

Rubaiyat Jamil passes away

CITY DESK

Entrepreneur Rubaiyat Jamil, founder and CEO of ICE Technologies, has passed away. He was 46.



He breathed his last after collapsing during a cricket match in Chattogram's Hathazari on Friday.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held today after Zohr prayers at Gulshan Azad Mosque. He will later be laid to rest at Banani Graveyard.

He was the only son of late Mahbub Jamil, former special assistant to the chief adviser in 2008-09 and chairman of Singer Bangladesh Ltd.

Rubaiyat was a young entrepreneur involved in multiple startups.

He was a former director of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka, and an active member of International Chamber of Commerce Bangladesh, and German Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

He is survived by his mother, sister, wife, three daughters, and a host of relatives and friends.

11-year-old girl raped, murdered in Ctg: police

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police recovered the body of an 11-year-old girl from a warehouse in Chattogram's Hathazari upazila yesterday.

The victim, Afrin Aktar, a madrasa student, was missing for two days, said police.

Police suspect that she was raped before being murdered and later dumped inside the warehouse.

Kazi Tarek Aziz, additional superintendent of police (Hathazari circle), told The Daily Star, "One eye of the victim was gouged out, and her face was covered in blood."

"She had been missing since Thursday after going out of her house. Today (yesterday), locals found a foul smell coming out from a cotton warehouse. There they discovered the body and later informed police," he said.

CCTV footage shows that a man identified as Faisal, a day labourer and neighbour of the victim, took the girl into the warehouse and left by himself after some time.

During the inquest, circumstantial evidence suggested that she may have been raped before death. This will be confirmed following an autopsy, added the official.

The body has been sent to CMCH morgue, he said. Police are trying to arrest the suspect, he added.



Bikers scuffle while standing in a long queue to collect fuel at a filling station in the capital's Paribagh area yesterday. Police had to intervene to bring the situation under control. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Staff shortage leaves 7 maternity centres non-operational

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Seven fully equipped Mother and Child Welfare Centres across four upazilas in Patuakhali district have remained non-operational for years due to an acute shortage of manpower.

As a result, expectant mothers, new mothers, and children are being deprived of essential healthcare services.

According to sources at the Health Engineering Department, the 10-bed facilities were built at a total cost of Tk 32.14 crore, one in Patuakhali Sadar, three in Bauphal, two in Galachipa, and one in Mirzaganj, to ensure easy access to healthcare for women and children. Although construction work was completed between 2018 and 2022 and the facilities were handed over to the Family Planning Department, services have yet to begin due to a lack of the required staff.

Each centre has been equipped with 10 beds, Caesarean section facilities, and other necessary medical equipment, all of which remain idle and locked inside, collecting dust and raising concerns over possible damage.

Each facility is supposed to have two medical officers, four family planning inspectors, one office assistant, and two ward assistants. However, none of these posts has been filled at any of the centres so far.



Md Rafiqul Islam, executive engineer of HED in Patuakhali, said the centres were built on land donated by locals.

"Each centre has a three-storey building with necessary equipment installed, along with separate residential facilities for doctors and staff. However, the centres could not be made operational so far due to a lack of manpower," he said. During a recent visit, this correspondent

found the centres at Bhayla in Patuakhali Sadar and Sabupura in Bauphal lying unused.

Shawon Molla, a resident of Bhayla village, said the centre was built in 2018 on land donated by his family in the name of his grandfather. "If the centre were operational, women and children in the village could have easier access to treatment. Now, they have to travel nearly 10 kilometres to Patuakhali town, which is often difficult for critical patients due to poor transport facilities," he said.

Md Ibrahim, imam of a local mosque, said, "It is unacceptable that a well-built facility is not serving its purpose while people are being deprived of healthcare."

Runa Akter, a family planning inspector at a nearby facility, said that if the centre were made functional through the appointment of necessary staff, it would benefit local people and reduce pressure on upazila and district-level hospitals.

Md Shahidul Islam, deputy director of the Family Planning Department in Patuakhali, acknowledged the issue.

"We have regularly informed the higher authorities of the matter through monthly reports, but without the recruitment of staff, it is not possible to start services at the centres," he said.

Jamuna's erosion intensifies in Jamalpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

Erosion by the Jamuna River has intensified in Dewanganj upazila of Jamalpur over the past month, leaving vast stretches of cropland, homes, and several government establishments under threat.

Locals said that while the erosion has been continuing for the past three months, it turned severe last month, devouring at least 100 houses, several hundred acres of cropland, and around 100 metres of the key Dewanganj Kholabari road along the riverbank in the upazila.

Shukkur Ali, 65, a resident of the Kholabari area, said he had previously lost his homestead to Jamuna erosion seven times, along with almost all of his ancestral land. "It has swallowed my house yet again. How many times shall I have to suffer this ordeal?" he lamented in a trembling voice.

Shamim, another local resident, said the ongoing erosion has severely disrupted communication in the area by damaging rural roads.

"Many educational institutions have either already been devoured by the river or are now at risk," he added.

Farmer Lutfar Mia said his maize and chilli fields were entirely lost to the river. "It has left me destitute."

Nazma Khatun, a housewife, said, "Before the elections, many people came with promises, but now no one is to be seen."

Locals expressed concern that, unless urgent measures are taken, four government establishments, a mosque, more houses, and vast tracts of cropland may soon be lost to the river.

Md Nakibuzzaman Khan, executive engineer of the Bangladesh Water Development Board in Jamalpur, said the erosion had intensified along a 1.5-kilometre stretch of the riverbank after a sandbar emerged along the opposite bank of the Jamuna.

"We carried out riverbank protection work along 157 metres during the last flood. A proposal has recently been sent for another 220 metres of temporary protection work," he added.



Reforms to reflect

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decision is taken in the parliament. Earlier, addressing the event, the home minister congratulated the members of the 43rd BCS police batch on completing their training successfully and wished them success in their professional and personal lives.

"This uniform is not only a symbol of power, but it is a symbol of responsibility, sacrifice, and service," he said, urging them to devote themselves to serving the country with honesty, courage, and humanity, and help build a people-friendly and reform-oriented police force in a discrimination-free new Bangladesh.

The government is working to establish merit

and seniority as the only standards in recruitment, transfer, and promotion through an independent and strong Police Reform Commission, he added.

The minister also said the outdated British-era law was being replaced with a law suited to the time.

Mentioning that the police force was not satisfied with the current uniform, the minister said the government would discuss the matter at the highest policymaking level so that the force could get back to one of its previous suitable uniforms.

The batch, which began training on March 1, 2025, had 72 trainees and the best performers from the batch across different categories were given medals.

He further said necessary procurement processes will be expedited, with allocations expected to be completed by April 10.

The parliamentary committee is scheduled to meet again on March 30. On March 12, the sitting suffered a hiccup at the beginning of the new Speaker's tenure due to the technical glitch.

After the election of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker, followed by the oath-taking ceremonies, the session started at 12:57pm. But the microphone of the Speaker did not work, causing an awkward situation.

After repeated attempts to fix the issue, the Speaker was given a separate cordless microphone to speak.

Multilateralism

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decades, Bangladesh has successfully overcome significant challenges and achieved remarkable socio-economic progress through constructive engagement in line with the principles of the UN Charter," he said as chief guest.

The event was attended by around 150 permanent representatives, senior UN officials, diplomats, and members of international organisations. Messages from dignitaries were read out, and a documentary on the significance of Independence Day was screened.

In his welcome address, Bangladesh's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Salahuddin Noman Chowdhury, said March 26 symbolises the enduring triumph of the people's will, dignity, and freedom.

Bangladesh missions abroad also marked the day.

In Nepal, Ambassador Shaifur Rahman reaffirmed Dhaka's commitment to strengthening bilateral ties, expressing optimism over deeper cooperation under Nepal's new leadership.

Vice President Ram Sahaya Prasad Yadav attended the programme as chief guest.

Without proper preventive measures – especially after the Eid vacation – the risk of mosquito proliferation increases, they said.

Prof Kabirul Bashar, an entomologist at Jahangirnagar University, urged residents to take precautions before leaving home.

"Any place where water can accumulate must be

Politicisation clouds youth

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to pitch the July uprising against the Liberation War.

Prime Minister's Adviser Zahed Ur Rahman said the history of the Liberation War had too often been confined to a single narrative.

"We are trying to lock the history of the Liberation War into a fixed frame, where nothing can be said beyond it," he said.

Zahed said the key issue was whether the state allowed room for open historical inquiry, adding that the struggle to ensure equality, dignity, social justice, rule of law, and fundamental rights remains unfinished.

"We have come to a point where many people do not even know what their aspirations should be, or what they should be asking from the state," he said, adding that freedom must also mean the right to live without intimidation.

Clean schools

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Experts warned that Aedes mosquito eggs can survive for long periods, and with the dengue virus still present, rainfall can create new breeding sites.

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"Any place where water can accumulate must be

Bulbul Siddiqi, professor at North South University, echoed concerns over politicisation and called for an evidence-based approach to Liberation War history in research and textbooks.

Network for People's Action member Anik Roy said independence would remain incomplete without economic security, jobs, healthcare, and education.

Filmmaker Syeda Nilima Dola said the Liberation War was "a shared past" but had been used over the last 15 years as a one-party political tool.

Journalist Rafsan Galib said the values of independence – equality, human dignity, and social justice – are clear but remain unrealised in practice.

Saiyed Abdullah said freedom should mean a country where people of different beliefs and identities can coexist

without fear.

Bangladesh Open University Associate Professor Adnan Arif Salim said freedom should also be reflected in labour rights, dignity, and safety.

Earlier, Tiffin Editor Sujaul Islam Sumon said the magazine aims to encourage children and teenagers to read beyond textbooks and engage with history, literature, science, and other subjects.

Md Abul Hashem, professor at Bangladesh Agricultural University, and Rumana Parveen Annie, assistant professor at Dhaka University, also spoke at the programme, which was conducted by Sadik Mahmud.

Victim families await

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The HC on June 5, 2017, rejected the petition and upheld the lower court judgement, ordering BITWA and the launch owners' association to pay a total of Tk 17.11 crore in compensation to victims' families.

Each family of the deceased would get Tk 10 lakh, and every injured victim would get Tk 1 lakh, the HC ruled.

BITWA and the launch owners' association jointly filed a leave-to-appeal petition with the SC's Appellate Division in 2019, seeking a stay on the HC verdict.

The chamber judge of the SC on September 2, 2019, sent the petition to its full bench and set March 8, 2020, for hearing.

However, the apex court has not held any hearing on the petition as the lawyers concerned did not take any extensive initiative to this end.

Advocate Ishrat Hossain, a lawyer for the petitioners, said her clients will not give any further compensation until the SC disposes of the petition and issues directives, as her clients had given money to the victim families immediately after the incident.

Contacted, ZI Khan Panna, a lawyer for Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), which is a party in the case on behalf of the victims, said he was unsure whether

BITWA and the launch owners' association have given any compensation to victim families, as an appeal filed by them is pending with the SC's Appellate Division.

"We will fight for upholding the HC verdict when the Appellate Division holds hearing on the appeal," he said, adding that such naval accidents take place due to violation of the relevant provisions of law.

Amina Ahmed

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upazila after Maghrib prayers, said Ismail Hossain, a senior member of the NAP central committee.

Amina left behind her only daughter, Ivy Rahman, now president of NAP, to mourn her demise. She was a former president of NAP and also a presidium member of the party's current executive committee.

Political parties, including NAP, the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), and Bangladesh Chhatra Union, as well as many individuals, expressed deep shock at her death and extended sympathy to the bereaved family.

Amina actively participated in the Language Movement of 1952 while she was a student at Eden College. She was a leader of Chhatra Union and served as vice-president of the Eden College Students' Union. She was elected a lawmaker in the reserved women's seats in 2009 and 2014.

Higher Education Acceleration & Transformation (HEAT)
Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies for Extreme Heat in Dhaka City:
A Framework for Resilience to Heat Stress
(SP 13010)

SPM Office, Department of Geography and Environment, University of Dhaka, Dhaka-1000
Memo No. HEAT/13010/SPMO/51 Date: 28 March 2026

e-Tenders are invited on the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following goods under HEAT Sub-Project (PIN – 13010) titled "Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies for Extreme Heat in Dhaka City: A Framework for Resilience to Heat Stress" for the Department of Geography and Environment, University of Dhaka.

Tender ID No.	Package No.	Description	Online tender notice publication date	Online tender closing date
1218344	DU/PIN 13010/G3	Procurement of Computer Software	31-March-2026	13-April-2026

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal, and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from the e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Professor Dr. Md. Humayun Kabir
Sub Project Manager (SPM), SP 13010

PRAYER TIMING
MARCH 29

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-45	12-45	4-45	6-20	7-45
JAMAAT 5-20	1-15	5-00	6-25	8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION