

Rabeya Akhter passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rabeya Akhter, wife of the late Md Ismail Mia, former Inspector of Kalia



Chapra Sugar Mills and noted social worker, passed away on Wednesday night at her residence in Batrish, Kishoreganj.

The funeral was held yesterday after the Zohr prayers on the Shahidi Mosque premises.

She is survived by her only son, Main Uddin Khoka, an employee of City (NA) Bank, and her only daughter, Meera, a homemaker.

The Sugar Mills Children's Forum has expressed deep sorrow at her death and requested all to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

PARTHA CHAKRABORTY, Bagerhat

The main building of Bardia Bahumukhi High School in Lohagara upazila of Narail has become so dilapidated that it could collapse at any time, putting more than 600 students and 25 teachers in danger.

Built in 1997, the structure has never undergone renovation. Large chunks of plaster have fallen away, leaving the steel rods in the pillars and beams exposed.

When it rains, water seeps through the ceiling, soaking students, teachers, books, and



BARDIA HIGH SCHOOL IN NARAIL

School building on the verge of collapse



furniture.

While all the classrooms are facing similar issues, the sixth-grade classroom is particularly unusable now, with water dripping onto benches and the floor remaining damp.

"It is impossible to hold classes in the sixth-grade room," said Assistant Teacher Saiful Islam.

"The teachers' room is also unsafe — plaster often falls from the ceiling while people are moving around."

Students in other grades face the same hazards. "In our class, plaster often falls during lessons, sometimes hitting us," said ninth grader Sanin Mahmud. "Water leaks from above and even blocks

our view of the board."

Another ninth grader, Tamjid Mollah, said, "Our classroom is in no condition for lessons. Plaster peels off the board, and during exams, water leaks onto our answer sheets."

Lohagara Upazila Education Officer Md Anwar Hossain acknowledged the seriousness of the situation. "I have visited the school and found the building in critical condition. It needs to be removed quickly to prevent accidents. A decision on the next steps will be made soon," he said.

Teachers said the unsafe building is disrupting classes, damaging the learning environment, and driving down attendance.

"This building has not been fit for teaching for a long time," said teacher Khan Ashraf Habib. "We are working at the risk of our lives. We urge the authorities to take immediate action."

CU returns to merit-based hall seat allocations
Food quality, cleanliness issues still persist, say students

CU CORRESPONDENT

Chittagong University's residential halls, once marked by political dominance and disorder, are witnessing a shift toward greater discipline in the wake of last year's July uprising.

For the first time in seven years, seats are being allocated based on merit rather than political affiliation.

Students said they can now live without intimidation or pressure; although water shortage, poor food and cleanliness issues still persist.

Many students at the university's residential halls, especially first-year students, are complaining about the poor food quality and unhygienic conditions. While some halls have seen minor improvements, most remain unchanged.

"The food quality is terrible. But repeated complaints have lead nowhere," said Mirza Hasib, a resident of Atish Dipankar Hall.

Prof Dr Fuad Hasan, provost of Shahjalal Hall, said the university's administration only handles "structural issues like electricity, water, and

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Mannan's orchard of global delights

MINTU DESHWARA

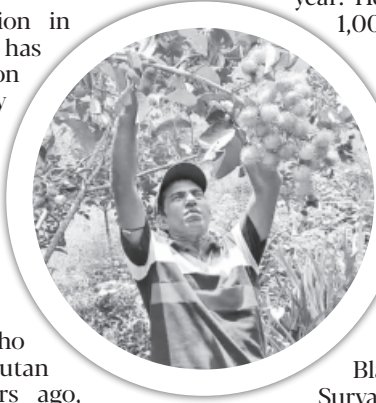
In the hills of Akbarpur, a green revolution is taking root — not driven by large corporations, but by the vision and hard work of one man.

Md Abdul Mannan's orchard is no ordinary farm; it is a living mosaic of tropical abundance, where rare fruits from across the globe grow alongside local favourites.

Since its inception in 2018, the orchard has garnered attention for its diverse array of fruit trees, including exotic species such as rambutan and the peanut butter fruit, which add both variety and beauty to the landscape.

Mannan, who introduced rambutan seedlings four years ago, said they cost between Tk 500 and Tk 1,200 each, with trees bearing fruit just a year after planting.

"Last year, I sold rambutan at Tk 500-600 per kilo, earning about Tk 10,000," Mannan said. This year, he expects higher earnings from the fruit. Of the 25 rambutan trees in his orchard, 10 to 15 are expected to bear fruit this season.



Beyond its commercial value, the fruit has earned a reputation among locals, who visit the orchard to pick it themselves.

Another unusual crop is the peanut butter fruit, somewhat similar to an elongated plum, known for its red ripe appearance and light yellow flowers. Mannan has 13 trees, planted three years ago, which began fruiting last year. He sold the fruit for Tk 1,000.

Spanning five acres and 44 percent of land use, the orchard's largest portion, 32 percent, is devoted to dragon fruit.

Mannan has already sold Tk 40,000 worth this year. He also grows 20 varieties of mangoes, including Black Stone, Brunei King, Suryamani, and Amrapali, with nearly 900 trees in total, earning Tk 55,000 from mango sales this year.

His 100 jackfruit trees also yielded Tk 55,000.

Around 18,000-20,000 pineapple plants brought in Tk 1,30,000 this year, while other crops include 55 litchi trees, 15 jam trees, and various

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Three killed, 7 hurt in Faridpur bus collision

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Three people were killed and seven others injured in a head-on collision between two buses on the Dhaka-Khulna highway in Faridpur's Sadar upazila yesterday afternoon.

The deceased were identified as Atiar Sheikh, 55, of Damurhuda upazila in Chuadanga; Sadhona Akter, 23, of Badalgachhi upazila in Naogaon; and Ranjit Chandra Das, 48, of Bamna upazila in Barguna, said Md Salauddin Ahmed Chowdhury, officer-in-charge of Karimpur Highway Police Station.

Quoting eyewitnesses, the police said the crash occurred around 12:30pm on the eastern side of a bridge near Kanaipur Bazar, where a Dhaka-bound Royal Express bus and a Darshana-bound Darshana Deluxe bus collided head-on.

The front sections of both vehicles were badly damaged, leaving at least 10 passengers injured.

Sub-Inspector Md Shafiquddin said the injured were taken to Faridpur Medical College Hospital, where the three were declared dead on arrival.

The accident brought traffic to a standstill for about an hour, causing long tailbacks on both sides of the highway.

Normal traffic resumed after the wreckage was cleared with a tow truck, the OC said.

3 workers die in Netrakona wall collapse

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Three workers were killed and two others injured when a wall collapsed during the demolition of an abandoned building belonging to the Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) in Netrakona yesterday.

The accident occurred around 4:00pm at the BADC office premises in the district town.

According to police and fire service sources, nine workers were engaged in the demolition when a wall suddenly collapsed on five of them. Three workers died on the spot, and two others sustained injuries.

The deceased were identified as Md Abdus Salam, 40; Md Hannan Mia, 40; and Md Dipu Mia, 38.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

Man killed over Tk 350 loan in Mymensingh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

An auto-rickshaw driver has been beaten to death by a group of people over dues of only Tk 350 in the Mankon Boardghar area of Muktagacha upazila in Mymensingh.

Fahim, 25, a father of a seven-month-old girl, was beaten indiscriminately on Monday afternoon and admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH), where he died the following day, said police.

His body was sent to MMCH morgue for autopsy.

Quoting the case statement, Ripon Chandra Goop, officer-in-charge of Muktagacha Police Station, said there was a dispute between Fahim's uncle Moznun Mia and local grocer Rasel Mia over the due of Tk 350. Rasel allegedly had an altercation with Moznun on Sunday. After that, Rasel and his accomplices asked Moznun to come to his shop to settle the matter.

On Monday afternoon, Moznun along with Fahim reached the spot. At one stage, Rasel along with Sajib Hasan, Mankon Union Jatitabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) unit president, started beating them with pieces of wood, injuring four people including Fahim.

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Govt identifies 367

FROM PAGE 3

Of the newly prioritised proposals: 82 were from the Labour Commission, 71 from the Women's Commission, 37 from the Local Government Commission, 33 from the Health Commission, 23 from the Media Reform Commission.

Meanwhile, another 316 proposals remain under review for future implementation.

The press secretary also highlighted the success of the chief adviser's recent visit to Malaysia.

He said Bangladeshis workers there will now enjoy social protection benefits similar to Malaysian nationals and will be able to lodge complaints in Bangla.

Calling it a "landmark tour", Shafiqul said Bangladesh requested employment opportunities for private security guards, caregivers, and students in Malaysia.

The Malaysian authorities responded positively, and discussions also covered free trade agreements and defence cooperation, he added.

Four suspects

FROM PAGE 3

Burirhat village; Ebadat Hossain, 27, of Balapur village; Rafiqul Islam, 33, and Mizanur Rahman, 22, of Rahimapur from Soyar union in the upazila.

According to police, victims Ruplal Das and his nephew-in-law Pradip Das were beaten to death around 9:00pm on August 9 at Burirhat Bottola in Soyar union on suspicion of stealing a rickshaw van.

The following day, Ruplal's wife Maloti Rani filed a murder case with Taraganj Police Station, accusing around 700 unidentified individuals.

Ruplal, from Ghonirampur Dangapara village of Kursha union, earned a living making and repairing shoes at Taraganj Bazar. Pradip, from Shyampur in Mithapukur upazila, worked as a rickshaw van puller.

Crores spent

FROM PAGE 3

said the mayor has instructed the immediate restoration of damaged roads.

"Rain and construction works by CDA and WASA have damaged many main roads, but we are working on repairs," he said.

Mohammed Ariful Islam, project director of Package-1 of Chattogram WASA's STP, said, "We have already paid 82 crore takas to the city corporation to permanently repair the roads where our work is complete. We have held coordination meetings and are implementing the project with the CCC's cooperation.

"In areas where roads are completely unusable, we are covering them with bricks or, in some cases, casting concrete at our own expense. If the city corporation carpeted the

roads immediately after we finished, people would not have to suffer so much."

CDA Elevated Expressway Project Director Mahfuzur Rahman told The Daily Star, "We had excavated the roads and later repaired them after completing the work. We did not take any permission from the CCC. For the elevated expressway construction, we re-carpeted the roads that were damaged during the process."

He added, "We also re-carpeted roads damaged during the construction of the expressway ramps. In the Nimitala area, we recently carried out carpeting after completing our work, but now WASA's construction is underway there, and they have damaged the road again. We are not responsible for that."

IOM UN MIGRATION
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
Date: August 15, 2025 Reference # CO/BD10/MPSD/2025/061
The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is an intergovernmental organization established in 1951 and is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits both migrants and society.
IOM Bangladesh Mission now invites interested authorized bidders For Mobile Financial Services (MFS) to submit their "Proposal" as per the requirement listed below.

Sl. No.	Item Description	QTY	Unit	Pre-Proposal Meeting	Submission Deadline
1	Request for Proposal for Facilitate Disbursement of Training Allowance to 4500 Beneficiaries for 4 districts in Bangladesh	1	Job	17 August 2025 Time: 11:30am Through MS Teams	27 August 2025 Time: on or before 11:59PM (GMT+6).

For more information including a complete set of bidding documents for this RFP is available at IOM website (<https://bangladesh.iom.int/procurement>) from 13 August 2025 to 27 August, 2025.
A Pre-proposal conference as mentioned above will be arrange virtually over the Microsoft Teams platform. The conference link is specified in the Request for Proposal (RFP) document.
IOM Bangladesh Mission

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ID	Title of Works	Last date & time of selling/downloading	Closing & Opening Date and Time
1134188	Procurement of 132 kV Current Transformers for different Grid Sub-Station under Power Grid Bangladesh PLC.	10.09.2025 at 12:00	10.09.2025 at 14:00

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