

One killed in bus-bike collision

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Shariatpur

A man was killed in a head-on collision between a bus and a motorcycle in Madaripur yesterday.

The victim, Masum Pyada, 24, was heading home on the motorcycle.

The accident occurred around 2:40pm yesterday near the Asmat Ali Khan Bridge area under Madaripur Sadar Police Station. Locals took him to Madaripur Sadar Hospital, where the on-duty doctor declared him dead.

A d d i t i o n o n a 1 Superintendent of Police Md Jahangir Alam confirmed the matter to The Daily Star over the phone.

Citing locals, he said the victim, Masum Pyada, was the son of Bulu Pyada of Char Brahmandi village in Jhaudi Union of Sadar upazila.

On Tuesday afternoon, Masum was heading towards his home on a motorcycle. When he reached the area near the Asmat Ali Khan Bridge, an oncoming bus collided head-on with the motorcycle.

Masum was critically injured and thrown onto the road.

MONIRAMPUR IN JASHORE
Waterlogging disrupts edn in 25 schools

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Educational activities have been disrupted in 25 institutions in Monirampur upazila of Jashore due to widespread waterlogging.

Most houses and schools have been inundated, and the situation has persisted for the past month. Despite this, classes have continued, with primary lessons now being held in tents set up in the courtyards of local homes.

Students of Bholbari Government Primary School are attending classes in the house of the school's PTA president, as the school grounds have been submerged under knee deep water for the past month. The alternative arrangement allows lessons to continue despite the challenging conditions.

The floodwaters have caused immense hardship for both students and teachers, particularly in the Bhabdah area, where nearly three lakh people have been stranded due to continuous rainfall and water from upstream.

Several other government primary schools, including Kumashima, Hatgacha, Panchkhatia, and Mahishdia, have also shifted classes to temporary shelters in private homes.

Fourth-grader Devbrato Biswas

and fifth-grader Anushka Biswas said the roads to their school remain submerged, forcing them to wade through water and mud to attend classes.

Pranesh Biswas, headteacher

lessons. Monirampur Upazila Secondary Education Officer Zillur Rashid said the grounds of at least 25 schools, colleges, and madrasas have been submerged, leading to the suspension



of Bholbari Government Primary School, said a tent had been erected at the home of the PTA president to allow classes to continue.

PTA president Nityo Biswas confirmed that bamboo and poles were collected from the village to construct the temporary structure, which is now hosting regular

of classes in many institutions. Abu Motaleb, upazila education officer, said while the grounds of 14 government primary schools remain submerged, alternative education activities are ongoing, and the learning process will continue in this manner until the water recedes.

From homes to streets, sexual violence persists

FROM PAGE 3 while harassment was most often committed by "familiar criminals" or "miscreants" (31 percent) and teachers (24 percent).

Cyber abuse was primarily carried out by boyfriends, ex-husbands, classmates, and neighbours.

Perpetrators ranged in age from adolescents to men over 60, with young people heavily involved in rape.

Twenty-eight percent of accused rapists were between 11 and 30, with the highest proportion aged 21-25.

A significant portion of gang rapists (24 percent) were aged 16-25. In harassment cases, 17 percent of perpetrators were aged 16-30, and half of cybercrime offenders fell within this age range.

The report also highlighted risk patterns in public and private spaces.

However, a comparison

Sweet harvest

FROM PAGE 4 this year on 16 hectares of gher banks in Dacope alone.

Agriculture Officer Md Shafiqul Islam said yields are expected to reach 28-30 tonnes per hectare. "That means 480 tonnes of watermelon will be produced in this upazila alone, with a market value of Tk 2.3 crore," he said.

In the 2021-22 fiscal year, off-season watermelon was cultivated on 315 hectares of land, producing 8,820 tonnes. The following year, 2022-23, the cultivated area increased to 374 hectares with a production of 10,472 tonnes. In 2023-24, cultivation expanded significantly to 400 hectares, with production standing at 13,280 tonnes.

In 2024-25, the cultivated area was 929 hectares, and production surged to 29,728 tonnes, significantly higher than in previous years. For the upcoming 2025-26 fiscal year, the target has been set at 920 hectares of cultivation with an expected yield of 29,440 tonnes.

Md Nazrul Islam, deputy director of the Khulna Agricultural Extension Department, said off-season watermelon is more than a financial lifeline. "It is a companion crop that fits neatly into the agricultural cycle without disrupting other farming activities. Farmers grow it alongside fish cultivation, turning what was once idle land into a productive asset."

Presenting the keynote, Sujan national committee member Md Ekram Hossain said the July Charter, prepared after dialogues with political parties, is positive but its success depends entirely on implementation, which remains disputed among parties.

He stressed the need to distinguish which reforms require constitutional amendments, ordinances, administrative decisions, or immediate action.

The dialogue was chaired by Sujan's acting president Justice MA Matin.

Former comptroller and auditor general Mohammad Muslim Chowdhury, journalist Sohrab Hasan, Dhaka University Professor Asif Mohammad Shaham, and representatives from various civic organisations also attended the event.

Munshiganj, Manikganj

FROM PAGE 4 favour of the draft and 259 objections raised. Hearings for Dhaka region constituencies continue until Wednesday.

On July 30, the EC published draft boundaries for 300 constituencies, reducing Bagerhat's seats from four to three and increasing Gazipur's from five to six. By August 10, it had received 1,760 claims and objections on 83 constituencies. Final boundaries will be published after the hearings.

GAZIPUR RESIDENTS PRAISE EC

In contrast to criticism from Bagerhat, Gazipur convener

expressed frustration over the non-implementation of the commission's recommendations.

Jamuna Television CEO Fahim Ahmed, another member of the commission, said it would have been better if their proposals had been incorporated into discussions of the National Consensus Commission.

Press Institute of Bangladesh Director General Faruk Wasif said, "The government is bound to reform media, but it cannot control everything by regulation."

Samakal Editor Shahed Mohammad Ali and Dhaka Tribune Acting Editor Reaz Ahmed also spoke at the event, among others.

Adopt data protection measures

FROM PAGE 3 The protection of personal data is essential to safeguard human rights, foster an open and inclusive digital ecosystem, and enable innovation and economic growth in Bangladesh, it said.

Civil society groups have previously voiced concerns that certain provisions under consideration could allow arbitrary surveillance, restrict cross-border data flows, and give disproportionate authority to regulatory bodies.

ARTICLE 19 underscored that without meaningful safeguards, such measures risk undermining public trust and stifling the digital transformation Bangladesh is seeking to promote.

The organisation set out a series of "non-negotiable red lines" to guide the legislative process.

These include embedding

strong legal protections

against arbitrary or disproportionate surveillance, ensuring restrictions on rights are lawful and proportionate, and clarifying vague terms such as "public interest" and "operational necessity" that could otherwise be misused.

It also demanded establishment of an independent and transparent Data Protection Authority, shielded from political interference through secure tenure, financial autonomy, and accountability mechanisms.

ARTICLE 19 also highlighted the importance of protecting citizens' right to freely give and revoke consent, particularly for vulnerable or marginalised communities, and ensuring individuals have timely and effective avenues for redress when their rights are violated.

The group further called for narrowing exemptions

for law enforcement and national security, subjecting them to independent judicial or parliamentary oversight, and affirming that data protection must not be misused to curb freedom of expression, journalism, or civil society advocacy.

ARTICLE 19 also pressed for participatory and transparent rule-making processes, with input from civil society, technical experts, and affected communities in shaping how the law is implemented.

The objective is not to oppose the ordinance but to ensure that the final framework is transparent, accountable, and future-proof," the statement read.

Bangladesh has an opportunity to adopt a rights-respecting data protection regime that upholds democratic values, protects individuals from harm, and fosters an open digital environment for all."

Protesters were shot from above

FROM PAGE 1

case against deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and her two top aides. He said he treated a large number of gunshot victims between July 19-21 and August 4-5 last year, most of them aged 20-30.

Recalling one harrowing case, he said a father and son arrived with bullet wounds, but the father died in hospital as his injured son mourned helplessly.

The doctor alleged that some colleagues affiliated with Swachip (Swadhinata Chikitsak Parishad), a pro-Awami League doctors' association, asked them not to be over enthusiastic in treating the victims and said that criminals should not be treated. He added that five doctors were transferred on July 25 last year to obstruct treatment of the injured.

Mostak further said that during the anti-discrimination student movement, Chhattrap League activists stopped ambulances near Dhaka University's Dr Muhammad Shahidullah Hall, asked about patients' identities, and obstructed the injured from reaching the hospital.

During treatment, armed Chhattrap League activists entered the

hospital and inquired about the injured. Students pleaded us to hide their identities," he said, holding Hasina, former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, and law enforcers responsible for the brutality and demanding justice.

Apart from Mostak, four other witnesses testified yesterday. Nasir Uddin, a trader from Feni, testified that he was shot twice by armed members of Awami League, Jubo League and Chhattrap League when they attacked an anti-discrimination procession that he participated in Feni town on August 5 last year. One bullet pierced through his right heel while another one hit below his left knee and got stuck in a bone.

He told the tribunal that he later heard that seven or eight people were shot dead in Feni on August 4 that year. He said with the under of Sheikh Hasina, AL ministers Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal and Obaidul Quader, Awami League men led by local lawmaker Nizam Uddin Hazari shot protesters.

Saidur Rahman, grandfather of deceased Sharir Khan Anas narrated how the 10th

25 new High

FROM PAGE 3

25 under Article 98 of the constitution, raising the number of High Court judges to 113. The law ministry issued a gazette notification on the same day.

The judges will serve a two-year term from the date of oath-taking. The appointments include senior judges of the lower judiciary, deputy attorneys general, and practising Supreme Court advocates.

The newly appointed HC judges are Md Anwarul Islam (Shaheen), Md Saiful Islam, Md Nurul Islam, Sheikh Abu Taher, Aziz Ahmed Bhuiyan, Rajiuddin Ahmed, Faisal Hasan Arif, SM Saiful Islam, Md Asif Hasan, Md Ziaul Haque, Dihidar Masum Kabir, Jasmin Ara Begum, Murad-e-Mawla Sohel, Md Zakir Hossain, Md Rafizul Islam, Md Manjur Alam, Md Lutfur Rahman, Rezaul Karim, Fatema Anwar, Mahmud Hasan, Abdur Rahman, Syed Hasan Jubair, AFM Saiful Karim, Urmia Rahman and SM Iftekhar Uddin Mahamud.

Bangladeshi startups

FROM PAGE 3 Consumer Technology category, Pathao raised \$12 million in a pre-series B round last year led by VentureSouq, taking its total funding past \$50 million. The fresh investment is aimed at expanding its fintech arm, including Pathao Pay, a digital wallet, and Pay Later, said Forbes.

Pathao's inclusion in the Forbes Asia 100 to Watch is a recognition of our enduring commitment to building products that our customers love and are happy to pay for," Fahim Ahmed, CEO of Pathao, told The Daily Star.

They identified new avenues of cooperation, particularly in science and technology, artificial intelligence, energy transition, fisheries, biotechnology, climate change, agricultural mechanisation and modernisation of marine ports and shipyards.

The Korean side reiterated its commitment to support Bangladesh's high-quality infrastructure projects under both loans and grants, and to encourage South Korean manufacturing plants and production houses to expand their industrial value chains to Bangladesh.

Forbes Asia's selection process involved rigorous

evaluation based on factors such as industry impact, innovation, business model, revenue growth, and funding attractiveness.

Companies can use Shomvob to review candidates, outsource recruitment, and manage payrolls. Initially focused on finding work for low-income women, Shomvob

is helping Bangladeshi find jobs that match their skills and goals. Through its platform, job seekers can create digital profiles to apply for roles or participate in online training programs," said Forbes.

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