

## Body of trader recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Thakurgaon*

Police recovered the throat slit body of a cosmetic shop owner from a bamboo cluster at Dhanmandal Molanipara village in Panchagarh's Debiganj upazila yesterday afternoon.

The deceased was identified as Moklesar Rahman, 35.

Quoting family members and locals, Officer-in-Charge of Debiganj Police Station Soyel Rana told The Daily Star that Moklesar used to drive for Uber in Dhaka.

About a week back, before Eid-ul-Azha, he set up a cosmetics shop at Khochabari Bazar, near their village.

On Wednesday night, he left the shop around 10:00pm with his motorcycle, leaving behind one of his maternal nephews at the store.

After he did not return and his mobile phone was found to be switched off, the nephew informed the matter to Moklesar's family.

Despite searching, the family could not trace him.

In the morning, a local woman discovered the throat-slit body of Moklesar in a bamboo cluster near his house while grazing her goats.

Following the incident, multiple police teams – including CID, PBI, and Debiganj police – started working to uncover the motive behind the murder.

The body was sent to Panchagarh Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy in the same afternoon.

Preparations are underway to file a case in connection with the incident, the OC said.

## Man found dead in Bandarban

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Bandarban*

Police recovered the body of an unidentified person from the bank of the Matamuhuri river in Bandarban yesterday.

The body was recovered from ward-2 area of the Sadar Union under Alikadam upazila, confirmed Alikadam police.

According to police and locals, residents spotted the body lying on the riverbank and informed the law enforcers. The unidentified body is estimated to be around 35 years old.

Locals suspect that the deceased might have been a tourist who was trekking or enjoying a boat ride.

Sub-Inspector Shahadat Hossain of Alikadam Police Station said the body will be sent to Bandarban Sadar Hospital for an autopsy. Legal procedures regarding the incident were underway, he added.



After the 58-day fishing ban came to an end at midnight on June 12, fishermen returned to the sea to once again engage in their livelihood. Many fishermen were hoping to recover the losses they incurred during the fishing ban. The photo was taken from the Ganga Snan Ghat in the Patenga area yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

## Jibanananda archive still locked a year after completion

SUSHANTA GHOSH AND HABIBUR RAHMAN, *from Jhalakathi*

Even a year after the completion of construction work on the Jibanananda Das Archive and Library on the bank of the Dhanshiri river in Jhalakathi, the facility remains locked, awaiting administrative handover.

Constructed by the Bangladesh Water Development Board, the foundation stone for the picturesque facility was laid on February 18, 2023, the birth anniversary of the celebrated poet. The construction was completed in June 2024 at a cost of Tk 3.14 crore.

However, a year on, the archive remains closed as no staff have yet been appointed for its operations.

According to officials concerned, the BWDB lacks both the personnel and the experience to run such a cultural institution. A proposal was submitted several months ago to the BWDB headquarters to hand over the archive's management to the district administration. Until the administrative handover and staffing issues are resolved, the archive's activities remain at a standstill.

Meanwhile, the surrounding area – developed like an eco-park with greenery, benches, and scenic riverfront views –



attracts visitors and tourists regularly. However, many leave disappointed upon finding the archive building locked.

Local writers and artists have called for immediate steps to make the archive and library functional in a bid to honour the legacy of Jibanananda Das, a poet deeply associated with the region.

Arup Talukder, a poet from Barishal, stressed the importance of restoring the Dhanshiri river and reviving the surrounding landscape. "Jibanananda Das used to travel through this river to

Khulna by steamer. That's why the river and the region frequently appear in his poetry," he said.

Contacted, AKM Niloy Pasha, executive engineer of BWDB in Jhalakathi, confirmed the prevailing situation.

"We've submitted a proposal to hand over the archive to the district administration, as we don't have the experience to manage such institutions. Once the proposal is approved and necessary staff are appointed, the facility will be opened to the public," he said.

## Youth killed, 10 injured in Narsingdi clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Narsingdi*

A youth was killed and at least 10 others, including police personnel, were injured in a clash between residents of two villages in Narsingdi's Belabo upazila yesterday morning.

The deceased has been identified as Saiful Islam, 26, from Charbelabo village under Belabo Sadar Union.

The clash broke out around 10:00am yesterday between villagers of Matiyalpara and Charbelabo, following a dispute that reportedly began the previous day over disagreements between whether a motorcycle or an auto-rickshaw could pass first, following a local football match, said Additional Superintendent of Police (Crime) Sujan Chandra Sarker.

According to police and locals, the argument turned into a physical altercation on Wednesday, injuring three people. Tensions escalated yesterday as both sides engaged in repeated clashes using locally made weapons.

On information, police rushed to the

spot to bring the situation under control. However, the agitated villagers reportedly attacked the law enforcers, prompting police to use rubber bullets and tear gas to disperse the crowd.

At least 10 people from both sides were injured and received treatment at Belabo Upazila Health Complex and other local hospitals, said police.

Saiful Islam succumbed to his injuries during the violence, his family claimed. His body is currently at Belabo Upazila Health Complex.

Dr Manzur Mushfika Ferdous, a duty doctor at Belabor Upazila Health Complex, said Saiful was brought in dead and bore marks consistent with rubber bullet wounds. "The exact cause of death will be confirmed after an autopsy," she added.

Additional police forces have been deployed in the area to maintain law and order, and the situation is now under control, said ASP Sujan Chandra Sarker.

"Legal proceedings are underway," he added.

### Justice eludes

FROM PAGE 3

afraid of giving statements," said Zartaj Parveen, mother of Shafiq Uddin, 17, who was shot dead in the Mirpur-10 area during the uprising.

She lodged a complaint with the ICT prosecution on October 19 last year.

Another July uprising victim, journalist Mehedi Hasan's father Mosharrar Hossain, demanded justice within the tenure of the interim government.

After the uprising, the tribunal's investigation agency was restructured, and there are now 25 investigation officers, according to the agency's website.

Tajul Islam recently said the people demand swift justice, but trials for crimes against humanity are not ordinary; they cannot proceed under street pressure.

"This is a matter of law and professional investigation," he said, cautioning that rushing may jeopardise the case and undermine justice.

### New JCD

FROM PAGE 3

Science and Technology, University of Asia Pacific, Southeast University, Northern University Bangladesh, BGMEA University of Fashion and Technology, World University of Bangladesh, Primeasia University, Presidency University, International University of Business Agriculture and Technology, Bangladesh University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh, Bangladesh University, The People's University of Bangladesh, Manarat International University, Gono Bishwabidyalay, Asian University, and City University.

## Barguna sees sharp spike

FROM PAGE 3

"We're continuously bothered by mosquitoes, even during the day. Our families live in constant fear of dengue," said Oliullah Emran, a resident of the Char Colony area.

Md Saiful Islam, a medicine trader at Barguna town's main market, said indiscriminate garbage dumping across the municipality worsens pollution and creates mosquito breeding grounds. "This is a major reason for the severe outbreak," he added.

Md Kamal Hossain, president of TIB's Barguna chapter and general secretary of the Citizen Rights Protection Committee, cited widespread waterlogging and clogged drains as key issues.

### LACK OF AWARENESS AND DOCTOR SHORTAGES

Hasanur Rahman Jhantu, president of the Barguna District Health Rights Forum, said the general hospital – serving nearly 1.2 million people – faces acute shortages of doctors and resources, affecting both treatment and prevention.

Dr Md Rejwanul Alam, superintendent of Barguna General Hospital, described the situation as overwhelming. The 100-bed facility is overcrowded, with many patients receiving treatment on the floor.

"We've contacted the health adviser and submitted a list of vacant posts. We hope these will be filled soon," he said.

### EXPERTS URGE STRONG PRIMARY HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

Public health expert Mushtuq Hussain said an IEDCR pre-monsoon

survey (not yet officially released) found a higher density of mosquito larvae in the Barishal division than in Dhaka.

He attributed the outbreak to a lack of cleaning, favourable weather for Aedes breeding, and abundant breeding sites. He called for a layered treatment system with clear primary, secondary, and tertiary levels to reduce mortality and streamline patient management.

"A stronger primary healthcare system is essential. Many avoid dengue testing due to limited access at local clinics, leading to late diagnoses, especially in impoverished areas," he said.

"If testing is available nearby, people will seek help earlier. Currently, most avoid testing due to limited facilities," he added.

He also recommended setting up more blood collection centres and secondary care facilities to reduce the burden on medical college hospitals.

Critical patients could be transferred from secondary facilities to tertiary hospitals when necessary, he said.

Hussain stressed the importance of year-round, community-driven cleaning efforts. "Right now, it's a routine exercise. We need continuous monitoring to control mosquito populations," he added.

