

Govt opens probe

FROM PAGE 1
as the probe is ongoing.
"Have confidence in us. We are not against anyone. We want the investigation to reveal why we lost these children, what caused it, where our problems were, and whether there was any negligence on our part. It is to determine the responsibilities of our officials."

Asked about punishment for those responsible, he said, "The investigation is underway. It is a responsibility of the state. Every incident should be investigated. People have the right to know."
The incumbent government is a democratic and accountable government and it is ready to be accountable to the people, he said.

The report will be made public upon completion of the probe, Quamruzzaman said at the event organised by the Bangladesh Health Reporters Forum at Bangladesh Medical University.

The development comes as the country recorded nine more deaths from measles and measles-like symptoms in the 24 hours to 8:00am yesterday, taking the total number of confirmed and suspected measles deaths to 352.

Of the nine, three are confirmed measles deaths while six are suspected cases, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS). As of yesterday, total confirmed deaths rose to 61 and suspected deaths to 291.

As the number of measles cases and child deaths continues to rise, health experts are blaming immunisation gaps caused by low vaccination coverage and vaccine shortages for the outbreak.

Many attributed the situation to the interim government's mishandling of the vaccination programme, alleging that its attempt to change the procurement method and funding source caused delays in vaccine procurement, leading to shortages and eventual stockouts.

Sayedur Rahman, special assistant to the chief adviser on health, refuted the allegations, saying the ministry had

provided all necessary approvals and policy support for vaccine procurement on time and in accordance with established procedures.

Several organisations and at least two speakers at yesterday's roundtable have demanded an investigation into the matter and punishment for those responsible.

The health department should develop a nationwide protocol for treating measles patients, as many children were being brought to their hospital after being "severely mismanaged", said Mirza Md Ziaul Islam, head of Paediatric Infectious Diseases at Bangladesh Shishu Hospital and Institute.

"At one stage, they are de-shouldering their responsibility, increasing deaths and putting pressure on us."

If the doctors provide proper treatment at peripheral-level hospitals across the country, the number of patients coming to Dhaka would decrease.

Be-Nazir Ahmed, a public health expert and former director of disease control at the health directorate, termed the situation a pandemic.

"It is a large-scale pandemic that has spread across all districts. It would be easier to control if the government acknowledges it."

He recommended for auditing the measles deaths for future preparation and suggested giving financial assistance to the family of the measles deaths.

Measles-related deaths may continue for another month, said Mushtuq Husain, a public health expert, while urging the government to take immediate steps to minimise the toll.

He suggested establishing community isolation centres for patients in urban slums to help reduce deaths.

Pravath Chandra Biswas, director general of DGHS, said they will carry out a death review if the expert panel recommends.

They also asked the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research carry out investigation into the origin and related issues of the outbreak.



Traders who harvest paddy from the haor region in Kishoreganj are transporting their produce by boat on the Narosunda River. Each boat carries around 1,000-1,500 maunds of paddy and is sent to be sold across the country. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: TAFSILUL AZIZ

Value-based

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the media and the judiciary are key pillars of justice, accountability, and balance of power.

"When an ordinary citizen seeks justice in court to protect their rights, the neutrality of the judiciary becomes their greatest source of hope. Similarly, the media amplifies the voices of common people and raises awareness against abuse of power, irregularities, and discrimination," he said.

He said although exposing the truth about powerful groups is often risky, the media must perform this duty as a constitutionally protected democratic institution.

"The biggest challenge to media freedom is its economic structure. Government-dependent financing carries the risk of political influence, while excessive reliance on corporate investment may undermine editorial independence. Therefore, while strong investment is necessary to build a robust media institution, maintaining a balance between editorial freedom and financial sustainability is equally important," he said.

Khulna University Treasurer Prof Dr Md Nurunnabi, who attended

the seminar as chief guest, said media is one of the key instruments of democracy, accountability, and truth-telling in a state.

"Independent and responsible journalism plays a vital role in ensuring justice and protecting people's rights. Alongside freedom, maintaining ethics, objectivity, and professionalism in journalism is equally essential," he said.

Speaking as a special guest, Associate Prof Majidul Islam of the university's mass communication and journalism discipline said media freedom is always dependent on context.

He said responsible and objective journalism has become increasingly important in ensuring the flow of accurate information in society.

"Such initiatives are highly commendable in inspiring the younger generation toward truthful and ethical journalism," he added.

The seminar was chaired by Khulna University Journalists' Association President Md Ibrahim Khalil.

Students from different disciplines of the university, alongside journalists, attended the programme.

Lost a piece

FROM PAGE 12
After completing her studies, she could have returned to the country and contributed to national development," he said.

He added that the Bangladesh government would maintain regular communication with US authorities to ensure maximum punishment for those responsible.

"We are also standing by Bristy's family in this time of crisis."

When this correspondent visited Bristy's home in the afternoon, relatives and neighbours were waiting to see her one last time and bid farewell.

An emotional scene unfolded as the ambulance carrying her body arrived around 1:30pm. Her father, Jahir Uddin Akon, was helped out of the vehicle while her mother, Ivy Begum, repeatedly fainted. At one point, she broke down, crying: "I have lost a piece of my heart, and I'll never be whole again. Who will I live with now? Please bring my Bristy back."

Speaking to this correspondent, Jahir said the family would spend Eid at their village home to

be with relatives. Recently, they built a house to Bristy's liking, designed by her brother Jahid Akon. She was meant to return in July and cut the ribbon, but that day never came.

"My daughter will now sleep forever beside the house we built for her. How can I bear staying in this house without her?" he lamented.

He added: "My daughter wanted to complete her PhD in chemical engineering and return to Bangladesh to serve the nation. That dream was cut short. Now I have only one demand -- the Bangladesh government must ensure the maximum punishment for her killer."

Speaking to this newspaper, Bristy's cousin Tuli Akter said, "I wanted to go abroad for higher education like Bristy. But now my family no longer wants me to go because they do not want to lose another daughter."

CANAL RE-EXCAVATION

BIP calls for integrated approach

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP) has urged the government to treat the ongoing canal re-excitation programme not merely as a dredging exercise, but as a core component of integrated spatial planning, water governance and climate adaptation.

The institute presented its position in a paper titled "Canal Re excavation Programme: In the Context of Water Management, Climate Adaptation and Spatial Planning" yesterday.

For canal re-excavations to achieve lasting results, it must be linked with land use control, natural drainage preservation, waste management, climate adaptation, biodiversity conservation and long-term maintenance, BIP said.

Citing a 2023 study, the institute warned that continued damage to canals and drainage corridors could nearly double flood-affected areas in parts of Dhaka from 4.05 percent to 8.47 percent by 2042.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Keep drains, canals and rivers connected
- » Protect wetlands with conservation zones
- » Stop waste discharge into waterways
- » Use GIS monitoring, dedicated maintenance funds

BIP said while re-excavation may restore water flow and reduce waterlogging in some areas, without connectivity between drains, canals and rivers, regular desiltation, and pollution control, excavated canals risk becoming clogged again alongside degradation of water quality.

The institute also cited a 2024 study that said Dhaka lost about 69 percent of its wetlands between 1990 and 2020, while land surface temperatures rose by 3.44°C to 9.35°C.

It warned that 74-90 percent of remaining wetlands could disappear by 2050 without protection, and called for wetland conservation zones, ecological buffer strips along canal banks, prohibition of illegal structures and mandatory blue-green network requirements in urban planning rules.

BIP recommended sewage and effluent treatment facilities, solid waste management systems, and strict enforcement against direct discharge into waterways.

It also called for addressing limitations including lack of coordinated national planning, repeated re-encroachment, unclear maintenance funding, weak inter-agency coordination and poor linkage with the Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 and the National Adaptation Plan 2023-2050.

BIP proposed an 11-point recommendation, including a national water resource plan, river-basin-based planning, GIS and remote sensing monitoring, alignment with national climate plans, waste infrastructure rollout, ecological buffer zones, community-based management, dedicated maintenance funding, stronger role of professional planners and strict anti-encroachment enforcement.

Walton Digi-Tech Industries Limited

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NOTICE OF THE EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING (EGM)

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.

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with the direction of the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh in **Company Matter No. 318 of 2026**, an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) of the Members of **Walton Digi-Tech Industries Limited** will be held on **June 03, 2026 at 10:00 AM (Bangladesh Standard Time)** through Digital Platform for the purpose of considering the following resolution as Special Resolution:

AGENDA FOR SPECIAL RESOLUTION:

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, with or without modification(s), the following resolution as a Special Resolution:

"RESOLVED THAT the proposed Scheme of Merger (the Scheme) of Walton Digi-Tech Industries Limited (Transferor Company) with Walton Hi-Tech Industries PLC. (Transferee Company), as placed before this meeting, be and is hereby approved in its entirety, subject to the sanction of the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh, under Sections 228 and 229 of the Companies Act, 1994 and compliance with applicable legal and regulatory requirements."

All the members of the Company are requested to make it convenient to attend/participate the meeting accordingly.

Dated: 10 May, 2026

By Order of the Board
Sd/-

Asadullah Mahmud FCS, CGA (UK & Ireland)
Company Secretary

Notes:

1. The Notice of the Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) for the approval of the Proposed Scheme of Merger which forms an integral part of this Notice, is being dispatched to the Members (as Annexure-A) by registered post. The copies of Proposed Scheme of Merger are kept at the Registered Office of the Company for inspection.
2. A Member entitled to attend and vote at the EGM may appoint a proxy to attend and vote on his/her behalf. The duly completed Proxy Form, affixed with a revenue stamp of Tk. 100, must be deposited at the Registered Office of the Company at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled time of the EGM. A scanned copy of the duly stamped Proxy Form may alternatively be sent to cs.wp@waltonbd.com within the same timeframe.
3. The EGM Notice, along with the link for joining the meeting through the Digital Platform (audio-visual system) will be sent to the respective Members' e-mail addresses available with the Company.
4. The Proposed Scheme of Merger shall also be kept open for inspection at the office of the learned Advocate for the petitioner, Mr. Saqeb Mahub, situated at Room No. 2020 (Annex), Supreme Court Bar Association Building, Supreme Court of Bangladesh, Dhaka-1000, and will be accessible to all concerned during office hours.

5 of a family murdered

FROM PAGE 1
Mim was a class nine student at the local Rautkona Madrasa, while Maria was in class two.

Sharmin's husband, Md Forkan Miah, has been absconding since the incident.

Forkan, from of Meri Gopinathpur village in Gopalganj Sadar Upazila, was reportedly a private car driver and had been living in the rented house with his wife and children for nearly a year.

Confirming the killings, Sharifuddin, superintendent of police of Gazipur, said two people were detained for interrogation.

Talking to reporters, Sharmin's uncle Uzzal said Forkan frequently assaulted his wife, leaving her physically unwell. About six months ago, Sharmin returned to her father's home in Gopalganj Sadar Upazila, but was later sent back to her husband's house.

Uzzal also alleged that Forkan often demanded money from the family, leading to ongoing disputes.

Another relative, Shahin, said Forkan called his brother Mishkat on the night of the incident and claimed that he had killed everyone in the house, asking him to inform the family. Mishkat's wife later informed Sharmin's family in Gopalganj Sadar Upazila.

Lutfunnahar, wife of the house owner Monir Hossain, an expatriate, said her husband is currently in Singapore, while she lives nearby with her daughter. After receiving the information, she went to the scene and saw Sharmin hanging from a window and dressed in new clothes, Rasul lying on a bed, and the three children on the floor.

Sharmin's nephew, Sakib Al Hasan Biswas, a student of Bhawal Ideal School and College, said they used to live together in Gazipur and that Rasul had recently come to Kapasia in search of a job after being lured by Forkan with promises of employment.

Contacted by The Daily Star, Asaduzzaman, additional superintendent of police (Kapasia-Kaliganj Circle), said preliminary findings suggest Forkan killed all five with a sharp weapon. "The incident may have occurred due to a family conflict."

Police are investigating how a single person could carry out the killings and whether sedatives or sleeping pills were used before the murders.

Additional District Magistrate Salma Khatun described the incident as deeply heartbreaking and said those responsible would be brought to justice after a thorough investigation.

Walton Hi-Tech Industries PLC.

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NOTICE OF THE EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING (EGM)

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.

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with the direction of the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh in **Company Matter No. 318 of 2026**, an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) of the Members of **Walton Hi-Tech Industries PLC.** will be held on **June 03, 2026 at 11:00 AM (Bangladesh Standard Time)** by using "Digital Platform" (Link: <https://walton-egm.bdvirtual.com>) as per the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission Order No. BSEC/ACAD/SRC/2024/318/87; dated: 27 March 2024 for the purpose of considering the following resolution as Special Resolution:

AGENDA FOR SPECIAL RESOLUTION

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, with or without modification(s), the following resolution as a Special Resolution:

"RESOLVED THAT the proposed Scheme of Merger (the Scheme) of Walton Digi-Tech Industries Limited (Transferor Company) with Walton Hi-Tech Industries PLC. (Transferee Company), as placed before this meeting, be and is hereby approved in its entirety, subject to the sanction of the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh, under Sections 228 and 229 of the Companies Act, 1994 and compliance with applicable legal and regulatory requirements."

All the members of the Company are requested to make it convenient to attend/participate the meeting accordingly.

By Order of the Board

Md. Rafiqul Islam, FCS
Company Secretary

Dated: May 10, 2026

Notes:

01. The Notice of the Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) for the approval of the Proposed Scheme of Merger which forms an integral part of this Notice, is being dispatched to the Members (as Annexure-A) by registered post and via their respective email addresses as available with us as of the Record Date. The Proposed Scheme of Merger has also been made available on the Company's website at www.waltonplc.com, and copies thereof are kept at the Registered Office of the Company for inspection.
02. The Record Date was fixed on **04 May 2026**. Members whose names appear in the Depository Register on the said Record Date shall be eligible to attend/participate and vote in the EGM through the Digital Platform.
03. A Member entitled to attend and vote at the EGM may appoint a proxy to attend and vote on his/her behalf. The duly completed Proxy Form, affixed with a revenue stamp of Tk. 100, must be deposited at the Registered Office of the Company at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled time of the EGM. A scanned copy of the duly stamped Proxy Form may alternatively be sent to cswhil@waltonplc.com within the same timeframe.
04. The EGM Notice, along with the link for joining the meeting through the Digital Platform (audio-visual system) and detailed login instructions, will be sent to the respective Members' e-mail addresses available with the Company.
05. **Detailed procedures for login and participation in the Digital Platform meeting will also be available on the Company's website at www.waltonplc.com.**
06. The Members will be able to submit their questions/comments and vote electronically before 48 hours of the commencement of the EGM and during the EGM.
07. The Proposed Scheme of Merger shall also be kept open for inspection at the office of the learned Advocate for the petitioner, Mr. Saqeb Mahub, situated at Room No. 2020 (Annex), Supreme Court Bar Association Building, Supreme Court of Bangladesh, Dhaka-1000, and will be accessible to all concerned during office hours.