

Jatra Pala, a tradition rooted in rural winters

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

On a chilly December evening in Hatbati village, under the open sky, the air was filled with a sense of nostalgia and excitement. Wrapped in warm shawls and blankets, villagers from Batiaghata upazila in Khulna gathered at the District Satsang Ashram Centre to witness something that many thought was slowly fading away: a Jatra Pala performance.

For decades, Jatra Pala -- an elaborate blend of storytelling, music, and dance -- had been a cornerstone of rural Bangladesh's winter celebrations. After the autumn harvest, entire communities would come together to enjoy nightlong performances, losing themselves in tales of history, folklore, and social values. But in

recent years, this vibrant tradition had been overshadowed by the rapid rise of technology and changing cultural preferences.

This year, however, a glimmer of hope emerged. The Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, in collaboration with its Khulna District branch, organised a seven-day Jatra Festival to breathe new life into this nearly forgotten art form.

Starting on December 19, the festival transformed Hatbati village into a hub of activity. Each night till December 25, hundreds of spectators, young and old, flocked to the stage. Some brought makeshift stools, while others simply sat on the ground, huddled together to ward off the cold.

The performances were nothing short of mesmerising. With expressive dialogues, stirring music, and vibrant costumes, the troupes transported the audience to another world -- one where tradition and creativity thrived hand in hand.

"I hadn't seen a Jatra in years," said Tripti Bairagi, a resident of Chak Soilmari village. "People stayed until the SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



A thick cloud of dust envelops the Khulna-Jashore highway, which remains in a long-neglected and dilapidated condition, posing health risks to people. The photo was taken in Khulna's Chengutia area yesterday.

ACCUSATION OF CATTLE THEFT

Man forced to drink acid mixture, later dies

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A man died yesterday, a day after being beaten and forced to drink a mixture of acid, limestone, and sand, on allegations of cattle theft in Sylhet's Gowainghat upazila.

The deceased, Helal Mia, 35, was a resident of Ghoshgram village in the upazila.

Quoting the victim's relatives, Sarkar Tofail Ahmed, officer-incharge of Gowainghat Police Station, said Helal became severely ill yesterday morning and began vomiting.

He was declared dead shortly after being taken to Gowainghat Upazila Health Complex around 6:00am.

Additionally, a teenager from Chargram Chatol Haor village, who was also tortured alongside Helal, is undergoing treatment at Sylhet MAG Osman Medical College Hospital, the

incident occurred at Radhanagar village on Tuesday, he

A video of the torture has gone viral on social media. It shows a group of people assaulting Helal and the teenager, who appeared barely able to move.

The teenager was forced to beat Helal with a stick.

Hafiz Ullah, a former member of the upazila's Daubari Union Parishad, said, "I heard about the incident... and learned that the victims were handed over to their relatives. They were beaten and forced to consume acid water mixed with limestone and sand. Police attempted to rescue the alleged thieves twice, but locals prevented them.

OC Tofail further said, "They were SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

Take lead in building a humane nation

Jamaat ameer urges doctors

UNB, Dhaka

Calling upon the medical community to their due role in societal development, Jamaat-e-Islami's Ameer Dr Shafiqur Rahman said doctors have the power to create a more humane nation.

He said this while addressing the National Medical Conference, held at the China Friendship Conference Center in the capital yesterday.

Shafiqur urged doctors to take the lead in building SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

JCD leader beaten to death 'by BNP men'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

A Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader was beaten to death allegedly by some BNP men during a clash in Narayanganj's Rupganj upazila on Tuesday night.

The deceased, Pavel Mia, was the former convener of JCD's Kanchan municipality unit.

He was assaulted around 10:30pm by a group of BNP men, following a dispute, said Mehedi Islam, senior assistant superintendent of police in Narayanganj.

According to police and locals, an argument broke out between Shuvo, a Swechchhasebak League activist, and Aminul Islam, member secretary of the Swechchhasebak Dal's Kanchan unit.

Later, Md Bayejid, general secretary of a BNP ward unit, intervened on Shuvo's behalf.

Bayejid, along with local BNP activist Jahangir and their followers, set out to find Aminul. On their way, they encountered Pavel and attacked him, said police.

Pavel was taken to a local private hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

Following Pavel's death, his followers set fire to three tin-shed houses belonging to members of the opposing faction.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

'We're on alert to prevent Rohingya infiltration' Says DG of Coast Guard

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Rohingyas attempt to infiltrate into Bangladesh daily, and the Coast Guard pushes them back, said Director General of the Bangladesh Coast Guard Rear Admiral Ziaul Haque yesterday.

He mentioned that Rohingyas are now using routes other than the Naf river to enter the country, often with the help of some locals.

He urged locals to assist the forces in preventing such infiltration more effectively.

He made the remarks while visiting the Myanmar border areas in Teknaf and Saint Martin's Island in Cox's Bazar.

"Teknaf and Saint Martin's are close to the Myanmar border, so the Coast Guard works around the clock to ensure security. The ongoing conflict between Myanmar's junta and the Arakan Army has intensified, with the junta forces facing defeats. While shelling across the border has SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



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Invitation for Re-Tender

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

	GOVE	CIVINILIAI OI	THETEOL	LE 3 REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH	
1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Science & Technology			
2.	Agency	Atomic Energy Centre, Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission, Dhaka.			
3.	Procuring Entity Name		ergy Centre		
4.	Procuring Entity Code	N/A			
5.	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka			
6.	Invitation for	Tender			
7.	Invitation Ref No	39.01.2675.238.26.010.17			
8.	Date	22-12-2024			
	Date	12 12 202		FORMATION	
9.	Procurement Method	Open Tend	lering Meth		
				ional Competitive Tender (NCT)	
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10.	Budget and Source of Funds		GOB		
11.	Development Partners	v.	N/A		
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12.	Tender Package No.	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	N/A	N III ORGANIZATION	
13.	Tender Package Name		Hiring of Transportation Service		
14.	Tender Publication Date		26-12-2024		
15.	Tender Last Selling Date		The state of the s	07-01-2025 until 4.00 PM	
16.	Tender Submission date &	Cime .			
17.	Tender Opening Date and T	The state of the s	08-01-2025, 12:30 PM		
18.	Name & Address of the offi			Energy Centre, 4-Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Shahbag, Dhaka-100	
10.	-Selling Tender Document (Principal)		Accounts Officer, Accounts section, Atomic Energy Centre, 4-Kazi Nazru		
	-Setting Tender Document (Principal)		Islam Avenue, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000		
	Salling Tondon Dogument (Others)		N/A	enue, Shanbag, Dhaka-1000	
	- Selling Tender Document (Others) - Receiving Tender Document			ee Room (1st Floor), Tender Should be dropped into the tender	
	- Receiving Tender Document		box kept at the office of the Administrative Branch, Atomic Energy Centre		
			4-Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000		
	- Opening Tender Document		Committee Room (1st Floor), Atomic Energy Centre, 4-Kazi Nazrul Islan		
	- Opening Tender Document		Avenue, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000		
19.	Place/Date/Time of Pre-Tender Meeting			ee Room (1st Floor), Atomic Energy Centre, 4-Kazi Nazrul Islan	
19.	(Optional)			Shahbag, Dhaka-1000, Date: 06-01-2025, 11.00 AM	
	Орионан	INEC		N FOR TENDERER	
20.	Eligibility of Tenderer	INFO	(i)	Up-to-date trade license	
20.	Engionity of Tenderer		(ii)	Up-to-date Income tax clearing certificate	
				15 (1 to 5 to	
			(iii)	VAT registration certificate	
			(iv)	Updated vehicle tax token, fitness certificate and Proposed vehicle	
			6.3	registration certificate	
			(v)	Shall have minimum 03 (Three) years of specific experience in	
				providing of similar Jobs and related services in Government	
				Semi-Government/Semi-Autonomous/Autonomous Organizatio	
				Any recognized private company to be shown and attested copie	
				of the relevant papers submitted with the tender and other a described in TDS.	
			(vi)	Non AC Minibus/ Ac Microbus/Ac Car shall be delivered	
			(11)	according to documents submitted in line with tender document.	
			(vii)	Financial Solvency Certificate with Bank Statement	
			(viii)	- A	
٠.	D 1 4 D			Other detail instructions given into the tender schedule	
21.				and dropping of the Officers and Staff of the Atomic Energy Centre, sh Atomic Energy Commission, 4-Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, G.P.O. 64,Shahbag, Dhaka-1000 and their residence respectively through utes as described in the Tender Document at Dhaka City.	

Non AC Minibus-2018 & above · Ac Microbus-2018 & above Ac Car: 2018 & above Body of Vehicles: Hino/Aftab automobiles/ motors/Obi Nissan motors /Uttara motors/Hiyes/corolla or similar quality. · Vehicles shall be minimum seated are given below: Non AC Minibus-36 seat (No. of 03), AC Microbus-10 seat (No. of 02), AC Car - 05 seat (No. of 01) Vehicles shall be in good condition according to satisfaction of committee. How to Obtain Tender Document Tender documents should be collected hand on cash payment of the amount (non-refundable) mentioned on all working days during office hours up to 07/01/2025 on written request to and permission from the undersigned with the application on the letter head pad of the firm. Price of Tender Document (Tk.) TK. 1000/- (Taka One Thousand) only payable in cash payment. (Non-Refundable) Identification of Lot Completion Time in Tender Security Location Lot Weeks/ Months From Amount (Tk.) No. date of Contract signing Atomic Energy Centre, 24 Mirpur-12,11,10 to Atomic 38,000/-24 (Twenty Four) Energy Centre, Dhaka Up and 4- KaziNazrul Islam (Thirty eight thousand Months from the date Down. Avenue, Shahbag, Tk. only) of Contract Signing (Non AC Minibus-36 seat) Dhaka-1000 or as per contract Atomic Energy Centre, Mirpur-14,13,10,2,1 to Atomic 38,000/-4- KaziNazrul Islam Energy Centre, Dhaka Up and (Thirty eight thousand Avenue, Shahbag, Down. Tk. only) (Non AC Minibus-36 seat) Dhaka-1000 38,000/-26 05 Mirpur-2 (60 Feet) to Atomic Atomic Energy Centre, Energy Centre, Dhaka Up and 4- KaziNazrul Islam (Thirty eight thousand Down.(Non AC Minibus-36 seat) Avenue, Shahbag, Tk. only) Dhaka-1000 27 Mirpur12,07,10(banarosipolli)-Atomic Energy Centre, 30,000/-Mirpur 02- to Atomic Energy 4- KaziNazrul Islam (Thirty thousand Tk. Centre, Dhaka Up and Down. Avenue, Shahbag, only) (AC Microbus- 10 seat) Dhaka-1000 28 Badshamia road-Demra to Atomic Energy Centre, 30,000/-Atomic Energy Centre, Dhaka 4- KaziNazrul Islam (Thirty thousand Tk. Up and Down. Avenue, Shahbag, only) (AC Microbus- 10 seat) Dhaka-1000 24,000/-29 13 Oasis at ispahani colony, Atomic Energy Centre, (Twenty four thousand Mogbazarto Atomic Energy 4- KaziNazrul Islam Centre, Dhaka Up and Avenue, Shahbag, Tk. only) Down.(AC Car- 05 seat) Dhaka-1000 (The route is subject to change according to the residence of the director) Tender security Bank draft/ Pay order/ Bank guarantee (According to PSN-04 form the tender document) in favor of "Atomic Energy Centre, Dhaka" from any schedule bank of Bangladesh. PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS Name of Official Inviting Tender Rokeya Begum, Atomic Energy Centre, Dhaka Designation of Official Inviting Tender Administrative Officer, Atomic Energy Centre, Dhaka. Address of Official Inviting Tender Atomic Energy Centre, 4-Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000 Contact details of Official Inviting Tender Tel. No:02-58610256; Fax No.: 88-02-58617946 E-mail:adminaecd@baec.gov.bd The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject all the Tenders without any explanation. This tender shall be governed by "The Public Procurement Act 2006 and The Public Procurement Regulations 2008"

Model of Vehicles:

