

Crocodile drags child into Khan Jahan Ali shrine pond in Bagerhat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

A crocodile reportedly dragged away a seven-year-old girl while she was bathing in the pond at Khan Jahan Ali (R) Mazar in Bagerhat last night.

The incident took place at the Mohila Ghat of the pond around 8:30pm. Fire Service personnel and locals started a rescue operation soon after.

The victim, Fatema, and her mother lived at the shrine, said Fakir Tarikul Islam, chief khadem of the mazar.

Witnesses said the child went to bathe in the pond when the crocodile suddenly bit her leg and dragged her underwater within seconds.

Locals rushed to the spot after hearing the child's screams. However, she could not be found as of 10:30pm, and rescue efforts were continuing, said Sheikh Mamunur Rashid, station officer of Bagerhat Fire Service.

This is not the first time a crocodile in the pond has caused alarm. In April, a video of the crocodile dragging a dog into the pond went viral on social media.

Three hurt in Old Dhaka warehouse fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three workers suffered burn injuries after a fire broke out at MR Enterprise warehouse in Tekerhat area of Nawabpur in Old Dhaka yesterday.

The injured — Miraj, 25, Ifad, 20, and Rocky, 26, — were rushed to the National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery for treatment.

The incident occurred around 11:00am after the warehouse reopened following Eid holidays, said the victims.

"As we switched on the electrical connection inside the digital scale warehouse, a fire suddenly broke out and engulfed the three of us," said Miraj.

Shawon Bin Rahman, resident surgeon at the burn institute, said Miraj suffered two percent burns and was kept under observation, while Ifad and Rocky, who suffered 25 percent and 23 percent burns respectively, were admitted for treatment.

The cause of the fire could not be immediately determined.



A bus attempts to overtake a covered van on the Dhaka-Barishal-Kuakata highway in Barishal's Bakarkathi area yesterday. Drivers often flout traffic rules in a rush to reach destinations quickly, driving recklessly and risking loss of control and potentially fatal accidents.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Solar boom on Padma chars

Two major solar parks reshape Pabna's riverine landscape

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

The Padma river has been retreating for decades, gradually exposing vast stretches of char land that were later brought under cultivation by local farmers for crops such as bananas and vegetables.

Today, parts of this shifting river landscape are powering the national grid.

Two large solar parks now operate on the riverbanks of Pabna Sadar and Sujannagar upazilas, collectively supplying 164 megawatts of electricity to the national grid, according to project officials.

Their emergence has turned a once-isolated rural frontier into an emerging hub of renewable energy infrastructure, while also reshaping local land use and livelihoods.

The larger facility, a 100MW solar park at Char Bhabanipur in Pabna Sadar upazila, was developed by Dynamic Sun Energy Private Limited, a subsidiary of Paramount Textile PLC, on around 400 acres of former shoal land.

The plant has more than 2,74,000 solar modules and 760 inverters. It began commercial operation on October 23, 2024, and now supplies up to 100MW of electricity to the national grid daily, project officials said.

Funded through a \$121.55 million package led by the Asian Development

Bank, the project uses solar photovoltaic technology with no direct emissions. It is expected to generate about 193.5 gigawatt-hours of electricity annually, offsetting roughly 93,654 tonnes of carbon dioxide each year.

"We are consistently supplying around 100MW of green power to the national grid," said Plant Director Jahurul Islam.

The second project, a 64MW solar park in Sagarkandi under Sujannagar upazila,



began commercial operation on August 26 last year. Built on 205 acres of shoal land, it uses about 1,47,000 solar modules and 11 inverters.

It was developed by Bangladesh-China Renewable Energy Company Limited, a 50:50 joint venture between the North-West Power Generation Company Limited and China National Machinery Import and Export Corporation.

Both projects are part of Bangladesh's

plan to generate 40 percent of its electricity from renewable sources by 2041.

On the ground, the transformation is visible. Char Bhabanipur, once lacking paved roads and falling into darkness after sunset, now has concrete roads and round-the-clock transport movement.

Brick houses and permanent shops are replacing seasonal agricultural structures. Land values have also surged sharply. Plots that sold for around Tk 2-3 lakh per bigha a few years ago now fetch Tk 7-8 lakh, while prime highland plots exceed Tk 12 lakh.

However, the shift has also brought displacement concerns.

"I had to give up five of my seven bighas to the electricity project," said farmer Shofi Molla. Although he received compensation and invested it in small businesses for his family, he is no longer engaged in farming.

Another resident, Mobarak Bepari, who lost all four of his bighas, said hundreds of farmers were affected as farming space shrank and land prices rose sharply.

Pabna Deputy Commissioner Aminul Islam said the land for Sagarkandi Solar Park was originally government land and was leased to the plant authority following due procedure.

As it is government land, there is no scope for compensation, he added.

A piece of my heart is gone

FROM PAGE 3

Referring to the murder case, Hannan alleged that the accused, Sohel, is now trying to shift the blame onto another person.

"I have heard that he is claiming someone named Dollar killed my daughter. These are fabricated stories meant to prolong the case and divert attention. I want the highest punishment for my daughter's killer," he said.

Mohammad Salaududdin, a close friend of Hannan and a neighbour who lives in the adjacent flat, said Ramisa was a cheerful child who regularly visited their home.

"She loved applying henna on her hands. During last Eid-ul-Fitr, she proudly showed everyone her henna designs," he recalled.

Ramisa was also fascinated by the metro rail. Knowing how much she loved it, her father bought her a toy metro train. Sometimes, he would take her on metro rides to Diabari, where the father and daughter spent time together, walking and exploring the area.

Those cherished moments have now become painful memories.

"The void left by Ramisa is consuming Hannan," Salaududdin said. "He barely eats, spends most of his time crying, and cannot sleep properly. The grief and anxiety have affected his health, causing fluctuations in his blood pressure."

According to Salaududdin, Hannan began experiencing chest pain yesterday morning. After a check-up at a local pharmacy found abnormal blood pressure, he was advised to seek medical attention. He was later admitted to the National Institute of Cardiovascular

Diseases.

The tragedy has devastated the entire family. Hannan said Ramisa's mother has also been struggling to cope with the loss.

When this correspondent visited the family's home in Mirpur yesterday, the impact of the tragedy was evident throughout the household. Ramisa's mother was unwell and emotionally devastated.

During Eid, the family remained inside their Dhaka home, surrounded by memories of the little

girl they can no longer hold.

Even Ramisa's beloved pet cat seemed to sense her absence.

Family members said the cat barely ate for several days after her death and would stare at anyone who entered the house, as if searching for its missing companion.

It has gradually become calmer under the care of Ramisa's elder sister, but the loss remains visible in the quiet corners of the home.

Three sent to jail in rape, sexual assault cases

STAR REPORT

At least three people were sent to jail yesterday on charges of rape, attempted rape and sexual assault in Mymensingh, Noakhali and Patuakhali districts.

In Mymensingh, Abu Rahat, 22, a madrasa teacher in Tarakanda upazila, was sent to jail after being produced before a court in a rape case.

Police said he allegedly raped a 10-year-old boy, a residential student of the madrasa, when other students had left for Eid vacation.

The boy's mother filed a case with Tarakanda Police Station yesterday. Police later arrested the accused, said OC Mobarak Hossain.

In Noakhali, Md Sohel, 34, an auto-rickshaw driver in Senbagh upazila, was sent to jail in a case filed over the alleged sexual assault of a seven-year-old girl.

Police said the girl was travelling alone from a shop to her residence on the auto-rickshaw around 7:30pm on Sunday when Sohel allegedly assaulted her sexually.

Locals later handed him over to police, said OC Md Abdur Rahim Sarkar of Senbagh Police Station.

The victim's mother filed a case yesterday. The accused was produced before a court, which sent him to jail, the OC added.

In Patuakhali, a court yesterday sent Forkan Hawlader, 48, an electrician, to jail in a case filed over the attempted rape of a woman in Kalapara.

Police said Forkan went to the victim's residence around 9:00pm on Sunday and attempted to rape her. As the woman screamed, her family members and locals rushed to the spot and caught Forkan. Later, he was handed over to police.

The victim filed a case yesterday morning with Kalapara Police Station, said OC Nazrul Islam.

Man, woman found dead in Ctg hotel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chattogram

A man and a woman were found dead in a room of Royal Park Hotel in Foy's Lake area of Chattogram yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Md Ripon, 47, and Sonia, 30.

According to Azad Hossain, a sub-inspector of Akbar Ali Shah Police Station, the two checked into the fourth-floor hotel room on Thursday night, introducing themselves as husband and wife.

Hotel staff found the bodies yesterday morning, with one lying on the floor, while the other was found hanging, the SI said.

Officials from the CID's Crime Scene Unit and the Police Bureau of Investigation collected evidence from the scene while an investigation was underway.

Zero tolerance

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detailed information about the incident. However, it is clear that the professional safety of journalists was not ensured within the institution concerned."

Assisting mainstream journalists in carrying out this responsibility is the duty of both the state and society, he added.

Assuring journalists, he said following recent

political changes, the new government has had to deal with a large number of cases filed as a result of public anger and protests.

However, he noted that the prime minister has given clear instructions that no mainstream journalist should be subjected to harassment or false cases without irrefutable evidence and specific allegations.

Man, son among

FROM PAGE 3

In Natore's Singra upazila, three people were killed as a truck hit their motorcycle in the Amtola area on the Natore-Bogura highway around 6:00am. The deceased are Saiful Islam, 26, and Muktar Hossain, 18, and Md Jibon, 18.

In Patuakhali's Kuakata, a teenage tourist was killed,

and three others were injured in a motorcycle crash at Majhibari Point on Marine Drive Road around 10:30am. The deceased is Jisan, 17, from Shariatpur.

Jisan and his friends were riding the motorcycle when the rider lost control while attempting to avoid a pedestrian crossing the road.



PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

Boys play football under the shade of mango trees in the Bagdhani area of Rajshahi's Paba upazila yesterday, finding brief relief from the scorching midday heat.

পাওয়ার গ্রিড বাংলাদেশ পিএলসি
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01	Repair and maintenance of Osmani International Airport, Sylhet during the year 2023-2024 (S.H: - Renewing markings of Runway, Taxiway and Apron for 12 Months).	1258488	30.31.0000.401.31.032.2 4.821; Dated: 20/05/2024	07-Jun-2026 14:00	08-Jun-2026 12:00
02	Construction of 4 (Four) stories D-type residential building with 14 (fourteen) storied foundation at Osmani International Airports, Sylhet.	1282777	30.31.0000.401.14.341.2 3.20602590; Dated: 21/09/2023	21-Jun-2026 14:30	22-Jun-2026 13:15

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GD-1257