

## HC questions decision to cancel Monira Sharmin's candidacy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule questioning the legality of the Election Commission's decision to cancel the candidacy of National Citizen Party (NCP) Joint Convener Monira Sharmin for women's reserved seat in the 13th National Parliament.

In the rule, the court asked the EC and the government to explain why the cancellation of Monira Sharmin's nomination paper should not be declared illegal.

The bench of Justice Razik Al-Jalil and Justice Debashish Roy Chowdhury passed the order following a writ petition filed by Monira Sharmin challenging the cancellation of her candidacy.

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## Rohingya man shot dead in Cox's Bazar camp

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A Rohingya man was shot dead at a refugee camp in Ukhiya upazila of Cox's Bazar yesterday afternoon.

The deceased was identified as Mohammad Kamal, 40, son of Musa Ahmed, from Camp 8 East in the Balukhali Panbazar area of Ukhiya. Kamal was a community leader of the same camp.

Riaz Uddin Ahmed, acting commander of Armed Police Battalion (APBn) 8, said the incident took place around 2:30pm at Camp 8.

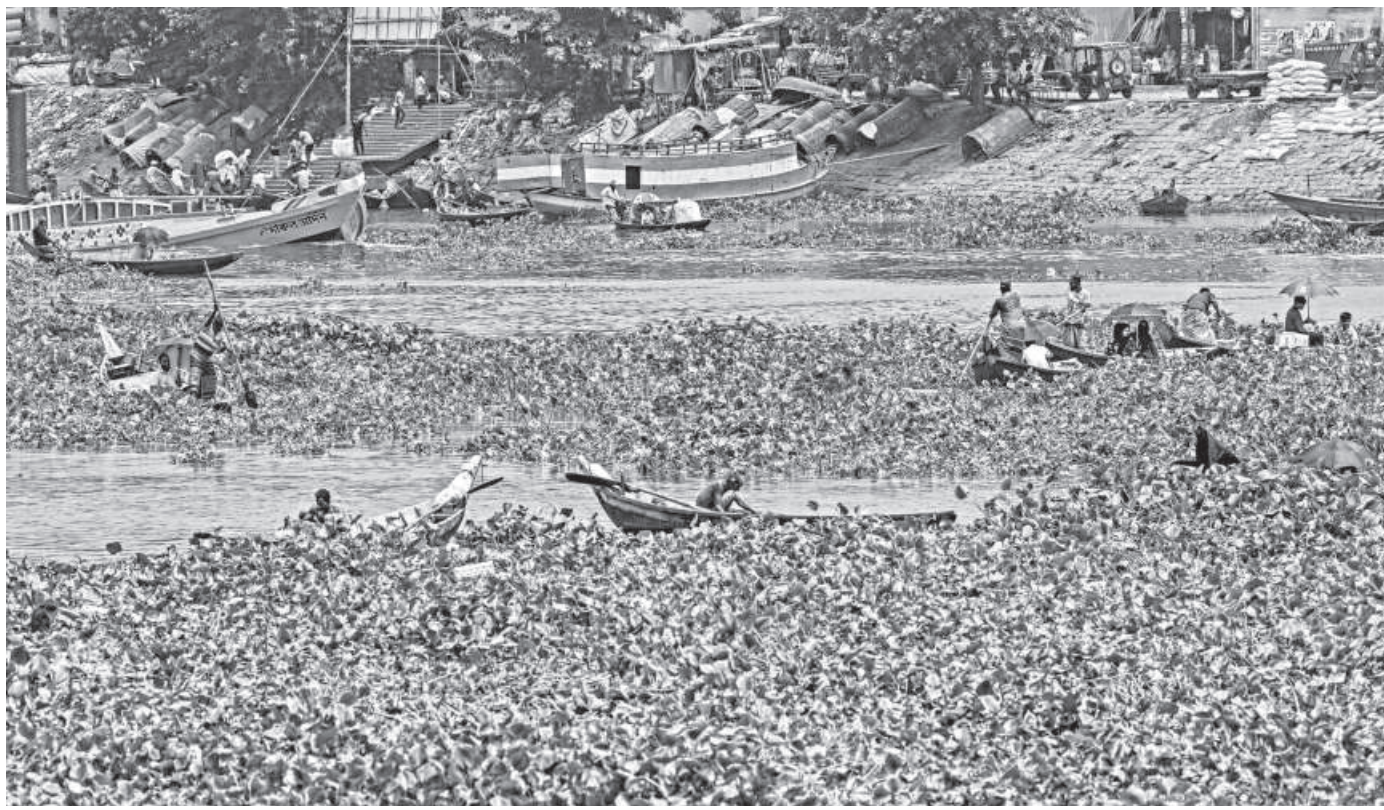
Kamal was the younger brother of Nabi Hossain, leader of the Arakan Rohingya Army (ARA), also known as the Nabi Hossain group, Riaz said.

Ayub Hossain, a cousin of Kamal, alleged that 12 to 13 members of the Rohingya Solidarity Organisation (RSO) opened fire on Kamal after he went to a bazaar area following Zohr prayers at a mosque.

Riaz Uddin Ahmed said Kamal was rescued with bullet injuries and taken to a local hospital before being shifted to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital, where he was declared dead.

He was shot in the head and chest, the police official said.

Nayek Saiful Islam, in-charge of the hospital police outpost, said the body was sent for autopsy. The killing occurred within 24 hours of the murder of Rohingya armed group suspected commander Kafayet Ullah Halim of Arakan Rohingya Organisation (ARO), who was killed in a gun attack at the Balukhali refugee camp in Cox's Bazar's Ukhiya.



Commuters are ferried through dense mats of water hyacinths strewn with plastic and household waste on the Buriganga River, where polluted banks highlight severe environmental damage. Despite delays and health risks, many still rely on this route between Keraniganj and Dhaka due to limited transport options. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## Hill razing, sand extraction rampant in Kamalganj

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

Indiscriminate razing of natural dunes and hill slopes, as well as illegal extraction of silica sand and alluvial soil, is continuing unabated in Kamalganj upazila of Moulvibazar, raising alarm over potentially severe damage to the environment, biodiversity, and infrastructure.

In Chhayghari area under Islampur union, influential groups are reportedly using excavators in broad daylight to level red-soil dunes. Similar activities are ongoing on the hill slopes adjacent to Sunchhara Tea Garden in Alinagar union for the extraction of silica sand.

The illegally collected sand and soil are transported daily by trucks, pickups, and other vehicles, allegedly right under the nose of the authorities concerned.

Locals allege that the upazila administration has yet to take any effective step to this end, adding that unless prompt administrative action is taken, the ongoing situation may lead to devastating outcomes.

Enamul Haque Shamim, a social activist from Shamsheernagar, said locals seized a truck carrying illegally extracted silica sand at night recently and kept it at the Shamsheernagar police outpost.

Despite being informed, the upazila nirbahi officer took no action against the vehicle, he alleged.

In the Bishnupur area under Rahimpur union, soil is being extracted from beneath

a steel bridge on the Dhalai River, raising concern that the illegal activities would leave the bridge's foundation and adjacent embankment vulnerable and cause both to collapse at some point, causing significant damages.

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Local college teacher Jamshed Ali warned that unregulated sand and soil extraction is destroying natural tourist attractions and posing risks to roads, agricultural land, bridges, and culverts.

Nurul Muhaimin Milton, a network member of the Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA), said destroying dunes and hills for red soil and silica sand extraction is not only illegal but also ecologically disastrous for a fragile ecosystem that supports local biodiversity, regulates water flow, and protects surrounding agricultural land.

Such activities weaken the natural barriers that hold soil together and disrupt natural drainage systems, thereby raising the risk of erosion, flash flooding, landslides during the monsoon, damage to infrastructure, and the destruction of wildlife habitats, he added.

"The laws are very clear in Bangladesh -- hill cutting and illegal sand extraction are punishable offences. The failure here is not of legislation but of implementation," he said, urging authorities to take immediate action through enforcement drives, seizure of equipment, prosecution of those involved, and raising public awareness.

Milton further stressed sustainable land management practices and strict monitoring of ecologically sensitive areas like Kamalganj, known for unique landscapes and tourism potential.

Contacted, Kamalganj UNO Md Asaduzzaman acknowledged the dune razing incidents in Islampur union and said legal action will be taken upon investigation.

He called for cooperation from local residents to curb such activities.

## ICT-2 asks Inu's defence to resubmit his statement

Ex-DIG Jalil seeks to become state witness in Shapla case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday asked former minister Hasanul Haq Inu's defence counsel to withdraw his client's written statement and resubmit it with corrections, after the prosecution said parts of the statement amounted to contempt of court.

The tribunal's directive came after the defence admitted their mistake and sought an apology from the tribunal after it asked Inu's defence to explain the matter.

After court proceedings, prosecutor Mizanul Islam told journalists, "The most serious remark he (Inu) made in his statement was, 'Will the court's verdict change because of my statement? Then why should I say anything?'"

"In other words, he challenged the court, implying that the court does not deliver its own verdicts -- that the decisions come from elsewhere, from someone else," Mizanul added.

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## Lightning strikes kill five farmers in three districts

STAR REPORT

Five farmers were killed in separate lightning strikes in three districts yesterday, according to reports from our correspondent and a news agency.

Our Lalmonirhat correspondent reports, two farmers were killed in Lalmonirhat and Kurigram around noon.

The deceased were identified as Yusuf Ali, 38, of Kaliganj upazila in Lalmonirhat and Obaidul Haque, 54, of Nageshwari upazila of Kurigram.

Police said Yusuf had been working in his maize field since morning when the sky suddenly turned overcast. As rain began, a lightning strike hit him. Meanwhile, Obaidul was harvesting boro paddy in his field when a sudden spell of rain accompanied by lightning struck the area. He was injured and later taken to Nageshwari Upazila Health Complex, where he was declared dead.



The incidents were confirmed by Kaliganj Police Station Officer-in-Charge (Investigation) Osman Goni and Nageshwari Police Station Officer-in-Charge Abdullatif Hil Zaman.

UNB adds, three farmers were killed in lightning strikes while harvesting paddy in Mahadebpur and Niamatpur upazilas in Naogaon in the afternoon. Mahadebpur Police Station OC Omar Faruk said Dilip Chandra Barman was struck by lightning while working in cropland at Kurapara village.

In a separate incident, two more people were killed in the upazila, said Niamatpur Police Station OC Mahabubur Rahman.

Among them, Rafiqul Islam died on the spot after being hit by lightning while harvesting paddy in Hajinagar. He had come from Shibganj in Chapainawabganj to work as a labourer.

Another victim, Anukul Chandra Mohanta, was killed at Ramnagar in Chandan Nagar while bringing harvested paddy home.

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**UCEP Bangladesh**

**VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

UCEP Bangladesh is inviting applications from qualified candidates for the position of **Regional Manager, No. of Vacancies 01, Job Location: UCEP Khulna Region/Anywhere in Bangladesh. Required Education: Master's in any discipline/B.Sc in Engineering from any reputed institute. Required Experience: Minimum 08 years of working experience in industry or development sector including at least 03 years as manager in a development organization. Required Age: Age limit for the applicant would be Maximum 45 years. Management has the right to make exceptions based on qualifications.**

For details, please visit <https://jobs.ucepbd.org> or [www.bdjobs.com](http://www.bdjobs.com). The last date for submitting the application is **May 17, 2026**.

Applications without requisite qualifications and experience will not be considered.

## A playground in name

FROM PAGE 3

vegetables, fish, meat, clothes, toys, and other essentials throughout the day. In the evening, the space turns into a busy food market, continuing till late into the night.

"During the Awami League government's tenure, we had to pay Tk 150-300 daily to extortionists, but since August 5, 2024, we haven't had to pay anyone," said Ashraf, a vegetable vendor.

Md Biplob, a toy seller, argued that the market benefits the community. "It's convenient for local people to shop here. We also get to earn a living."

For children, however, the reality is different. A small portion of the field that still remains open turns barren and dusty during dry months and muddy during monsoons.

"We play here because there's no other playground nearby," said teenager Anindya Roy. "But there's hardly any grass, and the shops leave little room to play."

Another teenager, Jishan Islam, said, "The ground is

rough, so whenever we fall, we get cuts and bruises."

Older residents recall a very different Iraqi Field.

"Before independence, there was a boundary wall here. It was demolished later, and since then locals have used it for sports. I played here, then my son, and now even my grandchildren," said Abdul Haque, an elderly local resident.

"However, for years, the field has been occupied by shops with political backing. Police sometimes drive them away, but they always return once an understanding is reached. Locals also don't complain much because it's convenient for their grocery shopping," he added.

Ashish Sen, another elderly resident, expressed regret. "I have so many childhood memories here. The field was larger, with trees all around. I wish it could be restored for people of all ages to use it for walking and sports. With a little effort from the city corporation, it can be revived."

However, the DSCC says the matter is out of its hands.

## Bureaucratic delays

FROM PAGE 3

as a major obstacle to investment, noting that delays by government agencies often discourage foreign investors.

The pace at which our agencies handle investment issues creates a negative situation. "Foreign investors become frustrated. This has become a major problem," he said.

He said the government

is working to reform the bureaucracy and improve the overall investment climate, acknowledging that the current business environment is not yet satisfactory.

Highlighting challenges in the energy sector, he said Bangladesh is moving towards renewable energy, particularly solar, alongside efforts for onshore and offshore exploration of oil and gas.

## Walton Hi-Tech Industries PLC.

Plot No.: 1088, Block No.: I, Road No.: Sabrina Sobhan 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Bashundhara, Vatara, Dhaka-1229, Phone: +8809606-555555, Fax: +8809606-555550  
Email: [cswhil@waltonplc.com](mailto:cswhil@waltonplc.com), Website: [www.waltonplc.com](http://www.waltonplc.com)

### REVISED NOTICE ON CONVENING MEETING OF CREDITORS

MEETING OF THE CREDITORS OF WALTON HI-TECH INDUSTRIES PLC PURSUANT TO DIRECTION OF THE HON'BLE HIGH COURT DIVISION OF THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH IN COMPANY MATTER NO. 318 OF 2026.

An application has been made before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh for approval of the proposed Scheme of Merger of Walton Digi-Tech Industries Limited (Transferor Company) with Walton Hi-Tech Industries PLC (Transferee Company) under Sections 228 and 229 of the Companies Act, 1994.

Revised Notice is hereby given that in accordance with the direction of the Hon'ble High Court issued by Mr. Justice Sikder Mahmudur Razi in Company Matter No. 318 of 2026, the Meeting of the Creditors of Walton Hi-Tech Industries PLC (the "Company") will be held on Tuesday, 02 June, 2026 at 03:00 p.m. instead of earlier decision of holding the creditors meeting on Thursday, 07 May, 2026 at Plot No: 1088, Block No: I, Road No: Sabrina Sobhan 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Bashundhara, Vatara, Dhaka-1229, to transact the following business:

#### AGENDA

1. Approval of the Scheme of Merger of Walton Digi-Tech Industries Limited (Transferor Company) with Walton Hi-Tech Industries PLC (Transferee Company).

To consider, and if thought fit, to pass the following resolution with or without modification:

"RESOLVED THAT Draft Scheme (the "Scheme") of Merger of Walton Digi-Tech Industries Limited (Transferor Company) with Walton Hi-Tech Industries PLC (Transferee Company) be and is hereby approved and subject to sanction of the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh in accordance with the provisions of Sections 228 and 229 of the Companies Act, 1994 and approval of the same Scheme by the Creditors of Walton Digi-Tech Industries Limited, and in the similar manner Walton Digi-Tech Industries Limited be merged with Walton Hi-Tech Industries PLC in terms of the Scheme."

Dated: 06 May, 2026

By Order of the Board  
Sd/-

Md. Rafiqul Islam, FCS  
Company Secretary

#### Notes:

1. Copies of the Scheme of Merger and relevant documents will be available for inspection at the registered office of the Company during business hours.



## Walton Digi-Tech Industries Limited

Plot No.: 1088, Block No.: I, Road No.: Sabrina Sobhan 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Bashundhara, Vatara, Dhaka-1229, Phone: +8809606-555555, Fax: +8809606-555550  
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Asadullah Mahmud, FCS  
Company Secretary

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