

Dead elephant found mutilated in Rangamati forest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

The flesh from the legs and trunk of a 60-year-old Asian wild elephant has reportedly been removed a day after it was found dead in the Bhashannadam area of Langadu upazila in Rangamati.

The elephant died on Sunday, with the Forest Department saying it was sick and had long standing injuries.

However, locals found the mutilated carcass yesterday morning.

Wildlife researchers have alleged negligence by the Forest Department, though officials said night conditions and heavy rain made guarding the carcass difficult.

Joyal, a member of the Elephant Response Team (ERT), told The Daily Star: "There was a storm last night. During this time, someone came at night and cut the elephant's meat. The incident may have happened around 2:00 or 3:00am."

Chittagong Hill Tracts North Forest Division Divisional Forest Officer Md Rafiquzaman Shah said the act likely took place after the animal's companion moved away.

"Since it was inside the forest, there was no one there at night," he said. "Our people are going with a veterinary surgeon. After the postmortem, we will identify those involved and take legal

action." Jahangirnagar University zoology professor Dr MA Aziz called the incident "unthinkable", adding, "The forest department should have regularly guarded the elephant's body."

He also said, "This incident happened due to the negligence of the local forest workers and not taking the



matter seriously. As a result, a message will be sent to the people that elephant organs are very valuable, and they can be taken."

He further criticised local behaviour towards the elephant's companion, saying video footage showed people chasing it away, which was "unacceptable".

Patuakhali farmers rally demanding fair paddy prices

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Farmers in Kalapara upazila of Patuakhali staged a rally and procession yesterday demanding fair prices for paddy, dismantling of market syndicates, and protection of farmers' rights.

Organised by the Kalapara unit of Bangladesh Krishak Samity, the programme was held at Pakhimara Bazar in Nilganj union. Upazila unit president GM Mahubub presided over the rally, joined by local farmers and organisation leaders.

Speakers said farmers spend Tk 30-32 to produce a kilogramme of paddy but are forced to sell at Tk 16-18 due to middlemen and syndicates. They added that harvester owners, citing the fuel crisis, now charge Tk 16,000-18,000 to harvest one kani of land – about Tk 6,000 more than last year – pushing farmers into hardship.

Leaders urged the government to procure paddy directly from farmers, set up union-level centres, and break syndicates. They also demanded cancellation of canal and sluice gate leases to ease waterlogging and improve irrigation.

After the rally, farmers marched through Pakhimara Bazar along the Dhaka-Kuakata highway before returning to the venue.

Man held over rape

FROM PAGE 4

Nandail. Four people came forward offering help, and she agreed. Later they took her to a secluded place, raped her, and left her there.

When the woman – in tears – went to Shimultoli Bazar area in Nandail the following night, a woman from a nearby area took the victim and her child to her house and provided them food and shelter for five

days, said the OC.

On information, police rescued the woman and her child on Saturday afternoon.

Later, she was sent to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital for medical tests.

Primarily, it is suspected that the woman was gang-raped, said the OC.

Drives are on to arrest the other culprits involved in the incident, he added.

I was locked up

FROM PAGE 4

there. I was kept locked in a room, where five to seven men would physically torture and rape me every day," she was heard saying.

The victim also said her husband travelled there to rescue her and bring her back, but further details of the rescue were not available.

The victim's husband said she landed in KSA on March 12. Although she was sent there on the promise of domestic work, she was initially forced to herd goats in the desert.

Unable to bear the extreme heat, she had informed him of her ordeal, prompting him to contact the travel agency.

About 10-12 days later, she was relocated to a

house. However, instead of being assigned household chores, she was brutally tortured and raped there, she alleged.

After she informed him about the abuse, the husband approached the agency again, demanding her immediate return to Bangladesh.

"The agency initially demanded Tk 1 lakh for her return ticket. After much bargaining, they agreed to Tk 53,000. My wife finally returned on April 22," he said, adding that they would file a case soon after consulting with police and lawyers.

Despite multiple attempts, Badruzzaman could not be reached over the phone for comment.

Will take action over

FROM PAGE 4

More than 50 Bangladeshis employed by Kawaguchi were similarly sent back last year.

The Migrant Welfare Network (MWN), a rights group, said the workers had planned a human chain in Dhaka yesterday but were asked by ministry officials to meet the minister instead.

While a delegation met the minister, joint secretary AZM Nurul Haque and the minister's private secretary Debojit Sinha, others

staged a silent human chain outside the ministry.

MWN said the minister assured that the Bangladesh High Commission in Malaysia and relevant Malaysian authorities would be engaged to investigate unpaid wages and the blacklisting of abused victims.

He also pledged efforts to secure compensation for affected workers and said recruitment agencies involved would be investigated.

Lightning kills four

FROM PAGE 4

labourer Mohammad Shuvo Mondol, 35, was killed while working in the field.

Khalajuri Police Station Officer-in-Charge Md Nasir Uddin confirmed the incidents and said the bodies would be handed over to the families after legal procedures.

In Noakhali's Hatia upazila, Md Arafat Hossain, 21, died after being struck by lightning around 3:00pm in Purba Gamchakhali.

According to

locals, Arafat, a small businessman, had gone to a nearby field to harvest groundnuts and was struck while returning home.

Hatia Police Station Officer-in-Charge Kabir Hossain confirmed the death.

Hatia Upazila Nirbahi Officer Rasel Iqbal said financial assistance would be provided to the victim's family.

(Our correspondents from Netrakona and Noakhali contributed to the report.)

Absence of MP

FROM PAGE 3

Jamaat-e-Islami MP Mahububur Rahman criticised repeated delays and poor attendance, urging accountability.

Speaker Hafiz Uddin Ahmad urged MPs to be punctual, while Chief Whip Nurul Islam Moni apologised, citing a

parliamentary meeting, a state programme, and accompanying the prime minister during his visit to Jashore as reasons for the absences.

The speaker reminded members that parliamentary duties must take precedence over other programmes.

A hundred frames, everlasting

FROM PAGE 3

The collection covers 10 major tragedies: the Rana Plaza collapse, the Spectrum Garments factory collapse, the Nimtoli fire, the Tazreen Fashions fire, the Sitakunda fire, the Banani FR Tower fire, the Tampaco Foils factory explosion, the Chawkbazar fire, the That's It Sportswear factory fire, and the Bailey Road Green Cozy Cottage fire.

Nabila Morshed, a student of Jagannath University, stood transfixed before a haunting image at the Rana Plaza section.

"Look at this," she said quietly. "How brutal. A young woman's anklet still hangs from her foot, with a drop of blood clinging to it. The blood on her foot almost looks like Alta

(red dye). Is a human life so cheap?"

Her words found an echo in Rajib, a fine arts student from the University of Development Alternative. Reflecting on a photograph from the FR Tower fire, he said, "I saw an image where several people were hanging, gripping each other's legs, while flames raged beside them. The desperation to survive – how powerful it is. These are our people. Because of someone's greed, because of institutional negligence, they had to leave this world."

Another photograph, from the Nimtoli fire, left numerous visitors visibly shaken. It captures a large pot of biryani, with kebabs and potatoes arranged for

– some of whom may have perished in the blaze that spread from a chemical warehouse.

According to the organisers, the exhibition aims to make visible the realities of industrial disasters, highlight the lived experiences of workers, and reinforce that a safe workplace is a fundamental right. It seeks to encourage dialogue and accountability among policymakers, factory owners, international buyers, and other stakeholders to ensure a safer, more humane, and sustainable working environment.

Ultimately, the exhibition does not just document tragedy. Rather, it demands remembrance, responsibility, and reform.

EC rejects appeal of NCP's Monira

FROM PAGE 3

told reporters, "Monira Sharmin's appeal has been rejected. Her nomination remains cancelled."

Following the decision, Monira said she would challenge the ruling in the High Court.

"We will go to the High Court. I don't want women's representation in parliament and their political empowerment to become uncertain due to ambiguities in the law," she said.

On BNP candidate Zeeba Amina Khan's case, EC Masud said the appeal against her nomination was not valid as the appellant was not a candidate.

Meanwhile, an appeal had been filed with the EC challenging the nomination of BNP candidate Madhabi Marma. The EC heard the matter but dismissed the appeal.

The appeal was filed by Chandra Chakma,

central joint secretary of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, who alleged that Madhabi was still serving as a member of the Bandarban Hill District Council, which she claimed disqualified her from contesting.

Denying the allegation, Madhabi said she had resigned from the council on April 20.

After the hearing, Chandra Chakma told reporters, "I was told that under the law, an appeal must be filed by an aggrieved candidate, not an individual. That's why my appeal was not accepted. We will now go to the High Court."

ACCEPT NUSRAT'S NOMINATION PAPER: HC Meanwhile, the High Court yesterday ordered the Election Commission to accept the nomination paper of Nusrat Tabassum, a leader of NCP, for the reserved women's seat in the National Parliament.

The HC also issued a rule asking the EC to explain why its refusal to accept her nomination should not be declared illegal.

The bench of Justice Ahmed Sohel and Justice Fatema Anwar issued the order and rule following a writ petition filed by Nusrat Tabassum seeking its directive on the Election Commission to accept her nomination paper.

The deadline for submitting nomination papers was 4pm on April 22.

However, Nusrat submitted her paper at 4:19pm. As a result, the EC did not accept her nomination for missing the deadline, Deputy Attorney General Mahfuz Bin Yousuf told The Daily Star.

Lawyers Mohammad Hossain Lipu, Zahirul Islam Musa and Md Moniruzzaman appeared for the writ petitioner during the hearing on the petition.

EU to provide €175,000 to help

FROM PAGE 3

income due to caring responsibilities.

The EU, a leading humanitarian donor in Bangladesh, is providing more than €23 million in funds allocated for humanitarian partners in the country this year, including €16.4 million in humanitarian aid to provide life-saving assistance to Rohingya refugees and host communities, and €7 million to support disaster preparedness, disaster risk reduction and resilience efforts.

SHAMA OBAED HAILS EU SUPPORT

Shama Obaed Islam, state minister for foreign affairs, yesterday lauded the EU's continued engagement in

supporting Bangladesh's democratic journey, including the deployment of the Election Observer Mission.

She highlighted the importance of continued cooperation with international partners to further strengthen the country's democratic institutions and processes.

The issues were discussed when Ivars Ijabs, chief observer of the European Union Election Observation Mission (EU EOM), met the state minister at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and formally handed over a copy of the final report of the 2026 parliamentary elections, said the ministry.

The chief observer is

scheduled to hold a press conference today at a Dhaka hotel.

On Sunday, Ivars Ijabs met Speaker Hafiz Uddin Ahmad and presented the mission's final report and recommendations for improving future elections.

The report is based on a long-term, independent observation of the electoral process across all 64 districts of Bangladesh, while the 19 recommendations offered by the EU EOM aim at reinforcing the integrity of future elections, said officials.

Ijabs expressed hope that the recommendations will be considered by all relevant stakeholders, including the Bangladesh Parliament.

Hasina was detained in 1983

FROM PAGE 4

Azmi said he met her several times in 1983 while he was stationed under martial law at a house on Hare Road.

During that time, Sheikh Hasina, along with former ministers Matia Chowdhury and Sahara Khatun, was detained there for several days under his supervision, he said.

The defence suggested that the Bangladesh Army had paid Azmi Tk 4 crore as compensation after his release.

He rejected the claim, saying the money was given as house rent upon his application. He also denied a further defence claim that the amount was paid as compensation

based on a court of inquiry recommendation.

In the case, 13 people, including Sheikh Hasina, have been accused of crimes against humanity. Three have been arrested – former DGF director Maj Gen Sheikh Md Sarwar Hossain, Brig Gen Md Mahububur Rahman Siddique, and Brig Gen Ahmed Tanvir Mazahar Siddique.

Meanwhile, ICT-1 allowed investigators to interrogate former justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Dhaka University professor AKM Jamal Uddin for one day in a case linked to the July 2024 uprising. The interrogation will take place at the tribunal's

investigation agency in Dhanmondi. The court earlier showed them arrested and sent them to jail.

In a separate case over killings in Madaripur during the July uprising, the tribunal showed former Awami League lawmaker Abdus Sobhan Mia Golap arrested and ordered his detention in jail custody.

The ICT-2 yesterday set May 17 to begin arguments in a crimes against humanity case against Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader and six others, after cross-examination of the investigation officer concluded, completing testimony from all 29 prosecution witnesses.