



College student dies after hurled into lift shaft

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Ctg*

A college student was killed after he was allegedly beaten and thrown into a lift shaft from the eighth floor of a building in Chattogram.

The incident, which took place at an under-construction building in the Mousumi Residential Area on DC Road on April 12, came to light on Wednesday night after police arrested four suspects in connection with the killing.

The deceased was identified as Ashfaq Kabir Sazid, 17, from Cox's Bazar. He was a student of BAF Shaheen College in Chattogram and lived alone in a flat on DC Road in Bakalia, according to his father, Abul Hasem.

Hasem filed a case with Chawkbazar Police Station on April 13.

According to the case statement, Ashfaq was called by one of his friends, Fardin Hasan, on April 12 and asked to come to the Mousumi Residential Area intersection. When he arrived, Ayman, Anik, Rana, Michael, Eliash, Enayet Ullah, and Miskatul Kayes, along with others, allegedly held him at knifepoint and took him to a deserted place.

The statement said that, in an attempt to save himself, the victim ran and took shelter inside the under-



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'NEELKANTH': THE HARBINGER OF RENEWAL

A flash of electric blue breaks the quiet of the morning as an Indian roller returns to its nest with an insect firmly in its beak for its hungry chick. These master acrobats of the sky earn their name from the dramatic rolling dives performed during courtship. Locally known as the "Neelkanth", these birds are revered as harbingers of good fortune and renewal. The species is widely distributed across the Indian subcontinent and commonly spotted in open fields and agricultural landscapes. Last year, the Indian roller was categorised as "Near Threatened" on the IUCN Red List, with urbanisation and increased pesticide use attributed to the steady decline in its numbers. The photo was taken in Sreemangal, Moulvibazar.



PHOTO: NOBLE CHAKMA

Historic Mujibnagar Day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the historic Mujibnagar Day, the day Bangladesh's first government took oath in 1971 amid the Liberation War.

On this day in 1971, senior Awami League leaders, who had formed the provisional government of independent Bangladesh a week earlier, assembled at Baidyanath Tala in Meherpur to take part in the oath-taking ceremony.

Around 10:00am, the leaders gathered at a mango orchard and took an oath to ensure equality, human dignity, and social justice for the people of Bangladesh.

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who was imprisoned in Pakistan, was declared the first President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Syed Nazrul Islam was made vice-president and, in Sheikh Mujib's absence, appointed acting president.

Tajuddin Ahmad was sworn in as prime minister.

After the swearing in, Syed Nazrul Islam, along with MAG Osmani,

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11-party to march in July charter push

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 11-party alliance led by Jamaat e Islami yesterday announced that it would hold a series of programmes between tomorrow and May 2 to press for the implementation of the July charter.

The programmes include a mass procession in Dhaka tomorrow, followed by similar events in divisional cities on April 25 and in district towns on May 2.

Leaflets will be distributed, and seminars will be held in divisional cities and in key district towns during the period.

After a meeting of top leaders of the opposition alliance, Jamaat Secretary General Mia Golam Porwar announced the programme at a press conference at Al-Falah Auditorium, near Jamaat's central office in the capital's Moghbazar.

Opposition Leader and Jamaat Ameer Shafiqur Rahman chaired the meeting, which was attended by senior alliance leaders, including Opposition Chief Whip and NCP Convener Nahid Islam, Liberal Democratic Party President Col (ret'd) Oli Ahmad, Bangladesh Khelafat Majlis chief Mamunul Haque, and AB Party General Secretary Asaduzzaman Fuad.

Announcing the programmes, Porwar said the combine would also hold rallies in all city corporations and divisional headquarters, and that its liaison committee would finalise the dates.

After the programmes, a mass rally would be held in Dhaka, from where the next phase of programmes would be announced, he added.

The Jamaat leader alleged that the government was not respecting the public mandate and reiterated the demand for legal recognition of the July charter, adding that the alliance would continue its programmes until it was implemented.

Expansion of higher medical education stalled by project delay

Years after launch, 4 public medical universities unable to offer postgraduate courses; officials blame red tape

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Established in 2016, Rajshahi Medical University (RMU) has yet to develop the capacity to offer postgraduate courses -- the core function of a medical university.

Without a campus of its own, the activities of the university largely remain limited to regulating undergraduate education at its affiliated public and private medical colleges, and nursing colleges and institutes.

A Tk 1,867-crore project was approved in June 2022 to develop the university's infrastructure and build a 1,200 bed hospital, but work has yet to begin.

When it comes to workforce, the university has a vice-chancellor, a treasurer and 80 other employees at various levels, but no pro-vice chancellors or deans who play vital roles in providing academic leadership.

Not only RMU but also three other medical universities in Chattogram, Sylhet and Khulna -- all established between 2016 and 2021 -- are grappling with major operational shortcomings, leaving

Bangladesh Medical University (BMU) as the country's lone fully functional medical university.

These universities were set up with the aim of improving medical education, promoting research, and producing skilled professionals to

strengthen the healthcare system.

However, the four universities are still far from becoming full-fledged institutions due to bureaucratic tangles, delays in initiating and implementing projects, and hurdles in acquiring land. Their functions are now largely limited to conducting exams and paperwork for undergraduate students of

affiliated medical institutions, officials said. None of them has any pro-vice chancellors or deans, as these positions must be filled with their own faculty members, said a health ministry official, seeking

anonymity. Against this backdrop, Health Minister Sardar Md Sakhawat Husain, recently sat with the high-ups of the four universities and the BMU, and asked them to take steps to enhance academic capacity. He also directed them to inform the ministry in writing

MEDICAL UNIV	ESTABLISHED IN	PROJECT LAUNCHED	COST
CMU	2016	Sept 2023	Tk 1,859cr
RMU	2016	June 2022	Tk 2,258cr
SMU	2018	July 2023	Tk 2,036cr
KMU	2021	May 2024	Tk 1,874cr

Deadline for completing all 4 projects is June 2027 but physical work has not yet begun

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Govt eyes 10,000MW from solar

Declares nat'l revolution and solidarity day as holiday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has set a target of generating 10,000 megawatts of electricity from solar by 2030 as part of efforts to ensure the country's energy security.

Cabinet Secretary Nasimul Ghani announced the plan at a press briefing at the Secretariat yesterday following a cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman.

The meeting discussed the Renewable Energy Policy 2025, ways to facilitate investment in renewable energy projects, and options for expanding renewable energy sources, he added.

Ghani said the policy aims to make the investment climate more attractive by easing entry for both public and private investors and ensuring profitability.

Large-scale investment opportunities on government land will be opened up not only for public entities but also for private entrepreneurs to help achieve the target, he said.

The Renewable Energy Policy 2025 targets at least 20 percent of electricity generation from renewable sources by 2030.

To achieve this target, a committee has already been formed to finalise the policy and oversee implementation. "The committee will quickly finalise the required laws and policies and begin implementation," he said, adding that previous plans had proved ineffective.

The government introduced a new policy framework last week to speed up renewable energy development by allowing unused or underutilised state-owned land to be used for clean energy projects under a public-private partnership (PPP) model.

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Rooppur gets licence for uranium loading

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Pabna*

The Bangladesh Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority (BAERA) has granted the commissioning licence for the first unit of the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant.

This removes the final regulatory hurdle for the first unit of the power plant and nudges it closer to the operational phase.

Top officials of the science and technology ministry last night stated that fuel loading is expected to begin by the end of this month.

According to a press release of the ministry, the licence was granted following rigorous inspections and reviews by both national and international regulatory bodies.

Yesterday, BAERA Chairman Mahmudul Hasan handed over the licence to Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission Chairman M Moinul Islam.

Tanveer Mia, public relations officer of the ministry, said project authorities have successfully

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Smoke rises after Israeli strikes hit a residential area in Nabatieh, Lebanon, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

'Time for ambitious reforms'

Says Krishna Srinivasan, IMF's director for Asia-Pacific

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The new BNP government with its two-thirds majority should push through with reforms needed to stabilise the economy, said the International Monetary Fund yesterday.

"A new government with a significant majority has come in and this is the right time to undertake ambitious reforms," said Krishna Srinivasan, director of the IMF's Asia and the Pacific department, at a virtual briefing on the region's local economic outlook.

A lot of reforms are needed in the fiscal side, the revenue side and the exchange rate and to rehabilitate the financial sector.

"There is work to be done on all the three pillars on which the programme is based."

Earlier on March 25, 2026, an IMF team led by Srinivasan was in Bangladesh and met with Prime

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