

## MA Haque's 29th death anniv today

CITY DESK

Today is the 29th death anniversary of Mohammad Abdul Haque, former minister, top-ranking police officer, writer, and founding president of Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (BAIRA), said a press release. On the occasion, Qurankhwani has been arranged at the Banani graveyard.

Besides, arrangements have been made to distribute food items among the destitute and orphans. Also, a special prayer will be held at the mosque.

The MA Haque Foundation and the deceased's family members have requested his friends and well-wishers to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

On the occasion, MA Haque Smriti Sangsad has organised a daylong programme at his birthplace in Zakiganj, Sylhet.

## Man kills brother over fishing dispute

UNB, Satkhira

A man was killed by his brother in a dispute over fishing in the Kalaroa upazila of Satkhira yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Mosharraf Hossain, 60, of Boalia village of the upazila, said Shamsul Arefin, officer-in-charge of Kalaroa Police Station. The incident occurred around 7:30am in Boalia village.

The prime suspect, who is the victim's younger brother, has already been arrested. Efforts are ongoing to apprehend other individuals involved in the crime," the OC said.

According to locals, the dispute began over fishing in a canal near the victim's house. The altercation escalated into violent confrontation, during which Mosharraf was killed.

Another person was injured in the incident and is currently receiving treatment at Satkhira Sadar Hospital.

## Man arrested for stalking 9-year-old in Thakurgaon

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Police detained a man yesterday on charges of stalking a 9-year-old girl in the Bardhali Bazar area of Thakurgaon's Baliahdangi upazila.

The detainee is Shariful Islam, 48, of Lalapur village of the upazila, said police.

Baliahdangi Police Station OC SM Shawkat Ali said locals apprehended Shariful and called 999 when they saw him stalking the girl on her way to a tutor.

Upon receiving the emergency call, police went to the scene and took the accused into custody.

The OC quoting locals said the detainee had allegedly molested the victim on March 22 in the bazar area while working at a restaurant owned by the victim's father. He was later released following an arbitration arranged by locals, he added.

The OC said the filing of a case was underway.



Pedestrians crossing with risk over a broken pontoon at Bagerhat-Mongla ferry terminal yesterday. Over the years, the pontoon has been damaged in various places, causing pedestrians to slip and potentially leading to accidents at any time. Thousands of pedestrians cross the river through this pontoon every day.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

## RMG workers block road for reinstatement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

RMG workers blocked a road in Chattogram yesterday protesting the termination of nearly 200 workers from three factories in the Chattogram Export Processing Zone (EPZ).

Around 200 workers blocked the main road in the city's Free Port area around noon, said police.

According to Industrial Police and EPZ sources, in light of recent unrest and workers' protests, three EPZ factories terminated nearly 200 workers with their benefits during the Eid vacation.

When the incident came to light, the terminated workers and their colleagues staged a demonstration, blocking the road.

Industrial Police Chattogram-3's Additional Superintendent of Police Saidur Rahman told

The Daily Star, "Excelsior Shoes Limited terminated 40 workers, Chittagong Fashion terminated 36, and JW Apparel sacked 99 workers for different reasons as per company policies."

"Before the Eid vacation, the companies paid salaries to the workers, and the three factories implemented their decisions with the consent of BEPZA authorities. Upon learning of the matter, the workers protested the decision and demanded their jobs back. They blocked the road for nearly 40 minutes, halting traffic movement," said the police officer.

The officer also said, "A meeting will be held tomorrow [today] at the BEPZA office, where police, company officials, BEPZA officials, and an army representative will be present to find a solution."

## Couple drowns in Padma

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A young couple drowned in the Padma river in Satbaria area of Sujanagar upazila on Friday evening.

Their bodies were recovered early yesterday, said police.

The deceased were identified as Hridoy Pramanik, 23, and his wife Moni Akter, 19, from Pabna Sadar upazila, said police.

According to locals, around 25 to 30 people, including the couple, went on a boat ride at Kanchan Park in Satbaria.

The boat capsized during the ride, said witnesses.

While most of the passengers managed to swim ashore, the couple went missing.

Locals tried to rescue them but failed.

Md Abdul Alim, officer at Sujanagar Fire Station, said a team of firefighters recovered the bodies from the river yesterday morning.

Md Mojib Rahman, officer-in-charge of Sujanagar Police Station, said an unnatural death case was filed in this connection. The bodies were handed over to their families at noon, he added.

## Eid holiday

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### OVER 10.7M MOBILE USERS LEFT DHAKA

Meanwhile, some 10.7 million mobile users left Dhaka during the extended nine-day public holiday for Eid ul-Fitr, spanning from March 28 to April 3, reports UNB.

This information, based on data from the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC), covers users of four major telecom operators — Grameenphone, Robi, Banglalink and Teletalk.

Faiz Ahmad Tayab, special assistant to the senior adviser of the Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications, and Information Technology, shared this data on his Facebook account.

According to his post, during the holiday period, 10.7 million mobile users left Dhaka, while 4.4 million users entered the city.

## Devotees take part

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A folk fair was also organised on the bank of the river.

In 2015, a stampede during the bathing festival resulted in the deaths of ten people. Since then, the authorities have been vigilant and taken all necessary measures to ensure a safe and organised event.

In Kurigram, devotees gathered on the Brahmaputra shoal at Chilmari upazila to perform Ashtami Snan.

The upazila administration arranged Ashtami Snan ghats at different points, including Ramna Ghat, Balabari Haat, Raniganj Haat, and Fakirer Haat points on the Brahmaputra River shoal, said Chilmari UNO Sabuj Kumar Basak.

"I have come here to take a bath in the Brahmaputra River to purify myself and

## Judiciary must

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to wash away my sins," said Ramesh Chandra Das, 70, a devotee from Chowdhurani area in Rangpur.

Around three lakh devotees joined the festival in Chilmari, said Sachindra Nath Barman, one of the organisers.

In Mymensingh, hundreds of devotees performed Ashtami Snan at different points, including the Old Gudaraghatty area, Kachari Ferry Ghat, and Char Kalibari area.

A special fair on the occasion of Ashtami Snan was also held in the city's Durgabari Road area.

Around 70,000 people performed the rituals on the bank of the Brahmaputra River, said Advocate Bikash Roy, a Hindu community leader.

[Our Correspondents from Narayanganj, Lalmonirhat, and Mymensingh contributed to the report]

the country," the chief justice added.

British High Commissioner Sarah Cooke said an independent and efficient judiciary is vital for the rule of law and the foundation upon which the rights and freedoms of individuals rest.

"It is more important than ever as Bangladesh charts the pathway to a democratic, inclusive, and prosperous future," she said while speaking at the seminar.

She reiterated the UK's commitment to justice sector reform and inclusive governance.

She said the chief justice's roadmap is both timely and transformative, offering a strategic vision that responds to citizens' aspirations for a fair, timely, and accessible justice system, according to UNDP.

Bangladesh Supreme Court and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) organised the sixth regional seminar titled "Judicial Independence and Efficiency," bringing together senior members of the judiciary, legal experts, and development partners to promote transparency, efficiency, and accountability within the justice system.

## Rezwan gets Yale

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remote region of Chalan Beel, he witnessed how seasonal floods would close schools, disrupt lives, and leave families without basic services.

Rather than treating the flood as a setback, he viewed it as an opportunity for innovation.

His floating school model now includes libraries, health clinics, training centres, and floating farms. These boat-based services ensure year-round access to education and support for thousands of families.

The government has included Rezwan's model in its National Adaptation Plan (2023-2050), and the concept has been replicated in eight countries in Asia and Africa.

Emma Sky, Director of Yale's International

Leadership Center, said, "Rezwan's work is not just for Bangladesh -- it's for the world. His model shows how local innovation can help communities everywhere adapt to the climate crisis."

Regarding the award, Rezwan said, "This recognition is for all the resilient people of Bangladesh who continually inspire us. Their encouragement has enabled us to prove that innovative solutions can emerge from any corner of the world."

Rezwan's work has received recognition from the United Nations, and a British publication named him one of the world's 20 "Earth Heroes".

His floating school model has also been featured in textbooks in the US, UK, Japan, and Taiwan.

## Hope at a time

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uncertain whether Myanmar is capable of accepting the Rohingya at this moment.

"Our homes are now under the control of the Arakan Army. The junta has been forced to abandon these areas. So how will they carry out repatriation? That's something we'll have to see," he said.

Still, he thanked the Bangladesh government for pushing the repatriation process this far.

"We want to return to our homeland, but only if it is safe to do so."

After the announcement was posted, many Rohingya social media groups lit up with discussion. Although no one is sure when or how repatriation will begin, many expressed hopes at this.

Mohammad Nur of Kutupalong Refugee Camp said he was delighted to learn that 180,000 Rohingyas have been identified as eligible for return to Myanmar and

that more of their people are pending verification.

"I'm very happy to hear this, and I hope for a safe return of my people."

Bangladesh shelters 1.2 million Rohingyas, most of whom fled the military crackdown in Rakhine State in 2017. Not a single Rohingya could be repatriated to Myanmar despite several attempts over the last eight years.

Instead, about 100,000 Rohingyas have fled to Bangladesh since July last year as the conflicts between the Arakan Army and the military junta led to a further displacement of hundreds of thousands of people in the state.

Sources said the relationship between the Rohingya minority community and the Buddhist majority community in Rakhine State remains tense.

In addition to atrocities by the junta, they have frequently faced brutal attacks by local Rakhine groups as well.

## No place for AL in NCP

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Commenting on the meeting between Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Bangkok, Akhtar said the chief adviser has accurately represented the aspirations of the Bangladeshi people.

However, he stressed that mere words are not enough.

"There must be concrete international measures taken by the interim government to ensure Sheikh Hasina is held accountable," he asserted.

## Only 2 doctors for 5

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are providing essential services to admitted and incoming patients.

He stressed that with sufficient staff, the hospital could offer better and more comprehensive care.

Shaidul Hasan Shipon, general secretary of Kulaura Sangbadik Samitee, said although the Kulaura Upazila Health Complex was upgraded from 31 beds to 50 beds in 2006, it is not yet fully functional.

For a long time, about five lakh people in the upazila have been deprived of proper treatment due to a shortage of doctors,

shortage of medicines and various mismanagement.

One of the hospital's two ambulances is operational, but the other is out of order due to lack of a driver. The shortage of cleaning staff is even more acute, with only one worker responsible for cleaning the entire hospital, he added.

District Civil Surgeon Dr Md Mamunur Rahman said the issue of doctor shortages across seven upazilas, including Kulaura, has been reported to higher authorities.

He said necessary steps are being taken to address the problem.

## River land grabbed

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The government cannot lease such land."

Md Nasim Reza, assistant commissioner (land) in Galachipa, said they have ordered a halt to the soil extraction after being informed of the matter.

Contacted, Md Mizanur Rahman, Galachipa upazila nirbahi officer, said some temporary leases were granted for seasonal watermelon cultivation on newly emerged shoal lands.

"However, there is no scope to build embankments or elevate riverbank. We are looking into the matter," he added.

## Request for Proposal (RFP) issued by UNICEF Bangladesh

RFP No. LRPS-2025-9196489: Long Term Agreement (LTA) to provide 'Accommodation, Meetings and Conference Venue services'.

UNICEF Bangladesh is inviting interested service providers with a proven track record and professional credibility of providing the above-required services under LTA.

- Download the electronic copy of Bid documents from UNGM <https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice/262653>
- Alternatively, vendors may request the bid documents via email at 'supplybangladesh@unicef.org' by 13 April 2025.

Deadline for submission of the proposal: Time 11 am (BST: GMT +6) Tuesday, 29 April 2025

Please note UNICEF does not charge any fee at any stage of the solicitation process.

[www.unicef.org/bangladesh](http://www.unicef.org/bangladesh)



## PRAYER TIMING

APRIL 6

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