

Body found in abandoned travel bag

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Gazipur

Police recovered the dismembered body of an unidentified person from an abandoned travel bag in Tongi yesterday morning.

The recovery was made around 10:00am on Tongi Station Road, along the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway. Inside the travel bag, police found body parts wrapped in polythene.

Tongi East Police Station Officer-in-Charge Faridul Islam confirmed the incident, saying that they believe the victim was killed elsewhere two to three days ago before being dumped at the location.

"After inspecting the scene, the body parts have been sent to the morgue of Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Medical College Hospital," Faridul said, adding that police were reviewing CCTV footage to identify those involved.



A battery-run auto-rickshaw dangerously overtakes between two buses, risking being sandwiched -- a reckless move that often leads to accidents on city streets. The photo was taken in the Shahbagh area of the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

LAUNCH GHATS IN PATUAKHALI

Lack of pontoons hampers travel

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Without pontoons at several launch ghats in the coastal upazilas of Rangabali, Galachipa, Dashmina, and parts of Bauphal in Patuakhali, passengers face serious hazards while boarding and disembarking vessels.

These areas heavily rely on waterways, as boats, trawlers and speedboats are the only means of transportation to and from the district and upazila headquarters.

However, due to the absence of pontoons or connecting roads at many ghats, people are forced to wade through mud or tidal water to reach vessels, often risking accidents and injuries.

"There is no pontoon or jetty here. The approach road was damaged years ago and has never been repaired. Now passengers and goods must be carried through knee-deep mud," said Gazi Mehedi Hasan, a local trader.

"The sufferings intensify during the rainy season. This ghat connects our area with Galachipa, the district town, and other parts of the country. Had there been a pontoon here, the government could also earn revenue," he added.

Another passenger, Jakir Hossain, 48, said, "We have to walk through dirty water and mud to board launches. It's extremely difficult when you're travelling with kids."

According to the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA), Patuakhali has 55 designated launch ghats, among

which 10 currently lack pontoons.

The authorities are also in the process of withdrawing pontoons from five more ghats -- Bahechar and Karkhana in Bauphal, Amkhola in Galachipa, Tulatali in Rangabali, and Payrakunji in Sadar upazila.

However, locals claim there are around 70 to 75 ghats in the district, including informal and small-scale ones, and about 30 to 35 of them operate without pontoons, mostly in remote or char areas.

this route to travel to Galachipa, Kalapara, the district town, and even Dhaka."

Rangabali Upazila LGED Engineer Md Habibur Rahman said a proposal for the construction of the approach road to the ghat has already been submitted. "Once funds are allocated, we will begin the work through the tendering process," he said.

Rangabali UNO Rajib Das Purkayastha said, "We've taken



Abdus Salam Mia, master of "ML Prince of Hamza-5", a vessel operating on the Galachipa-Rangabali route, said, "It's not only the passengers, we, the boat operators, also face severe difficulties due to the lack of pontoons."

Jafar Mridha, panel chairman of Boro Baishdia Union Parishad, described Gaiyapara ghat as crucial for the people of Boro Baishdia and Maudubi unions. "Residents use

steps to build the connecting road to ease public suffering. We will also communicate with BIWTA regarding pontoon installation."

Contacted, Zaki Shahriar, assistant director of BIWTA in Patuakhali, said, "Pontoons may be installed if launch operators and locals make formal requests, preferably through their public representatives. Revenue potential from the ghat will be a major factor in our decision."



Farmers in a process to dry jute in the sun along village canals and wetlands. This year, Rajshahi has seen a bumper jute harvest, prompting many farmers to seize the opportunity to maximise their earnings. The photo was taken near Baghmari Bridge in Paba upazila yesterday.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

JP to hold its 10th council today

It will resolve the party's long-standing factional rifts, says a faction's chair Anisul Islam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today's national council of the Jatiya Party will resolve the party's long-standing divisions and open a new chapter of unity, said Anisul Islam Mahmud, acting chairman of a JP faction, yesterday.

Speaking at a press conference in the capital's Gulshan, he said the council will pave the way for a fresh journey towards fulfilling the dream of party founder HM Ershad.

Anisul said several thousand councillors and delegates from across the country are expected to attend.

"Some are saying this party has split. But I want to state firmly that we have organised this council in accordance with the court order and the party's constitution. We have informed the Election Commission and invited their representatives to attend," he said.

"Through this council, we want to restore democracy within the Jatiya Party. Afterwards, we will abolish the controversial provisions of the party's constitution. The party will no longer be run under a single leadership, but under collective leadership," Anisul added.

In a written statement, JP Secretary General Mujibul Haque Chunnun said the party's 10th

SEE PAGE 9 COL 8

26km highway in Natore turns deadly

72 killed in road crashes on Bonpara-Hatikumrul stretch since 2021



AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU

The 26-kilometre stretch of the Bonpara-Hatikumrul highway in Natore has turned into a death trap, with frequent road accidents claiming dozens of lives over the years.

On July 23, eight people, including seven from the same family, were killed in a head-on collision between a truck and a microbus in the Shreerampur area. Within a week of that incident, two more accidents occurred on the same road, leaving one dead and several injured.

In 2014, 33 people were killed in a single accident at Rijur More area, which had sparked widespread criticism over road safety. Despite the tragedy, frequent accidents continue to occur on this stretch of highway, raising concern among locals and transport workers.

According to highway police, 72 people were killed and 40 critically injured in dozens of accidents along the 26-kilometre stretch between January 1, 2021 and July 31, 2025.

Md Ismail Hossain, officer-in-charge of Bonpara Highway Police Station, said this section of the road is the most accident-prone in Natore and the northern region. "There is no three-wheeler movement here, and the highway is

SEE PAGE 9 COL 3

From the kitchen to continents

Nasima and Shanta's homemade pickles goes global



MASUK HRIDOY, Brahmanbaria

It began with a storm and some fallen mangoes. During a nor'wester around five years ago, a cluster of raw mangoes dropped from the trees in Nasima Begum's village home. Not one to let them go to waste, she turned them into jars of homemade pickles -- an idea sparked by her expatriate brother. By her side stood her daughter-in-law, Shanta.

Together, the mother-in-law and daughter-in-law duo launched a Facebook page called "Paker Ghor Dotcom", hoping to share their homemade flavours with others.

What began on the kitchen floor of a rented house in the Imampara area of Brahmanbaria's Kasba upazila has since travelled far, reaching the dinner tables of Bangladeshi expatriates across Europe and the Middle East.

In the past five years, Nasima and Shanta have expanded beyond mango pickles, crafting over 20 varieties of traditional achaars -- olive, hog plum (chalta), jujube (boroi), garlic, beef, and naga chili -- alongside coconut sweets (narus), intricately designed pithas, and homemade cakes.

From their modest kitchen, they now earn Tk 60,000 to 70,000 per month while supporting household expenses. Their commitment to hygiene and quality has earned them a loyal following both online and in local markets.

Today, Nasima and Shanta are widely celebrated in their community as successful women entrepreneurs.

"Each item is made with the same care as a home-cooked meal," Nasima told this correspondent. "In an era of adulterated food, we make sure to use high-quality ingredients like pure oil and molasses. That's how we built our reputation for reliability."

Shanta, a college student, added that they also

SEE PAGE 9 COL 6



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