

Freedom fighter Habibur Rahman Pintu passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Habibur Rahman Pintu, a freedom fighter and father of The Daily Star's Planning Editor Wasim Bin Habib, passed away in Satkhira early yesterday. He was 84.

He had been undergoing treatment at a hospital. He breathed his last around 4:30am due to age-related complications.

He is survived by two sons, relatives, and numerous well-wishers to mourn his death.

Habibur Rahman took part in the Liberation War under Sector 9.

He was laid to rest with state honour by the local administration after the Asr prayers yesterday at the family graveyard in Jugipukuria village under Pattekhettha Police Station in Satkhira.

In a condolence message, Dhaka Reporters Unity President Abu Saleh Akon and General Secretary Mainul Hasan Sohel expressed profound grief at the passing of Wasim's father.

They prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul and conveyed their heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved family.

Robbery leaves two dead in Gazipur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Two people, a suspected robber and an auto-rickshaw driver, were killed during a robbery on the Sathkhamair-Barmi regional road in Sreepur upazila of Gazipur early yesterday.

The deceased are Arif Hossain, 22, the robber suspect from Cumilla; and Abul Kalam, 30, a CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver from Tepirbari village in Sreepur.

The robbery occurred around 2:00am near a shrine area along the road, where a gang of 6-7 men stopped and looted several vehicles.

Locals and victims resisted, prompting police to arrive and arrest four alleged robbers.

Arif was seriously injured after being hit by a vehicle while trying to flee.

Sreepur Upazila Health Officer Dr Shafiqul Islam said Arif died during treatment, while Kalam succumbed to his injuries on the way.

Sreepur Police Station OC Mohammad Abdul Barik confirmed the arrests and said legal action was underway.

PRAYER TIMING JUNE 21

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrin Esha
AZAN 4-05 12-45 5-00 6-52 8-17

JAMAT 4-40 1-15 5-15 6-55 8-45

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CONSULTANCY OPPORTUNITIES

International Labour Organization (ILO) Dhaka invites applications from interested National Consultant to conduct a targeted technical assessment of key cross-cutting project interventions and their effectiveness. The Terms of Reference (ToR) can be downloaded from the **United Nations Global Market Place (UNGM)** at <https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice/270019>

The deadline for submission of proposal is **Monday, July 07, 2025, by 04:30 PM (BST time)**.



A sand-laden truck collided head-on with a motorcycle in Lalmonirhat's Patgram upazila, killing a youth on the spot and his friend later at a hospital. Locals seized the truck, but the driver fled.



Activists under the banner of 'Poshak Shramik Unnayan Janakalyan Sangstha' form a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka yesterday, demanding a stop to plastic pollution to save the environment.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

The Narode flows no more

SHOHANUR RAHMAN RAFI, Rajshahi

A dry and cracked stretch of land along the eastern edge of Rajshahi is the only reminiscence of a river that once flowed there – the Narode river.

A few shallow, narrow patches of water can be seen along the stretch following rains during monsoon, but for rest of the year the Narode remains a dead river, clogged with silt and man-made structures at its origin.

A tributary of the mighty Padma, Narode originates near Shahpur village, just eight kilometres east of Rajshahi city, past the Katakhali Dewanpara crossing. It once stretched for around 40 kilometres through Shahpur, Pirogachha, and Paikpara areas of Rajshahi, with hundreds of small boats and dinghies navigating this waterway. The river also supported farming, trade, and life of the local people.

Over the years, rampant illegal grabbing and filling up of the river to pave way for various establishments, fish farms and mango orchards eventually led to its doom.

"Monsoon brings some spark of life to the river with water accumulating in a few places. But

it is not enough to bring it back to life. Its halcyon days are long gone. It hardly flows anymore due to silt accumulation. We have been witnessing the river's slow, painful death over the years," said Mahbub Siddiqui, a noted river researcher who authored a book on Narode river.

"Narode's decline began long ago due to natural and geological

of slow death. A partial revival attempt was made in 1972, shortly after Bangladesh's independence, when around 3-4 km stretch of the river near Biralda area was re-excavated," Siddiqui said.

However, prolonged neglect, siltation and encroachment left the river indistinguishable from surrounding land. Moreover, the government has long been leasing

any excavation of Narode river. The Barind Multipurpose Development Authority (BMDA) was tasked with this responsibility, and that too around 2016," said Arifur Rahman, executive engineer of Bangladesh Water Development Board in Rajshahi.

Contacted, Md Tarikul Alam, executive director of BMDA, acknowledged it.

"Yes, there was an initiative to dredge parts of Narode. However, it failed due to poor planning, lack of follow-up and several complexities," he said.

Mahbub Siddiqui warned of the larger picture. "Narode is not alone. Many rivers in northwestern Bangladesh are dying. Without flow, without care, the rivers either turn into drains or simply cease to exist. When a river dies, so do the ecology, culture, and the livelihood around it," he said.

He urged authorities to view Narode's instance as a wake-up call to focus efforts on water management and reviving the country's dying rivers and wetlands.

"We must let rivers be rivers again. Otherwise, we are only writing our own obituary," he added.



disruptions. In 1823, a massive flood hit the Padma river and caused significant sediment deposition at Narode's origin, obstructing its natural flow. Later, a major earthquake occurred in 1897, somewhat altering the course of the Padma. Due to these events, Narode gradually lost its flow, and began to become fragmented into disconnected sections in a process

the river's land and adjoining areas to different individuals and institutions, often for up to 99 years, he added.

Contacted, Nur Hossain Nirjhar, upazila mirbahi officer of Puthia, said, "We are aware of the river's plight and exploring possible measures, but land grabbing and siltation make it a difficult task."

"We have not undertaken

Five killed in road crashes in 3 dists

STAR REPORT

At least five people were killed and nine others injured in separate road accidents in three districts yesterday.

In Lalmonirhat, a motorcyclist and his pillion rider died when a truck hit their motorcycle on the Lalmonirhat-Burimari highway in Patgram upazila around 1:00pm. The victims could not be identified immediately.

Quoting locals, Md Tipu Sultan, officer-in-charge of Tarakanda Police Station, said the Mymensingh-bound auto-rickshaw collided head-on with an ambulance, killing two on the spot and injuring four others.

The injured were taken to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

Police recovered the bodies and seized both vehicles, but the ambulance driver fled the scene. A case has been filed with the police station, said the OC.

Locals rescued Anik and took him to Patgram Upazila Health Complex. He was later referred to Rangpur Medical College Hospital, where he died around 6:00pm.

Mizanur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Patgram Police Station, said police visited the spot after receiving the news. While locals seized the truck, the driver

and his assistant managed to flee.

An unnatural death case has been filed in connection with the incident, he said.

In Mymensingh, two passengers of a CNG-run auto rickshaw were killed and four others, including the driver, were critically injured in a road accident at Kodalbari on the Mymensingh-Haluaghata road in Tarakanda upazila around 6:00pm. The victims could not be identified immediately.

According to witnesses, the two were heading towards Bawra Bazar when a sand-laden truck coming from the opposite direction collided head-on with their motorcycle. Meraj died on the spot.

The injured were taken to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

Police recovered the bodies and seized both vehicles, but the ambulance driver fled the scene. A case has been filed with the police station, said the OC.

In Manikganj, a man was killed and five others were injured in a head-on collision between a bus and a truck on the Hemayetpur-Manikganj regional highway in Singair upazila around 8:30am.

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SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Confined to a wheelchair with no control over his lower body and limited movement in both his arms, 23-year-old Golam Rabbani of Patuakhali's Kalapara has defied all odds to become a successful freelancer, now earning around Tk 50,000 a month.

Born with a severe physical disability, Rabbani never had the opportunity to attend school or receive formal education. Until 2021, he considered himself a burden, entirely dependent on his aging and ailing parents. But his unyielding willpower and determination led him to turn his life around.

From a tiny, dilapidated home in Chinguria area of Kalapara municipality, Rabbani began his journey with just a second-hand

Android phone worth Tk 2,500.

Despite not even knowing the alphabets, he started learning from YouTube and other online platforms. Despite the hurdles, he completed several online courses, gradually developing his skills as

a graphic designer. Then in June 2021, he earned his first Tk 100 from a freelancing opportunity. The following month, the number increased to Tk 1,300.

Rabbani then took a loan and

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STATUTORY NOTICE

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)

Company Matter No. 955 of 2025

IN THE MATTER OF:

An application under section 81(2), 81(3) and 396 of the Companies Act, 1994 was filed before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh for condonation of the delay in holding the Annual General Meeting of AKHTER MATTRESS INDUSTRIES LTD. for the calendar years 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024.

The said petition was accepted on 03/06/2025. A copy of the application was served on the company on 03/06/2025. A copy of the application was also served on the company on 03/06/2025.

— Petitioner — Respondent

K. M. Rifatuzzaman Rocky, Managing Director, AKHTER MATTRESS INDUSTRIES LTD., having its Address: Plot No. 66, Block-I, Progoti Sharani, Baridhara, P.S.- Badra, Dhaka.

— Versus —

The Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms, 1, Kawran Bazar, TCB Bhaban, Dhaka.

— Versus —

Notice is hereby given to all concerned that an application under section 81(2) read with Section 85(3) and Section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994 was filed before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh for condonation of the delay in holding the Annual General Meeting of the company for the calendar year 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025.

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Indian policymakers hatching conspiracy to 'rehabilitate' AL Says Rizvi

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi Ahmed yesterday accused Indian policymakers of conspiring to "rehabilitate" the fallen Awami League.

"They [Indian policymakers] cannot accept Sheikh Hasina's downfall. After the meeting between Dr Muhammad Yunus and Tarique Rahman in London, the neighbouring country began plotting targeted conspiracies," Rizvi said while speaking to journalists in Pabna's Chatmohar upazila.

Rizvi was there visiting veteran BNP leader Abu Taher Pramanik alias Taher Thakur, who has been suffering from illness.

Under the banner of the BNP family and on behalf of acting Chairman Tarique Rahman, Rizvi also provided financial assistance for Taher's treatment.

The BNP leader said the people of the country have started walking the path of democracy, but the journey is far from over. "The conspiracies are not over. Even now, many grassroots and national-level BNP activists remain missing. Many are still being harassed with false cases and arrests."

He added, "The fascist era was horrifying. Today we can speak freely. But from the moment Dr Yunus and Tarique met, the neighbouring country resumed its conspiracies."

Rizvi alleged that the Awami League regime looted public wealth for 16 years and laundered it to countries like Canada and Malaysia.

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Show 'responsible behaviour' for healthy coexistence

Asif tells political parties

BSS, Dhaka

Everyone's responsible behaviour is necessary to ensure good coexistence of political parties with the government, said Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Adviser Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuyain.

"The coexistence of political parties with the government should not be damaged by any of our decisions. To keep this relationship beautiful, I think responsible behaviour of all is important," he wrote in a post on his verified Facebook account.

Asif said, "Ishraque Hossain is an idol of the young generation. I think he has been misguided to fulfill some political purpose and that