

## 'Someone please take care of her'

Newborn abandoned at Dinajpur Medical College Hospital with a note

MD QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAYAT

A newborn was found abandoned on a bed at the children's ward of Dinajpur Medical College Hospital on Thursday evening, with a handwritten note left inside a bag.

According to hospital sources, the baby was admitted to the ward around 6:00pm on Thursday.

Speaking to The Daily Star yesterday, Intern Doctor Golam Ahad, who was on duty at the time of admission, said a couple aged around 50 came to the ward after identifying themselves as the baby's maternal grandparents. They requested the admission of the newborn to the hospital.

"When I asked about the baby's mother, they said she was downstairs. I told them to bring her up. They went out, but never returned. After a while, others noticed the baby alone on a bed outside the children's ward and informed us," said the doctor.



PHOTO: STAR

Despite an extensive search, neither the baby's mother nor any of her alleged relatives could be found.

A bag was left beside the bed containing some medicine, diapers, baby clothes, and a note presumably written by the mother.

The note read: "I am a Muslim. I am a helpless woman. Due to unavoidable circumstances, I am leaving my baby here. Please, someone take care of her. Date of birth: 04-11-2025, Tuesday. These are all her medicines. I am a woman of the Muslim community."

Dr Ahad said the baby was born prematurely, but was in a stable condition now. "The baby is receiving phototherapy [treatment using UV light] and is being kept warm. Other mothers in the ward are nursing her."

Since the news first spread, many approached the hospital yesterday, expressing interest in adopting the baby.

The hospital authorities said they would take a decision after consulting with all concerned departments and authorities.



Two fishermen arrange their hilsa catch at dawn after a night of fishing in the Padma River. Known for its quality, Padma hilsa usually sells at a high price, although at this time of year most are bought directly by locals for personal consumption. The photo was taken near the Mahishbari area of Godagari upazila yesterday.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

## Croplands shrink amid rising salinity in Bagerhat

Farmers turn to shrimp farming as fertile land becoming saline

PARTHA CHAKRABORTY, Bagerhat

The coastal district of Bagerhat has undergone a sweeping transformation over the past decade. The glistening wetlands that once stretched as golden paddy fields are now widely used for shrimp farming due to a sharp rise in water salinity.

In Rampal, Mongla, Morrelganj and parts of Bagerhat Sadar, vast stretches of cropland once used for paddy cultivation have been converted into aquaculture ponds.

While the boom in shrimp farming has brought prosperity for large leaseholders and investors through lucrative export markets, most small farmers and day labourers have faced displacement and rising debts, as their farmlands can no longer support crops because of high salinity.

Mizanur Rahaman, 39, in Morrelganj upazila, said he now cultivates paddy on 2.5 bighas of land, while the remaining 5 bighas have been turned into shrimp ponds.

Kamrul Dihadar, 35, of the same upazila, said he stopped paddy cultivation altogether and converted his 5-bigha land into a shrimp enclosure.

"As saline water crept inland from neighbouring waterbodies, thousands of local paddy farmers saw their harvests wither. Over the years, many have been forced to lease out their land to shrimp entrepreneurs for a fraction of its former value," said a farmer of Taligati village.

A 2024 survey by the Soil Resource Development Institute in Khulna, with data from the Department of Agricultural Extension in Bagerhat, found that salinity levels in parts of the district nearly doubled over the last decade.

The Pashur, Daratana, Panguchi and Ghashiakhali rivers now register alarming salinity levels of 15-30 desicseims per metre during the dry months of March and April, several times higher than what paddy or most vegetables can tolerate.



In 2020, Bagerhat's total agricultural area was 1,84,841 hectares. By 2024, total farmland had declined to 1,60,861 hectares.

Noor Alam Sheikh, Khulna divisional coordinator of Dhoritri Rokhaya Amra, said, "Expansion of shrimp farming, introduced in the 1980s, has turned into a catastrophe for the agricultural environment and public health. While shrimp exports generate only

Tk 3,000-4,000 crore in foreign currency, the resulting damage - the social cost to agriculture, the environment and public health - is estimated to be as high as Tk 50,000 crore."

"Given this imbalance, shrimp farming should either be halted or strictly managed under a proper plan," he said.

According to fisheries department data, 52,551 hectares of land in Bagerhat are now under Bagda shrimp farming, yielding 20,940 tonnes this season. Another 19,773.3 hectares are used for Galda prawn farming, yielding 19,716.3 tonnes.

Meanwhile, river salinity in parts of Bagerhat, including Mongla and Rampal, now averages around 5-7 parts per thousand, reflecting the intrusion of saline water inland.

Md Motahar Hossain, deputy director of the Department of Agricultural Extension in Bagerhat, said salinity intrusion now begins as early as November, rather than January, severely affecting crops by March-April.

He said officials are promoting salt-tolerant crop varieties and converting single-crop fields to double-cropping systems to help farmers maintain output despite shrinking farmland.

Raj Kumar Biswas, district fisheries officer in Bagerhat, said, "It is crucial to limit salinity and improve water management. Officials are working on measures to control the problem."

## Two killed, seven hurt in Bagerhat road accident



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Two people were killed and seven others injured when a bus plunged into a roadside ditch after hitting a motorcycle on the Khulna-Mongla highway in Bagerhat's Rampal upazila yesterday.

The identities of the victims could not be known immediately.

Md Emran Hossain, senior station officer of Mongla EPZ Fire Service, said the accident occurred around noon in the Tetulia Bridge area.

The injured were taken to Jhunjhuniya Hospital in Rampal upazila.

Emran added that the motorcycle riders were tourists travelling to Mongla to visit the Sundarbans.

Md Jafar Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Katakhal Highway Police Station, said two passengers of the bus died on the spot, and seven others including the bike riders were injured. OC Jafar said, "The bodies have been recovered and sent to Rampal Upazila Health Complex."

## Political culture lacks

FROM PAGE 3  
of the Inter-University Anti-Corruption Debate Competition 2025.

"Debate teaches us to be inspired by the values of honesty, justice, humanity, and the belief that all individuals are equal regardless of race, religion, class, or profession. Alongside presenting one's own opinions and arguments, and the patience and mindset to listen to others and expressing one's views rationally are recognised values of debate," Iftekaruzzaman said.

"Unfortunately, our society, state, and political sphere suffer from a stark deficiency of these fundamental principles. To ensure good governance and move the country forward, the young generation must continue to uphold and practice these values."

Mentioning that the competition is a part of TIB's nationwide anti-corruption movement, he said, "We must stand firm against corruption, and in this struggle, the youth are our strength."

This year's competition

made it mandatory for each team and judging panel to include at least one female participant.

"As a precondition for women's empowerment, there is no alternative to ensuring women's equal participation in decision-making and implementation within society, the state, and the family," he said.

The three-day event (November 6-8), organised by TIB and held at the CCDB Hope Center in Savar, has drawn 32 debating teams from public and private universities across the country, said a TIB press release.

The champion team will receive Tk 50,000, the runner-up Tk 30,000, and the best debater Tk 10,000. The top eight teams will qualify directly for next year's contest.

**PRAYER TIMING**  
NOVEMBER 8

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 5:00	12:45	3:45	5:25	7:00
JAMAAT 5:35	1:15	4:00	5:30	7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## SM Sultan museum lies

FROM PAGE 3  
Tourists visit Narail to see the landscapes that inspired Sultan's art. Many of them have expressed frustration over the poor facilities.

Karima Akhter, a college student from Gopalganj, said, "It's my first time visiting the SM Sultan museum. His paintings are truly mesmerising, and the natural surroundings are beautiful. However, the site

needs renovation to cater to visitors."

Contacted, Narail Deputy Commissioner and chairperson of the Sultan Foundation, Sharmin Akhter Jahan, said, "We have previously sent proposals to the ministry concerned for renovating the museum several times, and submitted all necessary documents, including those

related to land acquisition for expanding the museum and the plan to make the ghat attractive. Work will begin once the ministry gives approval."

Born on August 10, 1924, in Machimdia village of Narail, Sheikh Mohammed Sultan, popularly known as SM Sultan, rose to prominence for his bold and compassionate portrayal of rural Bengal and its hardworking people in his artworks.

Affectionately known as "Lal Mia of the Chitra riverbank", Sultan received the Ekushey Padak in 1982 and the Independence Award in 1993.

He passed away on October 10, 1994, and was laid to rest beside the Chitra River - now the grounds of the SM Sultan Memorial Museum - the very landscape that inspired his finest works.

## Dengue cases

FROM PAGE 3

"Many wait until their condition becomes critical. Others are referred from different districts. They often deteriorate on the way because if fluids are not administered properly during those first few hours, saving them becomes impossible," he said.

"Sometimes a patient starts the journey in pre-shock, but by the time they reach us after five or six hours, they are already in full shock. When they arrive at the emergency ward, there is very little we can do," he added.

"This is one reason why deaths are highest in Dhaka South City Corporation - critically ill patients from different districts are referred here," he pointed out.

He emphasised that patients should always be stabilised before referral. "Recover from shock first, then send the patient to Dhaka," he advised.

Morshed Jahan, senior staff nurse at the women's dengue ward of Suhrawardy hospital, said they have been facing continuous pressure from dengue patients since last month.

"The number of patients in the ward was 65 on Thursday morning, but it came down to 48 after 22 patients were released later in the day - though the beds may fill up again shortly," she said.

"To reduce the pressure, the authorities have recently opened another 18-bed dengue ward on another floor."

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH  
HIGH COURT DIVISION  
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)  
COMPANY MATTER NO. 1972 OF 2025  
IN THE MATTER OF: An application under Section 81(2) read with Section 85(3) and Section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994 and Rules 8 & 263 of the Companies Rule, 2009.  
AND  
IN THE MATTER OF: Narayan Sarker ..... Petitioner  
-VERSUS-  
The Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms and another ..... Respondents  
Dear Mr./Ms.  
Please take notice that on behalf of the Petitioner namely Narayan Sarker, son of Late Rakhal Chandra Sarker, one of the Shareholders and Managing Director of Benham Pharmaceuticals Ltd., having his address at 14/1, Laminia Street, Wari, Dhaka, Bangladesh, that an application under 81(2) read with section 85(3) and Section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994 along with Rules 8 & 263 of the Companies Rules, 2009 for condonation of delay in holding Annual General Meeting of Benham Pharmaceuticals Ltd. for the calendar years of 2022, 2023 and 2024 has been filed before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. Upon preliminary hearing, the Hon'ble Company Bench, comprising his Lordship Mr. Justice Ahmed Sohel vide order dated 03.11.2025 was pleased to admit the application & directed to publish notice about the application in the newspapers and file an affidavit-in-compliance before the said Court within 07th December, 2025. Any person or persons having interest in the said application may appear either personally or through duly authorized Advocate before the Court. Copy of the said application may be obtained from the office of the undersigned on payment of required costs. Yours faithfully,  
Aminul Islam Shakil, Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh, Mukti Bhaban (3rd Floor), 21/1 Purana Paltan, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.

**STATUTORY NOTICE**  
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH  
HIGH COURT DIVISION  
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)  
COMPANY MATTER NO. 1839 OF 2025  
-An application under Section-81(2), 85(3) & 396 of the Companies Act, 1994.  
Mohammad Anower Hossain. ....Petitioner  
-VERSUS-  
The Register of Joint Stock Company and Firms and Another. ....Respondents  
-Take Notice that an application under Section 81(2), 85(3) and 396 of the Companies Act, 1994 was filed before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh for condonation of delay in holding the AGM for the year 2023, 2024 & 2025 of Business Zone Limited. Upon hearing of the application on 21.10.2025 Hon'ble Judge Mr. Justice Ahmed Sohel has been pleased to admit said application. In the said order, the Honorable Justice directed to publish advertisements in the newspaper, and submit affidavit-in-compliance. If you are interested to oppose the said application you may appear behalf the Hon'ble Court either in person or through an Advocate.  
Mohammad Jahangir Alam  
Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh  
216(A), Supreme Court bar bhaban, Dhaka, Cell- +880 1972-099909

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**Embassy of Italy in Dhaka - Recruitment Notice**  
The Embassy of Italy in Dhaka has launched a selection procedure to recruit:

- 3 assistants
- 1 driver

Interested candidates can find all the information on:  
<https://ambdhaka.esteri.it/it/amministrazione-trasparente/bandi-di-concorso/>  
Applications must be received by November 18<sup>th</sup> 2025  
Eligible applicants will receive further information about day and time of the selection procedures.

**WEST ZONE POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED (WZPDCL)**  
(An enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)  
Office of the Project Director  
Smart Pre-Payment Metering Project (Phase 2) for WZPDCL Area, WZPDCL  
35 Boyra Main Road, Khulna-9000. Mob: 01766-690830 Email: pd.sppmp2@wzpdcl.gov.bd

Memo No: 27.22.4785.700.50.008.25/238 Dated: 06/11/2025

**Corrigendum**  
Due to some unavoidable reasons, the following corrigendum has been issued to the Tender Inquiry No. 27.22.4785.700.50.008.25/200 dated 07/10/2025. "Design, Manufacture, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 51,801 nos. Smart Pre-Payment Meter with Related Equipment and Services on Turnkey Basis". Concerned are requested to take necessary action accordingly.

Sl. No.	Reference	Existing	Amended as
01	Tender Notice SL. 13 Last Date and Time for selling the Tender document	Date: 10.11.2025 Time: during Office Hour (9:00AM - 5:00PM) BST	Date: 23.11.2025 Time: during Office Hour (9:00AM - 5:00PM) BST
02	Tender Notice SL. 14 Tender Closing Date and Time	11.11.2025 at 11:00 AM (BST)	24.11.2025 at 11:00 AM (BST)
03	Tender Notice SL. 15 Tender Opening Date and Time	11.11.2025 at 11:30 AM (BST)	24.11.2025 at 11:30 AM (BST)

All other terms & conditions in the Tender document shall remain unchanged.

(Engr. Md Rakib Uddin)  
Project Director  
Smart Pre-Payment Metering Project for West Zone Power Distribution Company Ltd. (WZPDCL) Area (Phase-II), Bidyut Bhaban, WZPDCL, Boyra Main Road, Khulna-9000