

## Mother and son run over by truck

UNB, Dinajpur

A mother and her two-month-old son were killed after falling from a motorcycle and being crushed under the wheels of a truck at the Sonali Bank intersection in Birampur upazila of Dinajpur yesterday.

The incident occurred around 11:30am, said SM Jahangir, sub-inspector of Birampur Police Station.

The deceased were Kohinoor Begum, a health assistant at the local union health centre, and her son, Risat Kaif. Kohinoor was travelling with her husband, Golam Rabbani, to her father's house in Hili.

According to eyewitnesses, the accident happened when the motorcycle, driven by Rabbani, was forced to brake after an auto-rickshaw in front came to an abrupt stop.

The sudden braking caused the motorcycle to lose balance and fall into the path of an oncoming truck.

Kohinoor and her child were crushed under the vehicle and died on the spot.

The SI said the family did not lodge any formal complaint.

## TULARAMPUR BAZAR

# Demand for dinghy boats rises in Narail

PARTHA CHAKRABORTTY, Bagerhat

As dawn breaks over Tularampur Bazar in Narail Sadar upazila, the quiet gives way to the creak of wooden hulls and the murmur of bargaining voices. Craftsmen arrive one by one, unloading handmade dinghies from vehicles and lining them neatly under the sprawling shade of an old rain tree. Some add the final touches with a chisel, while others lean in to negotiate with buyers.

This vibrant rural market is held twice a week – on Fridays and Mondays – throughout the monsoon.

From early morning until midday, traders from nearby villages and distant districts gather to buy and sell a traditional watercraft known locally as the taler donga, or palm tree dinghy.

Shorter and more slender than regular boats, these dinghies are made from mature palm trees, a craft passed down through generations in Char Shalikh village.

“Our people have been making dongas for a very long time,” said artisan Sojib, a second-generation craftsman. “We travel to different areas to buy palm trees, hire workers to cut and shape them, then bring the finished dinghies to Tularampur.”

A single palm tree yields two dinghies and takes four craftsmen

a full day to complete. “Depending on quality, we pay three to five thousand taka for a tree,” said carpenter Nazrul Sheikh. “After expenses, we earn about two to three thousand taka per dinghy. This year, demand is good because of rising water levels.”

“A high-quality donga sells for between six and thirteen thousand

Buyers come from far beyond Narail. “Our house is between a river and a wetland,” said Ramesh Halder from Gopalganj. “I’m looking for a boat for fishing. Prices seem a bit high, but if I find one I like, I’ll take it.”

Mohon Biswas, who bought a dinghy for Tk 12,000, added, “I’ll use it to feed fish and collect snails from my enclosure. Transporting it home



taka and can last 11 to 14 years,” said seller Yadul Sheikh. “Lower-quality ones cost four to five thousand and last no more than six years.”

These palm dinghies are an essential mode of transport in shallow, still waters. Locals use them for fishing, harvesting water lilies, transporting paddy and jute, or collecting snails.

will cost me another thousand.”

According to BISIC’s Narail district office, over 100 families in Char Shalikh are involved in donga-making. “If they need assistance, we will provide them technical as well as all types of support to keep the craft alive,” said its Deputy Manager Solaiman Hossain.

## Tourist drowns at Cox’s Bazar sea beach

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox’s Bazar

A tourist drowned while bathing at the Cox’s Bazar beach’s Shaibal Point around 1:00pm yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Mohammad Samir, 22, a mechanic from Halishahar area in Chattogram.

Police said Samir was visiting Cox’s Bazar with his four friends.

While bathing in the sea at noon, he got swept away by waves.

His friends rescued him in a critical condition and took him to Cox’s Bazar Sadar Hospital, where doctors declared him dead, said the SI.

Cox’s Bazar Model Police Station Officer-in-Charge Elias Khan said police went to the hospital after receiving the news.

The body was kept at the hospital’s morgue.

The victim’s family was on their way to Cox’s Bazar, he added.

In the past seven months, 12 tourists have drowned in Cox’s Bazar while bathing in the sea, while 78 others were rescued.

## PATURIA–DAULATDIA ROUTE

# Ferry services disrupted after 2 ghats collapse



UNB, Manikganj

Ferry operations on the Paturia–Daulatdia route have been severely disrupted after two of the three ferry ghats at Paturia collapsed under the force of a strong current in the Padma River. Ghat-5 was shut down completely following its collapse, while part of ghat-4 gave way yesterday afternoon, forcing its temporary closure.

Currently, ferry movement is being handled through ghat -3, causing major delays and long queues of vehicles.

Travel time across the four-kilometre river stretch has more than doubled, with ferries now taking over an hour due to the strong current.

Abdus Salam, acting deputy general manager of the BIWTC Aricha office, said ferry crossings now take more than twice as long due to the strong river current.

While it previously took around 25–30 minutes to travel the four-kilometre stretch, the journey now exceeds one hour.

BIWTA Executive Engineer Nepal Chandra Debnath said emergency efforts have begun, including dumping geo bags to protect the ghats. He said the force of the current is preventing the geo bags from settling in the correct positions.

## Plastic pollution

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In an apparent reference to oil-producing nations, Colombia’s delegate Haendel Rodriguez said a deal had been “blocked by a small number of states who simply did not want an agreement.”

Diplomats and climate advocates had warned earlier this month that efforts by the European Union and small island states to cap virgin plastic production – fuelled by petroleum, coal and gas – faced opposition from petrochemical-producing countries and the US under President Donald Trump.

US delegate John Thompson from the State Department declined to comment as he left the talks. The path forward for the negotiations is uncertain.

UN officials and some countries, including Britain, said that negotiations should resume but others described a broken process.

“It is very clear that

the current process will not work,” South Africa’s delegate said.

More than 1,000 delegates have gathered in Geneva for the sixth round of talks, after a meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) in South Korea late last year ended without a deal.

Negotiations had gone into overtime on Thursday as countries scrambled to bridge deep divisions over the extent of future curbs. Many, including Danish environment minister Magnus Heunicke, who negotiated on behalf of the EU, were disappointed that the final push did not yield any results.

“Of course we cannot hide that it is tragic and deeply disappointing to see some countries trying to block an agreement,” he told reporters while vowing to keep working on the treaty necessary to tackle “one of the biggest pollution problems we have on earth.”

## Halt new

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In a separate development, Palestinian Prisoners’ Media Office (ASRA) has named 20 Palestinians confirmed to have been arrested during Israeli military raids across the occupied West Bank since Thursday night.

Five young men from the same family were arrested in two raids in Nablus, while three mothers of Palestinians previously killed by Israeli forces were among eight taken from Qalqilya.

Six more people were arrested during Israeli incursions into parts of Jenin, the Jalazone refugee camp in Ramallah, and towns in Tulkarem.

The armed wing of Hamas has said its fighters hit an Israeli Merkava tank with a Yassin 105 shell in southern Zeitoun, Gaza City’s largest neighbourhood, where Israeli forces have also stepped up deadly attacks.

The group said its fighters also targeted two houses where Israeli soldiers had taken cover during their withdrawal from an ambush site.

## Trump, Putin in Alaska to end Ukraine war

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In recent days, Russia has made significant battlefield gains that could strengthen Putin’s hand in any ceasefire negotiations.

Speaking to reporters aboard Air Force One en route to Anchorage, Trump sounded a positive note. “There’s a good respect level on both sides and I think something’s going to come out of it,” he said.

Every word and gesture will be closely watched by European leaders and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, who was not included and has refused pressure from Trump to surrender territory seized by Russia.

“It is time to end the war, and the necessary steps must be taken by Russia. We are counting on America,” Zelensky said in a social media post.

Trump has called the summit a “feel-out meeting” to test Putin, whom he last

saw in 2019, and said he was not going to Alaska to negotiate.

“I’m here to get them at the table,” he said of the Russian and Ukrainian leaders.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Moscow would not forecast the outcome of the meeting.

“We never make any predictions ahead of time,” Lavrov told Russian state TV after he reached Alaska, wearing what appeared to be a shirt with “USSR” written across it in Cyrillic script.

Russia’s “position is clear and unambiguous,” he said.

Trump has promised to consult with European leaders and Zelensky, saying that any final agreement would come in a three-way meeting with Putin and the Ukrainian president to “divvy up” territory.

Trump has boasted of his relationship with Putin, blamed predecessor Joe

Biden for the war, and vowed before his return to the White House in January that he would be able to bring peace within 24 hours.

But despite repeated calls to Putin, and a February 28 White House meeting in which Trump publicly berated Zelensky, the Russian leader has shown no signs of compromise.

Trump has acknowledged his frustration with Putin and warned again yesterday of “very severe” consequences if he does not accept a ceasefire.

Saying he “would walk” from the table if the meeting didn’t go well, Trump told reporters he “wouldn’t be happy” if a ceasefire could not be secured immediately.

The talks are set to begin at 11:30am (1930 GMT) at Elmendorf Air Force Base, the largest US military installation in Alaska and a Cold War facility for surveillance of the former Soviet Union.

## Mujib not Father of the Nation

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was reduced to a tributary state of India, the anti-people constitution of 1972 was imposed, and the foundations were laid for looting, political killings, and the one-party BAKSAL dictatorship.”

“At the core of the Awami League’s fascist politics lies Mujib worship and Liberation War worship, a political idolatry used to oppress the people, plunder the nation, and divide citizens into first-class and second-class. This was nothing less than modern landlordism disguised as democracy. Yet the Liberation War was the struggle of all the people.”

For decades, the AL has treated Bangladesh as its ancestral property, ruling without accountability and using Mujib’s name to justify every act of corruption and

repression, Nahid added.

“The people’s uprising of 2024 shattered this landlordism. No person, no family, no ideology will ever again be allowed to strip citizens of their rights or impose fascism on Bangladesh. The ‘Father of the Nation’ title is not history; it is a fascist tool manufactured by the Awami League to silence dissent and monopolise the state. Bangladesh belongs equally to all its citizens, and no single person can claim ownership of its birth or its future.”

Mujibism is a fascist ideology in the name of Sheikh Mujib and the Liberation War, he said, adding, “Our struggle is not against any individual, but against a fascist ideology.”

Nahid wrote, “Mujibism is an ideology of fascism and division. It means enforced

disappearances, killings, rape, and systematic human rights violations. It means looting the nation’s wealth and laundering it abroad. It means Islamophobia, communalism, and the grabbing of minority land. It means selling national sovereignty to foreign powers. For sixteen years, Mujib was kept politically alive as a weapon, while behind his statue, abduction, murder, plunder, and massacre flourished.

“Mujibism is a living danger. Defeating it demands political, ideological, and cultural resistance. Our struggle is to build a republic, a sovereign, democratic Bangladesh of equal citizens, where no party, no dynasty, and no leader stands above the people. Bangladesh is not anyone’s property; it is the people’s republic.”

## The fading fibre

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from a lack of mature seeds. Although many seed companies operate across the country, very few are trusted to sell quality seeds, they said.

Nirapoda Biswas, a farmer from the village, said, “Each company sells different types of seeds each year, but almost all packets contain about 10 percent immature seeds. We buy from company dealers or local markets and face losses.”

He also claimed that farmers receive very little

guidance from the DAE regarding seed quality.

Advocate Kudrat-E-Khuda, president of Patkal Rokkhai Sammilito Nagorik Parishad, said the sharp fall in both cultivation and production is alarming for Khulna’s jute sector.

“If the closed jute mills are reopened, the price of jute will increase,” he said.

“After facing so many challenges, farmers don’t get a fair price for their jute in the market. If the agriculture department set a fixed price for jute like it

does for rice and procured it directly from the fields, farmers would benefit,” he added.

“If that happened, the golden days of jute could return,” he said.

Md Nazrul Islam, deputy director of the DAE in Khulna Division, said, “Farmers are very calculative. If they face a loss from a crop, they switch to another.”

“We are trying to bring back the heyday of jute and will discuss the matter with higher authorities,” he added.

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After heavy or even moderate rainfall, the entire premises are submerged due to the absence of a proper drainage system, causing severe suffering for service seekers, said patient Morium Akter.

“It is beyond imagination that this nuisance has been continuing for years,” said Sathi Akter, an attendant.

She said the two-storey building was once accessible via a road along the pond’s edge, but erosion over time has collapsed the road into the pond.

In the absence of a proper entrance, visitors are forced to use a narrow passage through an old, abandoned hospital building to reach the centre, risking their safety, said Abdus Salam, a resident of Moazzempur village.

Md Akram Ullah, sub-assistant community medical officer at the centre, said over a hundred patients visit daily, but there is no proper entryway.

He alleged that surrounding fish farming

ponds have blocked the pumping out of rainwater, creating the problem.

Dr Shamima Sultana, upazila health and family planning officer in Nandail, said the centre also runs Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI) activities, which bring mothers with children to the facility, but the approach is unsafe.

She said repeated requests to the local union parishad chairman for road construction have brought no results, although higher authorities have been informed for urgent intervention.

Taslima Akter, chairman of Moazzempur union parishad, said they have been aware of the problem but have been unable to take action due to a lack of funds.

“We will take steps after managing the fund,” she said.

Nandail UNO Sarmina Sattar said, “A proper initiative involving the local fish farmers will be taken for the better interest of the service seekers.”

## Abbas seeks justice

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had seriously deteriorated while she was held in custody, citing the appalling conditions in the Old Dhaka Central Jail. “Khaleda Zia was taken to a hospital from a dilapidated building in the jail, but even there, she was not given proper treatment,” Abbas said.

“The building was infested with rats and cockroaches. There are suspicions that she was subjected to slow poisoning during that time,”

he added.

“Despite the numerous obstacles and conspiracies, Khaleda Zia has emerged as the most popular leader in Bangladesh’s political history,” he said.

“Her leadership and determination made her a target of political vendetta on many occasions,” he said.

“Even when she was ill and denied medical care, the people of Bangladesh came forward to demand justice for her,” Abbas added.

DHAKA SATURDAY AUGUST 16, 2025

BHADRA 1, 1432 BS

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## JCD leader

FROM PAGE 4 involved in the incident – managed to flee the scene during the raid.

Madhabpur Police Station Officer-in-Charge Shahid Ullah said, “No case has been filed yet.” In response to the arrest, Habiganj district Chhatra Dal President Shah Rajib Ahmed Rington said the organisation would not take responsibility for any personal wrongdoing by its members.

PRAYER TIMING		AUGUST 16	
Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-25	12-45	4-45	6-38 8-00
JAMAAT 5-00	1-15	5-00	6-41 8-30
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION			