



Fishermen catch fish from the Shakbaria river, adjacent to the Sundarbans. They cast their nets during high tide and collect local varieties of fish -- including shrimp, bele, and tengra. By selling the catch in local markets, they earn Tk 400-700 a day. The photo was taken from the Jorshing area in Koyra, Khulna yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

## Japan eyes Bangladesh as key investment

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Tokyo's plan to build an industrial value chain under the Bay of Bengal Industrial Growth Belt (BIG-B), centred on Matarbari and linked to Northeast India, Nepal and Bhutan, could be a game-changer for Bangladesh, he added.

After Bhutan, Japan will become only the second country to sign an EPA with Bangladesh, enabling Japanese firms to retain duty-free, quota-free benefits once Bangladesh graduates from LDC status next year.

"How much of this opportunity we can use depends on us. Our investment environment needs a

radical improvement," the professor said.

Maria Howlader, secretary-general of the Japan-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said apart from complexities at the customs, taxes and licensing issues, Japan wants political stability and security. "As we are making reforms, I am confident that more Japanese companies will be investing here in the coming days," she told The Daily Star.

She lauded the new MoUs aimed at training and recruiting Bangladeshis in Japan.

Restaurant group Watami has already announced a training centre in Dhaka.

Though only about 35,000 Bangladeshi skilled workers had gone to Japan as of 2024, Japanese authorities and firms expect 100,000 recruits over the next five years in caregiving, construction, farming, driving, factory and food sectors.

"Japan maintains 100 percent compliance and transparency in the system. We should maintain it at every step -- call it in quality of language and recruitment steps," said Maria.

Syed Masudur Rahman, director of Japan-Bangladesh joint venture Kokorazashi, said rising Bangladeshi presence in Japan will spur exports, "We should robustly work

to harness the Japanese market. Any lethargy means we will lose the opportunity."

Abdullah added under Japan's Free and Open Indo-Pacific strategy, Tokyo seeks "peace, stability and prosperity" in the region.

Supporting Bangladesh in security sector to achieve this objective as well as protect Japanese investments is also an important area of cooperation, he said.

"Bangladesh should pursue strongly to make the best use of Japanese interest in this region, especially Japanese investment and labour market," he said, adding that "it will boost our economy, remittance and jobs sector".

According to 2023 government data, the hospital serves around 1,800 outdoor and emergency patients daily, with approximately 40 new admissions each day.

"The current numbers are likely to be higher."

While visiting the hospital in Dhaka's Shyamoli area around 11:5pm yesterday, this correspondent found both gates locked, with several Ansar members stationed at one entrance.

Inside, seven to eight police personnel were present, alongside a few journalists.

The hospital wore a deserted look, with no doctors, nurses, or staff members visible.

Only one lift was operational.

While about 150 inpatients left the hospital

on Wednesday evening, some 80 patients -- mostly individuals injured during the July uprising -- remain admitted. They have been housed on the third floor, which serves as the hospital's dedicated care unit.

The ministry said it had sent a delegation to the hospital to help resolve the deadlock. "At this moment, we are awaiting a positive outcome from the discussions. In the meantime, as an interim arrangement, patients requiring eye treatment are requested to seek necessary medical care at the ophthalmology departments of nearby hospitals," the statement added.

"I was under direct supervision of the doctor while waiting for the test results. But all services stopped from Wednesday," he said.

Kawsar said about 25 general patients were still staying at the hospital, while food services resumed yesterday morning after two days. "But there's still no doctor, nurse, or even a cleaner here," he said.

Shahidul Islam Sakib, a college student who suffered eye injuries in Feni during the July uprising, has been undergoing treatment at the hospital for over two months.

He has undergone four surgeries and is now awaiting the installation of an artificial eye, having lost vision in his left eye.

"I have to visit the doctor every two or three days, but we've been left without treatment for the last four days. Water and blood are oozing from the damaged eye," he told this correspondent from his

hospital bed.

He said over 50 injured persons of the July uprising were staying at the facility, and that none from the government contacted them over the past four days.

Akhter Hossain, a July protester, on Wednesday denied attacking hospital staff.

He claimed they were protesting irregularities at the hospital and negligence in their treatment.

He alleged eight protesters were injured when police charged batons on them.

Earlier, on Monday, four individuals injured in the July uprising attempted suicide by consuming poison during a meeting at the hospital.

They were later treated at Shahid Suhrawardy Medical College and Hospital.

On Tuesday, the hospital director was reportedly confined to his office for about an hour and a half over alleged infighting between two groups of July protesters.

## Charges against

FROM PAGE 3

its associated bodies to carry out actions that led to mass killings, injuries, targeted violence against women and children, the incineration of bodies, and denial of medical treatment to the wounded.

He said, according to the report, more than 1,500 individuals were killed, over 25,000 wounded, and countless others subjected to torture and other inhumane treatment.

## Robbers loot

FROM PAGE 3

highway police station, sustained a bullet injury to his hand during the incident.

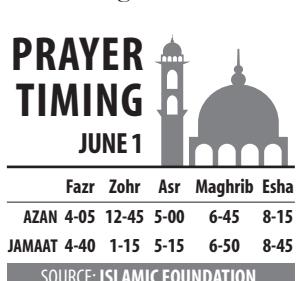
Mohammad Rasedul Islam, officer-in-charge of Mirzapur Police Station, said the expatriate and her relatives were rescued and brought to the police station.

Injured Tuhiun was admitted to Kumudini Hospital, he added.

Adibul Islam, additional superintendent of police (crime) in Tangail, said, "We are working on the case and hope to arrest the robbers soon."

Earlier, an oil-laden truck was hijacked on the same highway in Mirzapur on Friday. On May 21, a passenger bus of Al Imran Paribahan was robbed and female passengers were harassed. A similar incident occurred on February 17, when a Unique Royals passenger bus was robbed and female passengers were assaulted in Mirzapur.

Expressing concerns over safety and rising insecurity, both transport workers and commuters strongly demanded enhanced surveillance by law enforcers on the highway.



PRAYER TIMING JUNE 1

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4:05 12:45 5:00 6:45 8:15

JAMAT 4:40 1:15 5:15 6:50 8:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## Services halted for fourth day, patients suffer

FROM PAGE 3

yesterday expressing regret to all patients who have been deprived of care due to the ongoing disruption.

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 গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ অধিনায়কের কার্যালয় র্যাপিড এ্যাকশন ব্যাটালিয়ন-১৪ আকুম্বা বাইপাস, ময়মনসিংহ তারিখ ২৮ মে ২০২৫ খ্রি			
১। ২০২৫-২০২৬ অর্থ বছরে (০১ জুন থেকে ৩০ জুন ২০২৬ পর্যন্ত) র্যাপিড এ্যাকশন ব্যাটালিয়ন-১৪, আকুম্বা বাইপাস, ময়মনসিংহ এর নিম্নরূপ কাজের জন্য দিবাতারের নিয়মের দ্বারা দি			
প্রক্রিয়াজীবনে বিভিন্ন ব্যাটালিয়ন-১৪ নিম্নরূপ শর্ত সংগ্রহ কৈলাশের বাইপাস মহাসড়কে রাখে।			
১। ম্যানেজের/বিভাগ স্টাফের বিভিন্ন কাজের জন্য দিবাতারের নিয়মের দ্বারা দি			
২। স্থায়ী ম্যানেজের/কার্যালয় অধিবক্তা কাজের জন্য দিবাতারের নিয়মের দ্বারা দি			
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