Director Mahbuba Aktar, among others, spoke at the programme.

PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 30					
Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
AZAN 5-10	12-45	3-45	5-19	7-00	
JAMAAT 5-45	1-15	4-00	5-22	7-30	
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION					