Man, daughter die as bus hits bike in Jashore

Mob sets bus on fire

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Benapole*

Two people on a motorcycle were killed and three others injured when a bus ran them over in the Pulerhat area of Jashore yesterday.

The deceased are Rubel Hossain 32, and his daughter, Oishi, 10, of Mujgunni in Khulna, said Jashore Kotwali Police Station OC Kazi Babul.

Rubel's wife, Jasmine Begum, 28, their other daughter, Tayba, 5, and a pedestrian, Osman, 19, were also injured in the incident, he said.

After the accident, a mob set the bus on fire.

The incident took place in the afternoon when the family of four was returning home to Khulna's Mujgunni after visiting Jasmine's parents, said police and witnesses.

When they reached the Pulerhat area of Jashore, a local bus hit them from behind. Rubel and Oishi were crushed to death under the wheels of the bus while Jasmine and Tayba were seriously injured.

When the bus was trying to flee after the accident, it ran over and injured Osman.

Locals at that time caught the bus and set it on fire. Later, fire service personnel brought the fire under control.

The injured are being treated at the Jashore General Hospital.

OC Babul said the bodies of the deceased have been sent to the Jashore General Hospital morgue for autopsy. An investigation is currently underway and legal action will be taken, he said.

3-year-old boy drowns in ditch

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Thakurgaon*

A three-year-old boy drowned in a ditch at Lahiri Singia village in Thakurgaon's Baliadangi upazila yesterday.

The victim, Noman Ali, 3, had been playing in the courtyard of their house since morning while other family members were occupied. At one point, he fell in the ditch adjacent to the courtyard.

After noticing his absence, family members and neighbours started searching for him. Around noon, they found his body in the ditch, said Inspector Dibakar Odhikari of Baliadangi Police Station.

An unnatural death case was filed.

People enjoy various activities such as boating at the Ramna Park, while others look on to enjoy the sights and scenes. On the fourth day of Eid yesterday, people continued to enjoy the holidays in full swing.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Watermelon farming on rise in Ctg region

MD NAZRUL ISLAM, *Chattogram*

The popularity of watermelon cultivation has been steadily on the rise in the Chattogram region.

Among the five districts in the Chattogram agricultural region, Noakhali recorded the highest watermelon cultivation this year, followed by Lakshmipur.

The absence of rain during the growing season has contributed to the increased yield, as experts note that heavy rainfall can damage the harvest.

Various watermelon varieties, including Victor Sugar, Ocean Sugar, Gori, Banglalink, Blackberry, and local types, have been cultivated in the region this year.

Statistical data from the Chattogram agricultural extension department over the past three years show that in 2023, watermelon was cultivated on 9,723 hectares of land in the five districts of the Chattogram agricultural region.

In 2024, the cultivated area dropped to 7,381 hectares but increased again to 7,814 hectares in 2025, marking a rise of 433 hectares compared to the previous year. The districts under the Chattogram agricultural region include Chattogram, Cox's Bazar, Feni, Noakhali, and Lakshmipur.

In Noakhali alone, watermelon was cultivated on 7,590 hectares in 2023. However, the cultivated area has been declining since then, dropping to 5,327 hectares in 2024 and 3,304 hectares in 2025.

In contrast, Lakshmipur ranked second in cultivation, with 993 hectares in 2023 and a slight decrease to 891 hectares in 2024. However, in 2025, the cultivated area surged to 2,936 hectares, ensuring a good harvest for farmers.

Feni has recorded the highest yield in the Chattogram agricultural region this year, producing 46 tonnes per hectare. Noakhali follows with 45 tonnes per hectare, while Chattogram recorded 43 tonnes, Cox's Bazar 40 tonnes, and Lakshmipur 26 metric tonnes per hectare. The harvest in Lakshmipur is expected to continue for another month.

Md Nasir Uddin, additional director of the Chattogram Regional Agricultural Extension Department, said, "Since there has been no significant rain this year, farmers have achieved a good yield. In areas without irrigation facilities, light rain can be beneficial for watermelon production."

He said Mirsharai in Chattogram, Noakhali, and Lakshmipur have seen good yields this year, with production ranging from 40 to 46 tonnes per hectare.

In Chattogram district, watermelon has been cultivated on 674 hectares, with Mirsharai upazila leading with 480 hectares. Farmers in the coastal areas of Ichakhali and Saherkhali in Mirsharai have engaged in large-scale watermelon farming.

Siddiq Ahmed, a watermelon farmer from Saherkhali in Mirsharai, said farmers from Subarnachar in Noakhali are leasing land in the area for commercial watermelon farming due to the favourable farming and marketing facilities.

Youth dies after 'being thrown off building' in Mirpur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A youth died after allegedly being thrown off the sixth floor of an under-construction building in Dhaka's Mirpur area on Wednesday afternoon.

The deceased is Sahidul Hasan Jitu, 23, a day labourer.

The incident took place on Isha Khan Road in Paikpara.

Sahidul was found in a bloodied state at the bottom of the building's open elevator shaft. He was taken to the National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopedic Rehabilitation where he died while undergoing treatment, said Mizanur Rahman, assistant commissioner of police (Mirpur zone).

Police arrested one person named Md Sabbir, 23, after the victim's mother filed a case against him and two other unnamed persons, the police official said. During initial interrogation, the arrestee admitted to killing Sahidul.

Sazzat Romon, officer-in-charge of Mirpur Police Station, said Sahidul and Sabbir were friends.

A dispute ensued between Sahidul and Sabbir over admitting Sahidul's father to a drug rehabilitation centre, which led to multiple altercations between them.

According to police, Sabbir called Sahidul to meet him in front of the 10-storey under-construction building saying he wanted to settle their dispute. As Sahidul arrived there at around 3:30pm, Sabbir took him to the sixth floor where two or three unidentified individuals were waiting.

An argument ensued, and at one stage they pushed Sahidul into the building's open elevator shaft.

One in every 41 births

FROM PAGE 3

labour and delivery, and postnatal care recommendations, along with strengthening healthcare systems, is essential to reversing these trends.

The reports identify several factors contributing to high newborn mortality and stillbirth rates in Bangladesh. One of the key issues is the high number of home deliveries, which account for 30 percent of all births in the country. Many of these births take place without skilled medical assistance, increasing the risk of complications.

Another major concern is the limited access to specialised care for small and sick newborns. Many rural areas lack proper healthcare facilities, leaving newborns without essential medical attention.

The shortage of trained midwives also remains a critical issue. Many women do not have access to skilled birth attendants near their homes, making normal vaginal deliveries riskier, the report said.

Additionally, inadequate postnatal care and the absence of 24/7 quality healthcare services at the upazila level contribute to preventable deaths.

The unregulated private healthcare sector further complicates the situation, as inconsistent medical practices can lead to substandard care, the report said. It added that poor prenatal and labour care, along with the lack of prevention and management of pregnancy-related diseases, exacerbated the crisis. Insufficient funding and limited resources continue to hinder progress in reducing maternal and child mortality rates.

With only five years left to achieve the SDG targets, experts stress the need for immediate action. WHO and Unicef urged the interim government of Bangladesh to increase the number of facility births attended by skilled professionals, including midwives at the union level.

Expanding newborn care units in hospitals and community clinics is also crucial.

More trained nurses and midwives are needed to ensure better maternal and newborn care. Enhancing prenatal, delivery, and postnatal services can significantly improve survival rates.

Additionally, boosting funding for medical staff, essential drugs, and life-saving equipment is necessary to strengthen the healthcare system.

"Through strong government commitment, sustained investment in primary healthcare, and adherence to global best practices, we can prevent these tragic losses and build a healthier future for every child," said Jamsheed Mohamed.

Despite commendable progress, Bangladesh's healthcare system requires urgent reforms to curb preventable deaths and ensure a safer future for mothers and children, the report said, adding that the time to act is now.

TODAY MARKS THE 29TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF

Late Salahuddin Ahmad

(May 6, 1926-April 4, 1996)

Your memory has not dimmed, your presence felt eversomore.....May Allah (SW) grant you Jannatul Ferdous and rest your soul in eternal peace.

We humbly request all our relatives, friends and acquaintances to remember late Salahuddin Ahmad in their prayers.

Wife, children and grandchildren

রেজিস্ট্রার
গোপালগঞ্জ বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
গোপালগঞ্জ-৮১০৫।

স্মারক নং- গোবিপ্রবি/র/জ.প্র./২০২৫/৫৯(১)/৫৯৭

তারিখ: ২০ চৈত্র ১৪৩১ / ০৩ এপ্রিল ২০২৫

গেস্ট হাউজ ভাড়া নেওয়া সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

আলিষ্ট হয়ে জানাচ্ছি যে, গোপালগঞ্জ বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, গোপালগঞ্জ-এর ঢাকাস্থ গেস্ট হাউজ হিসেবে ব্যবহারের জন্য ধানমন্ডি, কলাবাগান, গ্রীণরোড, লালমাটিয়া এলাকায় ৩/৪ বেডরুম, ড্রইং, ডাইনিং এবং গ্যারেজের সুবিধাসহ ২৫০০ থেকে ৩০০০ বর্গফুট স্পেসের ফ্ল্যাট ভাড়া নেওয়া আবশ্যক। ফ্ল্যাট ভাড়া প্রদানে আগ্রহী ফ্ল্যাট মালিকগণকে ফ্ল্যাটের পূর্ণ বিবরণী, ফ্ল্যাটের অবস্থান, সুবিধাসহ মাসিক ভাড়া এবং অন্যান্য চার্জ উল্লেখপূর্বক সাদা কাগজ অথবা প্যাডে আগামী ২০/০৪/২০২৫ তারিখ বিকেল ০৫:০০ টার মধ্যে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর নিকট ডাকযোগে/নিম্নে প্রদত্ত ই-মেইলে কোটেশন জমা দেওয়ার জন্য বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ করা হলো।

(মোঃ মোরাদ হোসেন)
রেজিস্ট্রার (ভারপ্রাপ্ত)
ই-মেইল: registrar@gstu.edu.bd

GD-819

Ex-EC secy Helal under scrutiny

FROM PAGE 3

Uddin filed a case against 13 Rohingyas, a police officer, and three police personnel. Sharif was later dismissed from his position.

The ACC has now expanded its inquiry to include Helal's alleged role in the scheme.

Contacted, ACC Director General Akhtar Hossain said the commission is investigating various electoral irregularities, financial transactions, and vote rigging related to the 2018 elections. Further details will be disclosed upon completion of the probe, he added.

Following the Awami League government's ouster on August 5 last year, police arrested Helal from Chattogram on October 23.

As part of the ongoing investigation, the ACC has sent letters to multiple government offices, including the Election Commission, requesting records of Helal's tenure and activities, as well as details of NIDs issued to him and his family.

The ACC has also sought information on the 55,310 Rohingyas registered as voters, including their names, fathers' names, and addresses.

Additionally, it has requested authenticated copies of any investigation reports conducted by the EC or other agencies regarding the inclusion of Rohingyas in the voter list.

According to ACC sources, an assistant director has been appointed as the lead investigator into Helal's alleged corruption. Before Eid, the ACC sent letters to the EC and the LGRD ministry seeking all relevant information about him.

Following the AL government's ouster, renewed discussions on the 2018 elections have led to multiple investigations into electoral irregularities.

Several agencies are now scrutinising district commissioners and police superintendents involved in the election, with the ACC also reviewing their tax records.

Helal joined the civil service in 1988 and held several key positions, including senior secretary to the Local Government Division, EC secretary, and a member of the Public Service Commission.

Conspiracies on to obstruct

FROM PAGE 3

He stated that once the prosecution presents its findings in court, the nation will understand the significance of their work. "There will be many surprises," he remarked.

"We cannot reveal everything at this moment. Premature exposure of investigative findings could allow the accused and fugitives to mislead the proceedings and exploit the situation, harming case management," he cautioned.

He asserted that the evidence against the accused is entirely based on the truth and urged not to make the trial unnecessarily controversial.

"We will prove each accused person's responsibility in court through the truth. The judicial process cannot be undermined, questioned, or harmed," Tajul concluded.

A haven for hoolock

FROM PAGE 5

colour differences between males and females. Their white eyebrows further set them apart," said Shyamal Debbarma, who has been involved in multiple studies on the primate species.

An adult hoolock gibbon typically measures between 60-90 centimetres in length and weighs between 6-9 kilogrammes. While males and females are similar in size, their body colours differ significantly. Males have black skin with white eyebrows, whereas females have grey-brown fur, with darker patches near the throat and neck. Females also have distinctive white fur around their eyes and mouth, resembling a mask.

Hoolocks give birth after 6-7 months of gestation. The babies are initially covered in fuzzy white fur, which darkens to black or brownish-grey within six months, depending on the sex. They reach adulthood at around 8-9 years of age and can live up to 25 years.

"The gibbons' existence is severely threatened due to rampant deforestation, habitat destruction, and food shortages. These primates are territorial and do not mix with other groups. They survive on fruits such as figs, chapalish (wild breadfruits), cowpea, berries, and banyan, as well as bamboo leaves and young tree shoots," said Md Shahidul Islam, former range officer of the Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation Department.

To ensure the gibbons' survival, conservation efforts have ramped up in Lawachara. Authorities are planting fruit-bearing trees such as figs and chapalish to ensure a stable food source for the gibbons. These efforts have seen the primate population gradually rise in Lawachara, unlike other areas where their populations are dwindling.

However, experts warn that habitat loss and food shortages continue to threaten the survival of the species and call for urgent action to protect these primates before they disappear from the country's forests entirely. This includes sustained habitat protection, reforestation efforts, and stringent policies to curb deforestation.

According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), these gibbons are classified as critically endangered both nationally and globally.

Treat political

FROM PAGE 3

It urged the formulation and strict enforcement of laws to regulate political programmes, including processions, rallies and sit-ins on court premises.

The commission also said lawyers must refrain from political activities that disrupt judicial proceedings. It proposed that such activities within court premises be deemed professional misconduct, with disciplinary action enforced through the Bar Council, requiring necessary amendments to the Bangladesh Legal Practitioners and Bar Council Order, 1972.

While the judiciary cannot be entirely detached from politics, its independence as an institution and the impartiality of individual judges must be ensured for the proper administration of justice.

PRAYER TIMING
APRIL 4

	Fazr	Juma	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	4-40	12-30	4-45	6-21	7-45
JAMAAT	5-15	1-15	5-00	6-24	8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION