

## Hilsa supply

FROM PAGE 3

"The peak hilsa harvest season is just beginning. We are hopeful for a steady catch till November," said Alauddin Majhi, a fisherman from Bhola.

However, weather remains a concern.

"Rough seas over the past week prompted many boats to remain ashore. Many fishermen are waiting for the weather to improve. Once they go fishing in the sea and return with their catch, the supply will increase further," said Mahtab Mia, a fisherman from Charfasson.

Apu Saha, senior upazila fisheries officer in Kalapara, said, "The fishing ban has just ended. With stable weather, the hilsa harvest is likely to increase soon."

In Barguna, the Patharghata Fish Landing Station was bustling with activity and optimism, as fishermen have been returning with considerably larger hilsa catches from the Bay's estuaries since the ban was lifted.

Hilsas weighing 1kg or more are being sold for a record Tk 1,00,000 per maund, while those weighing 500g to 900g are going for Tk 42,000,000 per maund.

Traders say they have not seen such high prices in recent years.

However, the increased supply brings challenges, as rising costs of ice, diesel, and labour continue to curb profit margins.

Biplab Kumar Sarkar, in charge of the Patharghata Fish Landing Station, said, "The volume of fish clearly shows that marine resources are recovering. Now we must ensure proper preservation, prompt marketing, and smooth transportation."

Md Mahashin, district fisheries officer in Barguna, said the joint enforcement of the fishing ban with India has paid off.

"Hilsa stocks are improving, but to maintain this success, we need long-term strategies," he added.

[Our correspondents from Barishal, Patuakhali, and Pirojpur contributed to this report.]

## Freelancing

FROM PAGE 4

bed, where his broken computer monitor sits.

His most urgent needs now are a safe and accessible living space, a proper chair for work, and reliable equipment for freelancing. He has approached the local UNO and social welfare office for support, but has yet to receive meaningful assistance -- though he does receive a disability allowance.

"My son has no formal education and is completely immobile, yet he earns and supports the family. I'm proud of him," said his mother Akhniur Begum, adding, "But I constantly worry about his working conditions."

Rabbani's resilience stands as a powerful example of courage and perseverance. In his own words he says, "If there's a will, there's always a way. The intention is what truly matters."

## Indian

FROM PAGE 4

"Sheikh Hasina ran smear campaigns through media control, but 180 million people cannot be silenced. Only the people will decide who governs this country," he said.

Regarding the next general election, Rizvi said, "It will be free and fair election held at an appropriate time based on demands from various political parties. This election will reflect the will of the people."

Several BNP leaders, including Pabna district BNP Member Secretary Masud Khandakar, Joint Convenor Anisul Haque Babu, and student leaders from Chatmohar and Edward College, were present.



**Relentless erosion by the Meghna River has already rendered around 100 riverside families homeless in the Chatlapar area of Nasirnagar upazila, Brahmanbaria. Over the years, the river has devoured numerous homes, markets, mosques, graveyards, and cremation grounds. Each monsoon season brings renewed fear and uncertainty for the residents. Currently, more than 100 establishments -- including a local mosque, cremation ground, graveyard, Chak Bazar, and homesteads -- are at risk. The photo was taken recently.**

PHOTO: MASUK HRIDAY

## BNP man dies

FROM PAGE 12

Upazila Health Complex. On duty doctors there declared him dead around 8:50pm.

The statement claimed that Juel had been suffering from heart disease for a long time, and he had suffered a stroke in the past.

"His postmortem examination has already been completed. The actual cause of his death will be known upon receiving the postmortem report," it added.

Contacted, Muradnagar Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer Sirajul Islam Manik said Juel was brought dead to the hospital at around 8:50pm on Thursday night.

However, no mark of injury was found on his body, Sirajul said.

Talking to journalists, Juel's wife Shilpi said police found no drug in Juel's possession. She claimed that she met Juel at the police station around 7:30pm and found him well.

Contacted, Muradnagar Upazila BNP's Convener Mohiuddin Anjan said Juel was a BNP activist.

"When I met my husband, he asked me to take legal measures for his release. Later, we heard that he died there," said Shilpi. Juel's son Sheikh Shihab

told journalists that his father was involved in internet service providing business.

"My father was in good physical condition when he was detained. He was walking when he was detained. My father died due to police torture," said Shihab.

Meanwhile, around 10:30pm on Thursday night, a group of people who are locally known as BNP men brought out a procession in the Bangrabazar area near Muradnagar Upazila Health Complex, protesting the death of Juel.

They claimed that Juel was a BNP activist and was tortured to death by police.

In a video spread on social media, Juel's younger brother Sheikh Shaporan claimed himself to be the organising secretary of BNP's ward No. 6 unit in Bangra. He claimed Juel was a BNP activist as well.

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Cumilla's Superintendent of Police Mohammad Nazer Ahmed Khan could not be contacted over the phone despite repeated attempts.

## Govt moves

FROM PAGE 12

with government officials in two days. The ministry will vet in five working days and return it. The education ministry will issue the final guidelines in another five working days. All managing committees must be reconstituted in a month after the guidelines are issued.

The Health Services Division will meet within one week with the NGO Affairs Bureau and relevant NGOs to decide on strategies for the operation of community health centres.

The Energy and Mineral Resources Division will hold talks with associations representing filling stations and CNG filling station owners regarding the installation of separate sanitary toilets for men and women. A nationwide deadline of July 20 will be set for all filling stations to complete the installation of these facilities.

The ICT Division will meet all ministries within one week to develop a strategy for updating websites and including a feature for public feedback.

The Cabinet Division will sit with all service-oriented ministries and departments within a week to finalise guidelines for regular public hearings in all government offices.

The information and broadcasting ministry will adopt a time-bound action plan for reviewing and amending the Right to Information Act 2009 and the Official Secrets Act 1923.

The Statistics and Informatics Division will coordinate with the ongoing

reform initiatives to convert the BBS into the "Bangladesh Statistics Commission".

The ICT Division will adopt and implement a time-bound plan to integrate all public services into the citizen platform developed by the government.

All ministries and divisions must inform the Cabinet Division and the Chief Adviser's Office of their implementation plans within a month.

According to the CA's press wing, 121 proposals made by five commissions have been identified for immediate implementation. These include nine from the Election Reform Commission, 38 from the Judicial Reform Commission, 43 from the Anti-Corruption Commission, 13 from the Police Reform Commission, and 18 from the Public Administration Reform Commission.

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Taufiq Azam, officer-in-charge of Singair Police Station, said the body

was sent to Manikganj Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy and legal

procedures are underway.

## From sea to summit

FROM PAGE 3

Through his journey, Shakil aimed to raise public awareness about plastic pollution and carbon emissions by adopting the eco-climbing model.

Eco-climbing, or eco-friendly mountaineering, emphasises minimising the environmental impact of climbing activities. It involves adopting practices that reduce waste, protect ecosystems, and promote sustainability in the mountains.

Speaking at the event, Shakil said he began the "Sea to Summit" from Inani Beach. His route took him through Chittagong, Cumilla, and Dhaka before reaching Taitang.

When he was denied permission to walk across the Jamuna Bridge, he decided to swim instead -- crossing three kilometres of the river in four hours.

He continued his journey through Sirajganj, Bogura, Panchagarh, and Bangabandha, entering India via Siliguri and Naxalbari, eventually reaching the Kanchenjunga

region in Nepal.

From there, Shakil undertook a 64-day high-altitude trek, covering approximately 1,372 kilometres, and reached the Everest Base Camp on April 29.

Braving a severe snowstorm and high winds, Shakil successfully reached the world's highest peak.

From the ocean to the Himalayas, plastic pollution is everywhere -- and we are the ones responsible," Shakil said.

"I walked the entire way to demonstrate that zero carbon travel is possible. Along the way, I collected plastic waste to show just how deep the problem goes."

Shakil also urged aspiring climbers to take the sport seriously, saying, "Anyone who wants to climb mountains must first prepare mentally and physically. Proper training reduces risk and helps us understand the mountains better."

In 2014, Shakil received formal mountaineering training from the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering in India. He later joined

expeditions to Mount Keyaz and Tiyazuri in 2015 and successfully summited Himlung Himal (7,000 metres) in 2019.

In 2022-23, he completed the Great Himalaya Trail -- a 1,700-kilometre journey across Nepal. Only 33 people in the world have completed the full trail and Shakil is the only Bangladeshi among them.

Ghanashyam Bhandari said, "The number of Bangladeshi mountain climbers in Nepal is gradually increasing. Nepal is ready to welcome them warmly, and we're encouraging it."

Speaking about the challenges he faced when seeking official support, Shakil said, "I carried my country's flag to the summit of Everest, but I had to fight until the last moment to even get my visa."

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## Murder or 'death by stroke'?

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Bangla department at BRUR, told The Daily Star that he does not know whether Mahmudul is affiliated with Bangabandhu Parishad. "Even if he was involved with the organisation, it's not true that he was involved in Awami League's politics," he added.

The investigation is being led by Hajirhat Police Station Officer-in-Charge Abdul Al Mamun Shah, who also recorded the complaint.

Mahmudul was arrested from his home in Rangpur's Dhap area around 3:30pm on Thursday. He was produced before the Metropolitan Magistrate, where Judge Md Shoyebur Rahman rejected his bail petition and sent him to jail.

According to the case statement, Awami League activists and law enforcement personnel allegedly attacked Samesh Uddin at his shop, leaving him critically injured. He reportedly lost consciousness and later died at a local hospital.

Meanwhile, a signboard placed beside his grave tells a different story.

The signboard refers to him as a "national hero" and cites a doctor from Prime Medical College, who allegedly stated that Samesh died of a stroke while fleeing from police.

Contacted by phone, Samesh's wife Amena Begum declined to comment and asked to speak with her son.

Their son, Ashiqur Rahman, admitted that his father had a heart condition.

The OC declined further comment, citing the ongoing investigation.

Regarding Mahmudul's

arrest, Dr Tuhin Wadud of BRUR's Bangla department also said, "The arrest and jailing of a university teacher in a murder case without any prior investigation should

be submitted to the court."

He also confirmed that another accused, Delwar Hossain, vice principal of Radhakrishnapur Degree College, was arrested in the same case on June 16.

Meanwhile, Hajirhat Police Station OC Abdul Al Mamun Shah said, "The case was recorded as per the plaintiff's complaint. An investigation is underway, and a report will be submitted to the court."

He also confirmed that another accused, Delwar Hossain, vice principal of Radhakrishnapur Degree College, was arrested in the same case on June 16.

In another statement,

The OC declined further comment, citing the ongoing investigation.

Yesterday, teachers and

students of Begum Rokeya

University, Rangpur formed a human chain on the campus, protesting the arrest of Mahmudul in a

"false" case.

## Hold dialogues

FROM PAGE 3

must be challenged," he