

Three raped in three districts

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She filed a case with Madhabpur Police Station on Monday night.

Later, police arrested Jasim Mia, 35, from Teliapara area and recovered the jewellery yesterday morning and produced him before a Habiganj court which sent him to jail in the afternoon, said Madhabpur OC Md Sohel Rana.

Police are trying to arrest the other accused, he added.

In Nararyanganj, police arrested two men for allegedly raping a woman after holding her husband and child hostage at knife-point in Rupganj.

The arrestees – Afzal Khan, 30, and Abbas, 30 – are from Tarabo municipality, said Shobzel Hossain, officer-in-charge of Rupganj Police Station, at a press briefing yesterday.

The incident took place around 4:30am on Monday when the accused allegedly broke into the victim's house, held the husband and their three-year-old child hostage at knife-point and raped the woman. They also took away her mobile phone, police said.

Police later conducted a drive and arrested the two on Monday night. The stolen phone was also recovered.

The victim filed a case with Rupganj Police Station under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, accusing Afzal Khan and an unidentified accomplice.

OC Shobzel said they are continuing the investigation.

2 special flights

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using the link <https://forms.gle/oxBLPyCnMpxd6bdi6>, said the notice.

“Further instructions will be provided once the passenger capacity for the flights is reached,” it added.

Hundreds of thousands of migrants working in the Middle East or those wishing to migrate to those countries have been stranded as Gulf countries shut airspace amid US-Israel war on Iran and Iran's retaliation on the US bases and some energy facilities in the Gulf countries.

There are some 60 lakh Bangladeshis working in the Gulf countries.

Earlier, 282 Bangladeshis from Bahrain returned to Dhaka via Dammam on March 20 with a Gulf Air chartered flight.

The same day, 186 Bangladeshis returned from Baku, Azerbaijan to Bangladesh following their evacuation from Iran.

“The evacuees crossed the Iran-Azerbaijan border by land and arrived in Dhaka on a special flight operated by Biman Bangladesh Airlines from Baku, Azerbaijan,” said a foreign ministry statement.

Bangladesh government in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration arranged the evacuation.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed yesterday told media that some 2,000 Bangladeshis, many of them students, are living in Tehran.

“They are all safe now. We will arrange evacuation if they feel unsafe. Our nationals' safety is our first priority,” she said.

“Our missions are working round the clock to ensure their safety as well as repatriation or relocation – whatever is required,” she added.

Eid brings little

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Arial Kha Rivers. After catching some fish, we came to the market in the afternoon to sell them. We bought essentials and returned to the boat,” he said.

“The day after Eid is just like any other day for us. If we can catch fish, we can eat; if not, we survive on plain rice with salt,” he added.

Mumtaz Begum, a community member, described similar struggles. “On Eid day, we could at least give our children some meat. But the next day, we had nothing. We managed with simple rice and lentils,” she said.

Community members say their boat-based lifestyle leaves them excluded from government support. “Because we live on boats, we do not receive government assistance. Many of us do not even have national ID cards, so we are not eligible for social safety net programmes. We want an end to this situation,” they said.

Mohammad Ali Jibon, chief coordinator of Chandradwip Development Society, said that more than 1,000 people from over 300 Manta families live across five unions in Barishal Sadar upazila, including Shayestabad, Charkaua, Charmonai, and Tungbaria.

Akhtaruzzaman Talukdar, district social services officer in Barishal, said 50 members of the Manta community have been brought under assistance programmes this year.

“Gradually, more others will be included under social allowance schemes,” he added.

Patient influx strains understaffed hospitals

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come to Dhaka when many hospitals remain closed or offer limited services.

“Last Eid, most road crash victims were three-wheeler passengers, but this time motorcyclists made up the majority,” he told The Daily Star.

He added that 36 doctors, mostly non-Muslim, were working in two shifts during Eid. “More doctors will join in case of an emergency,” he said.

Nilufar Begum, 45, from Cumilla, was admitted to the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases and Hospital (NICVD) on Sunday, a day after Eid, after falling ill suddenly.

Her nephew, Masud Rahman, said she had undergone valve replacement surgery about six months ago. After

she suddenly became unwell, she was taken to the emergency department.

After examination, doctors confirmed she had suffered a heart attack. She was given initial treatment before being shifted to the coronary care unit (CCU).

A medical officer attended to her at the CCU, but senior doctors were not immediately available.

However, Prof Abdul Wadud Chowdhury, director of NICVD, said senior doctors examine patients upon admission and review them as needed. He added that assistant professors remain on duty during the Eid holidays.

Meanwhile, fifth-grade student Mehedi Hasan was seriously injured when a tree branch fell on his head.

Set aside differences, move forward together

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Tarique expressed gratitude for being able to celebrate Eid in the country after many years and hoped that future Eids would be observed in a more peaceful and uninterrupted environment.

Extending Eid greetings to all, he wished peace, happiness and prosperity for the people, and paid tribute to the martyrs of the 1971 Liberation War and the 2024 uprising.

Earlier on Eid day, the PM offered Eid prayers at the National Eidgah alongside President Mohammed Shahabuddin and thousands of devotees.

He exchanged greetings with the president before joining the

main congregation, which began at 8:34am.

Baitul Mukarram National Mosque's Khatib Mufti Muhammad Abdul Malek led the prayers and conducted munajat seeking peace and welfare for the country and the Muslim world.

Despite cloudy skies and light drizzle, devotees thronged the Eidgah from early morning. Arrangements were made for around 35,000 worshippers to offer prayers at a time, with separate facilities for women.

Chief Justice, Supreme Court judges, cabinet members, lawmakers, senior political leaders, diplomats, and high civil and military officials

joined the congregation. After the prayers, the PM went to the state guest house Jamuna, where he first exchanged greetings with foreign diplomats, followed by cabinet members, lawmakers, distinguished citizens, academicians, ulama and mashayekh, artists, writers, senior civil servants, civil society members, and people from different strata of society, BSS reported.

Following the programme, the PM, along with his family members, went to Sher-e-Bangla Nagar and offered prayers at the graves of his father, former president Ziaur Rahman, and his mother, former prime minister Khaleda Zia.

His wife Zubaida Rahman, daughter Barrister Zaima Rahman, Arafat Rahman Koko's wife Syeda Sharmila Rahman, and their daughters Zahia Rahman and Zafia Rahman were present at the time.

As chairman of the BNP, Tarique also placed a floral wreath at the graves alongside senior party leaders, including secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, standing committee members Nazrul Islam Khan, Iqbal Hasan Mahmud Tuku, and Dr AZM Zahid Hossain, among others.

Afterwards, the PM returned to his Gulshan residence with his family members, according to his press wing.

Eid without loved ones' embrace

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about these things. Everyone is busy with their own lives. I do not depend on anyone,” he said.

For several years now, Salimullah Khandakar has been living a solitary life. After retiring from a private job in 2018, he has been spending much of his time in idleness. He moved into the old home 15 months ago. Both of his sons work in reputable companies. Although they occasionally come to visit their father, they never talk about taking him back with them. At the age of

68, despite having everything, he feels he has nothing.

Salimullah says that due to some wrong decisions in life, he has had to spend his later years in an elderly care home.

He said, “Everyone here may have different stories. But, I made some mistakes when making decisions about my family, and now I am paying the price. The biggest thing is that now I have to live alone. This is the reality of my life.”

Another resident, who requested anonymity, reflected on how Eid

used to be. “There was a time when Eid meant a house full of my people, children's laughter. Now I am here with others, but my own children are not with me,” he said.

One elderly woman shared that her daughter lives abroad and video calls her on Eid day. “We do talk, but without being physically present, the joy is not the same,” she said.

According to the old home authorities, special arrangements are made for the occasion. Festive meals, including shemai, polao, and

meat dishes, are served. Volunteers from various organisations visit throughout the day, bringing gifts, spending time with the residents, and organising small cultural programmes. For a few hours, the otherwise quiet environment becomes lively.

However, as the day progresses, the festivities gradually fade. By afternoon, many residents return to their rooms. Some watch Eid programmes on television, while others sit quietly, immersed in memories of Eids past.

40 lives lost on roads during Eid holidays

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rickshaw at Nabinagar on the Ishwardi-Lalpur highway around 7:30am yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Md Monir Hossain, 27, Jahidul Islam, 50, and Md Babul Hossain, 50 – all residents of Chotobadkoya village in Lalpur upazila, said police.

In a separate road accident in the same district, a man, who was to get married on Monday, died in a car crash in Garmati area on the Natore-Pabna highway on Sunday.

Julfikar Islam Jillur, 26, was from Nawdapara village in Ishwardi upazila, said police.

In Jashore, three members of a family were killed and three others injured after their car crashed into a tree on the Jashore-Magura highway in

Bagherpara upazila early yesterday.

The deceased were Abdul Majid Sardar, 65, his son Mahmud Hasan Zakaria Joni, 42, and Joni's four-year-old daughter, Seherish. They were residents of Fatehabad village in Jashore's Monirampur upazila, said police.

In Thakurgaon, a woman was killed and six others injured when a bus hit a diesel run three-wheeler at Salondar on the Thakurgaon-Panchagarh highway on Monday.

The victim was Baby Akhter, 20, said Nirmal Chandra Mahanto, OC of Boda Highway Police Station.

In Kishoreganj, a motorcyclist and his pillion were killed, and another was seriously injured after a pickup truck ran over their motorcycle in Kuliarchar upazila on Sunday.

Parliament to discuss US trade deal

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shipments to the US to 19 percent from 37 percent, but Bangladesh committed to purchasing \$22 billion worth of goods from the US over 15 years along with “poison pill” provisions and other coercive clauses such as curbs on trade deals or purchases from non-market economies.

“Could you sustain with a 37 percent tariff if we did not sign the deal? Compare what we have gained and what others got,” said Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman.

Earlier, Khalilur had said the two

major political parties – the BNP and Jamaat – had given consent to the trade deal before it was signed.

The agreement has both “entry” and “exit” clauses and does not become effective until notification. Bangladesh can exit with a 60-day notice.

During the meeting with US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs S Paul Kapur on March 4, Khalilur requested the US official to lower the tariff on Bangladesh as the US Supreme Court had cancelled the tariffs on different countries imposed by US President

Donald Trump.

Asked about the introduction of a resolution calling for recognising the 1971 genocide in Bangladesh, Shama said the BNP government will pursue it.

“The government has taken an initiative to observe March 25. Our independence day on March 26 is a very significant day for Bangladesh. We will pursue it,” she said.

Democratic Congressman Greg Landsman of Ohio submitted the resolution in the US House of Representatives on March 20. It outlines historical events leading up

DGHS cracks down on errant clinics, diagnostic centres

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have taken their documents and decided to take different actions upon those,” DGHS Director (Hospital) Abu Hussain Md. Moinul Ahsan told The Daily Star after the drive.

Of the hospitals, the situation at Jamuna General Hospital and TG Multispecialty Hospital and Diagnostic Centre is worse, said Moinul, who led one of the teams.

Besides, one of the hospitals was treating a bullet-wound patient, which it is not authorised to handle as it involves a police matter.

Prime Blood Bank and Transfusion Centre was found closed, although blood banks are required to remain open 24 hours. So, it was shut down, he said, adding that the drive will continue.

The health authorities launched the drive a day after they sealed Doctor's Care Hospital and Diagnostic Centre in Shyamoli over various irregularities.

Health Minister Sardar Md Sakhawat Husain on Monday led a raid on the private medical facility after private TV channel Jamuna TV aired footage showing an eighth-grade-passing staff member, not a doctor, performing an operation at the hospital.

Following the raid, the minister said drives would be launched against irregularities at private medical facilities from Tuesday.

ANOMALIES APLENTY
Muktijoddha Tower-1 is situated just opposite Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College and Hospital.

Prime Hospital and Prime Blood Bank are located on the first floor of the building, while Royal Hospital and Radium Blood Bank are on the second floor, along with a residential hotel.

Dhaka Healthcare is on the third floor, while Jamuna General Hospital and a section of Royal Hospital are on the fourth floor. TG Hospital is located on the fifth floor.

On a visit to Jamuna Hospital, this correspondent found four children were admitted to the neonatal intensive care unit of the hospital.

Zahirul Islam Ripon took his two-year-old grandson Arif to the hospital from Cumilla's Burichang Upazila after they could not manage an ICU at any government hospital in Dhaka. Arif has a head infection.

“We came here at 11:00pm yesterday [Monday] but still no doctor visited him. Only nurses work here. Now, after the

raid, they are telling us to take him to another hospital,” he added.

Sayem, a staff member of the hospital, said within this limited space, they operate a five-bed neonatal/pediatric ICU, a six-bed ICU, one OT, two general wards with a combined capacity of 12 beds, three cabins for orthopaedic patients, as well as an office room and a pharmacy.

The medical facility's owner has a pharmacy and he established the hospital in 2018.

Sayem said they charge around Tk 8,000 to 10,000 per day for ICU services.

He claimed they have two permanent doctors and several on-call doctors to provide the services.

But the DGHS team did not find any medical officer there yesterday.

The team found Royal Hospital was running 19 beds, exceeding its sanctioned capacity of 10. Although the operation theatre is situated on the fifth floor, there is no post-operative room and the hospital is on the second floor.

The sample collection room is very small and the X-ray room was closed. The team shut down diagnosis activities

and ordered to show cause within three days.

They also issued a show-cause notice to Dhaka Healthcare and Radium Blood Bank for several anomalies.

Another team did not find any doctor at TG Hospital during the visit and did not find any appointment letter for doctors and nurses. It has been running with an expired licence for three years.

The team shut down the hospital until further notice.

Over at Prime Hospital, there was no specialist in sight to run the ICU. The hospital is providing the service with a medical officer violating the rules.

Besides, the hospital admitted patients to the ICU giving false information and overcharging patients with fake voucher.

The team closed down the ICU and the OT and issued a show-cause notice. It also directed to keep the Prime Blood Bank shut until further notice.

In the evening, the DGHS conducted another drive, led by Health Minister Sardar Md Sakhawat Husain, in the Chankharpool area of the capital.

Earlier in the day, speaking to journalists at the Secretariat, the minister said the drive would be carried out across the country.

Savar 'serial

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He was taken to DMCH, where doctors declared him dead in the morning.

According to police, Samrat was allegedly involved in at least seven killings between 2025 and 2026 in Savar. Investigators found that he used an abandoned community centre in the Savar municipality area as a “death trap”.

CCTV footage showing him carrying victims' bodies on his shoulders later emerged as crucial evidence in the investigation, police said.

Law enforcement agencies arrested him in January 2026. Five cases were filed against him with Savar Model Police Station.

Police also said they obtained confessional statements and other evidence, including CCTV footage, in connection with the cases

2 dead in clashes

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dozens of injured people were brought in for treatment.

“Two people came in critical condition and were referred to Dhaka for advanced care,” said resident medical officer Shafiqul Islam. Many others received treatment locally for injuries caused by spears, sticks, and other weapons.

According to SP Shah Md Abdur Rauf, the clashes trace back to the national elections on February 12.

On that day, a BNP supporter, Ziaur Rahman, was detained over alleged irregularities at a polling centre, and was later sentenced to 10 days jail by a mobile court.

His associates suspected that Shishu Mia, a supporter of independent candidate Kamruzzaman Mamun, was behind his arrest, triggering tension between two local groups. Mediation by local leaders and MP Rahim Talukdar temporarily eased the situation, but underlying grievances persisted.

The police official said additional forces have been deployed to restore order.

Earlier, on March 17, at least 25 people were injured in similar clashes over the same dispute.

Special JS committee

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or the aspirations of the July uprising would prevail in the event of a conflict, the law minister affirmed that the government would advance by harmonizing both, while underscoring that the constitution remains the ultimate authority.

Opposition Chief Whip and Jamaat-e-Islami Assistant Secretary General Rafiqul Islam Khan, however, said priority should be given to the aspirations of the uprising, as it made the current parliament possible.

“We agree with the provisions of the ordinance,” he said.

Rafiqul said the committee discussed 27 ordinances on the first day and agreed on most aspects of all but five of them. He further said that some ordinances, including those related to enforced disappearance and the police commission, would require further discussion.

He said his party would support the government on issues that serve the country and its people but would take a firm stance on any matter that goes against the country, the people, or Islam.

Committee Chairman Zainul Abedin said the panel had completed initial scrutiny of less than half of the ordinances. Some members had raised observations on certain provisions, which would be discussed in the next meeting, he said, adding that members might also submit written opinions if needed.

The next meeting is at 2:00pm today, and more meetings will be held if necessary, he said.

The interim government issued the indemnity ordinance on January 26, providing legal protection to participants of the July uprising. It was deemed to have come into effect retrospectively from July 1, 2024, and covers actions carried out during the movement from July to August 2024.

In a separate decision, the committee also agreed to recommend placing the July Uprising Memorial Museum ordinance before parliament in its existing form. The ordinance, approved in October 2025, has provision for establishing a museum at the Gono Bhaban to preserve and honour the memory of the student-people uprising.

The ordinances promulgated during the tenure of the interim government were placed in the first sitting of the first session of the 13th Jatiya Sangsad. On the same day, parliament formed a special committee to review the ordinances. The committee was later asked to examine the ordinances and submit its report to parliament by April 2.

Dragged from home

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Bhangora Police Station in Cumilla across the Buri river.

Kasba Police Station Officer-in-Charge Naznin Sultana said police rescued him in the afternoon and took him to Kasba Upazila Health Complex where doctors declared him dead.

Family members alleged that an influential group was behind the killing over his reports exposing drug-related activities. They accused former UP member Abdul Awal and his associates.

Abdul Awal denied the allegations, claiming that he was being framed.