

MEDITERRANEAN ROUTE

Nine brokers sued over deaths of 12 youths

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The deaths of at least 12 youths from Sunamganj on the Mediterranean route have prompted two cases against nine alleged human traffickers, as families accuse brokers of luring victims with false promises of safe passage to Europe via Libya.

Police said the cases were filed with Derai and Jagannathpur police stations, naming local and overseas-based suspects believed to be part of trafficking networks.

In Derai, Saliqur Rahman, one of the victim's father, filed a case naming four accused — Mujibur Miah of Tarapasha, Italy-based Saleh Ahmed of Jagdal, Sayek Ahmed of Jagannathpur upazila, and Jashim Miah, a Libya-based man from Chhatak upazila — along with several unidentified suspects.

In Jagannathpur, Habibur Rahman, father of the deceased Aminur Rahman, filed another case against five, accusing Libya-based Jashim Miah, Azizul Islam of Ishgaon village, and three others identified as Bilal, Dulal and Enam.

Among the victims was Sajidur Rahman, a madrasa teacher from Derai upazila, who allegedly set out for Greece via Libya after being persuaded by a local broker.

His family said they agreed to pay Tk 12 lakh on assurances of a safe journey. Instead, he reportedly left Libya on March 21 in a small boat lacking basic navigation tools and supplies. After drifting for six days, he died of dehydration, and fellow passengers later disposed of his body at sea.

"I trusted the broker because of his influence in the village. He assured me my son would travel safely," said Sajidur's father, Abdul Gani.

Locals alleged that the accused are part of a wider network sending migrants to Europe via Libya. Several suspects have gone into hiding following the deaths.

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AJMIRIGANJ OF HABIGANJ

Bridge lies incomplete as deadline expires

MINTU DESHWARA

The approach roads on both ends of a newly constructed bridge in Ajmiriganj upazila of Habiganj remain incomplete even as the project's deadline has expired.

The Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) initiated the Tk 5.18 crore project to construct the 83-metre bridge over the Kata Ganga river to connect Noagarh village in Ajmiriganj with Adarshabazar in neighbouring Baniachong upazila.

The construction work was awarded to Hasan Enterprise of Brahmanbaria under the Small Scale Rural Infrastructure Development Project (SDRIP). Work began in July 2022, with an initial deadline of June 18, 2025.

However, after the deadline expired with work remaining incomplete, the contractor was granted an additional nine months extension till March 18 this year. Even as the extended deadline expired, key components of the bridge, including approach



roads on both ends, remain unfinished.

As such, local residents have long been facing hassles with their daily commute on the route.

Anamul Haque Milad, a local journalist, said, "The bridge has been a longstanding demand of the local residents. As the project began, we hoped it would mitigate our sufferings during daily commute. However, that has not been the case."

"The construction work dragged on for much longer than anticipated and remains incomplete, thereby

mounting our sufferings further," said Junab Ali, a local union parishad member.

On site, the bridge's main structure was seen largely complete, but without the connecting roads, it lies effectively unusable.

Residents alleged that the construction work progressed sluggishly since the beginning due to poor planning and lack of oversight, before remaining halted for more than a year following the political changeover in 2024.

They also alleged that a sub-contractor from Baniachong has been overseeing the work, even

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KILLING OF TWO BNP MEN

ICT-2 accepts charges against Hasanat, 3 cops

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The prosecution yesterday pressed formal charges against former Awami League lawmaker and chief whip Abul Hasanat Abdullah and three police personnel before International Crimes Tribunal-2, alleging crimes against humanity over the 2015 killing of two activists of pro-BNP organisations in Barishal.

The tribunal took the charges into cognisance and fixed April 15 for the next hearing.

The other accused are AKMEhsanullah, former Barishal superintendent of police, and former assistant sub-inspectors Mahabul Islam and Jasim Uddin of Uzirpur Police Station.

Speaking to reporters after the court proceedings, Chief Prosecutor Aminul Islam said four people, including Abdullah, have been accused in what he described as a "grave crime".

He said the victims — Tipu Hawlader, a Chhatra Dal leader, and Kabir Mollah, a JASAS organiser — had political disputes with Abdullah, who allegedly planned to have them killed in a staged crossfire and instructed the then SP to carry it out.

The victims were first arrested in Dhaka in a fabricated arson case and taken to Barishal where instructions were allegedly given to Agailjhara police to execute them. Some officers initially refused, but others later complied.

They were eventually taken to a location in Agailjhara around 2:00am and "brutally killed", after which police staged a crossfire narrative, he said.

Police themselves later recorded general diary entries on the incident and conducted post-mortems, which confirmed death by gunshot, the prosecutor added.

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33 waterlogging

FROM PAGE 3

to clean all four culverts within one month, although the full project may take up to five months. We have also procured portable pumps for emergency drainage and repaired existing outlets for immediate use."

As part of canal restoration efforts, projects are ongoing to restore flow and improve the environment of Jirani, Shyampur, Kalunagar, and Manda canals, he added.

Stressing public awareness, Salam said that maintaining a clean city and reducing waterlogging is an equally shared responsibility among the residents and the city corporation.

He urged residents not to dispose of waste in drains or canals and to avoid the use of polythene bags and keep their surroundings clean — especially before monsoon — and to dispel stagnant water to prevent

mosquito breeding and thereby reduce the risks of diseases such as dengue and chikungunya.

Salam further added that once the approximately 2.85-km-long culvert — stretching from Shilpakala Academy to the TT Para pump station — is cleaned, around 10 lakh residents of Segunbagicha, the Secretariat area, Paltan, Motijheel, Nayapaltan, and nearby areas will directly be benefited.

The administrator mentioned that six new portable pumps have been kept ready to quickly remove accumulated water after heavy rainfall. Additionally, two permanent pump stations under the DSCC have been made fully operational.

A consulting firm has been appointed to modernise the drainage master plan received from Dhaka WASA, and long-term work will be carried out based on their recommendations, he added.

March marked by rise

FROM PAGE 3

injured in road, rail, and waterway accidents during the Eid travel rush between March 17 and 28, underscoring what it termed a "systemic failure" to ensure safe mobility — a fundamental rights issue.

The report also cited data from the Road Safety Foundation showing 274 deaths in 342 road crashes in just 10 days, highlighting the scale of the crisis.

MSF blamed reckless driving, unchecked overtaking, overloading, and weak law enforcement on highways, noting that the continued presence of slow-moving vehicles on major roads has created "a chaotic and dangerous transport environment".

MSF prepared the report through monitoring media reports published in major national dailies, as well as field-level data.

Besides, pointing to a sharp escalation in political violence following the 13th parliamentary election, the

report said 14 people were killed and 390 injured in 56 incidents of violence in March, mostly stemming from internal conflicts and turf battles, particularly within the BNP, as well as some involving the Awami League and Jamaat-e-Islami.

Following the election, MSF noted that "the nature of violence has shifted rather than disappeared", continuing to fuel public anxiety.

According to the report, the worsening violence against women and children is the most alarming trend.

It said 48 rape cases were reported in March, up from 33 in February, while attempted rape doubled to 24. Incidents of sexual harassment, murders and suicides involving women and children also increased.

"Almost every indicator shows a rising trend, pointing to a deepening crisis regarding safety," the report noted.

Moreover, two people died in law enforcement custody during the month, while 11 deaths were reported in prison custody, raising concerns over accountability.

Meanwhile, mob violence remained widespread, with 36 incidents leaving 19 dead and 31 injured. Victims were often attacked over allegations of theft, robbery, or personal disputes.

MSF warned that the persistence of mob justice reflects "eroding public trust in formal legal systems".

Attacks on religious minorities also increased, including 10 incidents of idol vandalism or theft and a spike in arson and property destruction, said the report.

Also, the use of the Cyber Security Ordinance continued to grow, with three new cases filed and multiple arrests. At least 30 journalists faced attacks, threats, or legal harassment in March.

MSF cautioned that such legal actions risk curbing freedom of expression.

While no deaths were reported along the Indian

border, fear prevails along the Myanmar border, with 20 Bangladeshi fishermen reportedly detained by the Arakan Army.

The rights group concluded that March saw a clear overall decline in human rights conditions and urged the authorities to take immediate and effective measures to curb political violence, launch a national initiative for the protection of women and children, and strengthen the security of religious and ethnic minorities.

Furthermore, MSF stressed ensuring the accountability of law enforcement agencies and refining digital laws to prevent their misuse against freedom of expression.

ICT-1 orders to send ex-DIG

FROM PAGE 3

"We expect to complete the investigation very soon and submit formal charges before the tribunal," he added.

The chief prosecutor declined to provide a detailed list of the accused, citing the ongoing investigation. However, he indicated that many individuals would be named in the case, including deposed premier Sheikh Hasina and former police chief Benazir Ahmed.

"No one will be spared, regardless of position, if evidence is found," he added.

Another prosecutor said the tribunal has issued and arrest warrant against 21 people so far in connection with the incident.

The prosecution has already identified a preliminary list of an

estimated 15-20 victims, Aminul said, adding that efforts are on to verify if more individuals were affected.

On May 5-6, 2013, an overnight operation, allegedly through the use of excessive force and unlawful killings, was carried out by law enforcers to disperse Hefazat-e-Islam activists who had gathered at Shapla Chattar in Motijheel, demanding a set of religion-based demands.

Meanwhile, counsels for former Awami League minister Qamrul Islam filed a petition before the tribunal seeking an order to allow him to

avail better treatment in Evercare Hospital as he has developed gastric cancer.

The tribunal fixed today for hearing on the petition and to issue an order.

Chief Prosecutor Aminul said if an accused genuinely requires medical treatment, it should be provided on humanitarian grounds. He, however, noted that during the AL government's tenure, repeated appeals made for the treatment of former premier Khaleda Zia were not granted.

"We do not want to repeat such inhumane practices," he added.

STATUTORY NOTICE

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
Company Matter No. 278 of 2026
IN THE MATTER OF:

An application under section 81(2), 81(3) and 396 of the Companies Act, 1994.
AND
IN THE MATTER OF: Md. Khorshad Alam, Share Holder and Managing Director of A. K. FILAMENTS (BD) LIMITED., having office at Baimail (Near Megher Saha Resort), Konabari, Gazipur. — Petitioner.
—Versus—
The Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms, 1, Kawran Bazar, TCB Bhaban, Dhaka. — Respondent.
Notice is hereby given to all concerned that an application under section 81(2) read with Section 85(3) and Section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994 was filed before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh for condonation of the delay in holding the Annual General Meeting of A. K. FILAMENTS (BD) LIMITED. for the calendar years 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026. The said petition was accepted on 12 March, 2026 by the Honorable Justice Kazi Zinat Hoque of the High Court Division, and following the publication of this notice, the deadline for submitting compliance has been set on or before 23 April 2026. If any person is interested in the said application, he/she may appear on the date of hearing either himself or through his/her Advocate. A copy of the said application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of prescribed fees.
Ripon Chandra Bhowmik, Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh
Gloriana, Room No 123 (1st Floor), 16, Purana Paltan, Dhaka-1000. Mob: 01747-570627

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Deep Condolence

15 March, 1943-30 March, 2026

With profound grief and deep sorrow, we announce the passing of our Founding Managing Director & CEO **Md. Solaiman Khan Mojlish**, on 30 March, 2026 due to old age complications.

Mr. Mojlish joined Jamuna Bank PLC. on 16 January, 2001 as its Founding Managing Director & CEO. Through his visionary leadership, dedication and integrity, the Bank was established on a strong foundation and achieved remarkable growth and stability.

Jamuna Bank family mourns this irreparable loss and extends heartfelt sympathy to his bereaved family, well-wishers and colleagues. We pray to Almighty Allah to grant eternal peace to his departed soul and give strength to his family to bear this profound loss.

Jamuna Bank

PRAYER TIMING
APRIL 1

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-40	12-45	4-45	6-21	7-45
JAMAAT 5-15	1-15	5-00	6-24	8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION