Missing man found dead in Netrokona

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Netrokona*

Police recovered the body of a 55-year-old man from a wooded area beside the Kangsha river in Netrokona's Mohanganj upazila yesterday, two days after he went missing.

The deceased was identified as Fazlul Rahim Kajol of Kakiam village in Sunamganj's Dharmapasha upazila. He worked at a solar power project there.

A cattle grazer spotted the body on a tree branch in Birampur village around 8:00am after noticing a foul smell. A rope was found around his neck.

Kajol went missing on October 7 after leaving home to withdraw money from a bank for an office project. His family filed a general diary with Dharmapasha Police Station that day.

His elder brother, Fazlul Karim Bulbul, alleged that Kajol had been murdered and demanded a fair investigation.

Md Hafizul Islam Harun, officer-in-charge of Mohanganj Police Station, said police recovered the body and sent it to Netrokona Adhunik Sadar Hospital for an autopsy.

The cause of death will be confirmed after receiving the autopsy report, he added.



Fishermen unload nets bundled with fishing gear from a boat and move them to a riverside warehouse near Fishery Ghat in Chattogram following a 22-day nationwide hilsa fishing ban from October 8 to 29. The ban aims to protect spawning mother hilsa and boost production. Catching, transporting, storing, marketing, buying and selling hilsa are prohibited during the period. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: **RAJIB RAIHAN**

UN says Gaza faces grim winter without shelters

AFP, *Geneva*

Virtually all of Gaza's two million population will go through winter without adequate shelter as the Palestinian territory enters a fourth year under heavy Israeli war restrictions, the United Nations said yesterday.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) said nearly 1.8 million people in the territory "are facing a fourth winter without adequate protection from rain, flooding and cold".

The UN agency called for international funding for humanitarian aid and for Israel to ease the "constraints" on the entry of critical supplies.

A ceasefire in the Gaza war, sparked by the Hamas attacks on Israel on October 7, 2023, was announced in October last year but conditions remain dire in Gaza, according to aid agencies.

More than half of all the tents and makeshift shelters are in poor condition and should be replaced, the IOM said.

"With few alternatives available, many families are living in war-damaged buildings that pose serious risks to life."

IOM highlighted the deaths of 21 people, including 12 children, when a war-damaged six storey building collapsed in Gaza city last month.

"Shelter materials must enter quickly, predictably and at the scale required," said Amy Pope, the IOM director general.

The agency said the El Nino weather phenomenon risked making this year's winter rains more intense for Gaza which "could further weaken unsafe buildings, while heavily damaged drainage systems leave communities exposed to flooding".

Four million displaced in central Sahel: UN

AFP, *Geneva*

The United Nations yesterday raised the alarm about a displacement crisis in the central Sahel where nearly four million people have been forced to flee their homes in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger.

The number is more than double that of six years ago, the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) said, before a wave of coups in a region bedevilled by instability and violence.

It includes 818,000 refugees and asylum seekers, it added.

"The crisis is being compounded by continued attacks affecting civilians, climate-related shocks and severe humanitarian funding shortfalls," the UNHCR said in a statement.

In 2020, the UNHCR said the region had counted more than 1.7 million internally displaced people and 365,000 refugees.

"Together, these pressures are forcing more families to flee, eroding livelihoods and limiting opportunities for displaced people to rebuild their lives, contributing to further movements within and beyond the region," said Abdouraouf Gnon-Konde, UNHCR's regional director for west and central Africa.

"Unfortunately, the international attention is receding," he added in Geneva, following a visit to the region.

Gnon-Konde added that the instability was ramping up pressure on the asylum system as affected countries struggle with weak public services.

US leads fresh Ukraine peace push in Miami

AFP, *Miami*

US, Ukrainian and European officials are due to meet in Miami yesterday in a renewed diplomatic push to end Russia's war in Ukraine, with Washington seeking a way out of a dangerous stalemate.

President Donald Trump's envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner are expected to hold two days of talks with Ukrainian negotiators and European representatives, seeking to forge a common proposal for ending the conflict, US officials told AFP.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio warned Thursday that the war had reached a potentially explosive impasse, with the lack of a negotiated settlement raising the risk of further escalation.

"The other way that stalemates end is through escalation," Rubio told reporters in Lisbon, warning that the conflict could spread to neighboring NATO countries.

"We do not believe that there is a military solution to this conflict," he added.

NEW PROPOSALS

The Miami meeting follows visits to Moscow and Kyiv last month by Witkoff, a longtime Trump confidant, and Kushner, the president's son-in-law, as Washington seeks to revive negotiations that have yielded little progress.

US negotiators have since been developing fresh proposals with Russian and Ukrainian officials, a source familiar with the discussions told AFP.

Among the ideas being considered is a partial ceasefire covering attacks on energy infrastructure and grain shipments, according to Axios.

Ukraine has indicated a willingness to explore such an arrangement, but Russia has shown little enthusiasm for the proposal, the US news outlet reported.

With winter approaching, the prospect of continued fighting and attacks on vital infrastructure has added urgency to the search for a settlement.

The renewed diplomacy comes against a backdrop of deadly Russian attacks, including a strike on buses in the frontline Ukrainian city of Kramatorsk that killed 30 people.

TERRITORIAL DEADLOCK

Trump's repeated attempts to broker an end to the war have foundered over Moscow's sweeping territorial demands, particularly its insistence on controlling all of Ukraine's eastern Donbas region, including areas still held by Kyiv.

Zelensky has rejected surrendering Ukrainian-held territory, warning that Russia could use it as a springboard for another attack.

Russia, which launched its full-scale invasion in February 2022, occupies roughly one-fifth of Ukrainian territory.

The Miami discussions are also expected to cover security guarantees designed to protect Ukraine against future Russian aggression and plans for the country's post-war economic recovery, US officials said.

National security advisors from Britain, France and Germany have been invited, along with representatives of NATO and the European Union.



Rescuers examine a burnt car parked outside a residential building damaged following a Russian attack on Zaporizhzhia yesterday, amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

PHOTO: **AFP**

Delhi turns into a fortress

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names, more than the population of Japan, have been deleted from voter lists during the verification exercise, including 63 million people who had relocated, 30 million who could not be traced, and 28 million who were dead.

Opposition parties say the voter deletions affected the outcome of some recent state elections that Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won, and have cast a shadow on the electoral process in the world's largest democracy.

Thousands of police and paramilitary forces, including some from sensitive areas such as Indian Kashmir, were being sent into the capital for the protest, according to a government document seen by Reuters.

However, the Cockroach movement remained defiant.

"The youth of this country are no longer scared of you," founder Abhijeet Dipke said in a post on X, addressing Modi ahead of the protests.

The self-named "Cockroach Janta Party", a youth movement that began as an online satire, said it wanted Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar to resign, echoing demands by the opposition parties which have been protesting almost daily since last week.

The CJP gained popularity this year after its weeks-long agitation against exam paper leaks culminated in the resignation of the education minister, dealing Modi his biggest political setback in years.

The BJP and the commission deny allegations of election manipulation, although opposition parties say Muslim voters and other minorities, who are unlikely to support the Hindu nationalist ruling party, are disproportionately impacted by the deletions.

At least seven Indian states are due to hold elections in 2027, including Uttar Pradesh ruled by the BJP. The state is India's most populous and is considered a bellwether in national politics. Parliamentary polls are not due until 2029.

Bangladesh's storytellers bask in the spotlight

FROM PAGE 1

generosity towards fellow artistes.

Tama said she had not expected to win against so many accomplished nominees. Describing her mother, who attended the ceremony, as her lucky charm, she thanked Chorki and director Raihan Rafi for the opportunities that helped shape her career.

Nuhash accepted the Best Director (Film/Drama/Series) and Best Screenplay awards for "Dui Shaw" alongside his mother, Gultekin Khan.

"I am dedicating this to my mom and to my whole Dui Shaw team," he said, thanking the crew for bringing his script to life. He added that recognition in his own country made the awards particularly special.

"Dui Shaw" also won Best Cinematographer for Joaher Musavvir Jyoti and Abdul Mamun; Best Makeup Artist for Md Emon Hossen and Sworna Bhoumick; Best Editing for Fuad Shourav; Best Art Director for Rainirr Borshon; and Best Costume Designer for Edila Farid Turin. Rajesh Saha, Sajib Ranjan Biswas and Rasheed Sharif Shoaib shared Best Sound Design.

In the music categories, "Premeri Jokhom" from "Ghumpori" won three awards: Best Lyricist for Jahid Preetom, Best Singer for Mahtim Shakib and Shithi Saha, and Best Music Composer for Jahid Nirob. Nirob thanked the singers for bringing the song to life.

Ishaan Mozumder won Best Music (Digital Platforms) for "Gulbahar", while Ruslan Rehman won the Critics' Choice award for Best Background Score for "Gulmohor".

Ruslan said awards made his otherwise ordinary life feel extraordinary for a few days, bringing particular joy to his mother and elder brother. He thanked the organisers for recognising background scoring, saying such honours helped music directors overcome the social anxiety associated with working largely behind the scenes. He also thanked his colleagues and the "Gulmohor" team.

In the Individual Content categories, Sunehra Tasnim won Best Content Creator of the Year under Popular Choice, while Syed Rashad Imam Tanmoy took the Critics' Choice honour.

"Awards have never been my primary motivation. It's my audience, their love and the work that I get to create that keep me going," Sunehra said.

Tanmoy recalled how a rickshaw puller once recognised his cartoons, convincing him that videos could take his drawings to audiences he had been unable to reach through newspapers over 15 years.

Nadir On The Go won Best Content Creator (Food & Recipe/Travel), while Sameerscane won Best Content Creator (Infotainment/Podcast).

Sameerscane, who said he had previously attended the ceremony only to support friends, thanked his family.

"I just want to thank my parents for always allowing me to pursue content creation," he said.

Rafsan Sabab and Afsan Ara Bindu hosted the ceremony.

PRAYER TIMING
OCTOBER 10

	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	4-40	12-45	4-15	5-45	7-15
JAMAAT	5-20	1-15	4-30	5-50	7-45

SOURCE: **ISLAMIC FOUNDATION**

Trafficking convictions fall despite rise in probes

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terms ranging from three months to life imprisonment, along with fines between Tk 5,000 and Tk 5 lakh.

"The imposition of fines rather than proportionate jail time weakened deterrence and undercut the government's overall anti-trafficking efforts," the report said.

During the reporting period, the government investigated 961 cases involving 5,263 suspects, up from 811 cases previously.

The government identified 1,135 trafficking victims during the period, down from 1,462 previously. These included 199 victims of sex trafficking, 510 of forced labour, and 426 of unspecified forms of trafficking.

However, civil society organisations and international agencies identified an additional 4,758 victims.

The report said the government strengthened protections for migrant workers to reduce vulnerabilities to trafficking, but did not meet the minimum standards in several key areas.

"The government identified fewer victims, and victim protection and reintegration efforts remained insufficient, particularly for Rohingya refugees and returning Bangladeshi migrant workers. Additionally, the government continued to permit worker-paid recruitment fees that rendered many migrant workers indebted, increasing their vulnerability to trafficking."

More than one million Rohingyas live in Cox's Bazar and on Bhasan Char. They remained vulnerable to sex trafficking and forced labour in Bangladesh and through cross-border trafficking networks into India, Malaysia, and Nepal, according to the report.

It also pointed to the growing risk of Bangladeshis being fraudulently recruited for forced criminality in online scam operations, mainly in Southeast Asia.

High recruitment costs continued to leave many Bangladeshi migrant workers vulnerable to exploitation and trafficking.

The government maintained official recruitment fees between Tk 85,000 and Tk 2.62 lakh, which the report said were high enough to leave many workers indebted. Workers frequently paid far more than the official ceilings to recruitment agencies and intermediaries, commonly known as "dalals".

Rules governing sub-agents continued to permit fees equivalent to six to eight months of a worker's salary, adding to migrants' financial burden.

Nearly 100 recruitment agencies faced charges for collecting excessive fees, with the cases still pending, the report said.

Probe body recommends

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JCD assistant general secretary; and Tanim Rahman of the mass communication and journalism and a JCD activist.

It also recommended further investigation before taking action against Rakibul Islam, assistant cultural affairs secretary of the Rajshahi University Central Students' Union (Rucsu), for his alleged role in instigating the incident.

Meanwhile, the committee recommended warnings for JCD vice-presidents Bulbul Rahman and Shariful Islam, and assistant office secretary Shahriar Alam.

At the briefing, the VC said the probe committee's report clearly stated that further investigation is needed into the matter.

Prof Rezaul Karim, convener of the probe committee, said Ariful Islam and Rakibul had played roles in instigating the incident.

Dengue battle grows harder amid ICU crisis

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HM Nazmul Ahsan, associate professor at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital, said such fluctuations were not typical of uncomplicated dengue but could occur due to additional infections or complications, particularly in severe cases involving shock.

He said hospitals were struggling to accommodate critically ill dengue patients, with ICU beds not always available.

At Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital, the existing 100 beds remained unchanged, but additional spaces were being arranged in different wards to accommodate dengue patients.

As a result, some patients were being treated outside designated dengue wards.

Nazmul said most dengue patients, including many who develop shock, could be managed in general wards with appropriate treatment and supportive care. Only a small proportion require ICU admission.

However, patients with other serious conditions, including heart disease, heart attacks or additional infections, may need advanced support beyond fluid therapy and might require transfer to hospitals with available ICU beds.

He also stressed the need for accessible dengue testing facilities near people's homes, particularly for low-income communities in urban and rural areas.

Early diagnosis was crucial, he said, as many patients resumed work once their fever subsided despite remaining vulnerable to complications.

"If a person knows that they have dengue, they may stay at home and rest for around 10 days," he added.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), at least 295 dengue patients died, and 95,451 others were hospitalised this year as of yesterday.