

## RMG worker raped while fiance forcibly detained in Bhola

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

A readymade garment (RMG) worker was allegedly gang raped by two local youths after her fiance was beaten and tied up on the Meghna river embankment in Manpura upazila of Bhola district early Friday.

Police said the incident occurred in Taltoli area of Char Goalia union around 2:20am.

The victim is from Sunamganj, while her fiance is a resident of Manpura. Both work at a garment factory in Dhaka and had come to Manpura recently for family arrangements ahead of their marriage.

The victim filed a rape case with Manpura Police Station against five named individuals and three to four unidentified persons, said Sub-Inspector Ibrahim Nayan, also the investigation officer.

According to the case statement, the 18-year-old victim and her fiance, Sajib Hossain, arrived in Manpura on January 14. Their wedding was scheduled for January 15, and she was staying at Sajib's grandmother's

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## 4 killed, 18 hurt in road accidents

STAR REPORT

Four people were killed and 18 others injured in road accidents in three districts yesterday, according to reports from our correspondents.

In Sylhet, two people were killed and 12 others were injured as two buses collided head-on and another bus hit them from behind on the Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Dayamir area, said Md Morshedul Hasan Bhuiyan, officer-in-charge of Osmaninagar Police Station.

The deceased were identified as Md Mujibur Rahman, 55, from Dashai Hawladar village in Naria upazila of Shariatpur; and Bakul Ravidas, 26, from Kaponkhalpar village in Osmaninagar.

Firefighters from Tajpur along with police carried out rescue operations and took the injured to a nearby hospital.

In Sunamganj, a bus collided head-on with a pickup on the Sylhet-Sunamganj regional highway in Bhuiyan Gaon area of Chhatak upazila, leaving the pickup driver dead and at least five others injured.

The driver -- whose identity could not be known immediately -- died on the spot.

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A sap collector climbs a date palm tree in the Duhorpara area of Barishal's Uzirpur upazila early yesterday to collect date palm sap. After collecting the sap, he pours it into containers wrapped with banana leaves and sells it at local markets, inset. He makes around Tk 1,200 a day. PHOTO: TITU DAS



## Pushed towards extinction

Retaliatory killings, habitat loss threatening fishing cats across country

SAKIB AHMED

A worrying rise in retaliatory killings of fishing cats across Bangladesh, driven largely by conflict with local communities who blame the animal for losses to poultry and pond fish, is gradually pushing the species to the brink.

Bangladesh is a key global habitat for fishing cats (*Prionailurus viverrinus*), a medium-sized wild feline species with a stocky build, brownish olive-grey coat, short rounded ears and a muscular tail marked with dark spots and stripes.

At least 160 fishing cats were killed between 2005 and 2021, most of them by fish and duck farmers and their associates, according to a study that analysed more than 360 media reports. Around 47 percent of the recorded incidents involved a kill on-sight response, the study found.

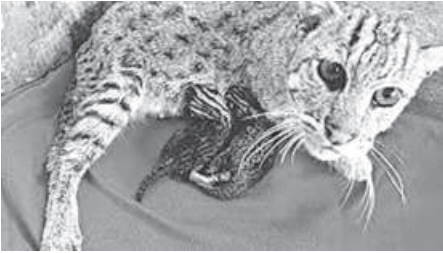
Contacted, the study's corresponding author, Muntasir Akash, said that fishing cats are found across most parts of the country, except in the hilly regions, but the situation has become dire.

"People believe the cats enter homesteads and prey on poultry. However, a significant number are killed on sight even in areas where there is no proven economic loss," he said.

The research, published in June in

Global Ecology and Conservation on ScienceDirect, documented conflict involving at least 395 adult fishing cats and 170 kittens. Of them, 117 were released back into the wild, while 34 were sent to zoos or rescue centres located more than 20 kilometres from the conflict sites.

However, Akash, also a zoology professor at Dhaka University, said releasing the animals far from conflict



zones may not offer a lasting solution, as human settlements continue to expand into natural habitats.

Conservationists said fear and misidentification drive much of the violence, as villagers often mistake fishing cats for more dangerous predators such as tigers or leopards due to a lack of awareness.

Recent research, however, offers some hope. A separate study conducted

between 2020 and June 2024 in four districts of the northeastern Sylhet region found that a site-based rescue-and-release approach can serve as an effective short-term conservation measure.

During the study period, researchers recorded 86 live fishing cats and seven dead individuals. Of the live animals, 76, including 35 kittens, were released within a week at or near their capture sites. Reunification of released kittens with their mothers was successful in 62 percent of cases, according to a study published in December in Global Ecology and Conservation on ScienceDirect.

MA Aziz, a zoology professor at Jahangirnagar University and one of the study's authors, said the Sylhet region was selected after being identified as a conflict hotspot.

"The landscape there is dominated by scattered swamps, patchy reserve forests and tea gardens, which provide an ideal habitat for fishing cats. That is why our research focused on improving rescue and release practices in the Sylhet region," he said.

Aziz said timing is crucial for successful releases, particularly for kittens.

"Our study recommends releasing rescued kittens within 24 hours to

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

## Probe body formed EU deploys 56 long 2 found dead in Mirpur

FROM PAGE 3

Station, said, "The owner is still out of touch, and we have not yet been able to contact anyone from his family."

No case had been filed over the incident as of yesterday.

"Police have filed a general diary over the incident. We will register a formal case if any of the victims' families approach us," the OC added.

Regarding the building's status, the OC said the Criminal Investigation Department concluded evidence gathering and unsealed the building yesterday.

However, no residents were seen returning to the building as of yesterday

evening.

The six victims, three from one family and three from another, were buried yesterday at their family graveyards in Cumilla and Mymensingh.

The victims are Kazi Fazle Rabbi, 38, his wife Afroza Akter Suborna, 37, and their two-year-old son Kazi Fayaz Rishan; and Hares Mia, 52, his 17-year-old son Rahab, and 14-year-old niece Rodela.

Afrin Jahan, sister of Afroza, told The Daily Star, "Our whole family is still traumatised by what happened. We are in mourning."

"We may think about taking legal action later. But not right now," she added.

FROM PAGE 3

The observers have received extensive briefings on the electoral process, the political environment, the legal framework, and the media and social landscapes in Bangladesh.

The mission was deployed following an invitation from Bangladesh's authorities and is led by Chief Observer Ivars Ijabs, a Member of the European Parliament.

The observers will monitor election-day proceedings, including voting, counting, and tabulation of results. A delegation of Members of the European Parliament will further reinforce the mission.

Addressing the press conference, Lase said it

is important to see the whole electoral process holistically to present their report impartially, adding that this is a historic moment for Bangladesh.

"Let us observe and let us wait until a holistic assessment is done," she said.

Lase said their assessment and report, with recommendations in the spirit of friendship and cooperation, would help improve the country's future electoral process.

### Prime accused

FROM PAGE 3

15, neighbours traced the smell to Mim's flat and called 999 after she refused to open the door.

Police later searched the flat and found Rokeya's body under a bed and Fatema's body above a false ceiling in the bathroom.

According to police and family members, Fatema went to Mim's flat for private lessons around 5:00pm on December 25. When she did not return, Rokeya went to look for her, but neither came back.

Police said a quarrel broke out between Mim's younger sister and Fatema that night over financial issues. During the altercation, the younger sister strangled Fatema to death. When Rokeya arrived, she too was strangled with a scarf.

**Plot for Sale**

A 8.00+ katha residential plot is available for sale in Baridhara Diplomatic Zone. Only interested and genuine buyers are kindly requested to contact for further details.

Contact: 01842456904

FROM PAGE 3

In a separate incident, police on Friday night recovered the body of a man, who had remained missing since Monday, from an abandoned market on Paris Road in Mirpur area.

The deceased was identified as Shariful Islam Suman, 32, a mobile mechanic who used to work at Shah Ali Market in Mirpur.

Mobarak Hossain, a sub-inspector of Pallabi Police Station, said Suman left his home for work on January 12 and had been missing

since then.

A general diary was lodged with Pallabi Police Station in this regard.

Upon receiving information from 999 national emergency helpline, police rushed to the spot and recovered the body.

Suman's face and head were found badly damaged.

The body was later sent to Suhrawardy Medical College and Hospital morgue for autopsy. The cause of death will be known once the autopsy report is available, said SI Mobarak.



KATALGANJ, PANCHLAISH

## Excavation of canal triggers waterlogging

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Chattogram

Excavation work on a local canal for its expansion and renovation has caused waterlogging in the Katalganj and Panchlaish areas of Chattogram city, adding to the suffering of residents and commuters.

To facilitate the excavation of the Hijra Khal, the Chattogram Development Authority (CDA) has constructed temporary dams on the canal, thereby obstructing the passage of drainage water and causing it to overflow onto the streets.

The renovation is part of the CDA's mega project to re-excavate 37 canals to mitigate waterlogging in the port city.

During a recent visit, this correspondent found several points of the road submerged under stagnant water, making commuting an ordeal for local residents, including students, patients and elderly people. Several prominent schools, hospitals and diagnostic centres are located in the area.

"We used to suffer due to waterlogging when it rained. Now even in winter the suffering continues," said Akbar Hossain, a local resident.

"We have informed the Chattogram City Corporation and CDA authorities, but no step has been taken yet to resolve the matter," he added.

Nabila Huq, who brought her mother to a local clinic for medical tests, said, "Dirty water splashed onto our clothes from passing vehicles. If a major road remains waterlogged for days even in the dry season, it makes us question the nature of the development work."



Contacted, Ahmed Anwarul Nazrul, chief engineer of CDA, acknowledged the issue but said they have no alternative other than to continue the excavation work and complete it.

"The work began in the first week of December, and may take another two months to complete," he added.

CDA's Executive Engineer Ahmed Moinuddin, also the project director, said the canal is being widened from 13 feet to 26 feet.

"For the greater good, people have to endure some temporary inconvenience. We are also planning to replace the existing narrow bridge with a larger one. We expect to finish the canal work by mid-February," he added.

CCC Mayor Shahadat Hossain recently visited the site and assured residents of a permanent solution.

He noted that the Hijra Khal, which flows from Mehediabag to the Chaktai Khal in Bakalia, is vital for drainage in key areas like Panchlaish and Sholashahar.

"The canal has shrunk significantly due to rampant encroachment over the years. Building owners who occupy the canal's land will have to vacate around 12 feet of land as per the RS and BS records. Some parts of the buildings will have to be demolished," Shahadat also said, urging residents to cooperate for long-term benefits.

"We have pumping machines to clear the stagnant water on the road. If we can manage to endure this till February, we will be free from waterlogging for the rest of the year," he added.

**SALE OF USED MOTORCYCLES**

Expression of Interest is invited from genuine buyers by a private foreign company for the purchase of the following **59 used motorcycles**, being sold on an "as-is, where-is" basis. Sealed offers must be submitted **on or before 22 January 2026**.

Sl no	Particular	Model	Motorcycle C.C	Number	Current Location
1	Bajaj Platina	2014	100	11	a. Dhaka - 43 units
2	Bajaj Platina	2012	100	10	b. Chittagong - 06 units
3	Hero Honda	2010	100	5	c. Cox's Bazar - 01 units
4	Hero Passion Xpro	2020	110	1	d. Bogura - 03 units
5	keeway	2019	100	9	e. Khulna - 04 units
6	Mahindra	2015	110	6	f. Sylhet - 02 units
7	Mahindra	2017	110	17	
Total				59	

**Inspection:**  
By appointment only, between **18-22 January 2026**, during office hours. **Contact:** +8801313-209012

**Terms & Conditions:**

- Each offer must be accompanied by a **refundable security deposit** via **Pay Order**, amounting to **10% of the bid value**.
- Failure of the highest bidder to complete the purchase in due time will result in **forfeiture of the security deposit**.
- The selected bidder must **collect the motorcycles at their own cost and effort** from the respective locations.
- The company reserves the right to **accept or reject any offer, or cancel the tender in whole or in part**, without assigning any reason.

**NOTICE**

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH  
HIGH COURT DIVISION  
(SPECIAL STATUTORY JURISDICTION)

**COMPANY MATTER NO. 2293 OF 2025**  
An application under Section 81(2) and 85(3) read with Section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994.

**AND**  
**IN THE MATTER OF:**  
Daraz Bangladesh Limited

... **PETITIONER**

-VERSUS-  
Mercari Asia Limited and others

... **RESPONDENTS**

Notice is hereby given that an application under Sections 81(2) and 85(3) read with Section Section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994 has been filed before the Company Bench of the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh for condonation of delay and to pass order to call, hold and conduct annual general meetings of Mercari Asia Limited (Company) for the years 2024 and 2025 and to pass necessary direction to hold board meeting/s and to continue usual activities of the Company. The Hon'ble Company Bench presided over by his Lordship Mr. Justice Ahmed Sohel has been pleased to admit the aforesaid application by an order dated 30.12.2025.

Any person wishing to contest or oppose the aforesaid application may appear before the Hon'ble Court either in person or through a duly appointed Advocate. A copy of the said application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of requisite costs.

**Hossain Mohammad Shahidul, Barrister-at-Law**  
Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh  
Concord Ovalash (1st Floor), House No.-62, Road No. 11A  
Dhanmondi Residential Area, Dhaka-1209  
Tel: 01766-282950

**NOTICE**

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH  
HIGH COURT DIVISION  
(SPECIAL STATUTORY JURISDICTION)

**COMPANY MATTER NO. 2292 OF 2025**  
An application under Section 81(2) and 85(3) read with Section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994.

**AND**  
**IN THE MATTER OF:**  
Daraz Bangladesh Limited

... **PETITIONER**

-VERSUS-  
SourceCo Limited and Others

... **RESPONDENTS**

Notice is hereby given that an application under Sections 81(2) read with Section 85(3) and Section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994, has been filed before the Company Bench of the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh for condonation of delay and to pass order to call, hold and conduct annual general meetings of SourceCo Limited ("Company") for the years 2024 and 2025 and to pass necessary direction to hold board meeting/s and to continue usual activities of the Company. The Hon'ble Company Bench presided over by his Lordship Mr. Justice Ahmed Sohel has been pleased to admit the aforesaid application by an order dated 30.12.2025.

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