



Mob kills 2 over murder of child

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Two people were killed and another sustained serious injury in a mob attack in Manikganj on Thursday night, following allegations against a member of their family of killing a seven-year-old girl.

According to police and locals, Atika Akter, daughter of Dudal Mia of Bonparil village in Manikganj Sadar, went missing from near her home around 5:00pm that day.

Following her disappearance, the family took to social media and megaphones to let people know and to locate her. Around 10:00pm that night, locals found Atika's body in a maize field near her home.

The girl was found with her hands and legs tied, and police suspect she was killed either during an attempted rape or robbery of her jewellery.

Atika's family alleged that a teenage boy was involved.

Around one hour later, agitating people beat up the teenage boy's elder brother Nazmul, 20, their father Pannu Miah, 45, who is an autorickshaw driver; and Pannu's

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



Boro harvest season has begun in the haor region of Kishoreganj. After harvesting and threshing, farmers boil the paddy in large steel pots. This process of boiling rice in its husk improves its nutritional value, makes it easier to process, and extends its shelf life. The photo was taken recently in the Badla area of Itna upazila.

PHOTO: TAFSILUL AZIZ

ROHINGYA REFUGEES 900 dead, missing in shipwrecks in 2025: UN

REUTERS, Geneva

Nearly 900 Rohingya refugees were reported missing or dead in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal in 2025, making it the deadliest year on record for the route, the United Nations refugee agency said yesterday.

More than one in seven of the estimated 6,500 Rohingya refugees who attempted the sea crossing last year were reported missing or dead, the highest mortality rate worldwide for refugee and migrant sea journeys, UNHCR spokesperson Babar Baloch told reporters in Geneva.

The dangerous sea crossings have continued into 2026, with more than 2,800 Rohingya embarking on such journeys up until April 13 this year, Baloch said.

"This sad and tragic trend continues, this sense of desperation among the Rohingya population," he said.

Deadly maritime journeys have become a recurring feature of a long-running humanitarian crisis resulting from conflict in Myanmar, as members of the Rohingya minority continue to risk their lives on overcrowded, unseaworthy boats in search of safety and opportunity.

Their departures are driven by violence at home and desperate conditions in crowded refugee camps in Bangladesh. They hope to reach safety and opportunity in countries such as Malaysia, Indonesia or Thailand.

In recent years, more than half of those attempting these crossings have been women and children, UNHCR said.

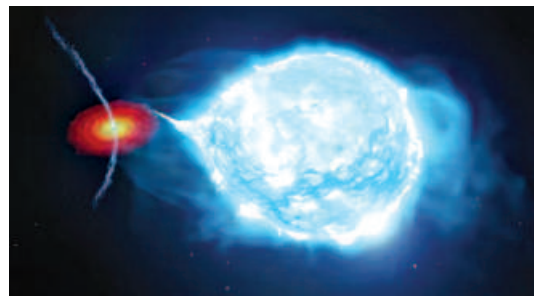
Black hole jets as powerful as 10,000 suns found

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Scientists have, for the first time, directly measured the astonishing power of jets erupting from a black hole, revealing an instantaneous energy output equivalent to 10,000 suns.

This groundbreaking observation also tracked the jets' incredible speed, clocking in at approximately 355 million mph – half the speed of light.

The focus of this unprecedented study was



Cygnus X-1, a binary system located 7,200 light-years away, notable for being the first black hole ever identified over half a century ago.

It features a black hole constantly drawing gases from its companion, a blue supergiant star.

Led by the University of Oxford's Steve Prabu, the international research team utilized 18 years of high-resolution radio imaging from a global telescope network.

Their findings, published in Nature Astronomy, allowed them to measure the swift power of these "dancing jets" as they were pushed in opposing directions by the stellar wind, a feat previously impossible as jet power could only be averaged over millennia.

Abuse, exploitation haunt women migrant workers

Systemic failures deny justice to many in host countries; experts call for stronger oversight, safeguards

NILIMA JAHAN

Abandoned by her husband, Rahima (not her real name), a mother of two, considered a broker's offer of a job in Saudi Arabia as a lifeline.

In 2020, she left Narsingdi for Saudi Arabia on the promise of an "office job" with a monthly salary of 1,400 riyals (around Tk 46,000).

However, following her arrival at a recruitment agency guesthouse in Riyadh, she was not taken to any office. Instead, she was moved to a sprawling mansion where she was made to do hard labour for 1,100 riyals (around Tk 36,000) per month.

"I worked until 1:00am every day. Whenever I sat down to rest for a while, the madam at the mansion would holler at me," said Rahima, now in her early 40s.

Her employer would give her very little food, often leaving her to scavenge leftovers.

"One day, I couldn't bear the hunger. I went out and brought some food from outside. When they found out, they beat me mercilessly and locked me up for a week. I was hardly given any food."

A few days later, she fell off a high stool while cleaning curtains. She suffered leg injuries and her lip was cut. Her employer gave her only painkillers and forced her to keep working.

PRIMARY COMPLAINTS

- Physical and mental abuse
- Substandard food, awful living conditions
- Breach of contract regarding job roles
- Non-payment of wages or allowances

SOURCE: BMET

As her condition worsened, she begged her employer to let her return home. Her employer then arranged a phone call with the recruitment agent who told her: "We bought you. If you want to leave, you must pay 1,500 riyals."

She had to work with a limp for months because she couldn't pay.

Physically and mentally broken, Rahima finally managed to contact the Bangladesh embassy after a couple of years, only to be sent back home without her last two months' wages.

"The embassy staff kept me in their safe home for three days and told me to leave

Riyadh since my employer had paid for an air ticket," said Rahima who returned home in 2023.

Rahima's ordeal highlights a broader pattern of abuse. While the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) does not have specific data on women migrant workers who faced abuses abroad, the BRAC Migration Programme reports that at least 69,090 women have returned home since 2019. Many of them experienced physical, psychological or sexual abuse, food deprivation, unpaid wages, and excessively long working hours.

BMET records show that over 12.5 million Bangladeshi women migrated for work, primarily to Saudi Arabia (4.05 million), the UAE (2.15 million), and Oman (1.65 million) between 2004 and 2025.

According to the Wage Earners' Welfare Board (WEWB), the bodies of 799 female migrant workers were returned to Bangladesh over the past eight years. Most of their death certificates listed suicide as the cause, with the majority of cases reported from Saudi Arabia, followed by Jordan and Lebanon.

Official data show that women migrant workers filed 2,036 complaints with BMET between 2021 and 2025. Though 1,969 of those were "resolved", the recruiting agencies accused of malpractice were not punished in

SEE PAGE 9 COL 3



'Dark hand' extending towards banks Says Jamaat ameer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Opposition Leader and Jamaat Ameer Shafiqur Rahman yesterday said that a "dark hand" is set to grip scheduled and commercial banks, "as it did with Bangladesh Bank".

"Banks don't belong to any party; they belong to the people," he said while speaking as the chief guest at the opening session of Jamaat's district and metropolitan ameer conference at Al-Falah auditorium in the capital's Moghbazar.

Expressing concern over the banking sector, Shafiqur said although "hundreds of thousands of crores of taka" had been looted from banks and

SEE PAGE 9 COL 6

WAR ON GAZA

38,000 women, girls killed till end of 2025: UN

AFP, Geneva

Over 38,000 women and girls were killed in the Gaza war by the end of 2025, the UN estimated yesterday, amounting to over half of the 71,000 deaths recorded by the territory's health ministry.

"Between October 2023 and December 2025, more than 38,000 women and girls were killed in Gaza – the result of Israeli air bombardment and land military operations," the UN Women agency's spokeswoman Sofia Calltorp told a press briefing in Geneva.

"This includes over 22,000 women and 16,000 girls, amounting to an average of at least 47 women and girls killed every day."

"On top of a staggering death toll, nearly 11,000 women and girls in Gaza have sustained injuries so devastating that they survive only with lifelong disabilities," said Calltorp.

She said the war had reshaped Palestinian families, with tens of thousands of Gaza households now headed by women, who having lost their husbands, were now having to sustain their families "without income, without support, or access to essential services".

Nearly a million women and girls have been repeatedly displaced during the conflict, while nearly 790,000 women and girls having experienced crisis-level or catastrophic-level food insecurity.

She said the Middle East war, which erupted with the US Israeli attack on Iran on February 28, had escalated the difficulties in Gaza, "as border crossing closures and humanitarian access constraints further reduce access to life-saving support".



An excavator removes heaps of solid waste from the Kazla canal in the Jatrabari area of Dhaka yesterday afternoon. While the Dhaka South City Corporation has undertaken the project to improve drainage and reduce waterlogging, numerous illegal structures remain along the banks of the canal, complicating the restoration efforts.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Myanmar cuts Suu Kyi's jail term

Frees former president Win Myint

REUTERS

Myanmar has reduced the sentence of imprisoned ex-leader Aung San Suu Kyi, her lawyer told Reuters yesterday, as part of an amnesty by a new president who ousted her government in a coup five years ago.

Suu Kyi, 80, was serving a 27-year sentence for a litany of offences her allies said were politically motivated to keep her at bay, ranging from incitement and corruption to election fraud and violating a state secrets law.

The sentence has been cut by one-sixth, but it remains unclear whether the Nobel Peace Prize winner will be allowed to serve the rest of her sentence under house arrest, the lawyer said.

