

## Preserve food of ethnic minorities Says fisheries adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government has taken significant steps to curb the sale of adulterated food, said Farida Akhter, adviser to the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, yesterday.

Speaking at the inauguration of the two-day "Indigenous Food and Grain Fair 2024" at Bonoful Indigenous Greenheart College in Mirpur-13, she said, "Contaminated food is a major cause of complex diseases, including cancer. The government has implemented noteworthy measures to address this issue."

The event was jointly organised by Nagorik Uddyog and Maha Pragma Education Trust.

Highlighting the importance of agricultural production in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, Farida Akhter said the region's contribution to food grain production, including 82 fish species in Kaptai Lake and the production of pure vegetables. She urged collective efforts to preserve the food and culture of ethnic communities.

Prajananda Mahathero, president of Maha Pragma Education Trust, said indigenous students get limited access to higher education in Dhaka, highlighting the socio-economic challenges faced by the community.

Zakir Hossain, chief executive of Nagorik Uddyog, said the unique culture and agriculture of over 54 communities, including Bangalees, must be preserved.

Prof Robaet Ferdous of Dhaka University raised

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8



Performers from indigenous communities present a vibrant traditional dance during the inauguration of the two-day "Indigenous Food and Grain Fair 2024" at the Bonoful Indigenous Greenheart College in Mirpur-13 of the capital yesterday. The fair, jointly organised by Nagorik Uddyog and Maha Pragma Education Trust, will conclude today.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Fire breaks out at Uttara restaurant

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A fire broke out at a restaurant in Dhaka's Uttara yesterday morning, which was later brought under control after around three and a half hours.

Twelve firefighting engines worked to douse the blaze after it originated around 10:38am at Love Leen restaurant at Uttara-12, said Anwarul Islam, a fire station official.

He added the fire was brought under control around 2:02pm, and seven people were rescued.

The cause of the fire could not be known immediately.

PRAYER TIMING DECEMBER 21					
Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
AZAN 5:25	12:45	3:45	5:24	7:00	
JAMAAT 6:00	1:15	4:00	5:27	7:30	
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION					

SUSHANTA GHOSH, from Bhola

Patients have raised complaints about the utterly poor and inadequate treatment facilities, as well as the lack of cleanliness in the 100-bed Char Fasson Upazila Health Complex in Bhola.

Visiting the health complex recently, this correspondent saw several patients were leaving after being deprived of proper treatment there.

"My 85-year-old father was admitted to the health complex with cardiac complications, but in the 72 hours since then, he received no treatment or attention whatsoever from the doctors and nurses here. So, we are taking him to Barishal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital for treatment," said Yanur Begum while leaving the hospital premises.

Nargis Begum, a patient admitted to the hospital with cold-related issues, echoed her. "I have been admitted here for two days. The treatment facilities here are grossly inadequate. Also, the surroundings are very dirty and unhygienic. I will return home and seek treatment elsewhere," she said.

This trend of patients leaving the hospital without receiving proper treatment has

been going on for quite a long while. While around 40 percent beds remain unoccupied, at least four or five patient leave the hospital for elsewhere due to dissatisfaction over treatment facilities provided in the hospital.

This correspondent also noticed that garbage has piled up at many places in and around the hospital premises, with no efforts to clean those up.



Patients also expressed dissatisfaction over the insufficient medicines and poor quality of food provided by the health complex. They also complained that the diagnostic services are largely non-functional, adding that brokers of numerous private

and diagnostic centres have plagued the hospital to the extent that patients are being compelled to get all necessary tests done outside, spending a hefty sum of money.

Talking to this correspondent, Dr Shovan Kumar Basak, upazila health and family officer of Char Fasson, said acute manpower shortage has severely affected the hospital's proper functioning.

"The hospital has 35 posts of doctors and consultants, but 18 of the posts have been lying vacant for a long time. Also, there is only one cleaner and two support staff at the hospital. Such manpower crisis makes it difficult to provide all services properly," he said.

"Even amid this situation, we are providing outdoor services to around 500 patients daily, while around 60-70 patients are provided treatment after they are admitted to the hospital. Even last month, around seven or eight surgeries were conducted at the hospital," he also said.

"Steps are being taken to improve the services. Budget allocation remains a key issue. Some 17 workers are being outsourced on an emergency basis to enhance cleanliness and other aspects," he added.

## CHAR FASSON UPAZILA HEALTH COMPLEX

# Poor, inadequate treatment facilities irk patients

## 8 idols vandalised in M'singh, Dinajpur

STAR REPORT

Unidentified miscreants vandalised three idols at two temples in Haluaghat upazila of Mymensingh between early Wednesday and Thursday, reports our Mymensingh correspondent.

Of these, two idols were damaged at Bonderpara Temple in Shakuai union on Wednesday, said Haluaghat Police Station Officer-in-Charge Md Abul Khayer, quoting locals and temple sources.

No case was filed, and no arrests were made till the filing of this report yesterday.

In another incident, an idol was vandalised at Polashkanda Kali Temple in Beeldora union of the same upazila early Thursday.

Suvash Chandra Sarker, president of the temple committee, filed a case against unknown persons.

Later, police arrested a man named Alal Uddin, 27, from Polashkanda village early yesterday.

Meanwhile, a Mymensingh court sent him to jail after he was produced before it, said the OC.

According to our Dinajpur correspondent, five idols were vandalised at Jharbari Shashan Kali Temple earlier on Tuesday.

The incident came to light on Thursday. "We've never seen such an act here," said Janardan Roy, president of the temple committee. Officer-in-Charge Abdul Gafur yesterday said they are investigating the incident.

## Five killed in road accidents in 2 dists Three die in Sylhet alone

STAR REPORT

Five people were killed in road accidents in two districts yesterday, according to reports from our correspondents.

Three people died after a private car hit an electric pillar on the side of the Sylhet-Tamabil highway in Damri of Sylhet's Jaintiapur upazila yesterday morning.

Of them, two died on the spot while another died from injuries after being taken to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital, said Mohammad Habibur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Tamabil Highway Police Outpost. However, their identities are yet to be confirmed, he said.

Around 10:00am, during heavy mist over the highway, the Jaflong-bound car lost control and hit the roadside electric pillar. Locals found two persons dead and took three others to the hospital.

The other injured persons are undergoing treatment at the hospital, the police official added.

In Dinajpur, two motorcyclists were killed as their motorcycle collided head-on with a speeding truck in Birganj upazila, said Birganj police.

The deceased -- identified as Dipu Roy, 30, and Madhab Roy, 25 -- were residents of Mashalpur village in Chirirbandar upazila, Dinajpur.

They went to Thakurgaon from Chirirbandar upazila in Dinajpur riding motorcycle on Thursday and were returning home. Madhab died on the spot and Dipu succumbed to his injuries at Birganj Upazila Health Complex.

Police seized the truck but its driver and helper fled the spot.



Farmers plant Boro seedlings using a rice transplanter under the supervision of Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation. They work from 8:00am to 3:00pm daily and earn Tk 500. The photo was taken from the Lakutia area of Barishal Sadar upazila recently.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

## Rohingya child killed in landslide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A Rohingya child was killed and two other children seriously injured in a landslide in Ukhiya upazila of Cox's Bazar yesterday.

The deceased is Syed Ullah, 10, son of Imam Hussain of Shabullah Kata Rohingya camp, said police.

The injured Syed Noor, 15, and Enayet Rahman, 10, are also residents of the same camp.

The incident took place around 12:00pm at Camp 15 in Ukhiya, said Arif Hossain, officer-in-charge (OC) of Ukhiya Police Station.

The injured are being treated at a hospital, said the policeman.

Local Rohingyas said a huge chunk of earth fell on the children while they were playing on the foot of a hill in Shabullah Kata Rohingya Camp 15.

Locals and firefighters went to the spot and rescued them.

The three were taken to a nearby hospital where doctors declared Syed dead, they added.

## Leader of Maulana

FROM PAGE 3

four dead and 50 injured. Both factions blamed each other during separate press conferences in Dhaka.

Habibullah Raihan, media coordinator for Zubair's faction, accused Saad's followers of undermining the faith and pledged to file more cases.

He said that Maulana Saad's followers claim the current issue is caused by a third-party in the Tabligh movement.

"We want to clarify that the Tabligh movement is vital to the faith, and ulema are its protectors. Maulana Saad cannot repeatedly undermine the efforts of the faith through his actions, while the ulema

remain silent. This can never happen," he added.

In Mirpur, Maulana Junaid Al-Habib of Hefazat-e-Islam termed the violence a premeditated attempt to destabilise the interim government.

Despite the tensions, both groups plan to hold their phases of the Biswa Ijtema as scheduled next year. Zubair's faction will gather from January 31 to February 2, while Saad's will convene from February 7 to 9.

Saad's followers alleged political interference within Tabligh is threatening communal harmony and demanded Maulana Saad's participation in the Ijtema.

[Gazipur correspondent contributed to this report.]

## Limping

FROM PAGE 3

the night shift remains non-operational."

**NAZIRABAZAR MATRI SADAN**

Nazirabazar Matri Sadan, established in 2002 to provide maternal healthcare, faces critical manpower and infrastructure shortages.

Patients complain that outpatient services, scheduled to operate until 2:30pm, often close by 1:30pm.

Located on Bangashal New Road, the hospital is surrounded by narrow, congested streets, exacerbating access issues.

Inside, the six-story building has sparse activity.

The service centre on the second floor had one nurse on duty but no patients during a morning visit, while the third-floor wards were underused.

Talking to this correspondent, service seekers expressed frustration.

Rashida Khatun, from Mokim Bazar, said, "Doctors are not always available. Even when they are, basic medicines are missing. How can a maternity hospital lack essential medicines for expectant mothers?"

Faruk Ahmed, who sought care for his wife but left disappointed, said, "The hospital has failed to serve the community effectively. Despite having facilities, the lack of staff and medicines erodes trust."

Deputy Director Sathi Khanam acknowledged the challenges. "We have acquired an ultrasound machine and can conduct blood-type tests, but a lack of trained personnel prevents full utilisation. The shortage of doctors is another pressing issue," she said.

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Memo No. 35.01.9100.010.07.5/608(ka).24-4061

Dated : 19/12/2024

### Tender Corrigendum - 03

Tender Package No : 01/PSN/SRC/2024-2025(Re-Tender)  
Tender Package Name : Upgradation, Operation and Maintenance of a Real-time Web based Toll collection system of "Fenchugonj Bridge" Toll Plaza at 36th Km of Moulibazar-Rajnagar-Fenchugonj-Sylhet Road(N-208) Under Sylhet Road Division during the year 2024-2025 for 03 (Three) years."

This is to notified for all concern that, the following amendments has been made to the Invitation of Tender Ref. No. 35.01.9100.010.07.5/608(ka).24-3636; Dated: 11.11.2024 for procurement of Non-Consulting Services.

IFT Notice SL No	Name of Criteria	Published in newspaper/Tender	Amendments
17	Tender Last Selling Date	22-12-2024 and 04.00 pm	05-01-2025 and 05.00 pm
18	Tender Submission Date and Time	23-12-2024 and 12.00 pm	06-01-2025 and 12.00 pm
19	Tender Opening Date and Time	23-12-2024 and 01.00 pm	06-01-2025 and 01.00 pm

All other terms & conditions will remain unchanged. This corrigendum notice will be treated as a part & parcel of the tender.

*(Signature)*  
(Abbas Uddin Ahmed)  
ID No-601944  
Superintending Engineer (C.C.), RHD  
Sylhet Road Circle, Sylhet.

GD- 1235