

# NEWS

## 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 Bholia.

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 Sarker, 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 Akhinur 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  
"Sheik 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 HRIDOV

## 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 Chattogram, Cumilla, and Dhaka before reaching Tangail.

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 Tiayazuri 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. For someone without connections, the barriers are even greater. If the government stands by mountaineers like us, many more young people will be encouraged to follow their dreams."

## Murder or 'death by stroke'?

FROM PAGE 3

Bangla department at BRUR, told The Daily Star that he does not know whether Mahamudul 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.

Mahamudul was arrested from his home in Rangpur's Dhap area around 3:30pm on Thursday. He was produced before the Metropolitan Magistrate Court, 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 "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, however, admitted that his father had a heart condition.

"He died out of fear caused by the presence of police and AL men. I wasn't home that day," he said. "A case has been filed, and the investigation is ongoing. I have nothing more to say at this point."

Meanwhile, residents of the area told this correspondent that on August 2, 2024, police attempted to arrest local Jamaat leader Haji Nasir Uddin. At that time, Samesh Uddin got frightened by the situation and fled his shop.

Moments later, he collapsed on the street. He was later declared dead at Prime Medical College Hospital.

Haji Nasir Uddin himself corroborated the version provided by the locals.

He confirmed the police raid and said, "They came to arrest me, but I escaped. Grocery shop owner Samesh ran from his shop in fear and died after suffering a stroke."

"How can a man who died like this be called a national hero and receive Tk 15 lakh from the government?" Nasir added.

Rangpur city BNP Convener Shamsuzzaman Samu said, "Even people like Ward-28 BNP leader Jaynal have been implicated in the case. It's outrageous. Samesh Uddin died of a heart attack -- it's unbelievable that he's being called a martyr."

Regarding Mahamudul'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 not have happened under

any circumstances."

"Recording a case without investigation opens the door to misuse of the legal system. Whoever is guilty must be punished, but I strongly protest the inclusion of innocent people in such cases," he added.

Mahfuzul Islam, a student of Mahamudul, said, "Sir was on the frontlines during the protest. He loudly demanded justice for the killing of Shaheed Abu Sayed. Framing him in the murder case is nothing short of a conspiracy."

Masuba Hasan, Mahamudul's wife, said, "My husband is innocent. He's being targeted as part of a plot, possibly involving a fellow teacher and a doctor. I can't reveal names yet."

She appealed to students, colleagues, and members of the journalist community to stand by Mahamudul and help secure justice.

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.

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 Mahamudul in a "false" case.

exhibitions have been held featuring his work. He was also associated with the Bangladesh Photographic Society.

Chanchal is widely regarded as a pioneer in model and fashion photography in Bangladesh. Many well-known film and

television personalities -- such as Shabnur, Moushumi, Salman Shah, Nobel, Afsana Mimi, and Shomi Kaiser -- rose to prominence in top magazines, newspapers, tabloids, and fashion campaigns thanks to the distinctive charm of his photography.

## Photographer Chanchal

FROM PAGE 4

Chanchal Mahmood had worked as a photographer for more than four and a half decades. He was a familiar name in the field of fashion photography in Bangladesh.

He ran a training centre named "Chanchal Mahmood Photography". Several

## Hold dialogues

FROM PAGE 3

the signing of the accord, five political governments and two non-partisan governments have come to power, but none has shown the political will to implement it.

He said after the interim government took office in August last year, it reconstituted the Chittagong Hill Tracts Accord Implementation and Monitoring Committee, with the foreign adviser as its head.

However, the committee has yet to hold a single meeting, he added.

Ushatun alleged that four to five groups have emerged in the region with "government patronisation" and are involved in crime and extortion, making life difficult for hill people.

He said the Land Dispute Resolution Commission needs to be reconstituted, and proper rules must be formulated for it to function effectively.

"Hill people are frustrated due to the absence of talks to implement the accord," he added.

Satej Chakma, an indigenous rights activist and writer, presented the keynote paper, which included demands for initiating dialogues and resolving issues related to the land commission.

He also called for steps to ensure the proper functioning and democratisation of various institutions formed in line with the accord.

In addition to resolving land issues, he demanded the "dignified rehabilitation" of Bangalees currently living in the region to other parts of the country.

## Govt moves

FROM PAGE 2

The Secondary and Higher Education Division will send a guideline to the public administration ministry regarding forming managing committees of schools and colleges with government officials in two days. The ministry will vet it in five working days and return it. The education ministry will issue the final guideline in another five working days.

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 World Bank-supported 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 to be executed first. 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.

The Cabinet Division will sit with all service-oriented ministries and

Sanjeeb Drong, general secretary of the forum, said since the government is preparing to publish the July Charter, it should incorporate the roles and rights of indigenous people so future governments can act accordingly.

He said after the interim government took office in August last year, it reconstituted the Chittagong Hill Tracts Accord Implementation and Monitoring Committee, with the foreign adviser as its head.

However, the committee has yet to hold a single meeting, he added.

Ushatun alleged that four to five groups have emerged in the region with "government patronisation" and are involved in crime and extortion, making life difficult for hill people.

He said the Land Dispute Resolution Commission needs to be reconstituted, and proper rules must be formulated for it to function effectively.

"Hill people are frustrated due to the absence of talks to implement the accord," he added.

Satej Chakma, an indigenous rights activist and writer, presented the keynote paper, which included demands for initiating dialogues and resolving issues related to the land commission.

He also called for steps to ensure the proper functioning and democratisation of various institutions formed in line with the accord.

In addition to resolving land issues, he demanded the "dignified rehabilitation" of Bangalees currently living in the region to other parts of the country.

## Archer Alif wins

FROM PAGE 12

The sport's biggest stage.

"My dream is to win a medal at the Olympics. I've been preparing with that goal in mind, supported by my coaches and federation officials," said Alif, who also called on the government and federation to increase international exposure for archers.

"Training facilities have been good, but we need more opportunities to compete internationally. It will help us improve our world ranking and qualify as a team for the Olympics," said Alif, who is set to sit for his HSC exams this year.

DHAKA SATURDAY JUNE 21, 2025

ASHAR 7, 1432 BS

The Daily Star

9

## NCP applies for EC

FROM PAGE 3

with the next council session required within 90 days of term completion. The founding convening committee retains the authority to make amendments to the draft charter, if necessary, before the next council.

This body will comprise 11 to 15 members -- including at least three women -- with 11 members elected by the National Council. The president and general secretary will join ex officio, while the final two members will be nominated by them.

The National Council, meanwhile, will include members from the central committee, affiliated bodies, five members from each district-level committee, and two from each upazila-level committee.

Resolving the issues of the indigenous people should be seen as a way of eliminating all forms of discrimination in society, he added.

"Such consensus is