

## Hilsa supply

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“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.

Hilas 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 42,000-90,000 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.

Biplob 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

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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

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“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 Convener 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 Chatlapara 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 HRIDOY

# From sea to summit

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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 Banglabandha, 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. 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’?

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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 “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, 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.

## Hold dialogues

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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.

Ushatan 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.

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.

Dr Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh and member of the National Consensus Commission, said there has been a consensus among the country’s people that there are no indigenous people in the country.

“Such consensus is based on a wrong theory, and it must be challenged,” he said.

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

Ruhin Hossain Prince, general secretary of the Communist Party of Bangladesh, said the problems of hill people are political and must be solved politically.

He urged the interim government to declare a clear work plan after consulting all stakeholders for the proper implementation of the peace accord.

Development activist Shamsul Huda said several laws have been formulated in line with the accord, but their loopholes must be identified, amended, and properly enforced.

Khairul Islam Chowdhury, joint coordinator of Parbatya Chattogram Chukri Bastabayan Andolon and a teacher at Dhaka University, said the hill people must build pressure on the government to implement the accord.

## Govt moves

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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. All managing committees must be reconstituted in a month after the guideline is 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 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 Reform Commission, 13 from the Police Reform Commission, and 18 from the Public Administration Reform Commission.

## Archer Alif wins

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as Malaysia’s Busthamin Muhammad Syafiq and Liu Tai-Yen of Chinese Taipei en route to the final.

Speaking after the medal ceremony, Alif said in a video message released by the Bangladesh Archery Federation: “It’s a great feeling to hear the national anthem being played abroad because of my performance. This is my first international gold, and I dedicate it to the people of Bangladesh.”

With the 2028 Olympic Games on the horizon, Alif now has his sights set on

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.

## NCP applies for EC

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president and general secretary will be elected directly by councillors from across the country and will remain accountable to a newly formed Political 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. It will be responsible for electing the political council and top leadership, and making urgent decisions when necessary.

The party’s central committee will include vice presidents, joint general secretaries, divisional organising secretaries, members of the editorial board, and, in some cases, district presidents. Its tenure will be three years,

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.

The party further resolved to apply for registration with the Election Commission this Sunday.

“We have fulfilled all the criteria required to obtain registration,” said Akhter Hossain, the party’s member secretary.

Two senior leaders told this newspaper that the party has formed 130 upazila committees and around 30 district committees so far.

At the meeting, the party also condemned what it described as an “ongoing smear campaign” against its women leaders.

“We will take legal action against media outlets engaged in such acts through the Press Council. We will also take action against those tarnishing the image of our women leaders on social media, whether from home or abroad,” said Akhter, the party’s member secretary.

## BNP man dies

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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.

“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.

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

C u m i l l a ’ s Superintendent of Police Mohammad Nazer Ahamed Khan could not be contacted over the phone despite repeated attempts.

## Rohingya crisis

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Saying that protracted crises often emerge from systemic marginalisation, the adviser called for renewed international attention and action to ensure a repatriation of the Rohingyas with safety and rights.

“This is not only a matter of justice but also vital for preventing the root cause of a potential instability in our region.”

Touhid said the world today is marked by the interconnected challenges of poverty, underdevelopment, and conflict. “If we are to preserve international peace and

security, addressing these challenges is not optional – it is essential.”

He said that the current global development and security landscape is shaped by long-standing inequities, many of which stem from centuries of political subjugation and economic exploitation.

“Correcting these imbalances is our shared responsibility.”

The foreign adviser further said Bangladesh remains committed to doing its part, and to working alongside all concerned in pursuit of a more just, peaceful, and secure world.

## Tarique urges

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Bangladesh, continue to demonstrate its humanitarian commitment for the displaced Rohingyas.

“But this crisis remains one of the world’s gravest, and the burden is growing to levels that are dangerously unsustainable.

“Let’s renew our commitment towards implementing and adhering to peaceful and just systems that ensure that no refugee is left behind when returning home.”

In another statement, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said, “Without the political will to address the root causes of multiple refugee crises, the possibility of most displaced individuals and families returning to their home countries becomes increasingly difficult.”

He urged the government and world leaders to put pressure on Myanmar so that the Rohingyas staying in Bangladesh can go back to their country with full rights and respect.