

## CITY

## Two siblings hacked to death over land dispute

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

Two siblings were hacked to death allegedly by their uncle over a land dispute in Raipura upazila of Narsingdi yesterday.

The deceased are Fora Mia, 26, and Shakil Mia, 20, of Charsubuddhi village in the upazila.

Md Minhazul Alam, superintendent of police in Narsingdi, said there had been a longstanding conflict between their father, Abu Taher Mia, and uncle, Auwal Mia, over ancestral property in the village. A boundary fence had been erected on the disputed land.

Around 12:30pm, when Fora and Shakil removed the fence and began filling the land with soil, their uncle Auwal allegedly became enraged and, along with his associates, launched a violent attack.

The two brothers, critically injured, were taken to Narsingdi Sadar Hospital.

Dr Farida Gulshana Kabir, resident medical officer, said the bodies were kept at the hospital morgue for autopsy. "They were brought dead to the hospital with multiple sharp weapon injuries," she said.

Md Kalimullah, additional superintendent of police in Narsingdi, said police have detained three suspects so far and efforts are underway to arrest the main perpetrators.

Auwal has been absconding since the incident, police said.

Additional police have been deployed in the area, and the situation remains under control. However, no formal complaint has yet been filed by the victims' family, said the police official.

## Eight-month ban on jatka fishing begins



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A nationwide ban on catching jatka (hilsa measuring less than 10 inches long) came into effect yesterday and will remain in force until June 30 next year.

The eight-month ban aims to boost hilsa production and ensure the sustainable conservation of the species.

During this period, catching, transporting, marketing, buying, selling, or storing hilsa smaller than 25 centimetres is strictly prohibited, the fisheries and livestock ministry said in a press release.

Earlier, from October 4 to October 25 this year, the government conducted the "Hilsa Conservation Campaign 2025" to protect mature hilsa during their peak breeding season, it added.

According to the Fish Protection and Conservation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025, and the Fish Protection and Conservation Rules, 1985, violation of this ban is punishable by up to two years of imprisonment with labour, a fine of up to Tk 5 lakh, or both.

## Faridpur bus terminal in ruins

SUZIT KUMAR DAS, Faridpur

The Faridpur Municipal Bus Terminal has long been in disrepair due to years of neglect and lack of maintenance, leaving passengers and transport workers in constant hardship.

During a recent visit to the terminal in the Goadamat area of Faridpur town, on the north side of the Dhaka-Barishal highway, this correspondent found the entire area riddled with potholes.

Even light rain turns the place into a muddy pool, making movement difficult for both passengers and vehicles.

According to Faridpur municipality sources, the first terminal was built around 1980 in Goadamat on the west side of the highway, connecting routes to Dhaka, Khulna, Benapole, Madaripur, Gopalganj and several upazilas. As transport demand grew, the municipality built the current terminal in 2004.

Now, around 400 long-haul buses and 300 mini-buses depart from the terminal daily. However, due to its limited capacity, only 100 buses can be kept on standby at a time, said transport workers.

"We face a lot of problems getting the buses in and out. Sometimes the bumpers



Battery-run auto-rickshaws crowd the roads in Khulna, causing severe traffic congestion. These vehicles often stop and operate at will to pick up or drop off passengers, worsening the gridlock. Residents have blamed poor regulation and urged stricter monitoring by the authorities. The photo was taken in the city's Gollamari area yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

## District admin moves to lease out parts of rivers again

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

Pabna district administration has issued a circular to lease out different portions of rivers across the district, naming them as enclosed waterbodies, for fish farming.

On October 13, the district administration issued the circular inviting bidders for the leases of 26 waterbodies in eight upazilas of the district for six years. Of these waterbodies, four are portions of different rivers including Ichamati and Padma flowing through the district.

Earlier, another circular was issued on January 14 last year for leasing out 63 waterbodies, including 31 that are portions of rivers, sparking widespread



criticism. After The Daily Star published a report in this regard, and later the Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA) served a legal notice, then the administration stopped leasing the river portions.

According to the recent circular, 21 acres of Padmar Kole — an offshoot of the Padma river — in Pabna Sadar upazila, and 107 acres of the Ichamati river at



three points in Shanthia upazila are included.

Contacted, Pabna Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Mofizul Islam said they issued the circular for leasing out enclosed waterbodies as per rules.

"We have issued the circular for leasing out listed waterbodies above 20 acres under a development project, following proper official procedure," he said.

Asked why the portions of rivers were being considered for leasing out, the DC claimed those were already included in the list of enclosed waterbodies across the country.

Lease seekers started submitting online applications from Monday (October 20) and will continue till November 15.

"Following legal procedure, we will provide the lease to the genuine fishermen's association for fishing," the

DC added. Executive engineer (Bera division) of Water Development Board Md Jahidul Islam, however, said a portion of Ichamati river is included in the list of registered "Jalmohal" (enclosed waterbody) so the district administration moved for its lease.

In the same way the Padmar Kole is also being leased out despite being a part of Padma river and a key natural fishing location.

Criticising the district administration's move, Tonmoy Sanyal, coordinator of BELA's Rajshahi regional office, said according to the existing law, there is no scope to lease out portions of rivers.

"According to a court verdict on February 3, 2019, all rivers are declared as legal entities or living entities. Nobody can restrict access to a river as per the law or lease out portions or offshoots of rivers for revenue," he added.

## Economic Zone struggles to take off in Jamalpur

## Power shortage hampers operation of lone factory

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

The Jamalpur Economic Zone, established in 2016 to attract investment and create jobs, is struggling to start its operation as a persistent power shortage cripples the operation of its lone factory while deterring other investors.

Located in the Diggait area beside the Jamalpur-Tangail regional highway, the 436-acre industrial zone was set up under the government's plan to develop 100 economic zones across the country to boost exports and generate employment.

It became ready for operation in 2021, with the Palli Bidyut Samity supplying electricity to the zone.

So far, 22 companies have signed agreements with the Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA) to set up factories there, including those in the garment, agriculture, and medical sectors. Of them, nine have completed infrastructure development, and eight large factories are waiting to begin operation.

However, only one company — Fervent Multiboard Industries Limited — has started production so far, and even its operation is being severely disrupted by electricity shortages.



Fervent Multiboard initially took 60 acres of land and planned to employ around 2,000 workers to produce particle boards but is now operating on 35 acres with only 700 workers.

"Our factory needs uninterrupted power to run smoothly," said Md Sona Mia, plant head of the company.

"Due to power shortages, our overall production is being severely disrupted. We are not receiving the electricity we need, and whatever supply we get is inconsistent."

According to company sources, the factory's daily production target is 900 cubic metres of particle boards, but it is currently producing just 300 cubic metres amid power shortages. The company says it needs 20 megawatts of electricity per month to operate at full capacity, but the REB supplies only three megawatts.

Md Mostafizur Rahman, general manager of Jamalpur Palli Bidyut Samity, said, "To meet the factory's demand, the power plant serving this area would need to increase its generation capacity."

He said the power plant that supplies electricity to the Jamalpur and Sherpur regions has reduced its generation, which is why they are unable to meet the current demand.

"The situation may worsen during the upcoming Boro season," he warned, noting that the Samity has no authority to request an expansion of the plant's capacity since it is privately owned.

Durjoy Khokshi, manager (engineering) of Titas Gas in Jamalpur, said, "We have started supplying gas to the economic zone following a final decision by the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources."

Rubaiyat Islam Sifat, assistant director of the Jamalpur Economic Zone under BEZA, could not be reached for comments.



Craftsperson Md Nasir Paramanik sets up his small stall at the traditional three-day fair organised for Jagadhatri Puja in Kalaskathi village of Bakerganj upazila. He sells various household and decorative items made from palm fibre, including baskets, hats, and bags. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS