

Missing child found dead in paddy field

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrokona

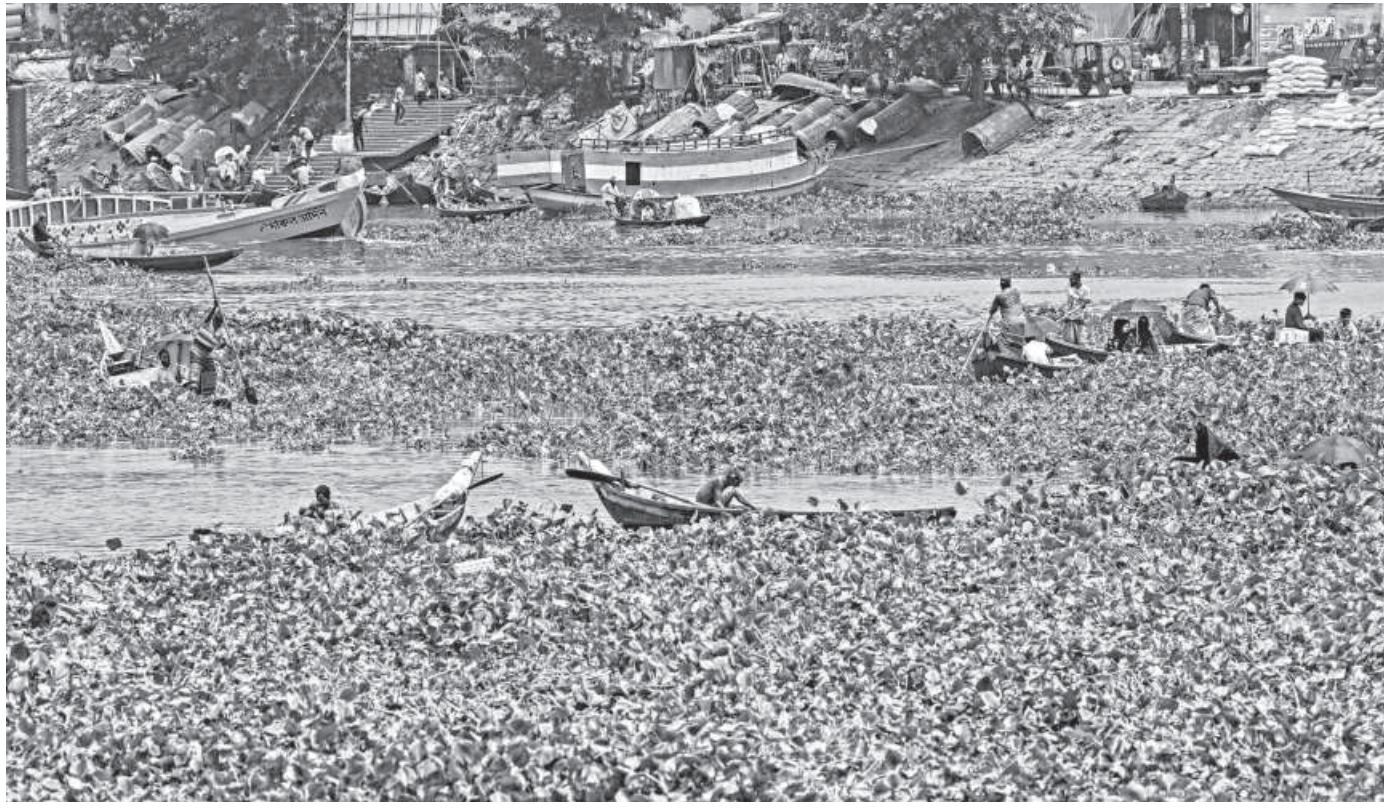
Police yesterday recovered the body of a six-year-old girl, Jannat, from a paddy field in Kalmakanda upazila of Netrokona, a day after she went missing.

According to police and locals, day labourers found the body around 7:00am while harvesting paddy and informed police.

The girl had gone missing on Monday afternoon. Her father, Arshad Mia, filed a general diary with Kalmakanda Police Station the following day and later identified the body.

Police said the decomposing body bore signs of post-mortem damage by animals. A cloth was tied around the child's face, raising suspicions of foul play.

OC Md Siddik Hossain said an investigation is underway. "Those involved will be identified and brought to book," he added.



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

Three looting suspects snatched from police custody

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

A group of locals allegedly snatched three suspects from police custody in Narayanganj's Fatullah yesterday afternoon, shortly after their detention over a reported looting incident.

Additional Police Super (A Circle) Md Hasanuzzaman said that the incident occurred around 3:30pm in the Hashembagh area of Paschim Deobhog.

"Informed through the emergency helpline 999, police from Fatullah Model Police Station went to the scene following a complaint of looting at the house of a retired police constable. Upon arrival, they intervened and detained three suspects," he said.

"Later, their friends and associates gathered at the scene and forcibly snatched them away from police custody," he added.

No police personnel were injured in the incident. Following the incident, additional police forces were deployed in the area.

Fatullah Model Police Station OC Mohammad Mahub Alom said efforts are underway to identify and arrest those involved.

Earlier the same day, three Rab-11 members were injured in an attack by suspected drug traders in Masdair, while hours before that, a Jubo Dal leader was reportedly freed from custody in Rugganj.

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.

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 Abdullah 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.

Jashore man finds success in bitter gourd farming

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Faruk Hossain, a retired member of the Bangladesh Army and resident of Jagadishpur village under Jashore's Chowgachha upazila, has found success in bitter gourd cultivation by adopting modern farming practices.

He has been growing bitter gourds using trellises instead of traditional methods, and following a crop rotation on the same plot of land, a method agriculture officials say can improve land use and reduce costs over time.



The method involves raised beds covered with polythene during early growth, followed by bamboo and wire trellises that allow the vines to climb, improving yield and quality, according to the farmer.

Faruk said he has been earning around Tk 2.5 lakh per season by cultivating hybrid varieties of bitter gourds on one bigha since 2024, alongside hybrid chilli and small watermelon on adjacent 10 katha plots, as well as Boro paddy on five bighas.

After harvesting bitter gourds, Faruk said he reused the same trellis to grow cucumbers,

SEE PAGE 9 COL 6

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UCEP Bangladesh

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

UCEP Bangladesh is inviting applications from qualified candidates for the position of **Regional Manager, No. of Vacancy 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. 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

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.

He also underscored the importance of ensuring investment security, maintaining stability in the Bay of Bengal, and fostering balanced relations with allies and neighbouring countries.

Walton Hi-Tech Industries PLC.

Plot No.: 1088, Block No.: I, Road No.: Sabrina Sobhan 5th Avenue, Bashundhara, Vatara, Dhaka-1229, Phone: +8809606-555555, Fax: +8809606-555550
Email: cswhil@waltonplc.com, Website: 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 5th Avenue, Bashundhara, Vatara, Dhaka-1229, to transact the following business:

AGENDA

- 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:

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

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Walton Digi-Tech Industries Limited

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Dated: 06 May, 2026

By Order of the Board
Sd/-
Asadullah Mahmud, FCS
Company Secretary

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