Entomologist GM Saifur Rahman said Barguna's coastal location makes it more vulnerable, as people often store water, creating breeding grounds.

Rahman underscored the importance of strengthening surveillance and eliminating mosquito breeding sites. "Many still think dengue

is a Dhaka-centric issue. This perception must change," he said.

Prof Kabirul Bashar, an entomologist at Jahangirnagar University, said their recent survey found high mosquito larvae density in Barishal, Barguna, Chattogram, and Cox's Bazar.

"If immediate action isn't taken, the situation in Barguna will worsen," he warned.

Prof Bashar emphasised the urgent need for comprehensive mosquito control across the country. "The government must ensure equal attention and resources for all districts," he said.

### AUTHORITIES' RESPONSE

Animesh Biswas, additional deputy commissioner (general) and administrator of Barguna Municipality, acknowledged problems like poor drainage, waterlogging, and indiscriminate waste dumping.

"Some areas flood during high tide, but water usually recedes. However, clogged drains and poor waste management remain major issues," he said.

### 614 died in road

FROM PAGE 3

Additionally, 35 people died and 14 were injured in 48 rail-related accidents, and nine people died and 10 went missing in seven reported waterway-related incidents during the same period.

The organisation prepared the information based on media reports.

Among the victims, 92 were students, 154 were drivers, 103 were pedestrians, and 67 were transport workers, it added.

## Asma weaving hope thread by thread

MINTU DESHWARA, MOULVIBAZAR

Inside the walls of Asma Akhter's half-finished brick house in Adampur union under Kamalganj upazila of Moulvibazar, the sound of Manipuri looms at work hums with a purpose.

A decade ago, Asma's family struggled to survive. Her husband Jabbar Mia's small farm and modest business barely met daily needs, let alone the rising cost of educating their children. With no clear way forward, Asma clung to a sliver of hope – her traditional Manipuri loom.

Over the years that followed, Asma, now 50, wove her way to a sustainable livelihood.

"It all began after I went to Bongaon village and learned to weave using Manipuri loom from a woman named Bilkis Begum," she said.

Once learning the trade, a determined Asma with her Tk 6,000 loom started making two pieces of clothes a week and selling those to help her family stay afloat. Soon, local women came



to learn from her. Slowly but steadily, Asma expanded her endeavour.

Today, she manages 18 looms spread across her home and other locations. At least 10 women work under her, weaving five to seven sarees each week. Yarn is sourced from the local Adampur market, and wholesalers now come directly to her home to collect the finished products.

The once-impooverished household also transformed gradually. Asma now earns an average of around Tk 50,000 per month. Her two children have graduated from university, while another now studies in medical college. The family's home – still under construction – is a symbol of continuous progress.

"With her loom, Asma took charge. Everything this family has achieved till today, it's all because of her efforts," said her husband, Jabbar.

According to local cultural activist and researcher Ahmed Siraj, Asma is a rare example of undaunted resilience.

"They had nothing but the house. Yet, through sheer will, this woman rebuilt her family and is now employing other women. Such entrepreneurs should be recognised and encouraged," he said.

Once an ordinary housewife, Asma has become an inspiration for others, weaving not just sarees but a new future – thread by thread.

### Outdoor

FROM PAGE 3

hospital director with assault and arson," reads the memorandum.

The staff placed eight demands, including the rehabilitation of the July injured, formal discharge of patients who no longer need hospital-based care and ensuring their departure from the hospital, proper treatment and compensation for the staffers injured in attacks by miscreants on May 28, and legal action against those responsible for the May 28 attack.

The acting director said police deployment has been increased to improve security, and they hope to resume all services from Saturday.

Regarding the injured in July uprising, he said 54 were officially admitted, but only five were found at the hospital. As a result, the remaining 49 have been declared "absconding" according to hospital rules.

He added that if the patients return, the government will take necessary steps.

Meanwhile, Raju Islam from Thakurgaon, who lost vision in one eye during the July uprising and is one of the five remaining patients at the hospital, said a few injured patients have returned.

"We don't want any conflict. But we're not getting proper treatment here," he said.

PRAYER TIMING		JUNE 13			
Fazr	Juma	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
AZAN 4-05	12-30	5-00	6-50	8-15	
JAMAAT 4-40	1-15	5-15	6-55	8-45	
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION					